

# OPINION

Stouffville  
**Sun-Tribune**

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## Editorial

### A look back, and ahead

It's called Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville.

It's on this Saturday from 12 locations throughout the municipality.

The premise?

You can get entry into buildings that are normally off limits to the public.

It's all free of charge.

The national program has operated in Whitchurch-Stouffville in other years.

It's a chance to embrace the heritage of your home town and imagine what your predecessors did.

Some of the highlights?

- 19 Civic Ave. in downtown Stouffville is being transformed into 19 on the Park. The arts centre is scheduled to open next spring.

You can see restoration in action, through a display of photographs of behind-the-scenes work to transform the 1896 landmark.

Originally a market and concert hall, it has been a movie theatre, bowling alley, billiards parlour, garage and, most recently, the municipal offices.

- The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is providing a look at items found last year at the archaeological excavation at the Lewis Site, an early 1800s EuroCanadian pottery house at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.

This display will be located at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

The dig has captured the attention of residents since The Sun-Tribune wrote about it last summer.

You can meet the archaeologists who conducted the dig, learn the methods and techniques used to uncover and analyse their findings, tour a display of artifacts and try your hand at excavation.

Beyond the curiosity factor and the structures, Doors Open is also an opportunity to meet your neighbours.

Get to know the people who run the museum in Vandorf, the miniature railroad near Ballantrae and the Masonic lodge in Stouffville, among others.

Found out how you can help and better your community.

New here? This event is an ideal way for you to embrace Whitchurch-Stouffville and learn more about what makes it tick.

Maybe you can make your own history here.

For times and locations, go to [doorsopenws.ca](http://doorsopenws.ca)



### Off The Top

with *Jim Mason*

### A little help here, please, Mr. McGuinty

The two things we need the provincial government to provide for us with the Brinks trucks of tax money we ship down the 404 to Queen's Park?

Hospital bed and classrooms, please, Mr. McGuinty.

Somehow, Ontario has a handle on its schools. Remember the days when almost every school in high growth areas of York Region had its yard filled with portables?

The portable classroom manufactures are still in business, but many more school yards are now free to have children actually play in them now. New schools are going up as homes are being built, to which the folks near Harry Bowes and Oscar Peterson public schools in Stouffville can attest.

But hospitals?

Not so much.

Markham Stouffville Hospital is where most of us go when we break a leg, need a boil lanced or a baby born.

Stouffvillites, either through personal giving or the multitude of fundraisers, donated many dollars to see the Ninth Line facility open in 1990.

Our son was one of the first kids born there.

It's our hospital, just 10 minutes away, which beats the heck out of travelling to Centenary in Scarborough, our former local hospital, believe it or not, newcomers.

But anyone who has sat for hours in emergency or waited much longer for a bed, knows Markham Stouffville, as it sits, cannot keep up.

The two communities it serves have grown astronomically in the last 18 years. The hospital remains the same size.

An expansion, scheduled to begin in 2010, has been delayed, it was learned last week.

Sorry, but that's unacceptable, Mr. McGuinty.

Banning cellphones in school zones and plastic bags in the liquor store is nice. But what we're asking for is more hospital beds, Dalton. That's it.

*Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Expand York Region's hospitals before moving in new families

*Re: Hospital expansion delay slammed, May 31*

"Increased demand from hospitals and a shortage of qualified construction companies is being blamed for the province's decision to phase in funding."

Mayor Wayne Emmerson is quoted as saying "We're already bursting at the seams" and "we won't see progress at the hospital until 2016. That's a long time and we need another game plan."

Here's another game plan for our politicians: Put a moratorium on approval of new housing developments in the region until development fees can be increased to go directly to fund hospital expansion.

Unionville resident Don Hammond gets it, saying: "We're building homes and moving in families faster than the hospital can handle them."

One would think if hospitals were private, for-profit entities that qualified construction companies would expand hospitals as rapidly as they build new residential, retail and commercial structures.

Novopharm, a for-profit drug company, is expanding its facilities here in Stouffville. The town office was expanded when more capacity was needed.

And, how long does it take Smart!Centres and other development companies to build Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire, Tim Hortons, Boston Pizza and more retailers to come?

What's their motivation? Demand from residential growth and profit.

Demand from residential growth has already exceeded supply at Markham Stouffville Hospital. What all levels of government lack is a motivation

### HAVE YOUR SAY, STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of this issue? E-mail a letter to the editor your own to: [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

for profit.

Don't get me wrong. I've seen Michael Moore's documentary *Sicko* and I am fortunate to live in a country with universal health care. This letter is not an argument for wholesale privatization of health care.

However, I do believe competition would force the public health care system to operate more efficiently.

I am asking citizens to lobby government at all levels to find a better way to spend our tax dollars where most needed.

Expand hospitals, roads, fire halls, arenas, schools and other public infrastructure before building homes and moving in new families.

**BILL GRANT**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Thanks to residents, Sun-Tribune

The Lemonville Group of Artists annual show and sale was another great success, with records crowds.

We would like to thank everyone, including The Sun-Tribune, for supporting us again this year.

We appreciate the comments and enthusiasm we received and are looking forward to next year's show, the first weekend in May 2009.

**THE LEMONVILLE GROUP OF ARTISTS**  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

### 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.

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