

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune
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Editorial

Time to create stink over trash

Nearly 1,170 complaints. Two years of sickening, vomit-inducing stench and a battle nearby residents and workers charge is destroying their lifestyle and forcing them indoors throughout the summer.

A court battle is under way this week between Newmarket and Halton Recycling Ltd.

It's a legal issue York Region will be watching closely since area municipalities were supposed to send kitchen waste to the plant to meet a lofty 60 per cent waste diversion rate legislated by the province.

Since complaints started rolling in, however, the region has refused to send green bin trash to the plant, opting, instead, to truck the soggy waste to a factory in Quebec.

Residents have compared the smell emanating from the organic waste recycling plant in southeast Newmarket to cigars, feces, rotting flesh and dead skunk.

Motorists catch wind of the smell as they travel along Hwy. 404 between Green Lane and Davis Drive and along Mulock Drive heading east.

What this means to York Region is more headaches about where to send their growing mounds of trash.

What this means to residents is much higher costs and stalled initiatives to jump on board the green bin program.

For its part, the province has been turning up its nose to the town regarding complaints. Ministry officials continue to slap Halton's wrists and scold owners to smarten up and stop stinking up the town.

Halton continues to insist it's doing everything it can and even goes as far as to criticize the town for pointing blame without proof of where the smell originated.

Enough is enough for crying out loud. Since 2004 the smell has continued and worsened. Despite claims the company has fixed the problem with high-tech equipment, the problem is clearly not going away.

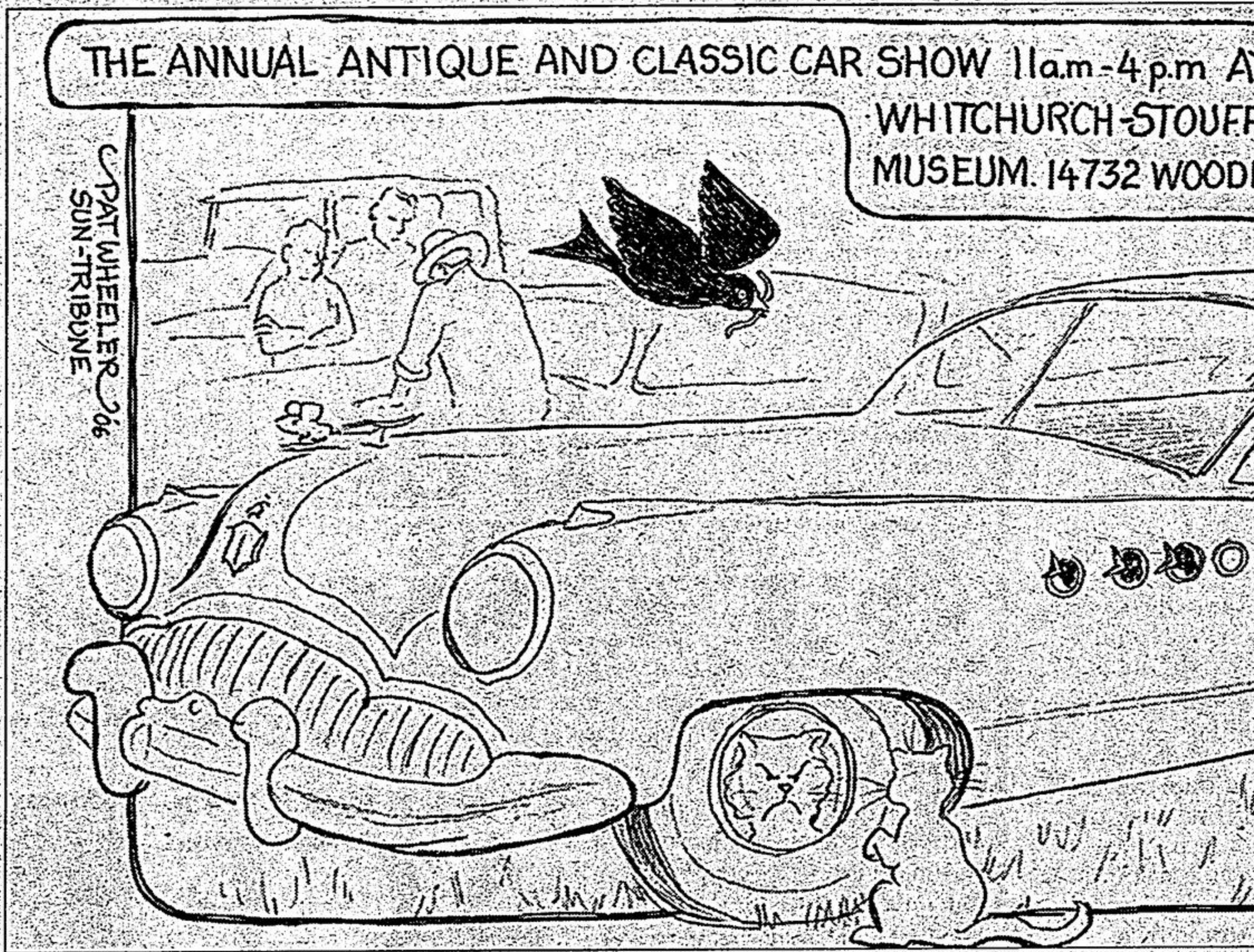
The town must take some responsibility for allowing Halton to start up operations without first giving them a trial period, especially since the former tenant — Canada Composting Inc. — had similar problems with the town.

