

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**  
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## Editorial

### Words not enough to save sinking ship for doctors

If you want to turn around a losing hockey team, you have to get the players to buy into a new game plan. If you want to make a money-losing company profitable, the employees have to embrace its strategy.

It can take some convincing. And it may take incentives stronger than words to turn the ship around.

But nothing worth doing was ever easy.

The Dalton McGuinty government finds itself in that position with the province's doctors, after 59 per cent of them rejected the latest contract.

Health Minister George Smitherman came fairly close to convincing doctors the incentive-laden contract would reward physicians while putting some important reforms in place.

It was a good start, an important first step in trying to end Ontario's doctor shortage and reducing waiting times. But in the end, there wasn't enough in the four-year deal to appease the majority of physicians.

For the most part, those physicians appear to be the older, established doctors and specialists. Their concern is matching the financial packages available in other provinces.

Ontario's health care system, with long waits for surgery and more than a million residents without their own family doctor, needs the help of these doctors to fix the system.

And fixing the system is what this deal was supposed to be about. So far, the Liberals have come up short.

The easy answer would be for Ontario's doctors to forget their personal financial progress and embrace reforms that would help streamline the system for patients.

But that's as unrealistic as asking any employee to make sacrifices out of the goodness of his or her heart, so an employer can implement a plan.

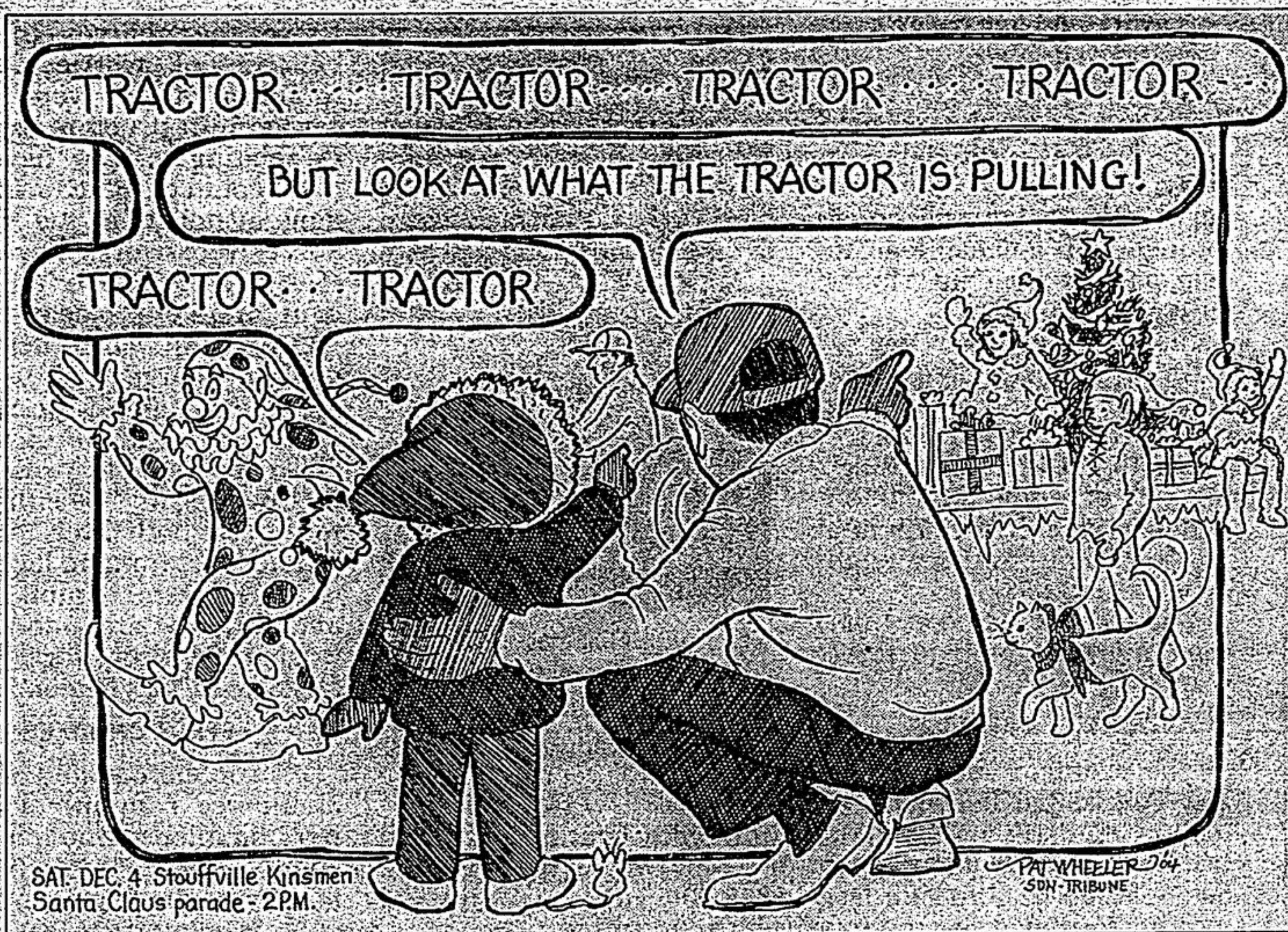
So Mr. McGuinty and Mr. Smitherman must try harder. Like any labour negotiation, it may come down to sweetening the pot a little.

