

**Southern**  
**Sun-Tribune**

A Metroland community newspaper  
34 Civic Ave., Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z5

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

# OPINION

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**Debra Kelly**  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
**Robert Lazaruko**  
DIRECTOR, MARKETING  
& NEW PRODUCT  
DEVELOPMENT  
**Brenda Larson**

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR,  
RETAIL & FLYER SALES  
**Nicole Fletcher**  
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR,  
CLASSIFIED, REAL ESTATE  
& EVENTS MANAGEMENT  
**Gord Paolucci**

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### U.S. failed to make war case

Re: Thank U.S. for what it hasn't done, letter to the editor by Mark Baldock, April 3.

Mr. Baldock states, "America doesn't cheer when an enemy nation's civilians are killed." While I'd resist lumping together all Americans, I'm not so sure I agree.

Behind the chants "U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" — the same cheers echoed by Stephen Harper, Mike Harris, Ernie Eves and a handful of Bay Street "suits" at a recent rally in Toronto — lie the lifeless and mutilated bodies of Iraqi civilians.

This war is wrong. The Bush administration had ample opportunity (and resources) to convince the world community Saddam Hussein posed an immediate danger to America or the Middle East, that the Iraqi regime was somehow behind the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the U.N. inspections had run their course.

It failed, however, to make a credible case. Notwithstanding the outbursts of a few Liberal loudmouths, the position of the Canadian government has been reasonable and principled.

All peaceful means of disarmament and containment had not been exhausted. Furthermore, the Bush doctrine of pre-emptive first strike sets a dangerous precedent that will likely destabilize the globe for decades to come.

More pointless bloodshed; might makes right. That Canadian right-wing continentalists should — out of exaggerated fear of economic fallout or desperate political opportunism — join in the cheering is, in my opinion, nothing short of disgusting.

HOWARD LEZNOFF  
MARKHAM

### Letter had hateful message

Re: English important for safety, letter to the editor by Roy Weldon, April 12.

I would like to refute the hateful message Mr. Weldon offers new Canadians who arrived here more recently than his own immigrant family. (I may be wrong, but I'm guessing Weldon is not a Canadian Aboriginal surname.)

Please be assured Mr. Weldon speaks only for himself, not for all Markham residents and certainly not for any other Canadian I know.

Canada is a land of immigrants (what Mr. Weldon would call "invaders") and we are privileged to live in a country allowing us the freedom to celebrate our ethnic ancestry while at the same time defining what it means to be Canadian.

It's laughable to suggest Chinese immigrants are trying "to re-create China here", if they wanted China, they would stay in China.

What's lucky for all of us is immigrants tend to bring with them the best of their for-



mer countries (music, food, art, language, cultural activities) and leave all the negative stuff (perhaps political injustice or religious persecution) behind.

This is what Canada is to me; a celebration of the best of the world.

LANA BAZIUK CHAMPION  
MARKHAM

### Government dropped ball on SARS

Now that the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak is growing by leaps and bounds, how could the department of immigration and Health Canada put people at such risk, knowing the potential danger of this disease plus the strain and inconvenience it is putting on people needing of surgery and treatment?

They were warned of its potential in advance and now seem to be running in circles and grasping at straws.

Why would these federal government departments not stop all incoming flights from the countries of SARS origin until the situation is under control? It seems futile to check people leaving the country or hand out cards or questionnaires.

Are our immigration policies so lenient we just believe and let everyone with a sob story into our country without doing a thorough background check? Look what it's done so far.

We now have two new deadly diseases in

less than one year to worry about and still our elected officials have not woken up to the fact they're killing Canadians needlessly.

Perhaps they should stop worrying about hurting someone's feelings and start thinking about protecting the people who voted for them.

This is no laughing matter. Nor is it a prejudiced statement; our children and seniors are at risk.

Remember, SARS was a disease we were told at first was not serious. It has proven otherwise in only a matter of weeks. What will happen in the months to come?

Obviously, the immigration and health requirements were not taken seriously until it was too late.