Here's a suggestion.

Shut down the plant and stop wasting money shipping organic waste and landfill trash to other municipalities.

We should join forces with Durham and Toronto; build an incinerator, burn everything that's not recyclable and bury the ash. Diversion rates would increase dramatically and we'd improve traffic congestion and pollution.

The stink of bureaucracy is often worse than that.



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

On the cusp of something great in Phil's name

There may never be another golf tournament played in Phil Talaska's name.

And he'd be fine with that.

Mr. Talaska died at age 44 from cancer. His wife, Lorna, and fellow Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Keith Pitts organized the tourney in his name to raise money for a surgical oncology research chair at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

The chair, which has already attracted top cancer researcher Dr. Sherif Hann, will focus on analysing surgical data to see where the best outcomes lie, said Mrs. Talaska, who helped found the chair in 2003.

Three years later, fundraising is nearing its \$3 million goal. Mrs. Talaska would like to announce that milestone at the fifth tourney in Phil's name, Sept. 18 at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club, just north of Stouffville.

Phil would have liked that, too. It was his nature.

Just prior to Christmas for two straight years, he gave out turkeys in grocery store parking lots in Stouffville. No questions asked. You said you were in need, you went home with a free bird.

During one of the giveaways, Phil was clearly very ill. Bundled up against the elements of December, he explained he was just giving back to the community he loved so much.

I'm not sure who enjoyed that Saturday afternoon more, the recipients or the Talaskas.

And this wasn't someone doing something for political gain or notoriety. The Talaskas didn't call the media. A shopper at NoFrills on Main Street, so amazed by their generosity, did.

Golf tournaments held every day of the summer in the golf crazy section of Ontario.

For \$100 or two you golf 18 holes out of a cart, have a couple of meals and a pile of laughs, while raising money for charity. Putting and long drive contests and silent auctions, featuring sports memorabilia, are the norm.

Two weeks ago, Sleepy Hollow hosted a tourney organized by Bodysmith Personal Training in Richmond Hill in the name of former Stouffville Spirit/Newmarket Hurricane hockey player Kevin Lord. He, too, died of cancer this spring. He was 20.

They'll toast the good name of Phil Talaska Sept. 18 at the Tenth Line golf club.

To enter, call 416-725-3510.

It could be your last chance.

Jim Mason is editor of *The Sun-Tribune*.

Letters to the Editor

Daycare centre should not be closing

Re: No extension for Ballantrae daycare, July 29.

I am appalled at town council's decision not to grant a lease extension to the Ballantrae Child Care Centre.

I am an area resident and also a concerned parent whose two children, aged 2 and 4, attend the daycare full time. Where are my children to go? My husband and I are working professionals who need to leave home by 7 a.m. to go to work and we have no family close by who can help us.

We desperately need daycare in Ballantrae. The area has grown tremendously in the seven years I have lived here. This is certainly not the time to take away an integral community service.

If the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has decided to get out of the daycare business in its facilities, then council should find another suitable location in Ballantrae for the 65 children they are abandoning.

JOANNE HAWCO
 BALLANTRAE

Consider consequences of extension

** Re: Extend Park Drive as approved, council by Russ May, July 27, and Forum could shed light on fire by Randy Mole, July 29, letters to the editor.*

The Harper house fire is the new topic of conversation among grass-root natives. Such a tragedy to historic Stouffville.

The ongoing topic of those concerned is the planned road through Stouffville Memorial Park. We know where our mayor, Sue Sherban, stands on the issue when hasty calls are made by her to advise constituents of this impending decision

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, P.O. Box 154, Stouffville, L4A 7Z5, e-mail jmason@yrmg.com or fax 905-294-1538

to cancel and/or modify the Park Drive extension."

The mayor told me during a conversation at the January meeting on the road extension, "It's a done deal". Mr. May says "we must be pragmatic"

I say if there is a proven need, then respond to that need. When the masses settle in south Stouffville, infilling from Hwy. 48 to the town line east, we should be pragmatic and then consider the consequences

The short-term history is that in 1997, council, on the advice of a hired planner, added a proposed road through the park. Public meetings were called and no real concern was indicated until January's meeting.

Then, most of council, realizing they are not infallible July 11, questioned the direction taken and put a hold on any activities until the park master plan was available.

This decision was led by the pragmatic Councillor Rob Hargrave who, with a petition in hand signed by a large number of people, questioned the planner and appeared really concerned with the immediate cause and effect.

BOB LEWIS
 WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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