

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**

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

**PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
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**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
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## Editorial

### Garbage depot good, objections bad

York Region has put its best "green" foot forward with its plan to build three garbage and recycling depots — the first in Vaughan, which could be open as soon as September, with Markham and Richmond Hill next in line for the facilities.

But let's get one thing straight: it is neither a landfill nor a transfer station. It is no different than having a second-hand store down the street.

Billed as a community environmental centre, this new service will make it easier for residents to dispose of garbage in excess of the city's three-bag limit, haul old sofas and refrigerators for recycling, drop off renovation materials or electronics to charity (yes, help your fellow man and the environment) or drive an old gas guzzler into car heaven.

As it stands now, to get rid of that broken toilet that overflows every time you flush, you have to get in your vehicle and drive for about 45 minutes to Georgina, the nearest facility offering such disposal services.

Is it any wonder you sometimes see waste such as this dumped illegally on the side of the road in rural parts of Vaughan?

Likewise, readers have told us, even with the best of intentions, they are still generating too much rubbish. Rather than shipping it off to dwindling landfills, doesn't it make sense to divert as much of it as possible?

That's why we don't understand some residents' objections to the waste depot slated for an industrial area in Concord at Hwy. 7 and Creditstone Road. It seems to be a classic case of NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard). For Richmond Hill and Markham, similar industrial sites should be considered.

The closest neighbours at Keele Street and Hwy. 7, who live at least one kilometre away from the proposed depot, say this is a necessary facility, but they are concerned about noise, unpleasant smells and increased traffic and they don't want it in their neighbourhood.

Similarly, a few years back when this depot was proposed for the Dufferin and Centre streets area, residents of Beverley Glen Boulevard succeeded in running it out of their back yard.

But not before the region made concessions in the look and feel of the facility, including permanent canopies over the drop-off bins and a smaller building more suited to community standards.

The region took a step in the right direction by seeking public input. Now it should go ahead and build the depot in Concord and launch a massive public awareness campaign that includes the message that NIMBYism, at best, is an impediment to progress and, at worst, as dangerous to the environment as plastic bags.



PAT WHEELER '08 SUN-TRIBUNE



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### From the land of cheap wine, fireworks and pricey petrol

ITALY - It would have been safer and wiser to have been in Stouffville Memorial Park on New Year's Eve.

A round of hot chocolates and a few pyrotechnics with a couple of thousand of our neighbours before calling it a night.

They live a little more dangerously in Florence, here in Tuscany, on the evening of Jan. 31.

The fireworks are the sideshow to thousands of 20-somethings roaming the ancient streets, a tall bottle of liquid courage in one hand, leaving the other free to toss ultra-loud firecrackers at anything that moves, including yours truly.

Spend two weeks here during the holidays and you notice things.

You can buy a bottle of wine for \$1 (Cdn) in Italy, but gasoline will cost you about \$2 a litre. Maybe it all evens out.

That explains why Smart cars and their tiny ilk are the rule, not the exception. They don't look like beer cans on wheels in Europe because mini SUVs are the largest vehicles on the road, aside from buses.

Then again, you probably couldn't fit your pimped-out Escalade land yacht through some of these centuries-old roads.

That public transit thing works pretty well here, too. Prices are reasonable and schedules convenient.

In Rome, a train runs between the international airport and downtown train station every half hour. Toronto can't boast of that. Pity.

It's hard enough finding hockey scores, let alone a game, here in soccer central.

"Hockey? It's not part of our tradition," the woman at the Milan tourist authority office says dismissively.

The owner of a tony restaurant in Florence speaks better English than his visitors from Stouffville.

"You're American?" he asks. "No, Canadian," we respond. "Even better," he says.

But, can you get us the Leafs' score? *Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Turn headlights on and slow down when conditions are foggy

I'd just like to remind drivers in the region to turn on their headlights during the foggy conditions we have been having this week.

Too many drivers are driving with their vehicles' daytime running lights or no lights at all.

If we can't see you in the fog, you are going to be the cause of an accident.

Remember, having your daytime lights on doesn't turn on your marker or taillights.

One other thing, slow down.

A combination of no lights and excessive speed will kill someone.

N. SOMMERS  
CLAREMONT

### Whitchurch-Stouffville showed spirit through Christmas basket gifts

The community of Whitchurch-Stouffville has once again come together to demonstrate the true spirit of Christmas.

Through the Christmas basket program, many families in our community had a brighter and more enjoyable Christmas. This is the real spirit of the season.

On behalf of the Stouffville Lions Club, thank you to all of the residents, businesses, service clubs and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for generously

contributing to our 2007 Christmas basket program.

CLARE PALMER & JOHN RELPH  
CO-CHAIRPERSONS CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM  
STOUFFVILLE LIONS CLUB

### Skaters, cancer don't rest during Christmas season

A busy day at the peak of the Christmas rush saw more than 250 skaters take to the ice to raise money for cancer research at the Stouffville Arena.

Thank you to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association for hosting the Terry Fox Skateathon Dec. 23.

The event attracted skaters of all ages and abilities who, in turn, raised more than \$1,100 for cancer research.

Special thanks to Janice Auld of minor hockey and Beate and John Barnett for their leadership and enthusiasm and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for turning over the public skate time for the event.

Cancer doesn't take a rest during the holiday season.

We are appreciative of our wonderful community-spirited residents who joined us for an afternoon of fun.

SANDY SCHELL KENNEDY  
CO-ORDINATOR  
STOUFFVILLE TERRY FOX RUN

### 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  
6290 Main St.  
Stouffville, ON  
L4A 1G7  
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

**PRODUCTION**  
Team Leader  
Sherry Day  
sday@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



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