

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**  
 A Metroland community newspaper  
 6290 Main St.  
 Stouffville, ON L4A 1G7  
**PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
 Debora Kelly  
**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
 Robert Lazaruk

**DIRECTOR ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION**  
 Barry Black

**DIRECTOR, INTERACTIVE MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY**  
 John Futhey

**DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION SYSTEMS**  
 Lynn Pashko

**MARKETING/PARTNERSHIPS DIRECTOR**  
 Debra Weller

**YORK REGION PRINTING GENERAL MANAGER**  
 Bob Dean

## Editorial

### Opening up to diversity

We are days, if not hours, away from Christmas.

For many in Whitchurch-Stouffville, that means the traditional holiday fare.

Many will go to Christian churches this week, if for the only time this year, to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Most will gather with family Dec. 25 for gift-giving and feasting.

That propensity to celebrate Christmas will weaken. Stouffville will not be the WASP bastion it has always been forever.

Meet the newcomers to our community who are buying the homes in the subdivisions popping up in Stouffville's four corners. Not all are Christian. Certainly, not all are white.

And that's a very good thing.

We only have to look one town to our south. Think back 25 years in Markham when our much larger neighbour was going through its first growing pains.

Homes were popping up on horse farms on the north side of Steeles Avenue and farmlands north of Unionville and Markham.

Sound familiar, Stouffville?

We can learn from Markham's experiences with growth and diversity.

In the mid 1990s, hurtful comments about the Chinese community, related to business signage in their native language in Markham, drew national headlines.

Then there was lingering post-9/11 backlash felt by the York Region's Muslim community.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Councillor Susan Hilton got it right more than two years ago when she said Stouffville, "basically a white community" will soon experience rapid growth that will change its makeup.

"I'm not sure we're prepared for it," she said.

Some prep work has been

The late Kamil Sadiq ushered in an official proclamation in Whitchurch-Stouffville last spring that states the town embraces diversity. Now, the town must back up those words with actions.

Diversity wasn't an issue during last month's election campaign.

It should have been.

Let's not wait until a Chinese sign debacle or, God forbid, another 9/11 to occur.

Let us learn from the errors made in other communities and the success stories that came later. It's one of the benefits of not being the first town to open the gates to near unlimited growth.

Let's welcome our newcomers and celebrate all of our cultures.

Let's include, not exclude.

Not everyone celebrates Christmas.



## Letters to the Editor

### Kudos to Ferdinands, Temelkovski for winning rural mail fight

*Re: Rural mail delivery delay slammed, Dec. 16.*  
 In February 2006, Canada Post halted rural mail delivery to our area of Whitchurch-Stouffville due to safety concerns. Community mail boxes would be used instead. Within days of the announcement, Councillor Ken Ferdinands was in touch with Canada Post and also the residents of Ward 1.

He informed us this cancellation of service would not go unchallenged. Ken spent the next several weeks co-ordinating between residents, Canada Post and Lui Temelkovski, the Liberal MP for our area.

A meeting was arranged for all interested parties. At that meeting, which, at times, became quite heated, it was plain to everyone that cancellation of rural mail delivery was not an option.

The result was Mr. Temelkovski tabled a private members' bill in the House of Commons instructing Canada Post to look into the resumption of rural mail delivery. This bill was unanimously passed by all members of the House.

Last week, Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon announced he had directed the post office to implement a plan to restore and maintain mail delivery to rural roadside mailboxes within 18 months.

To Ken Ferdinands and Lui Temelkovski, I say thank you for a job well done.

I have known Ken for a few years and I believe the residents of Ward 1 are very fortunate to have such an excellent representative. Keep up the good work, my friend. You are the reason we go to the polls to vote.

Hopefully, you will be our representative for a long time to come. Merry Christmas to all.

**FRANK J. VAN VEEN**  
 WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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

### Comments insulting to candidate

*Re: Only golf club elected Councillor Bannon, letter to the editor by Mark Harper, Nov. 23.*

This letter certainly aroused the concerns of the residents of the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club. My interpretation of the letter was that, other than the polls at the golf club, Mr. Bannon did not have a majority of votes in the other polls in Ward 2.

