

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**  
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## Editorial

### Take public transit to next level

Whitchurch-Stouffville is blessed for a number of reasons.

GO Transit service is one of those blessings for which we should be grateful.

Five trains each weekday morning leave downtown Stouffville for Toronto's Union Station, with stops in between, and return commuters at night.

GO bus service fills in the midday, evening and weekend gaps.

Bus and train service has increased and improved in recent years.

It has to.

This corner of Ontario has grown significantly, with more growth on the way.

Whitchurch-Stouffville alone will grow from 25,000 people to 32,343 in two years and 42,343 by 2013.

Neighbouring communities that have not yet grown to their borders, will be also be further developed.

This is not the shrinking population of Northern Ontario.

More jobs are also coming to Whitchurch-Stouffville, with the Wal-Mart development, another large shopping complex on Main Street and an auto mall on Hwy. 48.

Still, most new residents will travel south to work, many to Toronto.

And with no plans for major additions to the north-south road network in the GTA, driving will become a less attractive option.

Highways are already jammed. Gas prices are not likely to go down. Same goes for parking fees.

Pro-active additions to bus and train fleets and their schedules are necessary.

York Region Transit was welcomed to Stouffville two years ago. Its single route between Stouffville and Markham is a start. Increased ridership will hopefully lead to more buses and routes for students, workers and pleasure trippers.

GO Transit has announced it will build a second station in Stouffville, at its train yard at Tenth Line and Bethesda Road.

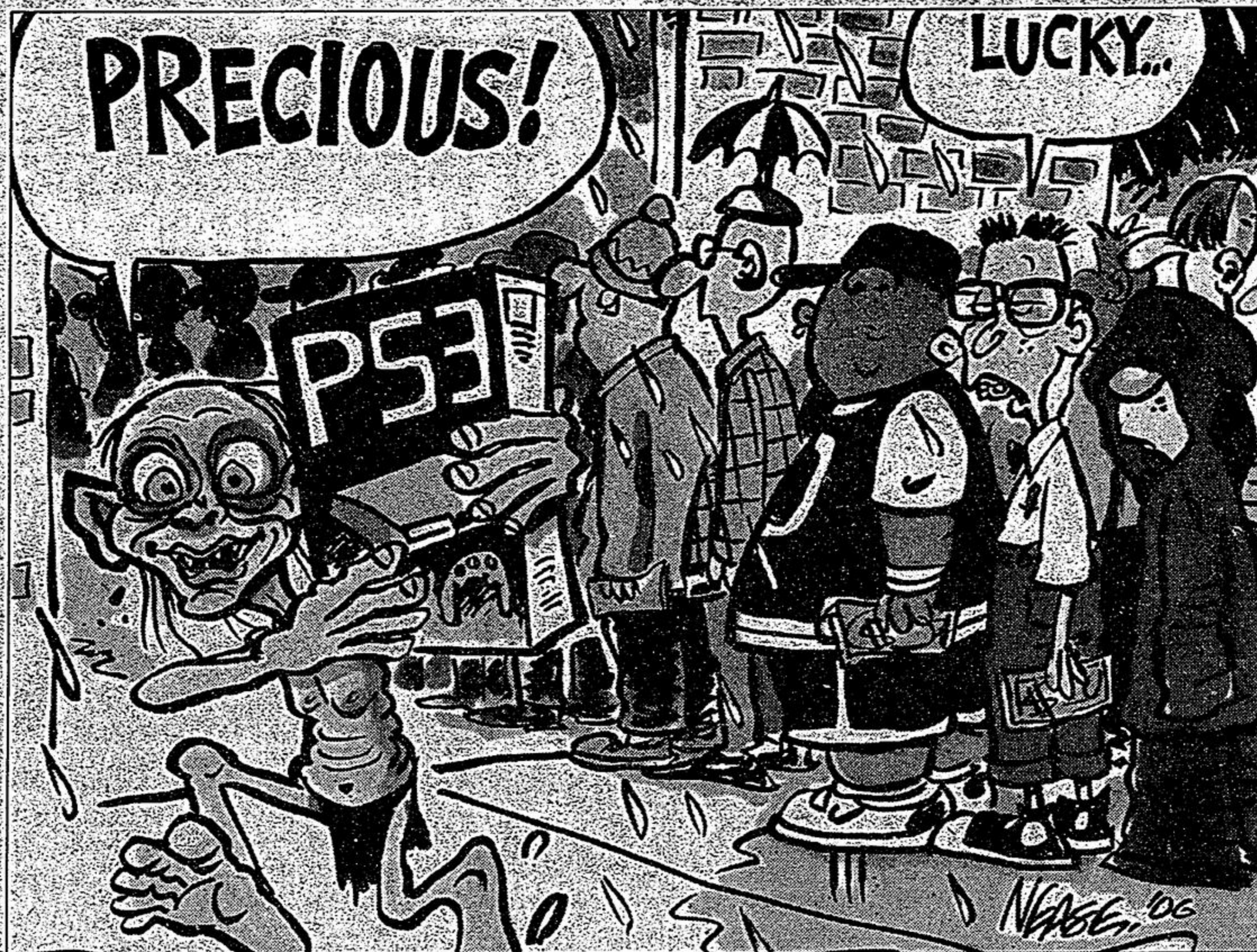
Makes sense. Why force commuters to jam roads and parking lots in the urban setting of the Stouffville train station to catch a train.

