

# OPINION

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

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
 Debora Kelly  
**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
 Robert Lazaruko  
**DIRECTOR PRODUCTION, INTERACTIVE MEDIA**  
 John Futhery

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

**DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION**  
 Barry Black  
**DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION SYSTEMS**  
 Lynn Pashko

**MARKETING/PARTNERSHIPS DIRECTOR**  
 Debra Weller  
**YORK REGION PRINTING GENERAL MANAGER**  
 Bob Dean

## Editorial

### Vaughan turns table on trash

Long the poster child for poor waste management in York Region, the City of Vaughan is changing its tune.

City councillors approved an ambitious new waste management strategy last week that can serve as an example for other municipalities aim to curb the amount of trash being trucked to the landfill.

Among other measures, the phased-in plan will see:

- A strict bag limit for garbage;
- An expanded blue box program;
- Separate organic waste collection.

It will mean a big change for residents who, until last year, enjoyed twice-weekly garbage collection during the summer months and no limit on the amount of trash they could put out to the curb.

Efforts by residents to fill up the Keele Valley landfill site and force its closure no doubt played a role in the city's dismal 10-per-cent diversion rate.

Yet now, more than two years later, Vaughan's waste diversion rate, at 26 per cent, still lags behind other municipalities and is a long way from the province's target of 60 per cent by 2008.

Literally taking organic waste — which, according to the province, accounts for 38 per cent of household-generated waste — out of the mix, puts Vaughan in the ballpark.

The real challenge for the city will be educating and then encouraging residents to buy into the program.

It is working in Markham, where part of the community is already separating organic waste and the program is set to expand this year.

There is no reason why Vaughan and other communities can't follow suit.

Markham aside, York's municipalities delayed implementing organic waste collection this year, citing budget constraints. It was the wrong decision.

Waste disposal must be treated as more of a priority by our elected officials. We can't keep depending on other communities to be willing hosts to our trash.

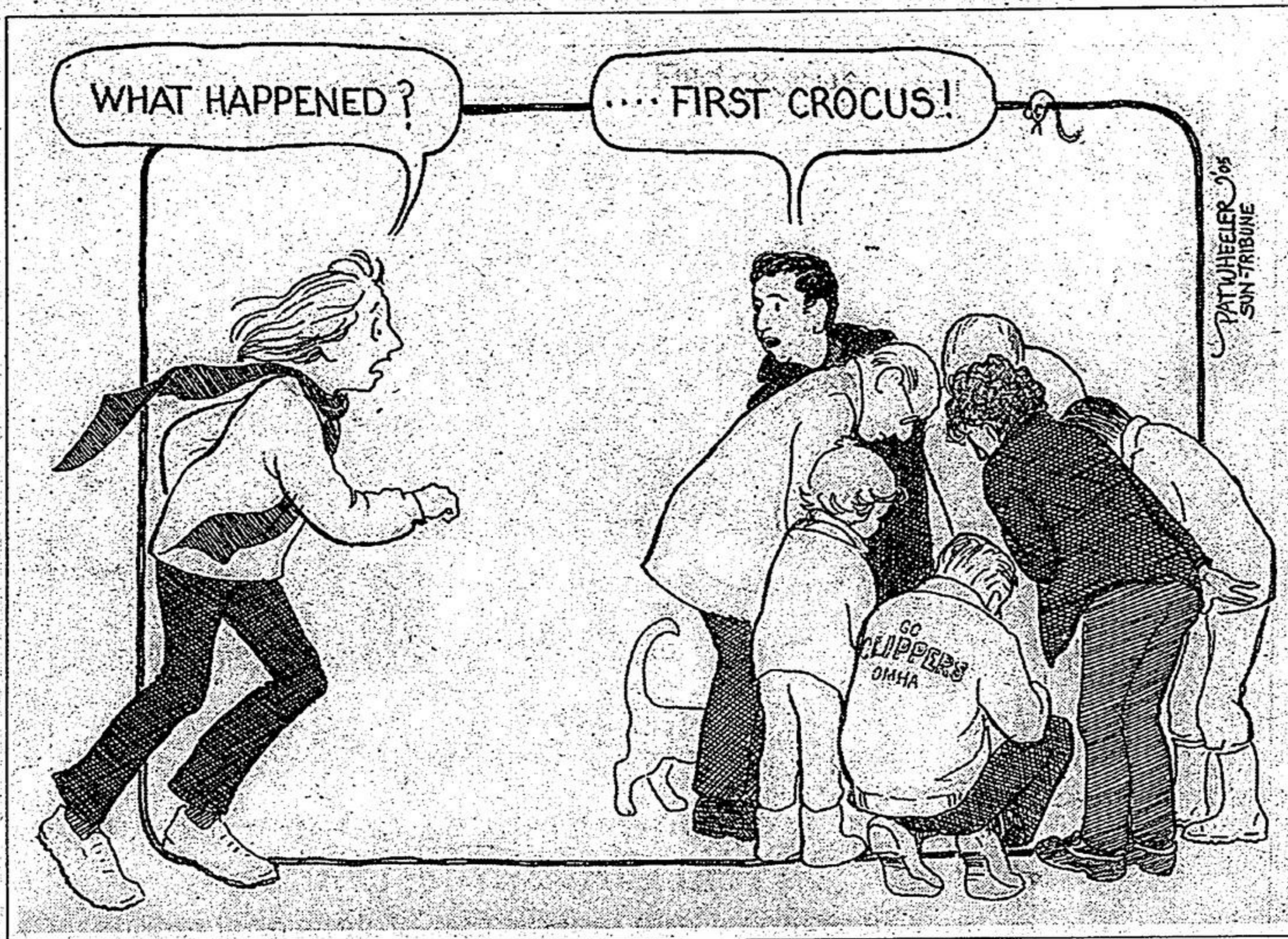
And remember, collection is still only part of the puzzle.

