

OPINION

PUBLISHER: IAN PROUDFOOT

TELEPHONE: 905-640-2612 • FAX: 905-640-8778

Email: jmason@ymg.com • website: www.yorkregion.com

Editorial

Making it Earth Day every day of the year

Environmentalists across our area are strutting their stuff this week with good reason.

It's Earth Week, or at least an extension of Earth Day.

Even little Whitchurch-Stouffville is doing its part with a day full of green events Saturday in Stouffville.

Trees will be planted, nature walks held and environmentally friendly information shared.

That's wonderful, but shouldn't we be practising the principles of Earth Day every day?

We can:

- Keep our vehicles in fine tune. Better yet, use our own vehicles less and public transit more. Kudos to GO Transit for improving service to Whitchurch-Stouffville. Now, we need more intra-regional buses from our own York Region Transit Authority.

- Even better, we should avoid using all vehicles. Ride your bicycle to the grocery store. Walk to the library or your fitness club. It's better for our bodies and for our air.

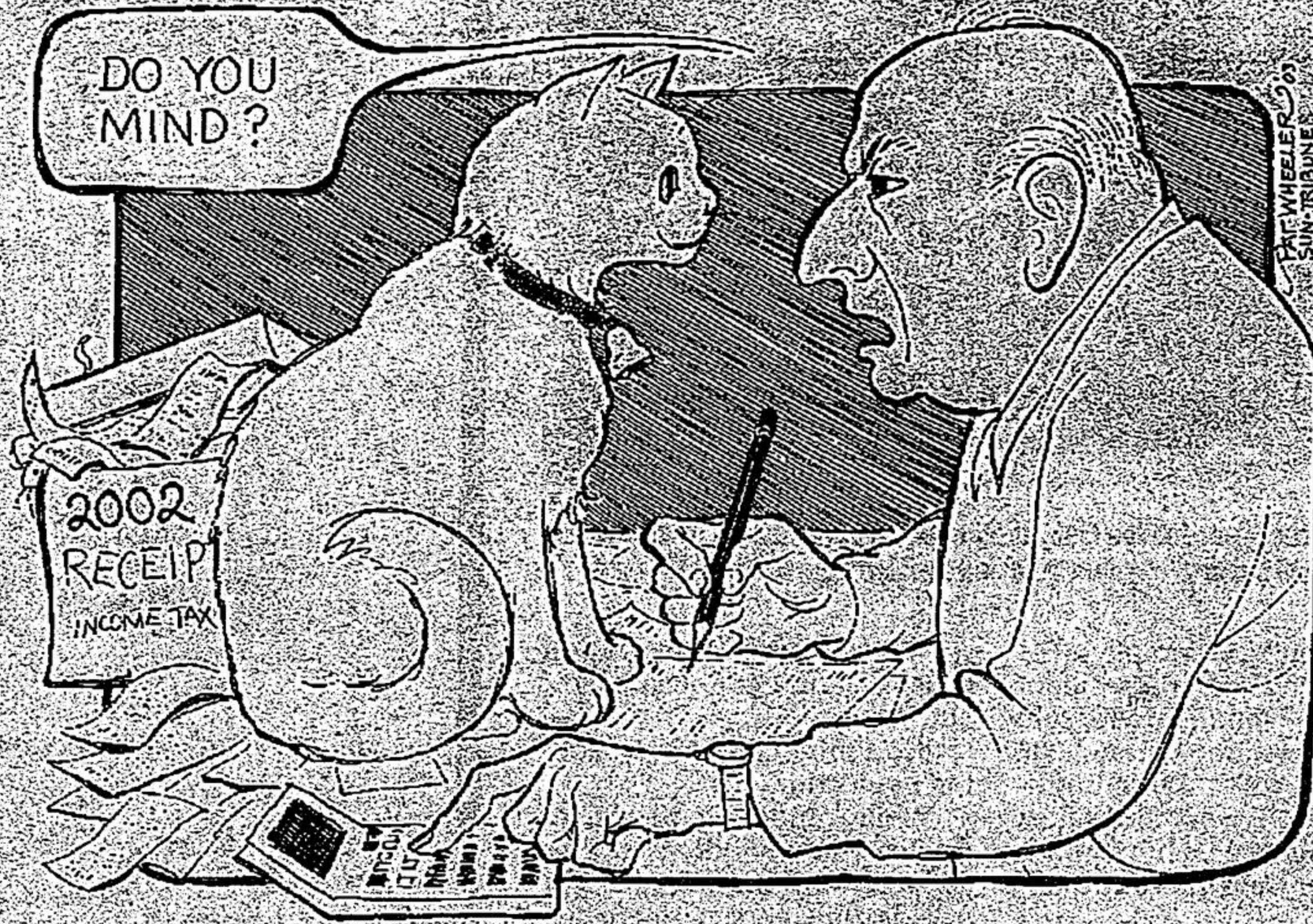
- Use chemicals sparingly and safely. Be as environmentally friendly to your lawn and garden as possible.

