

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debra Kelly

BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR
INTERACTIVE MEDIA
& **TECHNOLOGY**
John Futhey

DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING
& **DISTRIBUTION**
Barry Black

YORK REGION PRINTING
GENERAL MANAGER
Bob Dean

DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION
SYSTEMS
Lynn Pashko

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Listen to residents' opinions, mayor, town councillors

Re: Medical centre to oust bowling alley, March 22.

As the proprietor of the Stouffville Bowling Centre, I find it laughable Mayor Wayne Emmerson finds it to be a "great proposal" to turn the bowling alley into a medical centre.

I have dealt with the landlords of the bowling alley since 1997 and, believe me, I know how they operate. Take a walk by the building and see how it has been maintained.

One of the landlords, Jack Chang, states in the article the bowling alley "has not been financially sound for the last 10 years". This is a crock.

I have never in my 11 years as owner of the business been in arrears of my lease payments. I have paid the absentee landlords in excess of \$300,000 over my time here and, in my opinion, little of that money has not been put into maintenance.

The two stores east of the bowling centre in this building were vacant for extended periods, as were the apartments above.

I find it ridiculous to say the bowling alley has not been financially sound. It is this vacancy rate and lack of sound maintenance and management that have caused

the landlords their problems.

This location does not have sufficient parking now.

How is it going to supply the necessary parking for a medical centre?

Also, the extensive renovations that would be needed will likely cost an astronomical amount and could result in the plan being abandoned.

If the mayor and councillors feel a medical centre is indeed needed at this time, then find a more suitable location. This should not be hard.

The bowling alley has been at this location since the 1950s. It has served the citizens of Stouffville well, for more than 50 years.

It is home to many groups who use it on a weekly basis.

Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

Like the downtown Memorial Park, the bowling alley will only be a fond memory of residents of what once was.

The people running this town had better start looking after the things that its residents deem important, not just dismiss them with a stroke of a pen.

As paid and elected officials of our town, it's your duty.

JOHN WHITE
PROPRIETOR
STOUFFVILLE BOWLING CENTRE



Scientific information easily accessible

The most powerful force shaping our lives is science, especially when it's applied by medicine, the military and corporations.

All too often, new technologies become part of our lives without much forethought as to their full impacts on our society, let alone that of the non-human environment. Just think of nuclear power, genetic engineering and the development of new toxic chemicals to keep our lawns greener or vegetables blemish-free, for example.

When I began my television career in 1962, I thought all the public needed was more information about science and technology so it could make better decisions based on facts.

Well, people are getting far more information today than they did 45 years ago. Although there are more facts, there are also more opinions. And we still make ill-informed decisions.

I now believe we are experiencing a major problem in the early-21st century: selective information overload.

And, by this, I mean we can sift through mountains of information to find anything to confirm whatever misconceptions, prejudices or superstitions we already believe. In other words, we don't have to change our minds. All we have to do is find something to confirm our opinions, no matter how misguided or wrong they may be.

Whenever I give a talk on global warming, someone in the audience often tells me the Earth is going into a period of global cooling and should be burning more fossil fuels. When I ask for evidence, they typically answer, "a website".

Well, yes, there are lots of websites saying that global warming is some kind of left-wing plot, junk science, baloney, etc.

There are also dozens of websites, books and videos about intelligent design or creationism, pyramid power, UFOs, the Bermuda triangle, crop circles, Atlantis, alien abductions and so on. And this brings us back to our big challenge: sifting through information overload.



David Suzuki

With Faisal Moola

For people who do not want to believe the painstaking evidence accumulated over decades by thousands of climatologists that human-induced global warming is real and demands an urgent response, all they have to do is rely on selective media reporting.

Of course, if we are each going to have some say in where we are going, we need information. And we need to inform ourselves using real facts put forth by credible sources. But even this is in jeopardy.

President George W. Bush has

► Take Suzuki Nature Challenge at www.davidsuzuki.org

made things more difficult by imposing a heavy hand on scientific reporting, deliberately distorting reports and censoring information. Scientists, including a number of American Nobel prize winners, have raised the alarm over this intrusion of politics into science.

Sadly, this practice is not confined to the United States.

Our own government's use of science to inform public policy decisions has not gone unnoticed.

Recently, the internationally respected British science journal, *Nature*, published a strongly worded editorial that listed the federal government's skepticism on the science of global warming and its retreat from Canada's Kyoto commitment.

Canada's current government has also phased out the role of the national science advisor, and refused to accept the recommendations of its own expert science panel on biodiversity (COSEWIC)

to legally protect several endangered species, including beluga whales, the Porbeagle Shark, and two populations of White Sturgeon that live in British Columbia's Fraser River.

Science provides the best information about the world around us. Of course, it isn't a perfect system. Scientific conclusions are often tentative, and can only become more solid after more debate, more research, and more observation. The process can take years.

And scientists, being human, also have their own biases and points of view that can influence the way they ask questions and interpret data. But in the arena of open scientific debate, over time, consensus can generally be achieved regarding the best possible understanding of an issue.

Scientific consensus does not mean we will always get the right answer. But if I were to bet on an issue, I'd put my money on scientific consensus over an observer's hunch, a politician's opinion, or a business leader's tip.

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
Dawn 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



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.