

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**

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## Editorial

### Seniors deserve better facilities

It's not exactly Christmas arriving early for Whitchurch-Stouffville residents.

But with growth comes the need for new facilities and, hopefully, the money from developers and new taxes to pay for them.

When approving new facilities, town council and staff have the opportunity to right wrongs.

Case in point is a new arena. One will be built late this decade. That's a given. Development fees will pay for it.

But will it be a twin-pad or a single arena? Will it be a practice-only facility, like the second pad of the Stouffville Arena should be?

Or will it include this town's main ice rink, worthy of hosting hundreds of fans for skate shows and hockey finals in the comfort of individual seating, surrounded by proper a sound system and heating. Those are the amenities fans gets used to after they travel to other centres, but don't exist in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The outgoing edition of council has approved 19 Civic Ave., the old town hall in downtown Stouffville, as an arts and culture centre. In the long-term, the building isn't large enough to house a theatre for performing arts.

The new council shouldn't give up on 19 Civic, but it should be looking at a larger theatre to host concerts, York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts shows, dance recitals and Music Mania. And the list of performance will have to grow to pay the bills of a theatre.

A youth centre has been proposed again during this election campaign. Council should investigate this thoroughly before jumping on the bandwagon. The last attempt at a centre, in the Stouffville Arena complex in the 1990s, was a failure, in spite of several attempts to re-invent it.

On the other end of the spectrum, Whitchurch-Stouffville's seniors deserve a centre larger than the Silver Jubilee Club in downtown Stouffville.

The former post office, with its poles and limited quarters, is not befitting the people who built this community. They deserve proper facilities for recreation, including exercise classes and games, crafts, workshops, health services, dinners and concerts.

The building should have better access and its own parking, unlike the Jubilee club. Look to Uxbridge and Newmarket for examples of more proper facilities.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is becoming more of a centre for seniors and adult housing every year. Those seniors deserve proper facilities.



PAT WHEELER  
SUN-TRIBUNE



## Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Burglar took more than cash from small-town home

If Julie Wallis was pointing to an election issue, chances are it would be public safety.

Narrow it down further and we're talking break-ins.

Right in her neighbourhood. Right in her home.

Problem is she's not alone on the south side of old Stouffville, she discovered.

Julie had returned to her Orchard Park Boulevard home from a shopping trip the Thursday before the Thanksgiving weekend.

She went upstairs briefly, before returning to her groceries and belongings at the rear of the main floor.

Funny, she hadn't left the screen door open, she thought. That was her first clue. A lighter purse sealed the deal. About \$250 lighter, including a whack of heavy change. She had been broken into, likely by someone who watched her count her money from the safety of the blackend back yard.

She told the York Regional Police officer not to write "idiot" on the report.

"I did everything wrong," she said.

That included leaving the door unlocked, with a purse nearby. There was also the matter of turning the lights in the yard off to save energy and money.

"That night, I lost whatever I had saved," she said.

Not to mention her innocence. She lived in more metropolitan Denver and Montreal before Stouffville, without experiencing such crime.

"You feel so vulnerable," she said. "They take so much. But they didn't take my life."

This time. What if someone encountered a criminal face-to-face, she wondered.

Mrs. Wallis talked to neighbours about the theft. Up the street, \$3,000 in tools were taken from a workshop, some of them discarded in the Wallis' yard. Another person lost hockey equipment.

A few streets to the east and there was more. While a family of five settled in for the night on the second floor of their home, someone stole goods from the main floor. Across the street, a security system scared off a burglar the same night.

On both streets, the burglar defecated at the homes he or she robbed. The bizarre calling card ritual isn't that unusual apparently.

The lights are back on in the Wallis yard. The hedge has been trimmed, making it less of a hiding spot for criminals.

The small town innocence has ended. **Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.**

## Letters to the Editor

### Little rural talk at election meeting

At the pre-election meeting at Stouffville District Secondary School Thursday, the candidates' remarks on the past, present, and future had a solid focus on Stouffville.

I can understand that, since any remarks about the serenity of rural Whitchurch-Stouffville would be pale by comparison. Thank heavens we had a few questions from the rural Whitchurch area.

With all those 23 candidates, it gave me a lot to think about like: "Why close the door after the horse has left the barn?" "Can you really see around the corner with blinders on?" "Is it a done deal even after Nov. 13?" "If the shoe fits wear it?" or "Don't worry, Toto, the Tin Man said the great wizard of Stouffville will know what to do."

The meeting, sponsored by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and The Sun-Tribune, was well run by the husband and wife team of Stephen and Catherine Sword.

The iffy sound system at the school made me feel comfortable that once again we are still Country Close to the City.

Anyone who missed the meeting will not likely understand a word I've written.

**BOB LEWIS**  
BLOOMINGTON

### Concentrate on candidate credentials not wording of 're-election' brochure

Re Sue Sherban, not Wayne Emmerson, up for re-election, letter to the editor by Matt Douris, Oct 19.

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

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.

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defines "re-elect" as: to elect for another term in office.

Since Wayne Emmerson served as mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville for nine years, where is the misleading or dishonesty to the residents in him claiming he wants to be re-elected?

I, too, saw the brochure and didn't think he was trying to mislead me.

The truth is Wayne Emmerson was in office before, he was not defeated and is running to be re-elected for another term in office.

Shouldn't residents be more concerned with the real election issues, such as who is the best and most experienced candidate to represent our community locally, regionally and provincially for the next four years?

It is my opinion that a municipal vote is important because it affects us the most.

We should therefore concentrate our efforts on selecting the candidate who will listen and respond to our questions and concerns and act in our best interest and not on the terminology being used in a brochure.

**MAURICE SMITH**  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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