

Stouffville Sun

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EDITORIAL

The newcomers

The numbers are clear. Their impact on this community is fuzzier.

The Stouffville area's current population of around 12,000 will grow to around 28,000 within the next 10 to 15 years.

Traditionalists will blame the Big Pipe, the York-Durham sewage system being built to Stouffville, for changing the face of their sacred small town. Business owners, eager for new customers, will sing the praises of the pipe.

No one can stop the growth. It's been approved. All that's left to determine is the size of the thousands of new homes and the lots they will be built on.

The question remains: Are we ready for the growth?

We trust new schools will be in place when the new students move here. York Region's school boards have been ahead of growth with new schools in recent years. That's a positive thing compared to the fields of portables often seen in new subdivisions.

What about recreation? Our year-old pool, library and fitness centre were built with growth in mind. Does Whitchurch-Stouffville need a third ice pad? Prime-time ice is fully booked. Local hockey teams are heading out of town for practices again.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's churches, service clubs and sports groups should also be prepared. New residents will be looking for churches to attend, clubs to join and sports to play.

Are we ready?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Luke, family feel community support

To the Editor:

On the evening of Dec. 28, our family had the honour of attending the Saucey Shindig, a fundraising event held for our son, Luke, at Latcham Hall in Stouffville. Luke was injured in a mountain bike accident last fall.

We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support shown by those who attended, by those who may have contributed directly to the trust fund, by those who donated items for the auction, by those who worked at tables, doors and booths and by those who planned and organized the event.

Luke insisted that he be there and we were delighted that he was able to see for himself just how much he is supported and cheered for.

We never doubted, but now we know for sure, that there is an entire community lending Luke a hand as he confronts this most difficult challenge.

We are truly grateful for the town's concern, effort and kindness.

Chris, Bill, Luke and Logan Anderson
Stouffville

Sponsors appreciated by girls' hockey team

To the Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stouffville A&P and Stouffville's Gary and Valerie Hembruff of the Ultimate Pro Shop in Newmarket, for their sponsorship of the Stouffville-Markham Girls Hockey Association PeeWee C Select team.

The girls are having a great season and truly appreciate the support given to us by these companies.

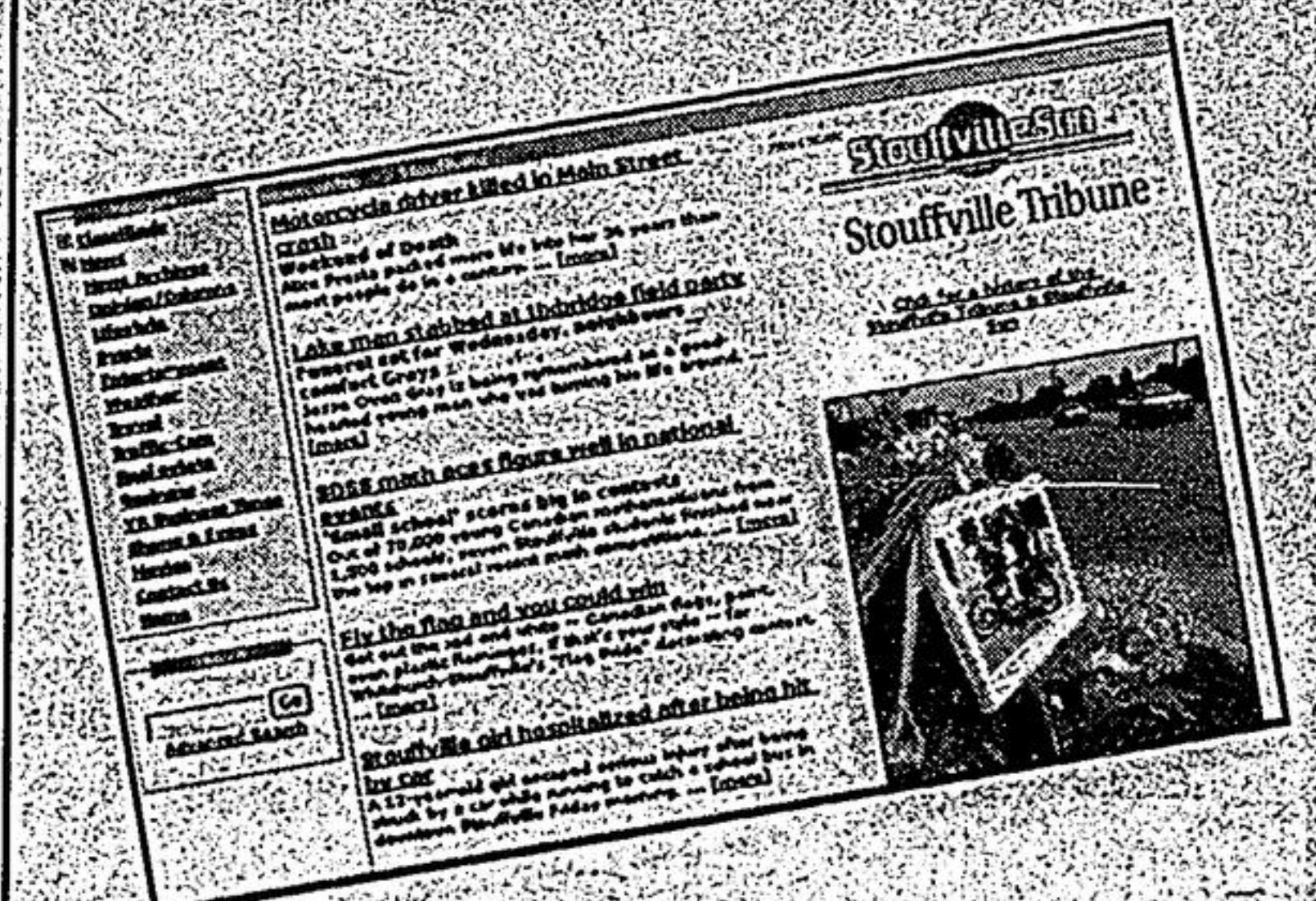
Coaching Staff, Players and Parents of the SMGHA PeeWee C Select team.

