

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Editorial

Industry, hotels on wish list for growing town

What will Whitchurch-Stouffville look like in 10 and 25 years?

Significantly different than it did 10 or 25 years ago, that's for certain.

Your community is moving from quiet, small town to bustling, small city status.

That's good and bad.

Additional traffic, the No. 1 growth-related complaint of many, is bad for commuting times and the environment.

Within Stouffville, the opening of Hoover Park Drive and Millard Street as east-west alternates to Main Street will help.

The pressure will mount on Stouffville Road, as the main route to Hwy. 404 and the jobs, schools and other attractions of Toronto.

Kudos to the provincial and regional governments for the regular additions to the public transit routes serving Stouffville.

The construction of new schools appears to be keeping pace with growth. The long-awaited new Stouffville District Secondary School will be welcomed this September.

Retailers, especially the national chains, can't ignore a growing community. The new stores and construction sites in west-end Stouffville are living proof.

Keeping the big-box retail stores off Main Street and on Hwy. 48 was a solid move by the last edition of town council.

Sadly, we are already hearing about small businesses closing, at least partially because of the retail giants.

Local merchants were warned of this possibility.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce attempted to host a seminar on retailing in the shadow of big boxes. It was cancelled, thanks to a lack of interest.

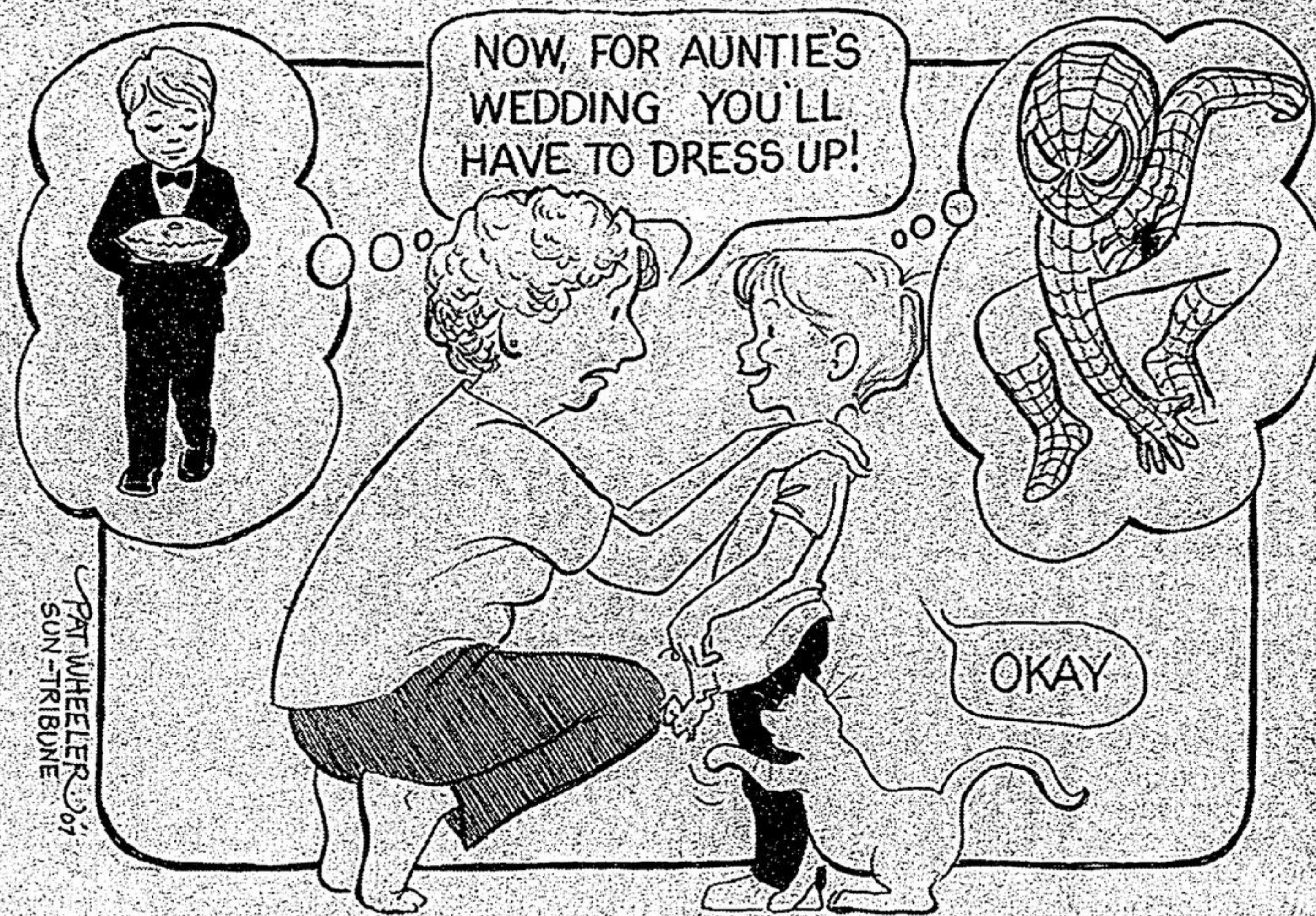
Our community could benefit from a full-service hotel being built here. We've heard nothing of one coming, but it makes sense.

