

# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Riding's area, not name, important to taxpayers

What's in a name? Plenty if you believe Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert and some members of Whitchurch-Stouffville council.

They have their shorts in a knot over the name of the new riding of which Whitchurch-Stouffville is scheduled to be a part.

Recently, town council sent a letter to the Federal Boundaries Commission asking the local federal riding be named Oak Ridges-Whitchurch-Stouffville instead of Oak Ridges-Markham.

Councillors pointed out Whitchurch-Stouffville is the only municipality whose entire municipal boundaries are contained within the new boundaries.

Fair enough. Only a portion of Markham falls in the new riding.

And the proposed name isn't too bulky.

"There are ridings in Canada with names longer than Whitchurch-Stouffville-Markham," said Mr. Wilfert, who will run in the new riding of Richmond Hill in the next federal election, assuming the changes are approved.

The local MP has agreed to join council in its fight to have Whitchurch-Stouffville included, somehow, in the new riding's name.

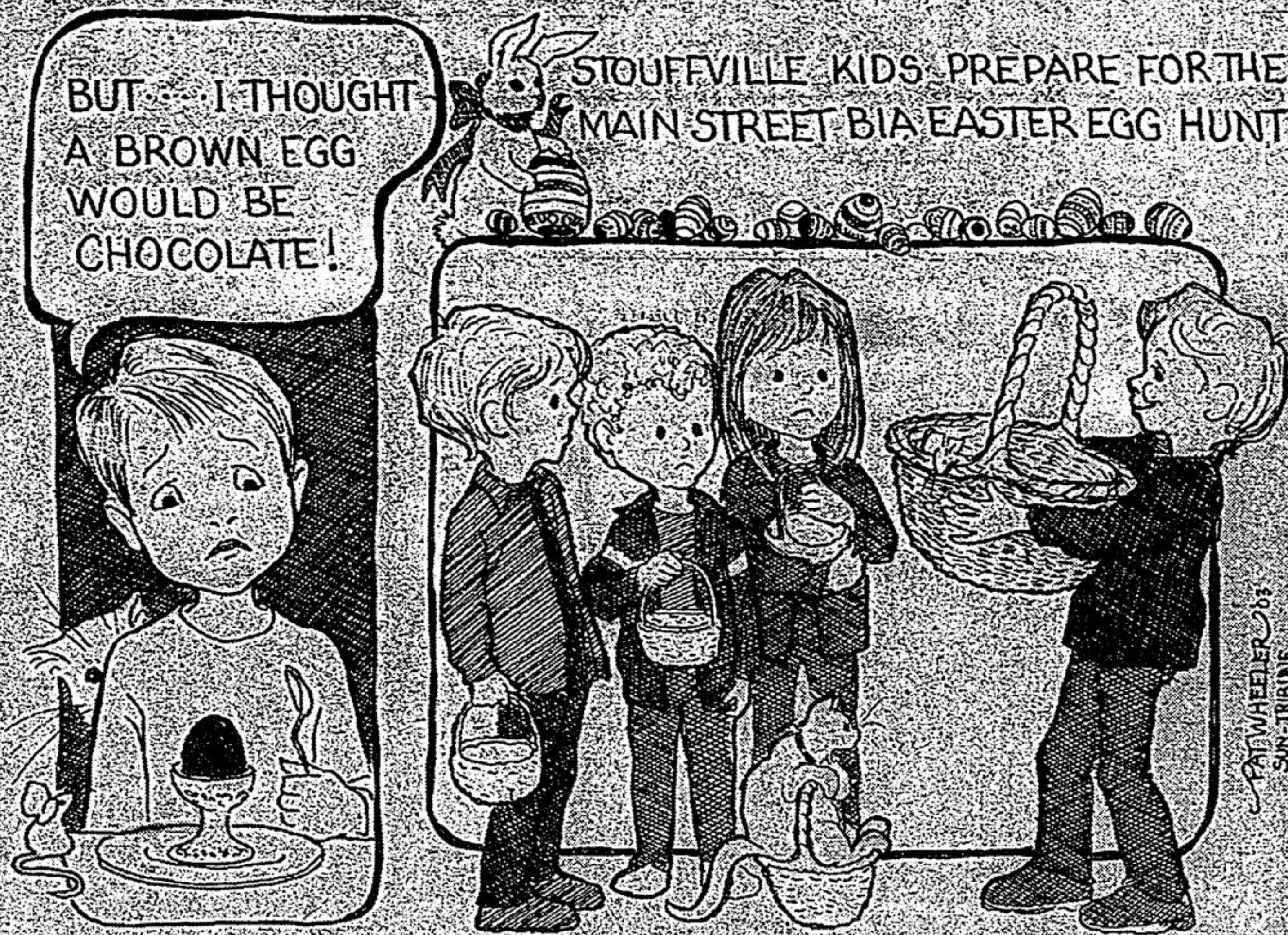
"All of Whitchurch-Stouffville is in the new (proposed) riding but there's no mention of the municipality," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

"We're going to fight this. We want our town's name to be part of the new riding."

