

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON L4A 1G7
www.yorkregion.com

PUBLISHER *Ian Proudfoot*

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly
BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazaruk

DIRECTOR INTERACTIVE
MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY
John Futey

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

YORK REGION PRINTING
GENERAL MANAGER
Bob Dean

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Build paths, not roads through Memorial Park

Re: Residents passionate about plans for park, May 17.

The tail is wagging the dog. The first meeting I recall for Memorial Park planning was in January 2005.

The extension of Park Drive through the park was one issue that prompted the re-design of the park and associated lands.

Follow-up meetings were well orchestrated. The purpose was to get input to prepared questions, but did not include future residents of neighbourhoods south of the park.

What didn't residents attending the meetings like in the plan?

"The fact several roads run through the park, creating issues of safety and conflicts with other uses."

Another response as it relates to Park Drive extension: "Road cuts through park/safety."

There was also "sadness and some frustration about the extension of Park Drive through the park, which will eliminate two ball diamonds and strongly segment the park."

Significant omissions in the plan, according to residents, were: "Create an outdoor performance facility permanent stage for concerts, plays, festivals, cultural

events" and "Trail system/pathway to Hoover park", "No new roads".

A common thread found its way through each successive public meeting. Why extend Park Drive?

I found most of the above information after a diligent search of the town's website.

I'm waiting for a reply to my e-mail requesting information on the latest in park design.

I have no doubt the tail is still wagging the dog. The questions to be answered during round table discussions were orchestrated in favour of the current design, which includes a north/south road bisecting the park.