You have to ask yourself: Why are other countries tightening up on allowing people from SARS-affected countries to enter and considering stopping flights from these countries? We, on the other hand, hand out questionnaires.

If elected officials do not take every precaution to ensure the safety and protection of its citizens, then they are not doing the job for which they were voted to do.

Let's not let them forget they have a responsibility to protect Canadians first. Otherwise, we'll have a much worse situation than the Walkerton dilemma to worry about.

HAROLD HUTCHINGS  
MARKHAM

## LETTERS POLICY

The Stouffville Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

Letters to the Editor  
The Tribune  
9 Heritage Rd.  
Markham, ON  
L3P 1M3  
Email: letters@econsun.com

**EDITORIAL**  
Editor **Jim Mason**  
newsroom@econsun.com

**ADVERTISING**  
Retail Sales Manager  
**Steve Kane**  
skane@yimg.com

Sales Manager, New Business  
Development & Distribution  
**Dawna Andrews**  
dandrews@yimg.com

Classified Manager **Ann Campbell**  
acampbell@yimg.com

Real Estate Manager  
**Mike Rogerson**  
mrogerson@yimg.com

**PRODUCTION**  
Electronic Communications  
Manager **John Fuithey**  
jfuithey@yimg.com

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Distribution Manager **Barry Black**  
bblack@yimg.com

**ADMINISTRATION**  
Office Manager **Vivian O'Neil**  
vonell@yimg.com

## York Region Events

### Managing Director

**Debra Weller**

dweller@yimg.com

### Shows Manager

**Stacey Allen**

sallen@yimg.com

## York Region Printing

### General Manager **Bob Dean**

bdean@yimg.com

## EDITORIAL

905-294-2200 /

Fax: 294-1538

## ADVERTISING

294-2200 / Classified: 1-800-

743-3353 / Fax: 853-4626

## DISTRIBUTION

905-294-8244

## CCAO CPE

Canadian Circulations Audit Board Member  
Ontario Press Council

**Southern**  
**Sun-Tribune**

A York Region Newspaper Group  
community newspaper

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a member of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Metroland is comprised of 70 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Newspaper Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Vaughan Citizen, Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Tribune, Stouffville Sun, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, At Home, Good Life, yorkregion.com and York Region Printing.

## Leisure planning needs input

A leisure services master plan study, which will address future planning and delivery of leisure services in Whitchurch Stouffville, is under way.

Input has been sought from sports organizations and user groups and residents have also been invited to submit their comments, ideas and concerns.

This study will assess the need for leisure programs and activities, facilities, parks, open spaces and trails for at least the next 10 years.

In assessing and servicing this demand, the process must ensure existing green spaces, neighbourhood parks and established facilities, such as Memorial Pool, are not sacrificed to make way for or finance new leisure services.

In addition to creating an "inventory" of needs, the master plan study should adopt a number of guiding principles:

- Parks, greenspace and walking and bike trails in new developments should be maximized. Developers should not be allowed minimum compliance with municipal regulations;

- Existing neighbourhood parks and parkettes do not represent inventory that can be sold to finance new facilities or raise revenue for the town.

The master plan study should confirm the importance of greenspace in existing neighbourhoods and adopt the principle these greenspaces will be preserved and maintained.

- As the Whitchurch-Stouffville's population ages, there will be a growing need for more "passive" leisure and recreational space such as walking and bicycle trails and conservation areas.

The study should not be skewed only to the needs of users of built facilities, particularly since such facilities represent substantial capital and operational costs to the municipality;

- Memorial Park should be preserved and enhanced. The study must confirm its importance to the town.

It is unfortunate Park Drive South has now become a major road. There must be no further encroachment of the impacts of development into the park.

Existing facilities, such as the outdoor pool, should be retained. Greater naturalization, particularly along the creek bed opposite the library, should take place and all existing greenspace must be preserved.

In publicizing the master plan study, the town has invited residents to take the time to participate. By all means, do so.

Here is the opportunity to influence this process to ensure it is respectful of existing neighbourhoods, of our environment and Whitchurch-Stouffville's heritage.

JILL MCWHINNIE  
STOUFFVILLE