

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON, L4A 7Z5
www.yorkregion.com

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Deborah Kelly
BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazurko

DIRECTOR INTERACTIVE
MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY
John Futhy

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

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

Editorial

Police/fire hall makes sense

Public safety is probably the most front-of-mind item on the agenda of Whitchurch-Stouffville residents.

Not that this is a high-crime neighbourhood.

Murders are not uncommon in Toronto and southern York Region, but none have happened in Whitchurch-Stouffville in the last 25 years.

When serious crime happens elsewhere, we thank our stars it didn't happen here.

When less serious crimes take place, people react. They write letters to the editor, lobby the police force for additional patrols and call their councillor.

And they make policing an issue at election time.

Vandalism and loitering are big ones with Whitchurch-Stouffville residents. They may be acceptable behaviour elsewhere. Not here.

A youth centre has been proposed to give young people a venue in which to hang out and, possibly, reduce crime. But, there was no evidence of a dip in criminal activity when a youth centre operated briefly in the 1990s at the Stouffville Arena.

Those involved in bad acts will continue their ways, the rationale goes. The good kids are too busy to take on another club or activity. Thus, the youth centre was under-used and eventually closed.

Another structure could help more in the war on crime. It will certainly help with public safety.

Stouffville needs a new fire station. The Main Street hall is too small to serve the needs of a rapidly growing community. It's also in the wrong location to provide proper service.

The search is on for a site for the new hall. West or north end Stouffville are good guesses. Firefighters, many of whom are still part-timers, would not have to fight downtown traffic to get to the hall and then battle it again on the way out of downtown.

The town is also hoping to group ambulance and police facilities at the new hall. This makes sense.

Firefighters and paramedics already work side by side at the Stouffville hall.

The addition of police officers to the facility would further improve the relationship.

Residents have been calling for a police station, even a part-time one, here for years.

They want York Regional Police to have more of a presence in Whitchurch-Stouffville, beyond the patrol cars and the volunteer-run community police office in the train station.



Off The Top

with **Jim Mason**

We interrupt this snow day with homework

Back in the day, they said it was all so imminent.

Man had just walked on the moon. The Leafs were winning Stanley Cups with regularity. And some guy named Trudeau was taking the land by storm.

It all looked bright. They promised us:

- Moving sidewalks. (Sidewalks of any variety would be welcome on some of Stouffville's busiest streets, where pedestrians fight for space with vehicles.)

- Flying cars. (Doing 150 km/h on the 404 in your Caravan doesn't count.)

- Robots to make the bed and take the dog for a walk. (Haven't seen any at Wal-Mart; you may have better luck teaching the Gerham shepherd how to make the bed and take the garbage out.)

They didn't promise us the Internet or anything that sounded like it, though.

Too bad. A promise of this amazing research tool, from which you can access pretty much anything from anywhere wouldn't have got the work done in 1969. But it would have at least offered promise to the next generation of procrastinating essay writers.

Which leads us into the first snow day of the non-winter that has been 2006-07. Moms and dads listened intently through the endless morning show commercials and witticisms for news on school bus cancellations Monday.

Students already roused went back to bed. Sleepy heads were allowed to remain in slumberland before rising to a full day of video games and DVDs. A few keeners braved the ice pellets and went to class.

Question? With this Internet technology so widespread, why can't teachers e-mail students and parents that day's assignment? "Read pages yadda, yadda and prepare a summary... Do math questions 45 to 55 on page 117."

I know I'll be immensely popular on the home front with this offering. And the teachers' unions will permanently remove me from their Christmas card lists, again.

But, doesn't it make sense?
Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

Letters to the Editor

Judge a religion, not its followers, when comparing intolerance

Re: *Religious faiths intolerant, letter to the editor by Matt Douris, Jan. 13.*

Mr. Douris does not like intolerant religions. How about personal intolerance?

I am intolerant about all kinds of things, such as random acts of violence against women, someone taking my stuff, my children driving the car and not filling it up afterwards (with their money), poverty, cold hot chocolate, line-ups for anything, men who abandon their families, no-name peanut butter and why I can't always get my own way and (readers continue the list).

I am also intolerant with people who think Christianity is inherently bad even though its founder said, "Do good to those who abuse you". Remember, what a religion says and what people do with it are often quite different.

And I am really intolerant of people who think the Leafs are going to win the Stanley Cup. Go, Habs! Like all good Canadians, Matt, you and I are intolerant every day and I, for one, am proud of it. Well, sometimes.

RON BOYD
STOUFFVILLE

Put arts, market at old town hall, but build new theatre in Stouffville

With the new year some new thoughts.

Why not build a theatre in Stouffville?

Drive around the town with particular attention to our new development and ask yourself;

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@yrmg.com or fax 905-640-8778

are we ready? Watch out for that jolt on the head when you get your answer.

Former councillor Harry Bowes revealed his plan for a theatre and now all is clear. We need a theatre for the performing arts. I lack knowledge in the use of theatrical jargon, so clearly stated, we need a place to be entertained with music, acting, election speeches, arts and crafts, etc.

Clearly, the old town hall at 19 Civic Ave. cannot support all of our needs. We must raise our sights to accommodate the many people who will in the near future call Stouffville home.

I have written before that 19 Civic would be best maintained as is, with minor adjustments and continue primarily as a place for arts and crafts with a farmers market in the courtyard on weekends.

Very clearly, all our combined effort should be directed to a new building designed to satisfy our current needs and what our imagination can best consider for the future.

BOB LEWIS
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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@yrmg.com

EDITORIAL

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

INTERACTIVE MEDIA Marketing & Advertising Manager

Dawna Andrews
dandrews@yrmg.com

ADVERTISING

Retail Manager
Stacey Allen
sallen@yrmg.com

Classified Manager
Ann Campbell
acampbell@yrmg.com

Assistant Classified Manager
Bonnie Rondeau
brondeau@yrmg.com

New Business Development Manager

Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@yrmg.com

PRODUCTION Team Leader
Sherry Day
sday@yrmg.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



A York Region Media Group community newspaper. The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Metroland is comprised of 100 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.