While reducing landfill loads is admirable, the fact our trash is still shipped out of the country for disposal is simply unacceptable. Disposing of our trash in Michigan is stop-gap at best.

If we truly want to be responsible for our waste, we must be able to dispose of it within our own borders.

Whether through the creation of a new landfill site or other measures, such as incineration, York Region must find a sustainable, home-grown solution.

Only then can we truly solve the solid waste puzzle.



## Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Another chapter of small-town history written by teenagers

A proud part of Stouffville history hangs in the banners that dangle from the south end of the Stouffville Arena.

Hockey championships and near titles are remembered in the felt letters and dates. Like the names and team names on the Stanley Cup, they each tell a story.

Underneath those artifacts, the next team that will have its name hoisted for small-town eternity posed for the prerequisite team picture early Sunday evening. Many of the 600 strong remained in the bleachers as the Stouffville Juvenile Clippers mugged it up with the Mitchell F. Hepburn Trophy, the final score still in lights behind them and between the banners: Stouffville 3, Harrow 1.

What's a Harrow? Try the two-time defending OMHA juvenile A kings, before being dethroned by the hometown Clippers on the weekend.

It was Harrow, a small town in the shadows of Windsor that's home to Canada's southernmost arena, that knocked off the then defending champion Clippers in easy fashion two years ago. Some of the Clippers still on the roster of 16 to 20-year-olds remember that sickening feeling.

Grant Nesbitt was in the crowd Sunday, his son, Todd, scoring a goal from back on the Clipper blueline after time on the injured list. Grant knows the banners at the Stouffville rink. He coached the bantam Clippers to an OMHA title in 1986, the year after the arena opened. But that win came on the road, in Niagara.

Same for the juveniles of 2002, who bused it from southwestern Ontario before celebrating back on home soil in the wee hours.

The peewee Clippers of that year did win the Ontario Hockey Federation banner — an all-Ontario tournament offered in some age brackets — at home. It was a similar scene. The Stouffville faithful cheering on the home squad. It's a moment the champs shouldn't forget.

Goaltender Jake Balsdon remembers. At 16, the most junior juvenile Clipper this year, he picked up the win in Sunday's deciding game. He was a standout in net in the peewee final three years ago, too.

"Love to win them at home," he said winking, while ducking the bubbly being sprayed in the Clipper dressing room. "There's nothing better."