The population should be able to support it. Rooms in bed-and-breakfasts and our one motel are minimal. A growing residential and industrial community needs a hotel.

The industrial component is key in a growing town. Industry provides taxes and jobs. It also creates home-grown jobs that reduce commuting and pollution.

Industry can also spin off other firms, producing more jobs and taxes.

It's all part of life in a growing small city.



Off The Top

with *Jim Mason*

Rolling out our welcome mat

You're new here, eh? Join the club.

The majority of Whitchurch-Stouffville residents weren't born here.

So don't be intimidated. For the most part, this isn't one of those communities where you have to produce a family tree that proves you're related to town founder Abraham Stouffer to be accepted.

If a neighbour calls you "the family that bought the Wilson house", 35 years after the fact, don't take it too hard.

The slow but steady waves of home construction and migration during the last 40 years made newbies feel at home quite quickly.

That growth pattern has changed dramatically, as anyone who has taken the GO train through the new neighbourhoods of south Stouffville or dodged the construction traffic and driven the unassuming roads of the many new subdivisions.

Our population may be booming, but will it bust up our quaintness?

Not if existing residents throw out the welcome mat and newcomers are willing to set foot on it.

A golden opportunity for both parties to meet comes next week at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival. Think of it as a five-day, blind date starting Wednesday, newcomers.

Everyone puts on their best appearances under ideal circumstances. Service clubs, churches, sports associations and other organizations get in the festive spirit, hosting meals, concerts, competitions and other events.

It's Whitchurch-Stouffville at its best hour.

New in town and looking to get involved? Cruise the festival grounds and talk to the participants. Get a feel for your new home town and your neighbours.

Groups looking for new members should be prepared to greet our newest of residents warmly and openly.

It could be an ideal marriage.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

Letters to the Editor

If search for keg is representative, it's time to end beer monopoly

Here's another valid reason why the Brewer's Retail Inc. monopoly should be disbanded and its services placed under private control.

I own a draft beer fridge that holds a keg and its use is relegated to the summer months. I recently set out to buy the first keg of the season.

While most Beer Stores do not handle kegs, I recalled that a store in Markham did and drove to the location on Hwy. 7. I was informed they no longer carry this product and I had to go to a store on Yonge Street, an approximate drive of 35 kilometres or at Cedarbrae in Scarborough, which is farther away.

I called Brewer's Retail's office and it was of no help either. Whitby and Barrie were locations where I could purchase a keg.

I eventually found through my own searching that a store in Newmarket carried kegs. I told the employee I would have my wife stop by and pick it up. She asked if my wife could lift the keg into her vehicle herself. I had to say "pardon".

Apparently, they will not assist anyone lifting a keg into her vehicle. How much more customer-oriented can a company be?

Of all the Brewer's Retail staff I spoke with, not one gave off the impression they cared I bought their product or not.

This archaic system should be relegated alongside with the dinosaur to extinction.

MARK STRAIT
STOUFFVILLE

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters to the editor.

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.

What's left for vandals to steal?

It seems with the nicer weather and warm evenings, the vandalism around our neighbourhood has increased.

Last Saturday, all my solar lanterns were stolen off my front lawn. We try so hard to make things look nice in our neighbourhood and know we have to deal with the dogs, garbage, and traffic being on a main road and corner lot.

Broken tree limbs are a weekend given, broken beer bottles and glass and things stolen as well.

I have lost count of what I have had stolen, garden decorations and, as a matter of fact, we had our nice white mailbox totally smashed and the post broken not too long ago.

As a longtime resident, it is sad I feel like putting up barbwire, sirens and cameras. The shame is what will be next?

S. WINN
STOUFFVILLE

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