

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New stores should be trendy, but we don't need name brands

After a long harsh winter, I am finally able to take my daughter, who will be two in July, out for a walk in her stroller along Main Street.

I think to myself, wouldn't it be nice to get a fresh bag of tea leaves from Tempest in a Teapot?

Walking from east to west along Main Street, I notice three or four stores that are closing or having moving sales.

When I get to my destination, the store is closed. Everything is cleaned out.

There is a note on the door stating I can place orders online. So much for trying to shop during store hours.

I recall reading in The Sun Tribune how business owners felt there wasn't adequate parking for customers, but I notice the parking lot next to the former tea shop in front of the Latcham Gallery.

The area where the playground and lawn bowling club are in Memorial Park will be turned into more parking.

I wonder where all these customers are going to shop?

If I may make a suggestion for Main Street it is one word: trendy. But keep the stores creative enough so they say Stouffville. You really don't need name brand stores.

If there is anyone to dispute me, feel

HAVE YOUR SAY, STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of this issue? E-mail letters to jmason@yrmg.com

free.

Okay, Tempest in a Teapot, I thought was trendy. You had a variety of teas at your disposal and it didn't compete with For The Love of Jo, where you can get your specialty coffee and a cookie to dip in your coffee.

Plus, you can admire the artwork and catch up on the latest artsy items while sipping and dipping.

You don't need Starbucks on Main Street when you have this shop.

You have your pet stores, jewelry and clothing stores, a candle and tea shop and ice cream shops.

And you have your hair-cutting places. Uhm, by the way, how many do we need on Main Street?

La Senza is opening in the Wal-Mart development. Maybe La Senza would be interested in a spot on Main Street to attract shoppers to the other stores.

So, where's my tea?

MARY ANN DELOREY
STOUFFVILLE

FAMOUS NATURAL WONDERS of CANADA!



Consider volunteering with CAS

Beulah Osei spends 15 to 20 hours a week driving children to appointments. She has been a volunteer driver for 12 years.

Barkat Kara served for two years as president of the board of directors and another two years as chairperson of the diversity committee.

Connie and Stephen have been foster parents for three years.

Jackie Bell has been assisting with clerical duties a few hours a week for eight years.

Gail Harrison donates her time to the Christmas program each December.

At the York Region Children's Aid Society, we couldn't get along without these volunteers.

They help guide our course and improve the lives of the vulnerable children we serve.

In spite of their dedication and that of more than 100 others, like



Patrick Lake

Guest Column

most organizations, we're looking for more volunteers.

Unlike some, however, we often have to look a little harder.

The reason is simple.

If you ask most volunteers why they donate their time and skills to help others, they'll tell you they want to "give back".

A mother volunteers in the hospital charity shop because she

remembers how important it was to her that the hospital emergency room set her child's broken arm.

A father coaches the after-school baseball team because he remembers how much sports meant to him as a child.

But few of us have a personal experience with a Children's Aid Society.

In fact, it's rare volunteers come to York Region CAS because they have a first-hand understanding of what we do a month.

We need people with good driving records to take children to counseling or medical appointments, whether now and then or every day of the week.

We need people with strong organizational skills to assist with general clerical duties for just a few hours a week.

We need people who thrive to help others assist the families during their access visits on weekends.

We are also eager to ensure, in every volunteer capacity, there are people who represent the new and diverse parts of our community.

In my years with Children's Aid Societies, I've learned the rewards people reap as a result of volunteering are as varied as the people themselves.

Nonetheless, I think we can all relate to Ms Osei when she says, "When I volunteer, no matter what else happened that day, there's a sense I've accomplished something".

I encourage you to volunteer with York Region Children's Aid.

Just call Kim Leschiutta, co-ordinator of volunteer services at 905-895-2318, ext. 6402 and tell us what you can do.

Patrick Lake is executive director of the York Region Children's Aid Society.

HAVE YOUR SAY

► What do you think of issues in Whitchurch-Stouffville? Share your thoughts with other readers by sending a letter to the editor. Letters should be 400 words or less and include an address and daytime telephone number for confirmation. Write to editor Jim Mason via e-mail at jmason@yrmg.com

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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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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 Forstar 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.