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## Editorial

### Town 'wish list' is ambitious but may be trimmed

The town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's five-year capital forecast is an ambitious one that covers all the municipal bases.

The forecast, a list of projects and plans that are unconfirmed at this early date, shows the town is aware of local needs and is preparing to head into the last decade of the 20th century.

Indeed it is just a list of wishes — expensive ones that would vastly improve services in the town.

But the expensive bubble can easily be burst if York Region — which requested the lists from all nine regional municipalities — opens the chest and says it can only afford a fraction of the requests.

Therein lies the problem. Whitchurch-Stouffville is competing with nine other municipalities, three of which are traditionally given a little more than York's more northern — and less urban — towns.

Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan, though far ahead of areas such as East Gwillimbury, Georgina and Whitchurch-Stouffville in terms of their tax base, will surely call louder for the region to recognize their needs and expectations.

And despite the fact that items included in Stouffville's are sorely needed — roads funding, water projects for Ballantyne and Musselman's Lake, a new administrative building — the onus will fall on the town to provide those services.

The provincial government has all but abandoned municipalities in terms of funding. York Region is struggling to provide an equal slice of the pie to everyone in the geographic family. And the smaller municipalities are feeling the pinch a little more acutely.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's blueprint for the future has been designed. But there is no engineer to work from those plans.



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at random

Steve Houston

## Not-so-good goods somehow find their way to our place

The following is a true story. The names have been changed to protect myself from angry manufacturers.

For the past 18 months, my wife Cheryl and I have managed to buy — then return — almost every single piece of furniture or accessory we managed to obtain for our cozy little two-bedroom apartment.

Is there something terrible about quality in furniture manufacturing circles, or what? Is craftsmanship a swear word?

I'm beginning to wonder. The above-mentioned items come from various corners of the globe. Some originate in the U.S., and some are from that productive little country,

Taiwan. But it's distressing that we consciously chose "Canadian-made" products only to find them, generally, the worst of the lot.

A catalogue of items we purchased, which either had to be returned for an exchange or returned and thrown away, follows:

□ One (1) sofa, including a \$100 fee for "stain-guard" was purchased that originally had a tiny rip and which developed into an angry slash in a matter of seven (7) days.

□ One tiffany lamp, which, when removed from its package, displayed two full panes, one shattered pane, and one cracked pane.

□ One five-piece bedroom set which, when it arrived, had two items included that belonged with a completely different set.

□ One assemble-it-yourself desk that came with all the directions, all the hardware, and two matching panels that shouldn't have matched.

□ One "user-friendly" computer whose monitor refused to work the minute it was plugged in. The caveat emptor clause was in effect here though because the computer was second-hand.

□ One compact disc player which, to this day, has a tendency to skip in the middle of a song. My brother-in-law and I have spent many hours

debating whether it is indeed a faulty disc player or faulty discs. Our discussions are similar to those "Tastes great, less filling" arguments.

In light of these disappointing purchases, Cheryl and I have become quite leery about future items of need. What if my car suddenly gives up, or worse, we manage to save enough money for a house?

I dread the thought. To be honest, the most dependable things I own are a rusty 1983 Dodge and a tool box I made for myself out of scrap pieces of wood.

I guess certain people just have rotten luck when it comes to things like this. While we conscientiously check items we purchase, there is often that hidden defect that jumps out and smiles maliciously at us when we get it home.

Other people, meanwhile, can probably go to a store, look at the catalogue and buy merchandise that is picture perfect.

But we haven't give up hope completely. And we know that, no matter what the quality is of merchandise we now have, it will not last forever.

I guess we'll have to keep the faith and hope that our streak of bad purchasing luck has run its course.

In the meantime, we'll jealously guard what we own and make people remove any foreign objects from their persons before they are allowed to sit, lie, eat, drink, play music, etc.

We'll feel funny about such requests, to be sure, but it will at least defer a potentially violent public outburst by yours truly the next time we purchase inferior goods.

Failing that, I guess I could just blow up the whole sorry mess of miserable merchandise.

I wonder how much it would cost for a shiny new stick of dynamite.

## Editor's Mail

### Cancer Society is thankful for help

Dear Editor, On behalf of the Stouffville Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the residents of our community for their generous support during the April campaign. Our objective of \$28,000 was surpassed by \$4,696.15 and all those who were involved in any way can be justly proud of the grand total of \$32,696.15.

The nucleus of our campaign is the wonderful support provided by our volunteer workers, over 200 strong, ranging from our treasurer, Mrs. Sally Sandiford; to the area captains, the zone captains, and the canvassers.

These people are your neighbors, your friends, your relatives or loved ones, and they have taken time from their busy lives in the common cause to defeat cancer.

Ironically, the same description fits those affected by cancer: your neighbors, friends, relatives and loved ones, and the support of everyone is needed, from the donors, to the workers, plus those who are involved in other support groups.

A special thank you goes to The Tribune and The Sun for their support, also to the merchants of Stouffville Place Mall for their assistance with the

bake sale, and finally, to the residents of Parkview Village for their Daffodil Tea.

If you wish to become a part of our team and can spare a few hours of your time next April, please give me a call at 640-2144.

The self satisfaction that you receive from being a volunteer in this worthy cause will more than repay you for your effort. Cancer can and will be beaten because you make the difference.

Les Clarke  
Campaign Chairman



## Incoming Newcomer

On Main St. in Stouffville, The group organizes many events within the town, including parties, tournaments, car rallies, and more. For more information, contact the group at 640-2144.

**Fill our mailbox**

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers on current topics. Letters should be 500 words or less and typed or neatly printed. They may be subject to editing for length at the discretion of the editor.

Letters may be submitted to the office at 54 Main St. W. Stouffville, P.O. Box 40, L4A 7Z4.