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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too many drivers ignore buses

Re: Idiot's move nearly fatal, column by Jim Thomas, March 3

As a school bus driver I read with interest Thomas' column last week in regards to a Stouffville District Secondary School student nearly being hit by a car at their stop on the way home recently.

Unfortunately, all I can say is this is all too common. I have drivers running my warning lights at several stops along Hoover Park Drive and the Ninth line, two or three times a week, a.m. and p.m.

My wife, also a school bus driver, had people pass her on the shoulder of Hwy. 48 at least once or twice a month when she had pick-ups on this road.

In a lot of my instances, I see drivers either looking at their laps or on the phone, and when I honk the horn they keep driving and look at me as if to say "what?"

Drivers, we all need to focus, pay attention and realize we could take a life with these careless maneuvers. It is difficult to get licence plates, but when we do, we report the incidents to York Regional Police.

We are 40 feet long, bright yellow with flashing red lights and you can't see us?

Come on.

DAVE BROOKS
STOUFFVILLE

Canada still 'land of immigrants'

Government reports confirm that more than 25,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in

Canada.

Not all share the same support for newcomers. Some feelings are covert, others are published under the comments sections of online news articles. The predominant anti-refugee themes that arise are: assimilation to "Canadian culture", the security of the country, and the neglect of First Nations communities and the homeless.

Existing issues of Canada's marginalized communities must be addressed by the government, but it is unjust to associate these problems with distressed refugees who already face unique challenges.

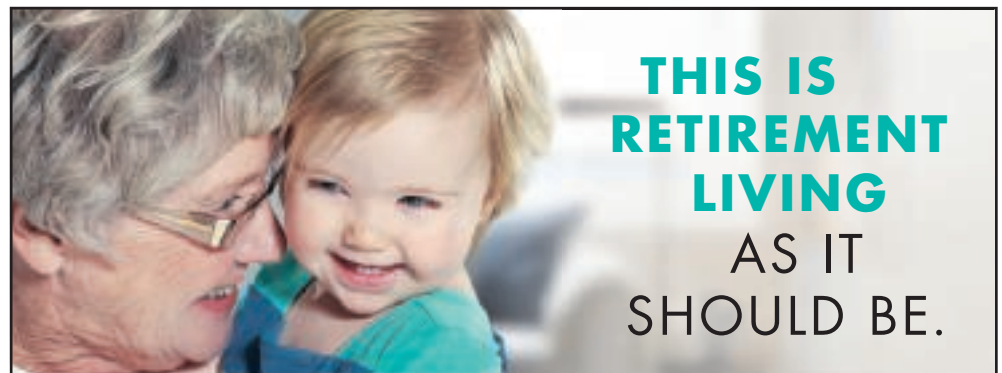
Under international agreements, Canada has a legal obligation to protect refugees. Canada is known as "the land of immigrants" as is evident in the immigration history and statistics of this country. Newly-arriving refugees deserve to be given the same chance at making Canada their home as the postwar refugees of the past.

Change can be ignited by just one determined individual who educates others about the plight of refugees.

An act of kindness can inspire others to mobilize and take action. People can volunteer, engage in dialogue, provide various donations, and support settlement agencies.

We all can play a part in creating an inclusive community whereby Canadian values of equality, peace, and respect for diversity are upheld.

ROYA NANG
RICHMOND HILL



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Irish Breakfast

Thursday, March 17 • 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Kick off St. Patrick's day with a traditional Irish breakfast featuring eggs, sausages, black & white puddings served with a generous helping of homemade Irish soda bread and washed down with a strong cup of coffee or breakfast tea.

Spring has Sprung

Wednesday, March 30 • 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

What better way to welcome spring than by learning tips and tricks for container gardening with an expert from R.C. Designs. Take away your own starter kit too.

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