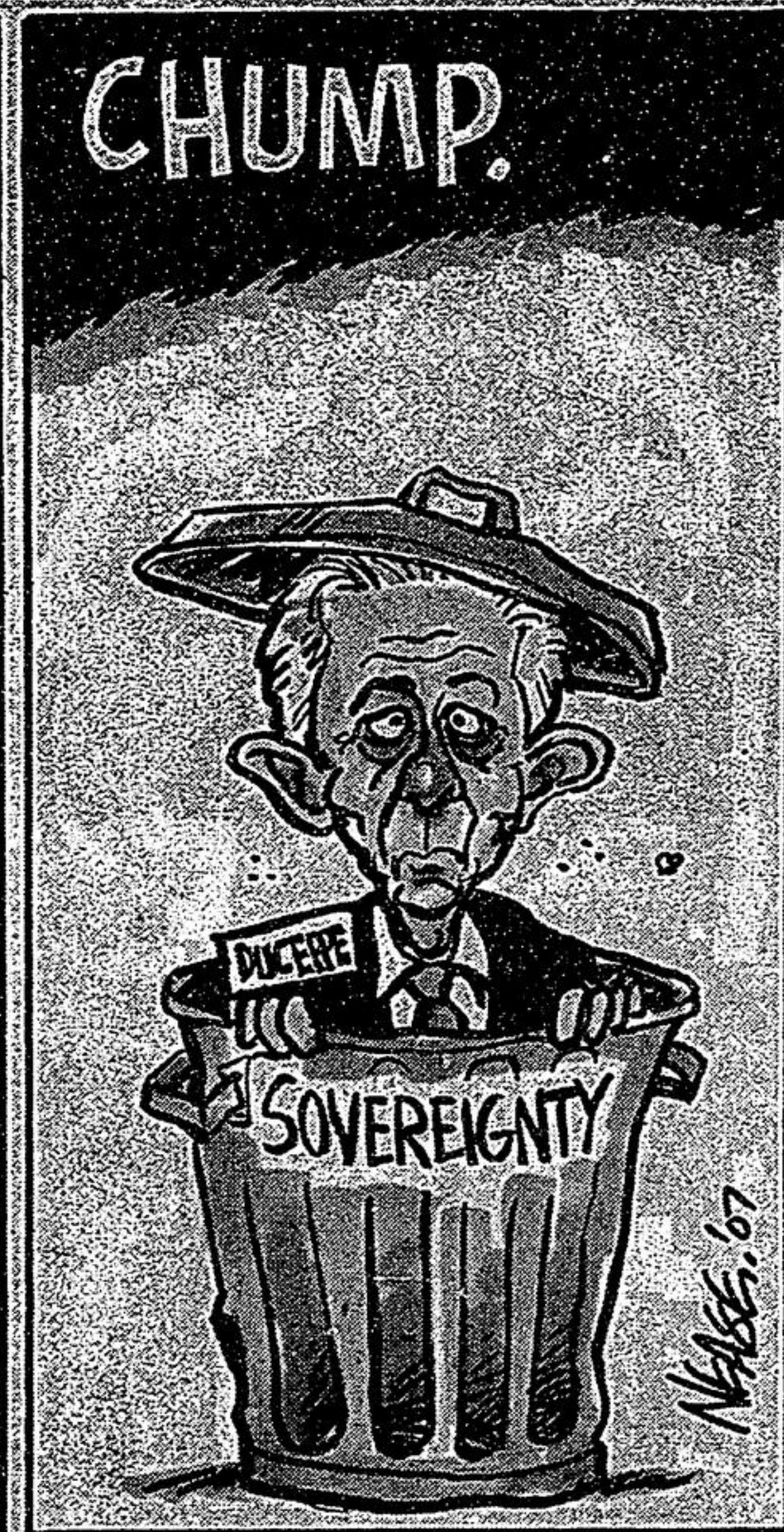
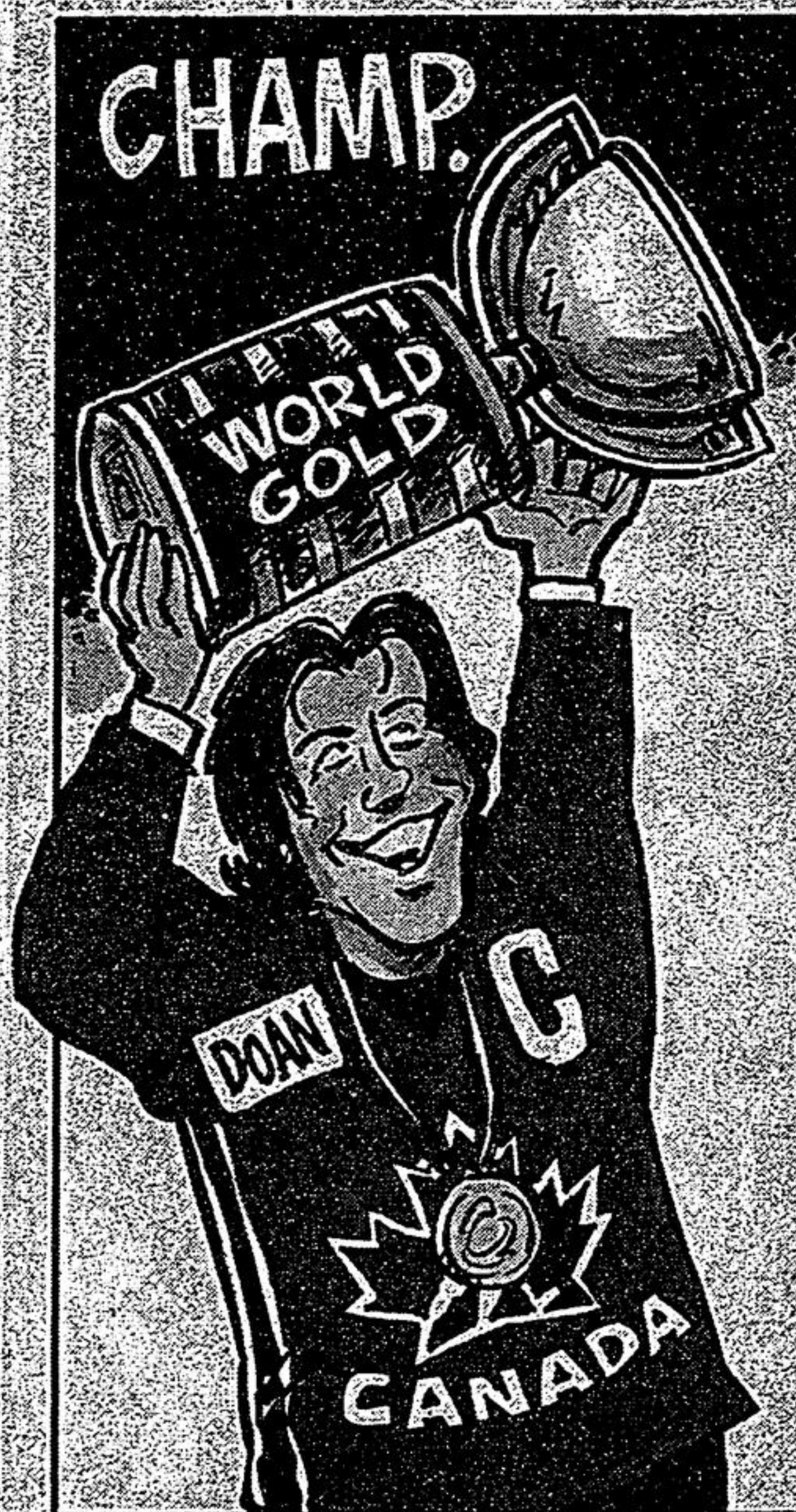
I think a walking/bicycle type path could follow the same route for the most part and in the future, if the residents to the south of the park make a case, the road could be laid beside the trail.

