

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 Futey

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

Immigration cash needed in York

Looming elections have a way of shaking cash out of government coffers. And, sometimes, some of it trickles down to York Region.

But because this booming municipality is often seen as overly affluent by those who hold the purse strings at Queen's Park and in Ottawa, the money that finally makes its way here is more like spare change than cold hard cash.

Again and again, York Region is short-changed by the federal and provincial governments when it comes to per capita funding for social services.

It's almost tradition.

Local politicians have complained, no matter their political stripe, with little success. Non-partisan social groups have taken their case to the powers to be, also with little impact.

A case in point is health care funding. In 2002, York Region health agencies authored a report called Fair is Fair. It showed York agencies receive as little as 40 cents on the dollar compared to the provincial average.

One of those election goodies was \$920 million for immigration services in Ontario over the next five years.

It's good news for the province because it gets Ontario closer to the \$4,000 per new immigrant Quebec receives. Under the plan, Ontario will see its rate rise from a miserly \$819 per immigrant to \$3,400 by 2011.

Overall, it should help Ontario's new immigrants better adapt to their new homes. But it may not be quite as glowing at York Region's level.

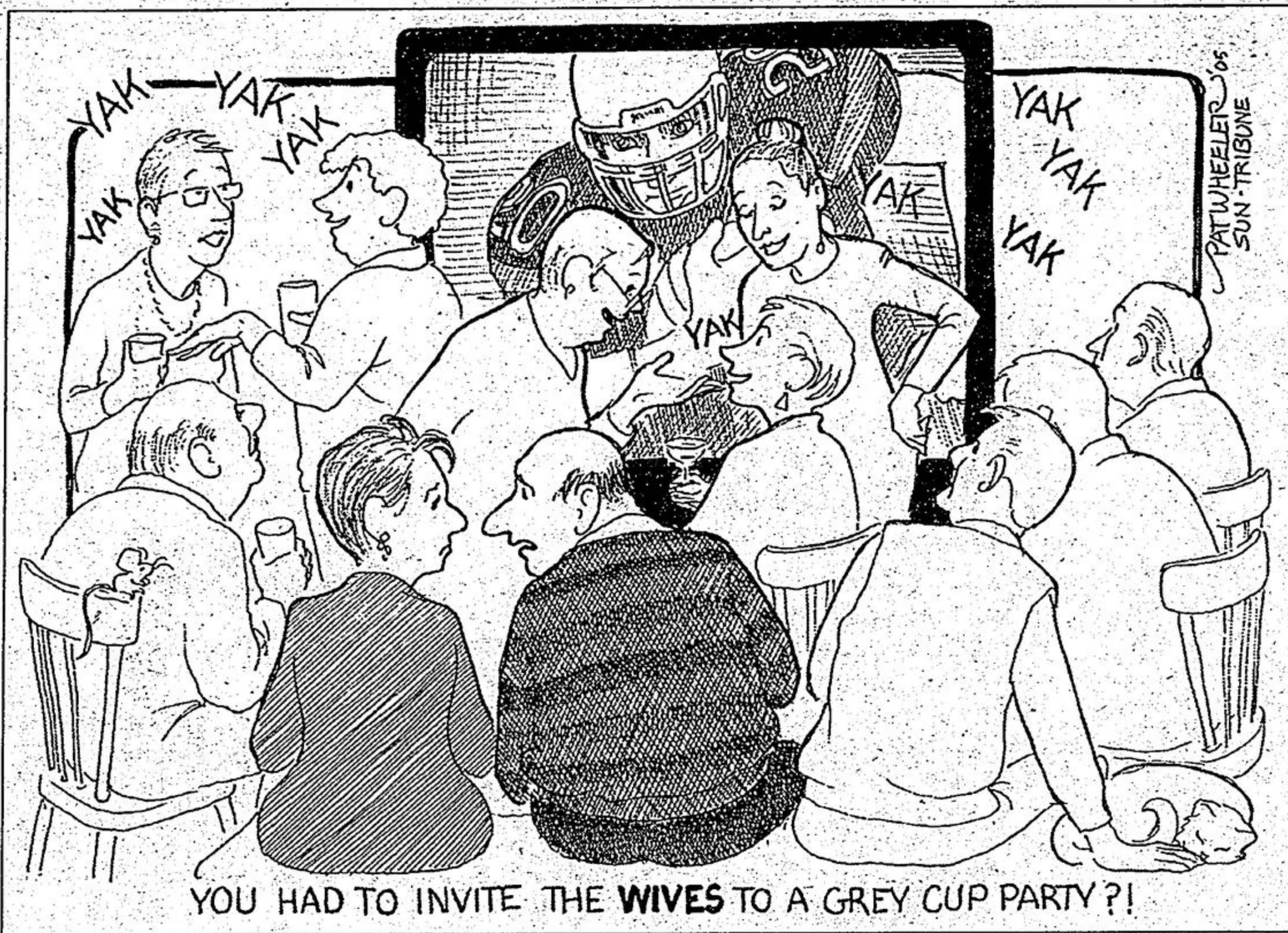
Under the current funding system, York only receives \$179 for each new immigrant. That compares to \$873 in Toronto, \$558 in Peel Region, \$503 in Durham Region and \$418 in Halton Region. Since the provincial average will increase, York should receive more money under new funding.