If a certain segment of doctors need a little more incentive to buy into much needed reforms, then that challenge must be met.

No one wants to give away the keys to the treasury, but a standoff with doctors won't move reforms forward.

Ontarians are already paying dearly through their pocketbooks. Their patience is wearing thin.

The Liberals must deliver.



SAT. DEC. 4, Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus parade - 2PM.

PAT WHEELER '04 SUN-TRIBUNE

## Letters to the Editor

### Just say no to Wal-Mart, Stouffville

Re: Another big box plan for Stouffville, Nov. 25. Who wants a Wal-Mart? I don't know! Two developers want to give us a Wal-Mart. Mr. Lebovic on Ninth Line, Mr. Geranium on Hwy. 48.

We have a chance to be different than anyone else. We could be the only Wal-Mart-free town in North America. And all we have to do is say no.

No to the American sense of economy running our country and changing our priorities, telling us that people don't matter, only profits.

So let's cherish the idea of a Wal-Mart-free town where people really matter. Stouffville will survive. And Wal-Marts will survive without us.

Stouffville, Not the Home of Wal-Marts.

**RANDY MOLE**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Pickering airport makes no sense

Does the proposed Pickering airport make sense?

Given that fossil fuels are a fast depleting, limited resource, air traffic demand will decline in the future, not increase.

Air transport will be replaced by more cost-efficient methods as the cost of fossil fuel increases.

As scarcity raises the cost of fossil fuels, importing food will be more expensive. Pickering airport will displace prime agricultural land at a time when we should be conserving this valuable resource for the future of our children.

Destroying agricultural land to build unneeded air traffic capacity makes no economic sense.

**PAMELA COURTOT**  
STOUFFVILLE

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

### Don't turn country into city

Re: Disease fear shelves Ballantrae bat boxes, Oct. 28.

If all you city slickers are so afraid of wildlife, why don't you go live in the city instead of trying to turn the country into a city?

I grew up in Ballantrae, as did my four children and eight grandchildren. We always had bat boxes on our rural property. Our children have played with garter snakes and none of us have ever been harmed or bitten.

I have a neighbour who complains about me feeding the birds in my back yard. Poor fellow, the birds wake him up when they sing in the morning.

A couple of weeks back you published a letter from a resident complaining about a reckless driver who killed her innocent cat. This person allowed her cat to run wild killing birds, chipmunks and other small animals and thinks it's cute.

Does anyone stop to think about the diseases cats are bringing into his home after a night of prowling? Or how they soil the neighbours' gardens?

Take a ride to the Toronto Wildlife Centre in Downsview Park and take a long look at the wildlife your cats have seriously injured. The centre could use your financial support to care for some of the damage your cats have done.

**J. LEE**  
STOUFFVILLE



## Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Overture, curtains, lights might be in our future

The time might just be right for Whitchurch-Stouffville to get its own theatre.

Heavy on that word might, fellow taxpayers.

After more rejections than that Bachelor TV show has seen, the theatre is back for more. The proposal, once again, is to turn the old town hall in downtown Stouffville into a centre for the performing arts.

The Ventin Group, hired by the town to study the possibilities, presents its findings at a public meeting Monday night at the new town offices in west Stouffville.

Christmas could come 19 days early for theatre supporters. A thumbs up from Ventin would beat anything under the tree for this growing and loyal bunch. (Ventin should know, the building and the local political landscape intimately, since this is the consultant's third study of the town hall/wannabe theatre.)

Jilted often during their nine-year dance with various proposals for the old building, the resilient supporters keep rising from the canvas for more.

And they're as creative as their artistic passion suggests. They held press conferences, complete with artists, in front of the old building. Young fiddlers greeted those attending one of the plethora of council meetings on the topic.

And they've got some coin behind them now, \$750,000 from town council for 2006. It's a start, as is the encouraging news that money for such projects is available from Queen's Park.

Now, just show us the rest of the money. The project fell flat at the starting line once because there was insufficient financial will out there in Stouffvilland. The pool and library in the Lebovic complex were already the subject of campaigns.

Those days are done, although the new Parkview Home is raising funds. In an interesting twist, the seniors' home may have to raise more than it hoped if the same town council doesn't change its mind and waive development fees. And money-grubbing for Stouffville's third arena is at least a couple of years away.

Potential tenants, from Music Mania and the York Durham Academy for the Performing Arts to several Stouffville dance troupes, are surprisingly numerous in a town that has never had its own theatre.

But its time might be near. **Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.**

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