

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Family memento irreplaceable

I didn't bother writing a letter in 2000, the year we moved to Stouffville and a bale of hay from our Halloween display was set on fire in the middle of the night.

Nothing was damaged, but it was a horrible feeling to see it half-charred.

The bale was taken from the porch and burned in the street next to the dumpster we had rented for our renovations.

At least they were thoughtful arsonists, we thought.

I also didn't bother writing in 2002 when someone went into the front seat of my car and stole my cellphone and a cassette.

The cassettes were ditched at the end of our street, but the phone was never recovered. This week, I noticed the sweet inuk-suk my husband made out of flagstone was missing from our front walk.

It was heavy and frozen to a huge tree stump base, so someone must have taken the time to kick it over and over again to loosen it from the base.

I scoured the neighbourhood hoping, like the cassettes, this person would see no value in the statue and throw it to the curb. No such luck. For this, I am compelled to write a letter. This flagstone creation actually means something to my family.

What makes it sad is my three-year-old daughter made it with my husband.

She helped him pick the stones and we know people liked seeing it as they walked

by. If anyone sees it around town, we'd love to have it back.

**RENEE WILSON**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Services more important

Re: *Growing pains for Stouffville, Feb. 1.*  
Yes, Stouffville is growing too fast for its own good. There is more to a community than houses. Unfortunately, money talks in certain circles.

We're frequently updated on the details council and town staff want us to know.

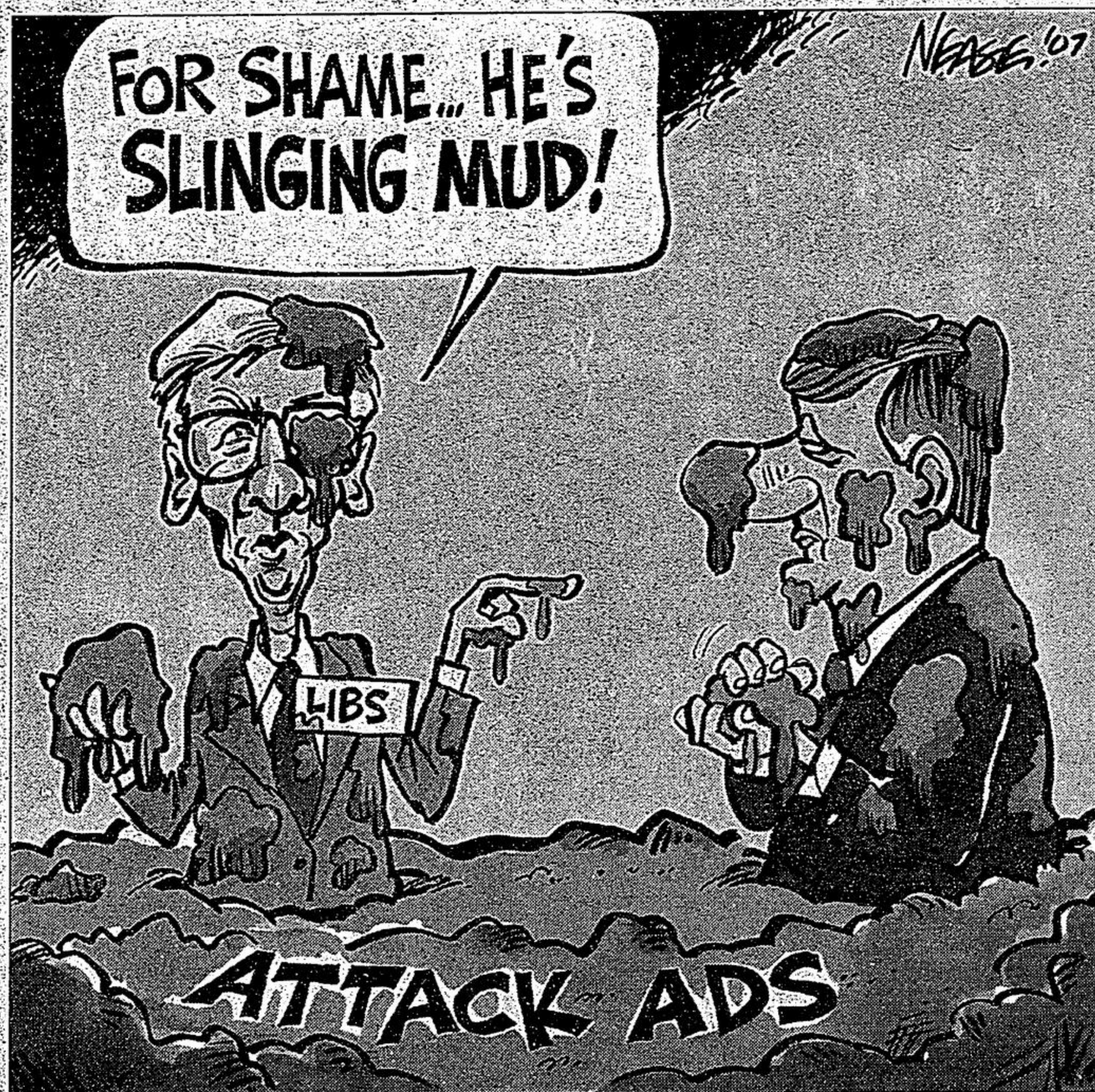
They omit talking about the necessary services that will not be readily available for all residents. For instance, we already have a shortage of family doctors. Some residents are having to use walk-in clinics as their doctor.

