

Stouffville Sun

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EDITORIAL

Town's vision

In less than 10 months, Whitchurch-Stouffville residents will vote. Once in a municipal election, scheduled for Nov. 10, and probably a second time in a provincial election that is rumoured for this spring or fall.

(To avoid confusion for voters, we hope the Ernie Eves Conservatives avoid the fall for their election. All we need are two sets of lawn signs and advertisements to throw at voters. Remember the fall of 2000, with its municipal and federal elections just days apart?)

The local municipal election means big change. Mayor Wayne Emmerson will not seek re-election and some councillors are at least pondering retirement from municipal politics.

Vision is a word widely used when discussing leaders, be they in the business world or the political arena. It implies a future look at a community through a master plan.

What should the vision of Whitchurch-Stouffville be? What should a candidate say during the election campaign to earn your vote?

Some rural residents with large properties tell us property taxes need to be lowered by the town, York Region and the two regional school boards. Is this possible without service cuts? Should it be a priority?

Downtown Stouffville looks pretty and has fewer vacancies than previously. Mayor Emmerson said he wished he could have done more to assist the downtown. Does it need more help? Does it need a vision or a new theme? How many residents shop downtown? Is the build-up of the west end of Stouffville hurting downtown?

Does Stouffville need another arena? A theatre for the arts? A bypass of the downtown core? A new medical centre? All of the above have been suggested.

What's your vision for Whitchurch-Stouffville? Tell your neighbours by writing the editor of the Stouffville Sun. We're most interested in original ideas. Keep your submissions to less than 400 words.

Be a visionary.

FLASHBACK



THINK SUMMER: The weekend blizzard got you down? Don't think the winter of 2003 will ever end? Summer will arrive with its warm weather and outdoor sports. Above, members of the Stouffville league champs from 1933. From left, front row, Pete Clendenning, Norman Baker and Jack Pennock. Back row, Harry Stover, Reg Button and Lou Lehman.

STOUFFVILLE 1877-1977 HISTORY BOOK PHOTO



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No council experience required by new mayor

To the Editor:

I disagree with your Feb. 18 editorial in which you argue that experience on council and thorough knowledge of the Municipal Act are prerequisites for the job of mayor.

The next mayor must, in my opinion, have two contradictory qualities. On the one hand, she/he needs a bold, clearly stated vision and the willingness to defend and promote that vision. On the other hand, the next mayor must possess the capacity to discuss and debate policy issues in a public forum, and to listen to, consult and respond to public opinion.

It is the job of staff, consultants, and lawyers to be Municipal Act experts. It is the job of the mayor to lead.

Jim Priebe
Stouffville

Mayor failed to be town's spiritual leader

To the Editor:

Business is indeed a part of being a mayor, as your Feb. 18 editorial stated. However, a mayor is also a spiritual leader. As is his council. Perhaps it is time Whitchurch-Stouffville had a CEO.

The role of mayor is part cheerleader, part visionary, part healer, part knower, part seeker. Our present mayor, Wayne Emmerson, is a good businessman, not a great spiritual leader, a great sports leader perhaps, he somehow failed to see his job was to heal the town rather than tear it apart. Perhaps for this reason, his roof leaked, his library flooded and the walls came tumbling down.

On his watch, we lost valuable farmland to greed and suffered formidable threats to our water supply. A wonderful opportunity for the community to create a spiritual centre in the center of town was lost. Oh, his heart was in the right place, but his pocket book differed. He somehow thought money was more important than feelings.

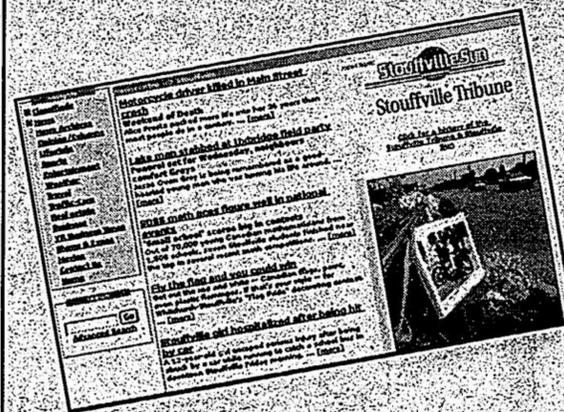
Randy Mole
Stouffville

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.