The overall plan to make the park more park-like would be to expand the likes of Sangsters Grove.

The objective, to modernize and improve the park facilities, is admirable and is in keeping with an expanding population.

I believe the planners for this project only hear what they want to hear. What I heard at a council meeting was that a builder wanted the road to Hoover Park.

BOB LEWIS
BLOOMINGTON



If you're not happy with coverage, speak out

As a broadcast journalist, I'm well aware of the challenges today's reporters and journalists face in covering stories, from tight deadlines and a lack of resources to corporate ownership and the pervasiveness of tabloid-style reporting in mainstream media.

But as guest editor for a recent Saturday edition of the Vancouver Sun, I found out I still have a lot to learn.

I have never been a news reporter. In fact, more often than not, I'm the focus of a news story, rather than reporting it.

Still, I thought I had a pretty good idea of how the news game worked.

I know news is what's happening right now and reporters have to crank out copy fast. And I know daily news is an ephemeral beast.

I myself have been guilty of picking up a newspaper, starting to read it, then throwing it down in disgust upon realizing it was a day

old. Yesterday's news just isn't news anymore.

So, it was amazing to find out just how much goes into producing a daily newspaper.

I was at the Vancouver Sun for a 12-hour shift. In spite of the fact I had assigned some stories weeks before, there were still dozens of decisions to be made on the fly, everything from writing headlines to story placement, getting reporters to follow up on leads, use of language, fact checking and, of course, meetings, meetings, meetings.

And that was just the editorial part of the day.

At 7 p.m., when I thought we had put the paper to bed, we were off to the production facility where the paper was printed, another whole set of decisions and new challenges.

The entire process left me exhausted and humbled.

Overall, I'm pretty pleased with the result. We managed to include



David Suzuki

some stories I thought would never run, an article on the true cost of gasoline in the business section, for example. A reporter looked into what a litre of gasoline costs society if "full-cost accounting" is factored into the equation.

This kind of analysis considers factors normally considered "externalities" in economics, things such as air and water pollution and climate change. When these things are considered, gasoline actually

costs upwards of \$4 per litre, far more than the \$1-plus we're currently paying at the pump.

Throughout the stories, my goal was to weave a common thread of sustainability. I hoped to get people thinking about the environmental footprint of everything we do and stimulate discussion about how we can do things better.

It was actually pretty easy to find stories that touched on these issues for every section of the newspaper, from sports to arts. The reality is our economy and our way of life depends on the natural services that we generally take for granted.

We can't afford to do that any longer.

I'm sure some people will be unhappy with "my" newspaper because I didn't make it only available online to save paper (great idea, but not an option for the publisher), car advertisements were still allowed or the stories weren't deep enough or didn't cover all the environmental challenges we face.

In the end, it was just one day. I hope the edition got a few people thinking in different ways. And I hope it gave the reporters and editors some new ways to think about things, too.

So, here's my suggestion to everyone reading who, like me, gets frustrated with the media and the coverage of certain stories or the lack of it: Tell somebody.

If you don't think your local newspaper, radio or television station is covering something adequately, give them a call.

Reporters are reporters because they are inquisitive people. They like telling stories. If you have a story idea, don't be afraid to write or call and suggest it.

Environmental problems affect all of us.

And it's up to all of us to solve them.

Take the Suzuki challenge at www.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, Box 154, 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

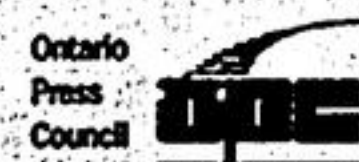
Ann Campbell
acampbell@yrmg.com

PRODUCTION

Team Leader
Sherry Day
sday@yrmg.com

Distribution Manager

Megan Pike
mpike@yrmg.com



EDITORIAL

905-640-2612
Fax 905-640-8778

ADVERTISING

905-640-2612
Classified: 1-800-743-3353
Fax 905-640-8778

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 Media 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.