The banners know all about it, Jake. **Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.**

## Letters to the Editor

### Call to silence train whistles in vogue in Stouffville, again

Re: *Town set to silence trains, Feb. 24.*

Bravo to the residents of Stouffville who would like to silence the GO train whistles at the level crossings of Millard Street, Bethesda Road and the Tenth Line.

Some years ago when the York-Durham Heritage Railway began its travels between Stouffville and Uxbridge, it also blew its horn at the Millard crossing during each and every trip.

At that time, I wrote a letter to the editor of your paper complaining about the noise of the horns. I explained I worked three different shifts, days, evenings, and midnights, which required me to sleep during the day on any given weekend. My family and I live approximately one block east of the Millard crossing.

Well, that letter caused quite a little stir. Letters were published in your paper ridiculing my opinion. I had people pointing at me while out and about and was even teased at Sunday morning hockey.

One gentleman even wrote to your editor asking what I wanted next, "to silence the GO train, too?"

It's funny how things come around full circle now that a lot of our residents are affected by the GO train and its travels.

Mechanical arms, bells and lights should be enough to get the train safely through Stouffville. I guess we will have to wait and see.

To Lisa Hume, good luck with your neighbours' petition and your proposal to Whitchurch-Stouffville council to silence the trains.

**MARK MILNE**  
 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@yrng.com](mailto:jmason@yrng.com)

### Tattoo parlours, Elvis festival not what downtown needs

I am writing this letter to express my concern over the fact a tattoo parlor is scheduled to open up on Main Street Stouffville next month.

One of the main reasons we enjoy living in Stouffville is because of its charm and character as a small town. It's a great place to bring up a family.

This establishment will do nothing positive for our town and will only serve as a hangout for our local youth, exacerbating an already difficult youth situation.

Is this the type of development which our Business Improvement Area is bringing to our downtown core? As a resident of almost eight years, it is disappointing to see what is happening to the old section of Main and the lack of any positive progress being made.

Perhaps if we could spend more time properly developing the old section of Main and less on hosting Elvis festivals and bringing tattoo parlors to town, we might be able to, in time, make the downtown core an area we could all be proud of, similar to Main Street Unionville or Port Perry.

**BRIAN CLAMAN**  
 STOUFFVILLE

<p><b>EDITORIAL</b>                  Editor                  Jim Mason  <a href="mailto:jmason@yrng.com">jmason@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>ADMINISTRATION</b>                  Office Manager                  Vivian O'Neil  <a href="mailto:vonell@yrng.com">vonell@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>PRODUCTION</b>                  Manager                  Pam Nichols  <a href="mailto:pnichols@yrng.com">pnichols@yrng.com</a></p>	<p><b>ADVERTISING</b>                  Classified Manager                  Ann Campbell  <a href="mailto:acampbell@yrng.com">acampbell@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>Retail Manager</b>                  Stacey Allen  <a href="mailto:sallen@yrng.com">sallen@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>Managing Director, New Business &amp; Flyer Sales</b>                  Dawna Andrews  <a href="mailto:dandrews@yrng.com">dandrews@yrng.com</a></p>	<p><b>New Business Manager</b>                  Steve Kane  <a href="mailto:skane@yrng.com">skane@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>Managing Director, Real Estate</b>                  Mike Rogerson  <a href="mailto:mrogerson@yrng.com">mrogerson@yrng.com</a></p>	<p><b>EDITORIAL</b>                  905-640-2612                  Fax: 905-640-8778</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING</b>                  905-640-2612/Classified:                  1-800-743-3353/Fax: 905-853-1765</p> <p><b>DISTRIBUTION</b>                  905-294-8244</p> <p>Canadian Circulations <b>CCED</b> Audit Board Member</p> <p>Ontario Press Council</p>	<p><b>Stouffville Sun-Tribune</b>                  A York Region Newspaper Group community newspaper</p> <p>The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a member of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Forstar 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 &amp; Sun (Markham), The Era-Banner (Newmarket/Aurora), Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, <a href="http://yorkregion.com">yorkregion.com</a> and York Region Printing.</p>
---	---	--	--	--