But is the name really that important? What's more important is proper representation. The proposed riding cuts a swath from east to west in York Region, taking in an enormous piece of geogaphy.

The current riding of Oak Ridges is more compact and geographically compatible.

Perhaps that's what local politicians should be concerned with.



## Letters to the Editor

### Accident waiting to happen at Stouffville Secondary School

Re: March 4 editorial requesting the names of streets in need of sidewalks in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

I would like to submit Bramble Crescent from Millard Street to Stouffville District Secondary School for the following reasons:

- The many students walking to school from the east and west ends of town along Millard Street must proceed down this street to the school. With no sidewalk, they must walk either on the boulevard or on the road.
- With the closure of Edward Street at SDSS, all vehicular traffic must use this same street, including parents driving their children to school, maintenance vehicles, suppliers of school and cafeteria materials, the many school buses and students who drive themselves to school. These students are younger and, therefore, less experienced drivers at an age when speed is a temptation.
- In winter, snowbanks cover the boulevards forcing pedestrians to walk on the road at a time of year when accidents are more likely to happen.
- People picking up their mail use the turn-around on this busy section and then park beside the mailbox, further narrowing the road close to the corner.
- After years of complaining, I have been assured by town officials that a sidewalk for this section has been included in the 2003 budget.

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Stouffville Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space. Write: Letters to the Editor, 34 Civic Ave., P.O. Box 154, Stouffville, L4A 7Z5, e-mail jmason@ymg.com

However, this town sidewalk would go only to the edge of the SDSS property and I am told that the school board has no intention of extending it further to the school. Hopefully, this accident waiting to happen will be prevented before it is too late.

D. PETRIE  
STOUFFVILLE

### Capitalism, Christianity at odds in Iraq invasion

There are those who consider George Bush the saviour of our world and then there are those who are not so sure.

Many prominent religious leaders disagree with George Bush on the invasion of Iraq.

Somehow, I suspect those whose main concern is their pocketbook are wholeheartedly on the side of George Bush.

They would have us believe that capitalism and Christianity are complementary.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

ARTHUR D. ROBERTSON  
STOUFFVILLE



## Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Leafs officials come home for free Stanley Cup advice

If I'm an official in the Toronto Maple Leafs organization — which will happen shortly after my presidency of Guatemala — it would be the last place I'd be on an off day from the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Especially after my team stunk the joint out the night before in Philly.

But there was assistant coach Keith Acton and Joe Bowen, the voice of the Leafs, at the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League's 25th annual awards night at the Markham Fairgrounds Saturday.

Think about it. Several hundred hockey experts fresh from their own season-ending tournament, full of championship knowledge, roast beef and assorted liquid refreshments.

Everyone with a sure way to improve the power play or shut down John LeClair.

"Actually, it's pretty neat," said Keith, Stouffville's favourite son, Tuesday. "I enjoy talking hockey with everyone. And people here are very knowledgeable. They've been around the game all their lives, so you never know what you'll learn."

Keith, 45, grew up in Stouffville with some of the folks playing in the SAHL's men's and women's divisions. Joe Bowen's wife is a player in the loop.

"You should put more emotion into your work, Joe," one of the SAHLites told him, tongue firmly in cheek.

Joe, a Markham resident, took the "advice." It sounded like the always enthusiastic one expelled his larynx Monday night while announcing Tomas Kaberle's game-winning goal in the second overtime period.

"All our guys played with heart that night," said Keith. "They were willing to make the sacrifice and that's what it takes to win in the playoffs."

As one of the SAHL experts no doubt advised.

Keith played in Philadelphia and was an assistant/associate coach with the Flyers.

"I know a lot of people over there, but at this time of year, we aren't friends," he said. "Put it this way, none of them will be coming up to Stouffville for dinner this week."

Jim Mason is editor of the Stouffville Sun-Tribune.

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