

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune
 A Metroland community newspaper
 34 Civic Ave, 3rd floor, Stouffville, ON. L4A 7Z5
 PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

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 DIRECTOR PRODUCTION,
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WHAT THE NEWSMAKERS SAID IN 2004

Here's our pick of some of the memorable quotes.

"I don't think the prime minister is going to have any luck. It's not up to Canada. It's up to the Americans. It doesn't matter what he (Prime Minister Paul Martin) says or does. Most farmers have lost all confidence in politicians."
 — **Mount Albert farmer Ralph Smalley**
on behalf of York Region's 500 beef farmers in reaction to Mr. Martin's warning to Americans Canada plans to fight back if the border to beef doesn't open soon

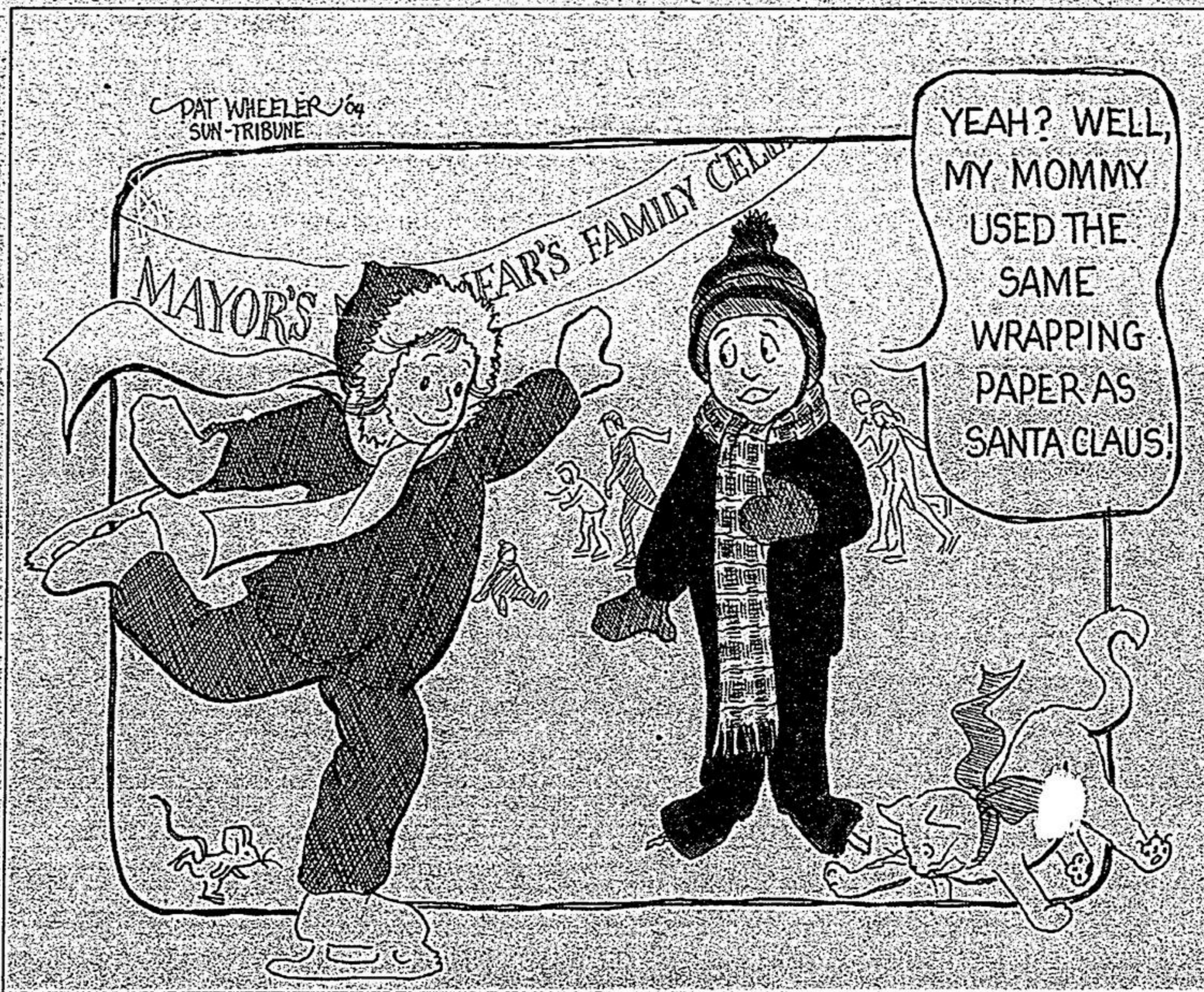
"We certainly expect a salary increase in this round of negotiations that will be starting later on this year... We're going to go into negotiations anticipating the funding formula will allow for that."
 — **president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Association (York Region) Terry Price**
on Premier Dalton McGuinty's promise to give more money to school boards for hiring teachers

"There are no limits online. You'd be amazed at the prevalence of the f-word and the hateful things your children see... the problem for parents is that kids are way ahead of us in terms of how they use e-mail, instant messaging, pagers, websites and cell phones."
 — **Joe Rich, therapist and parenting expert,**
on cyberbullying

