

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**  
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## Editorial

### Growing pains must be eased

Growth is no longer a rumour or a promise in Stouffville. It is upon us.

Every quadrant in the community has been ripped up. New streets and homes are going in.

Newcomers have already moved in, in some cases.

And there will be plenty more where they came from.

The population of Whitchurch-Stouffville, which was 24,343 last year, will grow to:

- 32,343 by 2008;
- 42,343 by 2013;
- 53,321 by 2021 and;
- 62,321 by 2026.

Are we ready?  
 Were we ready?

What else can we do to prepare?

They are excellent questions to ask the candidates for mayor and council in the Nov. 13 election.

Privately, some members of council admit that the town was not properly prepared. The town has put an inordinate amount of pressure on its staff to deal with growth. It is now playing catchup.

To be fair to the municipality, this is new ground.

Growth in Stouffville over the last 25 years meant a couple of streets a year at most. New construction was limited by the size of the old sewage plant in Memorial Park and any possible upgrades. It was slow growth at its roots.

By hooking up to the York-Durham sewage system, near unlimited growth is possible. And with Stouffville being one of the closest small towns to Toronto, it's a natural. Its proximity to Hwy. 404, the schedule of commuter buses and trains and its small town charm make Stouffville a developer's dream.

But developers and consultants come and go to the next boom town. Residents are left with the results of their work, good and bad.

We've already experienced some of this. A sales pavilion was constructed without permission. A home towering over an existing neighbourhood went up. Residents have fought drainage ponds, road openings, railway crossings and signs advertising new houses.

It's too late to curtail growth approved a few councils ago.

But we can learn from our mistakes and those of neighbouring communities. Growth appears inevitable. But while making room for newcomers, we must also think about those existing residents.

The transition must be eased.



PAT WHEELER OF SUN-TRIBUNE



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Turn off TV for some live drama at tonight's debate

So, you just got off the GO train or the 404.

You'll pour a cool one, have a little dinner and embrace the sofa for the night.

The Leafs have a rare Thursday off, but there's always a My Name is Earl marathon or what must be the 87th edition of Survivor.

Forget it. Turn off the Sony and dust off yourself. You've got a date at Stouffville District Secondary School.

Call it your civic duty. You owe it to your tax bill, Mrs. and Mr. Resident.

The Sun-Tribune and Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library are hosting an all candidates meeting from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

On Nov. 13, six councillors and a mayor will be elected by fewer than half the people, if history continues to repeat itself.

The other half have no right to gripe when their garbage isn't picked up or their cul-de-sac isn't plowed on time.

You can jump into the world of municipal politics at tonight's debate. Everyone's in. There are races in all six wards plus the featured bout, the race for the mayor's office. Should be interesting, if not confusing, with 23 candidates on the stage at the old school.

But even if there isn't time for your candidates to field a question, you'll hear them introduce themselves in public.

You can pick up their brochures, research them and grab them later for a little one-on-one time. Do they share your vision for the future of this town?

Are they aware of the neighbourhood issues in your ward? What roads will be reconstructed? Are sidewalks going in?

It's mind-blowing the number of people who vote without ever attending a council meeting or pre-election debate.

The post-election party of about 15 years ago was well-lubricated by the time I arrived to quote the candidate. They had won in a blowout and the massive gathering of supporters was high on new-found power and liquid courage.

Some supporters were talking about taking their chosen one to the next level, be it regional, provincial or federal politics. What qualified their candidate, I asked.

The election team members hadn't graced a meeting at the municipal offices and didn't know exactly what their candidate did or how good they were at it.

"But they're a good person, they live around the corner and their kids went to school with ours," they said.

Sorry, but those are not enough credentials for this voter.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

## Letters to the Editor

### Sue Sherban, not Wayne Emmerson, up for re-election this time

I received a brochure in the mail last week urging me to "re-elect" Wayne Emmerson to the post of mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Since I've lived in this town for more than three years, I am aware the only person who could possibly be "re-elected" mayor of our town in 2006 is our current mayor, Sue Sherban.

Mr. Emmerson is no neophyte in local politics and, with that in mind, I conclude this is a deliberate attempt on the part of Mr. Emmerson to mislead new residents by using the term "re-elect" to imply he is the incumbent and to profit by the generally accepted incumbent's advantage, an advantage to which he is not entitled.

Mr. Emmerson should make it clear to all residents, especially the many who have arrived since the end of his term as mayor, that he is not the incumbent mayor and that a vote for him is not a vote to "re-elect" anyone.

If he fails to make this clear to everyone immediately, his honesty ought to be an issue very closely associated with his candidacy.

MATT DOURIS  
 STOUFFVILLE

### Whitchurch-Stouffville leads the way by introducing roundabouts

Re: Get ready to drive in a roundabout way, Stouffville motorists, column by Jim Mason, Oct. 12.

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, 6290 Main St., Stouffville, L4A 1G7, e-mail jmason@yrng.com or fax 905-640-8778

### Congratulations, Stouffville!

You're helping lead Canada into the 21st century by using roundabouts instead of traffic lights and those useless stop signs, which merely tell the driver to stop.

Just think, a driver doesn't have to risk his life making a left turn to go left, all he has to do is make sure no one is coming from his left and, if clear, without stopping, he can continue on his way by turning right then turning right again into the road he wanted.

In many cases, accidents occur because people cannot see traffic coming from the left at regular crossroads, due to obstructions on the corner.

Intersections with two-way stop signs are often confused with four-way stops. A driver having stopped, thinks the approaching cars from either side will stop for him or her.

The intersection at Warden Avenue and Vivian Road is a good example of this problem and the scene of many accidents, including one on Thanksgiving weekend.

WALTER BUMBY  
 WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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