

**Editor's Mail**

**Town must battle butts**

Dear Editor:  
I'm disappointed but not surprised at the problem of enforcing the No Smoking Policy at the Town Rec. Centre.

I've been there on several occasions and seen people 'light up' without giving their actions a second thought.

While the onus is on the individual, I believe the municipality must assume some responsibilities also.

- I offer a few suggestions:
- Make the No Smoking signs more prominent, also increase their numbers.
  - Establish an area where smoking is allowed.
  - At various times, announce over the public address system that smoking is not permitted.
  - Make sure all employees, as well as the public, abide by the policy.
  - Give the Rec. Centre manager permission to approach smokers and ask them to stop.

I feel the Town needs to do some public relations in this area since the Rec. Centre is utilized by more people than are most buildings under municipal jurisdiction.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Katy Geddes,  
Millard Street,  
Stouffville



THIS YEAR I DECIDED TO TAKE A HOLIDAY! THE BOYS WENT SKIING WITH THEIR DAD, AND THE GIRLS WENT SOUTH TO SEE GRANDMA. I'VE GOT 5 HOURS OF "SOAPS" ON TAPE!

**The Tribune**  
ESTABLISHED 1888

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**GUEST COLUMNIST**  
**'You're not Jim Thomas'**  
Steve Houston

I couldn't imagine life around Stouffville without Jim Thomas at the helm of the Tribune.

Four working days in the last week saw Jim somewhere other than his office (or a crash scene or a community event, or a fire) and I was left to fill the void he created when he decided to take a mini-holiday.

Me? I'm just a young journalist who loves the newspaper business. Jim? He's a local institution whose picture has graced the pages of the Tribune since before I was a thought.

I knew when I arrived here early in the day on Thursday that I'd be in for trouble while trying to fill Jim's journalistic shoes.

Shortly after my arrival a gentleman dropped into the office to inquire about an antique photo he had in his possession. He wondered if it might find a place in the newspaper.

Upon greeting him, I could see the disappointment that quickly registered on his face: "You're not Jim Thomas."

I kindly thanked him for his consideration in providing us with the photograph, but painfully regretted the fact that I wasn't Jim.

Phone calls from local residents were similarly frightening. Subliminal "You're not Jim Thomas" messages came across loud and clear as I spoke with readers. Consequently, I subliminally apologized for my genealogical origins.

By day-end on Friday, I was reduced to considering a number of options that would prevent similar exchanges from occurring. I thought I could:

- 'Pretend I was Jim Thomas with a bad cold.
- Insist I was Jim Thomas, no matter what.
- Purchase a big old Mamiya camera, borrow a beige trench coat and hope people wouldn't notice who was actually taking the pictures.
- Ask Jim to legally adopt me and call me Jim Jr.

In the end, I dismissed all the possibilities and decided to stick it out until today when Jim returns to work.

In the meantime, Jim was at home with his family, listening to the Staller Brothers Greatest Hits and worrying about his newspaper anyway.

And as I rationalized the situation I came to the conclusion Jim had an advantage over me in covering Stouffville and the surrounding area.

He's lived and worked here his entire life, he's within earshot of the fire siren, 24 hours a day and his familiar face allows him entry into just about any newsworthy function. And anyway,

**Editorials**  
**Town partly to blame for Rec Centre brawl**

Though the clean-up at the Stouffville Rec Centre is complete following a teen brawl last week, several questions still remain regarding the messy incident.

Party crashers decided to begin swinging fists — and several other dangerous objects — at a group of Markham teens celebrating some friends' birthdays.

And the outcome was a painful consequence of minimum supervision.

Where were town officials, who should have been prepared for such a chain of events during all this? Evidently, the room was rented without a request for a liquor permit, thereby dismissing the need for a town-trained bartender.

And what, if not alcohol and hormones, would encourage teens to engage in all-out hand-to-hand combat with one another at a simple birthday party?

As a result of the debacle, Stouffville Town Council is going to review its recreation facility rental policy and is asking for a report from recreation department officials.

Likely included in the review will be a

look at the possibility of using hired-duty police officers for certain social events. It's a proposal that should be given serious consideration.

Stouffville must, as one source put it, grow up as a town and take the lead in preventing future incidents.

The current policy, with its lax security and supervision, will only invite similar events from occurring in future.

**Calling 911**

Stouffville Main St. merchants are justified in their protests regarding the implementation of a 911 emergency response number that would do away with 'Main Streets' across York Region.

The change, if put into place, would see Main St. addresses turn into Stouffville Rd. addresses. But, despite protest, the rationale in York Region's bid to eliminate street duplications is a worthy one.

While York Region officials grapple with the political hot potato that has raised the ire of business people throughout the area, it must also consider the greater good such a move will ensure — the potential preservation of human life in emergency situations.

Main Street, though given a new name on a map, would still be the business core of Stouffville. Simple letterhead changes, though they may be costly, are all that is needed.

In this case, the 911 program should take precedence. Can human life really be included in an equation that involves business revenues?



**Fish-story in the making**

Stouffville District Secondary School students Guy Cowan and Steve Karlsson took advantage of last week's spring-like weather during their school break to get in a little 'fishing.' On Wednesday, the pair took a canoe and fishing gear out onto a pond in the soccer field across from SDSS and tested the waters. Their 'field' trip proved unsuccessful though — nothing was biting. — Jim Thomas

**Editor's Mail**  
**'Wise move'**

Dear Editor:  
I'd appreciate space in your newspaper to comment on the office 'complex' currently under construction in Stouffville's Memorial Park.

It would seem to me The Tribune is making a mountain out of a mole hill in this regard.

True, the building will cost upwards of \$60,000 before it's completed. And you're right, 'trespassers' should not be permitted in areas reserved for recreation.

However, on the other side of the coin, the structure is temporary; a stop-gap until something more permanent is available. The alternative was an addition to the present office 'museum' that would have cost close to \$300,000.

I believe the Council, in its wisdom, acted wisely.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Freda Allinson,  
Ironwood Crescent,  
Stouffville

**No racism**

Dear Editor:  
I resent the assumption that I will oppose the erection of a Hindu church in my area.

Personally, I couldn't care less if it's Hindu, Moslem or Baptist, as long as it meets Town requirements.

I can only presume our local Council will deal with the application in the same way.

Yes, there's a little bit of prejudice in all of us. However, I would like to think our area, (St. John's Sideroad), is not racist to that extent.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Bertha Ritchie,  
R.R. 3, Newmarket