E-mail, fax, mail letters

The Stouffville Sun welcomes letters to the editor from its readers.

Letters to the editor can be mailed to the Stouffville Sun, Box 154, Stouffville, L4A 7Z5, or faxed to (905) 640-8778.

Letters can also be e-mailed to editor@stouffvillesun.com. Or you can hand deliver your letter to the Stouffville Sun offices at 34 Civic Ave., third floor, in downtown Stouffville. Please include phone numbers where you may be reached, for verification purposes only.



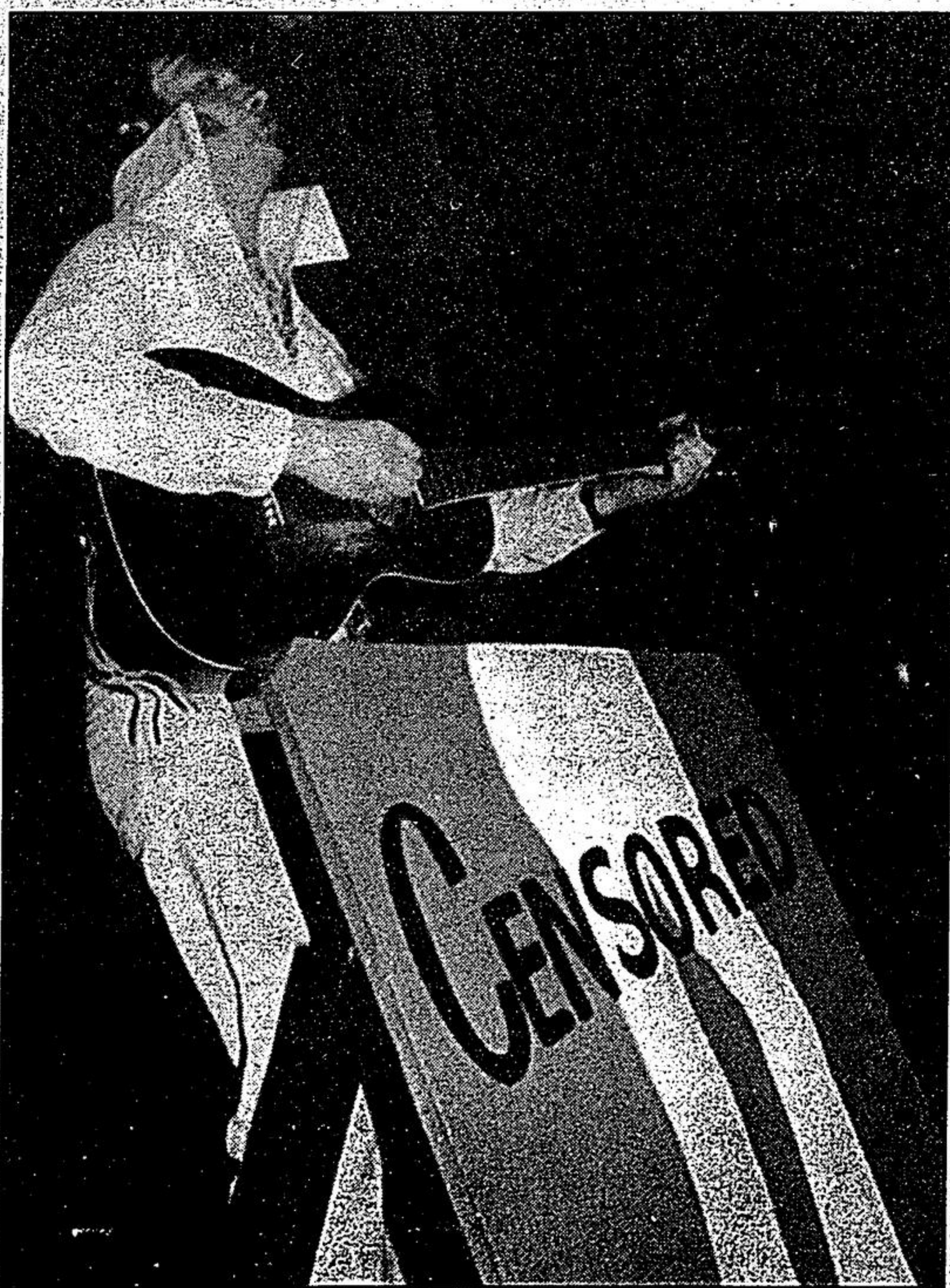
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Your opinion is important to us — in both letters to the editor and discussion groups on our web site, stouffvillesun.com.

Join an online discussion on issues that affect your town. Come back often for others' feedback and more discussion on a variety of topics.

At stouffvillesun.com, click on the Stouffville link and read current and archived Stouffville news. Hit Opinion to read your favourite local columnists, Jim Mason and Jim Thomas. And please feel free to e-mail editor@stouffvillesun.com with your thoughts.

FLASHBACK



ELVIS, YOU MANIAC: An Elvis impersonator was censored at Music Mania in 1983. Registration for Stouffville's annual spring variety show takes place Wednesday at Stouffville United Church.

JIM MASON/STOUFFVILLE SUN FILE PHOTO