

Stouffville Sun

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34 Civic Avenue, Box 154, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 7Z5
(905) 640-2612 Fax 640-8778

IAN PROUDFOOT, Regional Publisher
STEVE KANE, Advertising Manager
JIM MASON, Managing Editor
SUSAN BERRY, CHERRYL STEER, Sales Reps
PAM NICHOLS, Production Manager
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e-mail
editor@stouffvillesun.com



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EDITORIAL

Emmerson's legacy

Wayne Emmerson announced last week he will not see re-election in the Nov. 10 municipal election.

The announcement ends a 15-year career on Whitchurch-Stouffville council, including the last nine as mayor.

How will Wayne Emmerson be remembered as a mayor of this town?

He should be remembered fondly.

His legacy includes construction of local facilities including the second ice pad at the Stouffville Arena, the Stouffville Train Station and the Lebovic Leisure Centre/Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library. All have been significant additions to the local landscape.

The library/leisure centre was the most controversial of the decisions made during the Emmerson years. It wasn't the construction of the pool and library that irked so many residents. Both facilities were wanted and needed by residents. It was the location or more specifically the way the location was decided upon that was the problem.

The old Main Street library was to be expanded and the pool built onto the arena complex — as promised to residents in the 1980s. The town suddenly announced out of no where that both facilities would be built together on a farm field south of Stouffville. That decision and its controversy are ancient history. The new facility is 18 months old and thriving.

There are other things to remember Wayne Emmerson for:

- His annual golf tournament, both a social and community highlight for the last nine years. More than 400 people take part each year raising more than \$100,000 over the last eight years for local youth charities. That is a legacy on its own.

- The Stouffville Secondary Plan, the blueprint for the growth of the community of Stouffville. Few people took notice when the plan was being written at public workshops in the community in the late 1990s. Now, many are howling over the loss of community, greenspace and Stouffville's charm. Where were they when the plan was being sculpted? Like so many issues, people don't notice or complain until it hits their front door or back yard.

Most of all, Wayne Emmerson was a honest man who tried his best for the community he was born in and eventually led. Unlike many politicians, he remained a man of the people. He was approachable. He gave of his time to charities.

You may not have always liked his view, but it was hard not to like Wayne Emmerson.

Thanks for the years of public service, Mayor Emmerson. You will be missed.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Only in Stouffville would this happen'

To the Editor:
After attending the Stevens family benefit Dance a week ago Saturday night at the Markham Fairgrounds, I feel compelled to write and express how lucky we should all feel to be living in Stouffville.

The amount of time and commitment by the organizers and the support of the many who attended or donated items/services made us truly appreciate why we chose to live in this community. We can't imagine events like this — and others like it — even happening in other communities.

Only in Stouffville would half the town including the mayor become just "Friends Helping Friends"

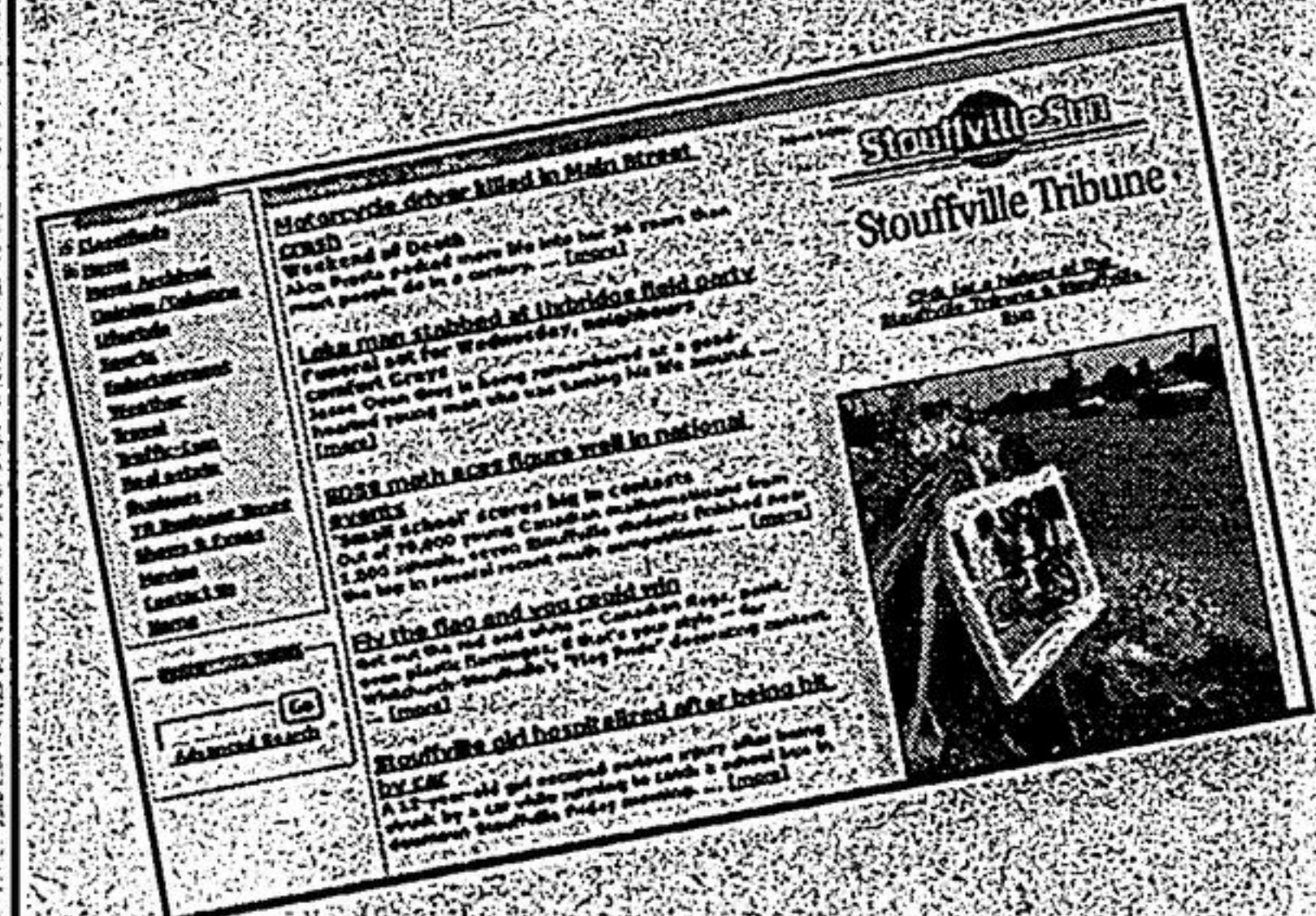
Sharon Smyth
Stouffville

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.



Join the discussion at stouffvillesun.com

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



SERVING TIME: Mayor Wayne Emmerson (right) hams it up with Markham Mayor Don Cousens while in "jail" at a Canadian Cancer Society benefit event in the late 1990s. Mr. Emmerson announced last week he won't see a fourth term as mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The municipal election is Nov. 10.

STOUFFVILLE SUN FILE PHOTO