But if the province's penchant for underfunding York for everything from hospitals to social housing continues, new immigrants will still not receive the same help as those in the rest of the GTA.

That is not good news for York, which continues to welcome thousands of newcomers every year.

Of the 38,000 people who move to York each year, more than 11,700 are immigrants, with another 13,600 being newcomers from other countries who settle elsewhere first before moving to the region. That's a lot of new residents who need help settling in.

Queen's Park needs to fix the per-capita funding formula to make sure York's immigrants get the same assistance as any other newcomer landing in Ontario.



Off The Top

with *Jim Mason*

Turkeys cooking and whole town invited for dinner

For a retired guy, Norm Clements sure gets busy.

The former owner of the 20-store National Sports chain and lover of high-end harness horses is hard guy to pin down.

For all the right reasons.

"He's trying to retire," laughs Gary Rouse, manager of the Stouffville Country Market.

Mr. Clements was a no-show for an interview. Had another meeting and sent his apologies. No sweat.

Mr. Clements sold the venerable flea market property on the Tenth Line in February but holds an annual lease on the land and still operates the market.

"Try and do a good deed for someone else today," concludes his voice mail message.

And he walks the talk.

You'll find him a few times a year in the slums of Bolivia, working with his missionary niece, Corina Clements, cooking for the street kids.

That's a far cry from his estate in the rolling hills of northern Uxbridge.

He'll host the 11th Stouffville Christmas Day dinner at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church. Located next to the market, the church sits on five acres valued at \$1 million and donated by Mr. Clements.

"I'd thought about doing a dinner for a number of years," he said in a phone interview.

"It seemed like the right thing to do. We all have so much. I've been spoiled, my family, too. This is giving back."

More than 400 people are expected again for the noon-hour meal. Another 150 will be delivered. Live entertainment will be followed by a visit from Santa.

And you think you're having a gang over on Dec. 25. They'll go through 50 turkeys and 15 hams at the community dinner.

"It's not just for the poor," Mr. Clements said. "It's really a place to go if you have nowhere else to go, for those new to Stouffville or if your children have moved from the community."

And it's all free, although donations and volunteers are always welcome. Phone David Knight (905-852-3534) for more information.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

Letters to the Editor

Animals, residents forced out of town

Call it a waste of trees for the destruction of farmland.

I opened my mailbox the other day, only to find it jam-packed with junk mail, probably several trees' worth.

One flyer in particular made my stomach turn: a huge poster-sized glossy flyer advertising a new subdivision in Stouffville.

So what exactly am I supposed to do with it? Hang it on my wall to remind myself, at every waking moment, of the destruction of our precious farmland and greed of big developers? It's an absolute disgrace.

Doesn't anyone see the downside of all this rapid development in our, what used to be, small farming community?

I read an article recently expressing concerns about being able to sustain all this development in the future. If we cover our farmland with concrete and bricks, where the heck is our food going to come from?

I grew up here and was hoping to stay. However, I certainly can't afford to buy a house here, new or old. With skyrocketing land taxes, I am being forced out of my home town to make way for the mighty dollar.

What about all the wildlife being forced out of their homes; the deer, foxes, mice, birds, the list goes on and on? Where are they supposed to go? I certainly don't need a glossy, colour, waste of trees, poster clogging up my mailbox just to remind me.

Perhaps Stouffville should reconsider its slogan of Country Close to the City; maybe the new slogan should be City that used to be Country.

GRAINNE RYAN
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@yrmg.com

Small-town business attitude still appreciated in community

I want to express a special thank-you to a few businesses that have maintained a "small-town" attitude for the more than 10 years my family has lived in Stouffville.

Boyd's Source For Sports, along with other local supporters, has built and maintained an outdoor arena for our use.

Card's TV and Appliances has never said "no" when asked if we can use the property in front of their store for hockey fundraising.

Tim Hortons is a huge supporter of local hockey and of local fundraising and charitable events. Lastly, Schell Lumber has always gone above and beyond serving my husband and our business.

These are some of the businesses that have affected us in a positive way on more than one occasion. There are so many more great businesses in this town.

I encourage everyone to take note of the ones that have been there for them and, in return, provide them with a commitment as consumers.

I know my family will.

L. NEWLANDS
STOUFFVILLE

EDITORIAL
Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

ADMINISTRATION
Office Manager
Vivian O'Neil
voneil@yrmg.com

EVENTS MANAGEMENT
Shows manager
Bonnie Rondeau
brondeau@yrmg.com

PRODUCTION
Manager
Pam Nichols
pnichols@yrmg.com

ADVERTISING
Classified Manager
Ann Campbell
acampbell@yrmg.com

Retail Manager
Stacey Allen
sallen@yrmg.com

Managing Director, New Business & Flyer Sales
Dawna Andrews
dandrews@yrmg.com

Managing Director, Real Estate
Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@yrmg.com

EDITORIAL
905-513-1717
Fax: 905-513-7525

ADVERTISING
905-513-1717/ Classified:
1-800-743-3353/Fax: 905-853-1765

DISTRIBUTION
905-513-1717

Canadian Circulations **CCCB** Ontario Press Council **OPC**
Audit Board Member

Sun-Tribune

A York Region Newspaper Group community newspaper

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 & 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.