The new station will take the heat off the downtown station and be an easier destination for commuters to access, especially from northern Whitchurch-Stouffville and Uxbridge.

You can take a GO bus to a weekend Blue Jays game from Stouffville without the stress or parking and highway driving. Hourly trains make it painless.

Are we far from the day trains will run on weekends, taking sports fans, concert goers and workers in to the city?

Hopefully not, Whitchurch-Stouffville.



## Letters to the Editor

### Only golf club elected Councillor Bannon

The municipal election is over and the tally is finished.

In Ward 2, we have Phil Bannon as councillor again and, again, it's the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club community that voted itself a councillor. Councillor Bannon won the popular vote of the ward but not support of the entire ward. Mr. Bannon won five of 14 poles. Those five poles were all in the country club area. The other nine poles are with the community at large.

One has to ask the questions: What does this community see in this politician, the rest of us do not?

How is there such a differing of opinion between this gated community and the rest of the ward?

In 1997, residents came out in numbers to protest the development of this gated community. We were afraid it would change the character of the community.

Who knew it would change the political nature of our community?

Who knew residents would have such an overwhelming control on the rest us in regards to political opinions?

I would like to thank Justin Altmann for stepping up to run in this election.

This was his first kick at running for political office and we hope it will not be his last. He has shown he can run a good campaign, collecting more votes than most of the elected councillors in other wards.

Mr. Altmann had support of the community at large by nearly doubling the vote over Councillor Bannon in nine poles.

The community will respect that Councillor Bannon will represent us for the next four years. He says he will listen and work with us. I hope he starts to listen to everyone and respect everyone's opinion,

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](mailto:jmason@yrng.com) or fax 905-640-8778

not just those who support him. He has a lot of work to do to gain support of the whole community. Let's hope he starts early.

MARK HARPER  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

### Vandals ruin downtown for others

I walk to work every morning and enjoy flowers on Main Street during every season.

After mums were put in this fall, I was dismayed to see them pulled out of the pots and left on the sidewalk.

This happens each time, whether it is pansies in the spring or the mums in the fall.

Volunteers from the Stouffville Horticultural Society work hard to beautify the town.

Unfortunately, individuals who pull out plants and place litter in the planters ruin it for others.

I enjoy the flowers and I'm sure others feel the same way when they see the destruction.

NANCY THOMPSON  
STOUFFVILLE



## Off The Top

with *Jim Mason*

### New life breathed into fish hatchery

Who knew your children could become fish rearers?

They can now, thanks to a ground-breaking partnership formalized Tuesday. The deal ensures the continued operation of the Ringwood Fish Culture Station, northwest of Stouffville.

Together, with the Toronto Sportsmen's Show and Ringwood Hatchery's new host club, Metro East Anglers, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and its many partners, are now directly responsible for stocking millions of fish into Lake Ontario's \$140-million recreational fishery over the next several years.

That's a big job, but it's all hands on deck at Ringwood.

Fears the former provincial government would close the facility prompted conservation groups to get involved.

"This puts Stouffville on the map nationally and internationally," federation spokesperson Robert Pye said.

"This type of partnership hasn't happened before."

A grand re-opening involving partners and private sector sponsors was held Tuesday at the Hwy. 48 facility north of Stouffville Road.

They sipped wine and nibbled on cheese (sorry, no caviar) and toasted little fishies in the massive tanks that will, one day, become Lake Ontario trophies.

School groups will be invited to take part in fish stocking and egg collecting through the hatchery. Your children could get a chance to harvest and plant fish, so to speak, as part of their school day. Learning doesn't get much more hands on.

You've probably blown by the fish hatchery between Bloomington and Bethesda roads, across from Burd's Trout Fishing.

You may have even wondered what sort of piscatorial wonders were taking place behind the gate.

Now, you'll be able to find out. Volunteers have given it a thorough cleaning and upgrade. More work is on the way as a new non-governmental body takes over the place.

It's high times for the once sleepy Greater Ringwood Metropolitan Area.

The bright lights of Wal-Mart and the other big boxes on their way will dominate the south end. Main Street will push its way to Hwy. 48 with more stores, parking lots and restaurants. And a five-dealer auto mall is going in just north of Main Street.

Where corn and grain once grew, salmon may be the only crop in town.

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

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