

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z5

PUBLISHER *Ian Proudfoot*

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debra Kelly
BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR INTERACTIVE
MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY
John Fūthey

DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING
& DISTRIBUTION
Barry Black
DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION
SYSTEMS
Lynn Pashko

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mayor fails to create tree bylaw

Re: *Auto dealers coming to Hwy. 48, Sept. 16.*

Perhaps, a more appropriate town motto for Whitchurch-Stouffville is "Country lost to the city".

The development of a major auto mall on Hwy. 48 north of Main Street has resulted in the loss of a few dozen crimson maples that embowered the old farm laneway.

The developer says "people don't have to go all the way to Markham" when the mall is built.

The average person buys a new car every 5.5 years. This hardly seems to be a major inconvenience to me.

Mayor Sue Sherban has had three years to put a municipal tree bylaw in place, yet has failed to do so.

Maybe the time spent coming up with a town flower or organizing golf tournaments could have been used to find a way to protect the municipality's trees, while there are still some left to protect.

DOUG MCGHIE
STOUFFVILLE

Town appeal affected by daycare

An open letter to the Ballantrae Community Centre board of directors.

We are a group of parents, community members and staff whose mandate is to form a link between the community and the York Region District School Board. We are very concerned about the possible displacement or closure of the Ballantrae Child Care Centre.

Fifty-one Ballantrae Public School students use the daycare, which is about one-fifth of our school population.

We are very concerned parents will choose to withdraw their students to attend school closer to another daycare facility if the centre closes or moves. The closest daycare centres are 15 km away, in Stouffville or Aurora. Something like this would have a huge negative affect on our school and, ultimately, the community.

If there is not a daycare in our community, we strongly believe house prices will be affected negatively. Many of the families who now use the daycare moved here because of the centre's proximity to the community and the elementary school.

We are the community and we are asking that our community centre be available for use as a daycare facility, specifically the Ballantrae Child Care Centre.

MARINA BROCK
BALLANTRAE
CO-CHAIRPERSON BALLANTRAE PUBLIC
SCHOOL COUNCIL



Crocodile Hunter more than just showman

Scientists sometimes call them "charismatic megafauna", but most people would just say they're cute and fuzzy.

Certain animals such as bears, tigers and the great apes have become poster children for the environment because, for many people, they symbolize the beauty and majesty of all nature.

Steve Irwin was not one of those people.

Mr. Irwin, the famous Crocodile Hunter, was killed by a stingray last month while diving off the coast of Australia.

He became famous, not for showing the world the cutest and cuddliest of creatures, but for highlighting those that terrify us the most - crocodiles, snakes, spiders and other creepy crawlies.

I'm currently in Australia on a book tour and was scheduled to meet up with Mr. Irwin in October.

Sadly, that meeting will now never take place and I will miss out on spending time with someone for whom I feel a great deal of kinship and respect.

Growing up in Canada, my passion and my playground was a swamp near my home.

There, I waded through cattails to catch frogs, fish, spiders, snakes and anything else I could get my hands on.

I was utterly fascinated by these creatures and had a burning curiosity to find out what they did, how they lived, what they ate and what ate them.

Piquing people's interest in the environment with the world's most charismatic creatures may start them on the road to understanding and respect for all of nature.

I would not be surprised if Mr. Irwin had similar experiences as a child.

Both of us seem to like things



David Suzuki

others might call ugly or dirty. To us, they are all beautiful.

Certainly, I understand why people gravitate toward the most charismatic, loveable creatures.

It can even be beneficial and educational.

Piquing people's interest in the environment with the world's most charismatic creatures may start them on the road to understanding and respect for all of nature.

After all, *March of the Penguins* would never have become the

international sensation that it did had it been called *Flight of the Turkey Vulture*.

But that's precisely what made Steve Irwin's role so important.

True, he often went after the spectacular creatures himself - just not the pretty ones.

At least, not pretty to most people.

He went after the ones either unknown, or vilified, hunted down and despised by most of humanity. He's been criticized for doing this simply for the rush or to feed his ego, but in so doing he put the spotlight on creatures that would otherwise been seen by the general populace only in our nightmares.

Every creature has a role to play in an ecosystem. Ugly, "dirty" or microscopic ones are often the most important.

It has been said humans could disappear off the planet and the rest of nature would flourish and thrive, but if ants disappeared, the natural world would be thrown into chaos.

Humanity will not protect what

we fear or do not understand.

Mr. Irwin helped us understand those things many people thought were a nuisance at best, a horror at worst. That made him a great educator and conservationist.

At a time when interest in the basics of science, like taxonomy - the discovery and classification of living things - is waning in favour of high-tech fields, it's a role that will be sorely missed.

Famed Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson coined the term "biophilia", meaning an innate love and kinship for other biological creatures.

Mr. Irwin had it in spades and he wanted to share it with the world. It was his enthusiasm for life on this planet - any life - that made him so remarkable.

Steve Irwin may not have focused on the charismatic megafauna of the world, but the world clearly saw many of those same characteristics in him.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org

LETTERS POLICY

The Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space. Letters to the Editor, The Sun-Tribune, Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z5. jmason@yrg.com

EDITORIAL

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrg.com

Assistant Editor
Rick Vanderlinde
rvanderlinde@yrg.com

INTERACTIVE MEDIA
Marketing & Advertising
Manager
Dawn Andrews
dandrews@yrg.com

ADVERTISING

Retail Manager
Stacey Allen
sallen@yrg.com

Classified Manager
Ann Campbell
acampbell@yrg.com

Assistant Classified
Manager
Bonnie Rondeau
brondeau@yrg.com

New Business

Development Manager
Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@yrg.com

PRODUCTION
Team Leader
Sherry Day
sdlay@yrg.com

EDITORIAL

905-640-2612
Fax: 905-294-1583

ADVERTISING

905-640-2612/ Classified:
1-800-743-3353/Fax: 905-294-1538

DISTRIBUTION

905-640-2612

Canadian Circulations 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 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 Era-Banner (Newmarket/Aurora), Markham Economist & Sun, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, yorkregion.com and York Region Printing.