"When there are large-scale testing programs out there that end up ranking schools, you might as well rank the schools by the affluence of their families. They're both pretty much the same."
 — **Associate dean of research for the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto Ken Leithwood**
on student testing

"In the media, we're getting out (the message) smoking is dangerous to you. The government is behind that. But we're not promoting healthy eating and exercise."
 — **Heart and Stroke Foundation spokesperson Linda Reid**
on a study that said fat is the new tobacco

"(Success) always takes longer than anticipated. You may have two or three failures before getting that successful venture to hang your hat on. But you have to learn from that."
 — **Chartered accountant Doug McIntyre**
on running a small business



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Downtown market could preserve past, help merchants

Main Street in Stouffville between the Ninth and Tenth lines looked like the most congested bottleneck the Don Valley Parkway has to offer at rush hour.

Cars plodded along, drivers sticking their heads out windows like giraffes, wondering what the delay was.

Many a local avoided Main Street and its congestion on weekends like a plague, perhaps of fleas.

It was any weekend afternoon in the mid-1980s.

Residents from across the GTA descended on Stouffville and headed for its northeast corner, to the flea market.

Times were different. There was no Sunday shopping in Ontario. And the other flea markets that would sprout up in plazas and industrial parks hadn't even been thought of.

Stouffville's market was pretty much it for bargain hunters.

And it prospered. Even after the livestock auction barn was closed and the sale of live poultry diminished, there was still action. A new barn was built about 10 years ago, paving the way for the eventual demolition of the old silver barn with the large flea on its roof.

Country concerts and charity bingo were attempted.

(How you refer to the Tenth Line landmark dates your years of living here. For newcomers, it's Stouffville country Mmarket. Anyone arriving in the 1980s calls it the Stouffville flea market. For oldtimers, it's the Sales Barn.)

It will be no more by 2006.

The property has been sold and the new owners have no plans for the site. Councillor Susanne Hilton is leading a charge to preserve a market, even at another location. Stouffville Memorial Park has been mentioned.

Mrs. Hilton has a big-time point. The market was once Stouffville's biggest claim to fame. And there is still an active, albeit shrinking, farm community in this area.

Perhaps a weekly farm market in a location such as the downtown park is the answer. It would draw people to the centre of the old business district instead of having them drive through and merely congest, an age-old complaint from the downtown core.

In another time, **Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.**

Letters to the Editor

Tradition of Boxing Day lost during shopping blitz

This year I, as I have every year of my life, enjoyed a plentiful and merry Christmas. A moving service at my church filled me with the joy of this festive season. Not all, but many, many Canadians had a similarly wondrous Christmas.

Unfortunately, again this year, Boxing Day was celebrated by participating in once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to buy still more things at never-to-be-seen-again prices.

It would do us well to remember that the roots of Boxing Day are a tradition of giving to those in need, in celebration of our own abundance.

Surely we have a duty to do the same, we who have so much.

JIM PRIEBE
 STOUFFVILLE

Health care system better under provincial Liberals

At noon on Boxing Day, we received news our nephew, a 35-year-old Markham resident, had been rushed to Markham Stouffville Hospital with chest pains.

He was stabilized and sent to Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket which is the

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cardiac centre for York Region.

Within a few hours, he was taken into surgery and underwent an angiogram and angioplasty to unblock one artery that had caused his heart attack.

In previous years, under the Mike Harris Tory government, I personally know many patients who suffered heart attacks and had to wait several weeks to undergo a basic angiogram.

This is a 20-minute procedure to investigate how many cardiac arteries are blocked and to what extent.

Kudos to the Health Minister George Smitherman for drastically improving our health system.

And thanks so much to the EMS, staff at Markham Stouffville and cardiac care team at Southlake for giving such excellent care to my nephew.

He was moved back to Markham Stouffville the day following the procedure. He's now on the way to recovery.

JOYCE RIETTIE
 UNIONVILLE

<p>EDITORIAL Editor Jim Mason jmason@yrmg.com Assistant Editor, News Frank King king@yrmg.com ADMINISTRATION Office Manager Vivian O'Neil ionell@yrmg.com</p>	<p>PRODUCTION Manager Pam Nichols pnichols@yrmg.com ADVERTISING Classified Manager Ann Campbell acampbell@yrmg.com Managing Director, New Business & Flyer Sales Dawn Andrews dandrews@yrmg.com</p>	<p>New Business Manager Steve Kane skane@yrmg.com Managing Director, Real Estate Mike Rogerson mrogerson@yrmg.com EVENTS MANAGEMENT Shows Manager Stacey Allen sallen@yrmg.com</p>	<p>EDITORIAL 905-640-2612 Fax: 905-640-8778 ADVERTISING 905-640-2612/Classified: 1-800-743-3353/Fax: 905-853-1765 DISTRIBUTION 905-294-8244</p>	<p>Stouffville Sun-Tribune A York Region Newspaper Group community newspaper The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a member of the Metroland Publishing, 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, The Economist & Sun (Markham), The Era-Banner (Newmarket/Aurora), Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, yorkregion.com and York Region Printing.</p>
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