We haven't heard much about other necessities either, such as extra schools, additional shopping facilities in Stouffville or a variety of leisure amenities and activities for all age groups.

What about the water restrictions most of us adhere to each summer and the current hydro situation?

If we are unable to cope with these shortages now, what will happen as the huge influx appears? Move somewhere else?

**JOAN MAY**  
STOUFFVILLE



# What would you do if you were prime minister?

I love Canada. Our people. Our geography. Even the weather. It's a good thing, too, as I'm about to experience it all up close and personal as I embark on a cross-country adventure to talk to Canadians about the environment.

Throughout February, I will be making stops in more than 40 communities from St. John's to Victoria.

This isn't a book tour or a publicity tour for a TV show.

This is something I have wanted to do for a long time, starting a conversation with Canadians about our environment, our children, grandchildren and our future.

I believe there is a fundamental disconnect between our elected leaders and our people.

Polls tell us environmental issues such as global warming are the No. 1 concern of Canadians.

Yet, most of our politicians offer up little more than window dressings to address these issues.

It's as if many are just hoping to lay low until this environment thing

blows over so they can go back to ignoring it as usual.

That's not right. And I personally will do everything I can to make sure that doesn't happen.

I want to make sure Canadians' concerns are heard in Ottawa.

No matter what your political stripes, we all depend on a healthy environment.

*Brian Mulroney was recently voted Canada's greenest prime minister and he is a Conservative.*

Brian Mulroney was recently voted Canada's greenest prime minister and he is a Conservative.

Whether or not he was really interested in the environment is debatable. But the fact is, he had no choice but to go green because the public demanded it.



**David Suzuki**

In the late '80s and early '90s, environmental issues were hot.

Even George Bush Sr. was elected by saying he would be an environmental president.

Corporations and governments set up new environment departments and started going green. Recycling was all the rage.

In the public eye, the problem looked like it was solved. People were recycling.

Governments consistently talked about the importance of the environment.

Corporations shined themselves to a deep green luster. People breathed a sigh of relief and went back to their everyday lives.

Unfortunately that green luster was only skin deep.

Beneath the surface, little had changed.

As a result, we essentially went on with business as usual.

And it wasn't until global warming became a concern for Canadians and reported on by the media consistently and accurately that the environment got back on the agenda.

That's where we are now. Only this time, if we want to actually move our country toward a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable society, we have to do more than just brand positioning and image makeovers.

We need real change.

We need to have strong targets and timelines for our biggest polluters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We need to clean up our cars,

our homes and our businesses.

We need to build sustainability into the bottom line.

Which of our leaders is best for this task will be decided by Canadians come election time.

Until then, if you want to make our country greener and more sustainable, get involved and tell our elected leaders it's not good enough to just smile and nod for the cameras.

Tell them that you expect more. Canadians have the power to make a real difference and change the direction in which our country is heading.

That's what my tour is about. We're calling it the "If you were Prime Minister tour" because that's how we should all be thinking.

What would you do different if you were in charge?

I want to know and I hope to see you on the road.

Take the Suzuki Challenge at [david.suzuki.org](http://david.suzuki.org)

### 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](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

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