- Clean up the grounds around your home, office, church or community centre. It's our community. Let's have it look pretty and garbage-free.

- Plants trees and shrubs. They produce oxygen.

- Recycle as often as possible. Not only does Whitchurch-Stouffville have a fine curbside collection of recyclables, it is also home to a recycling depot. Visit the depot in Stouffville Memorial Park next to the outdoor pool. Use its services to recycle everything from paper to the cartridges you use in your computer printer.

- Even better? Volunteer to help out at the depot. You'll be being a true friend to our environment, 365 days a year.



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Now that the NHL season is officially over

That Toronto Maple Leaf flag flapping from the window of your SUV or minivan should have been forcibly removed by now.

Resist all temptation to torch or otherwise deface the flag. Put it in storage.

The noise from those six Philadelphia Flyer goals being deposited behind Ed Belfour Tuesday night was the sound of freedom.

As far as Toronto area hockey fans are concerned, the Stanley Cup play-offs are now over.

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks? Minnesota Wild? If you had them in the office pool, you are a hockey genius and psychic. Do not pass go, do not collect \$200. Go directly to the Hockey Hall of Fame for automatic enshrinement.

The rest of you?

You are now free to use your time for something more constructive than absorbing endless beer commercials while putting a dent in the family room couch.

Looking for something to do with your new-found spare time? Scan the volunteers wanted section (page 17) of today's paper. The OSPCA, Big Brothers and the Canadian Cancer Society are always looking for people to help out.

Here are a few additional ideas:

- Like hockey, eh? The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association holds its annual meeting next week. The association can always use coaches, managers and other volunteers.

- Take a walk through your home town. Check out the landmarks and the history.

Looking for more topographic variety? Try the trails at the Stouffville Reservoir or through the York Regional Forest north of Ballantrae.

- Local nursing homes and other seniors-related operations always need volunteers to visit their residents and clients.

Hey, they may even let you watch the hockey game with a group of seniors.

Pass the remote.

Jim Mason is the editor of the Stouffville Sun-Tribune.

Letters to the Editor

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

Market atmosphere answer for Stouffville's clock tower

A quick course in orienteering Bloomington is north, Markham is south, Ringwood is west and Altona is east.

I live in Bloomington and these are the choices I consider at the stop sign on Main Street in Stouffville. Fast food outlets, super markets, liquor stores, Canadian Tire or Radio Shack to the west. To the east of the Ninth Line, things gradually fade to nothing beyond Park Drive. May as well keep going.

On Stouffville Main Street east from Park Drive it's the Country Market or on to Altona. This stretch of Main Street is the last vestige of "Stouffville Country Close To The City."

Agree or not, I anticipate growth will create a need for more services and merchandising east of Park Drive. The centre of town could become a vacuum with nothing except time on a great landmark.

A market atmosphere around the clock tower would be a plus for downtown Stouffville. Spring could be yard sale time with booths surrounding the tower, instead of signs plastered all over town.

Every weekend, arts and crafts, market gardens, booths to raise money for charities, information, anything, legal. All around the tower and parking at the old municipal building.

Look at the cities that were once small and now celebrate their centre of town market: Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, on and on.

BOB LEWIS
BLOOMINGTON

Sidewalks, stop signs needed

Re: editorial, Take a walk, March 4

A sidewalk along Burkholder Street to the Lebovic Leisure Centre would be wonderful (the west side of the pool entrance). That road is so small and the cars race along it as they have no stop sign from O'Brien Avenue to Park Drive.

Sidewalks are a must in a town with children. As a mother, I know I am paranoid of every car that comes near us when we walk on the road.

Stop signs are also lacking in our town. I live at the corner of Market Street and Sommerville Street. Market has stop signs that most people ignore, Sommerville has no stop signs.

I have seen one car accident, several near misses and at least one car a day fly through the intersection in the four years I have lived here. I have yelled at numerous drivers when they did not stop — only to be yelled back at crudely.

Several calls were put into the town, the answer the town gave me was "those are your neighbours not stopping" and "stop signs cost money". I know for a fact it is not my neighbours. We stop at stop signs.

NATALIE WOOD
STOUFFVILLE

Stouffville Sun-Tribune
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34 Civic Ave., 3rd Floor, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 7Z5

Phone: 905-640-2612 • Fax: 905-640-8778

Classified: 1-800-743-3353 • Distribution: 905-294-8244

Website: www.yorkregion.com • Email: jmason@ymg.com

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