I agree with the letters of Pat Woods and Brian Birkness. Mr. Bannon has done a lot for Whitchurch-Stouffville during his term in office and that his focus will have to remain on the town and Ward 2 and not just exclusively his community.

However, Mr. Birkness' comment regarding "the inexperience in life or office" is insulting to Ward 2 candidate Justin Altmann. It was good to see a young man run a good campaign and show his interest in politics and the community.

Many young people have many new and innovative ideas on changes required and politics and they should not be ignored. I hope he runs again.

It is good to see that politics can still cause controversy.

**PETER WINNETT**  
 WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE



## Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Hats off to police, but that's no Clipper lid, kids

The significant others of Stouffville minor hockey coaches, dads and male fans were going through their closets all weekend.

Needlessly.

They were looking for a fake beard and Stouffville Clippers ball cap, all part of the makeup of the man who robbed the PACE Savings and Credit Union branch on Main Street last Thursday.

They were wondering where their man was on the afternoon in question and if he had borrowed a dark green Dodge Caravan, the getaway vehicle of choice in this heist.

It could all be for naught.

Not the robbery.

It was all too real for the people working the front line of the credit union as it went down. No gun was seen but the mere mention of weaponry sends shivers down even the most hardened of bank tellers.

Even the beard looks genuine, in an image taken from security video and released by York Regional Police late Friday. It's the headgear that's in question.

First off, I should establish my policing credentials were obtained by watching Dagnet re-runs and reading my grandmother's Mickey Spillane novels.

But that's not "a blue and white (and gold) Stouffville Clippers baseball hat" as the police media release described it.

Clipper colours are red and black and before that they were maroon and white. And, as grainy as the image is, the logo isn't even close to any of the versions Stouffville minor hockey has used over the years.

What it does look like is one of the urban, retro-look lids the kidswear sideways or slightly askew for some reason. That's according to my 16-year-old son, Ryan, who I brought in on the case because he knows much more about downtown street/high school fashion than I ever will.

We forwarded our thoughts to the real police late Friday, not that we're expecting a citation from Chief Armand Labarge or a guest spot on Fashion Television.

And rest easy, minor hockey moms. Hubby wasn't out holding up the credit union to pay for your Christmas presents or a new set of Andrew Raycroft goal pads for junior.

Anyone with information on the robbery should contact the York Regional Police hold-up unit at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7873, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or leave an anonymous tip online at [www.1800222tips.com](http://www.1800222tips.com)

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

<p><b>EDITORIAL</b>                  Editor                  Jim Mason  <a href="mailto:jmason@yrng.com">jmason@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>INTERACTIVE MEDIA</b>                  Marketing &amp; Advertising                  Manager                  Dawna Andrews  <a href="mailto:dandrews@yrng.com">dandrews@yrng.com</a></p>	<p><b>ADVERTISING</b>                  Classified Manager                  Ann Campbell  <a href="mailto:acampbell@yrng.com">acampbell@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>Assistant Classified</b>                  Manager                  Bonnie Rondeau  <a href="mailto:brondeau@yrng.com">brondeau@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>Retail Manager</b>                  Stacey Allen  <a href="mailto:sallen@yrng.com">sallen@yrng.com</a></p>	<p><b>New Business Development Manager</b>                  Mike Rogerson  <a href="mailto:mrogerson@yrng.com">mrogerson@yrng.com</a></p> <p><b>PRODUCTION</b>                  Team Leader                  Sherry Day  <a href="mailto:sday@yrng.com">sday@yrng.com</a></p>	<p><b>EDITORIAL</b>                  905-640-2612                  Fax: 905-640-8778</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING</b>                  905-640-2612/ Classified:                  1-800-743-3353/ Fax: 905-853-1765</p> <p><b>DISTRIBUTION</b>                  905-294-2200</p> <p>Canadian Circulation <b>CCAB</b> Ontario Press Council                  Audit Board Member</p>	<p><b>Sun-Tribune</b>                  A York Region Newspaper Group                  community newspaper</p> <p>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 Economist &amp; Sun (Markham), The Era-Banner (Newmarket/Aurora), Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, <a href="http://yorkregion.com">yorkregion.com</a> and York Region Printing.</p>
---	--	---	---	--