

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly

BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR
INTERACTIVE MEDIA
& TECHNOLOGY
John Puthey

DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING
& DISTRIBUTION
Barry Black

YORK REGION PRINTING
GENERAL MANAGER
Bob Dean

DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION
SYSTEMS
Lynn Pashko

Editorial

Festival more than fun and games

It's upon us, Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The 24th annual Strawberry Festival officially opens tonight.

It runs thought Sunday then reconvenes Tuesday for Canada Day festivities.

It's six solid days of fun, "with something for everyone," as organizers are saying.

From the Stouffville Lions barbecue tonight and Ballantrae Lions pancake breakfast Saturday, to the free strawberry social Sunday and Canada Day cake Tuesday, there's plenty of food.

Entertainment, you ask? Movies under the stars tonight, a comedy show Friday and disco night Saturday.

One of the highlights is the closure of Main Street all day Saturday. Instead of vehicles, the main drag will be lined with vendors and entertainers all there for the thousands of people who will pack the pavement.

Thousands more will be in Memorial Park Tuesday night for the annual fireworks show.

But beyond the food, fun and games, there's a lot going on with the festival.

An event of this size doesn't just happen. It started in the early 1980s as small Canada Day event tacked onto a men's softball tournament. It expanded, changed and became the large festival it is.

Over those years, hundreds of people have volunteered to put on the festival for their neighbours. They deserve our sincere thanks.

The festival is a reflection of our community. Service clubs, sports organizations, businesses and others take part. Those who don't are missing a golden opportunity to connect with a large number of Stouffville-area residents.

That's especially true of our new residents, who number in the thousands.

Newcomers, hopefully, are using the festival to research their community.

They can discover services for their families to use year round.

They can find ways to get involved.

They can quickly learn what makes Whitchurch-Stouffville tick.

All at the Strawberry Festival.

All officially starting tonight.

See you there, Whitchurch-Stouffville.



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Your guide to life in this small town

Welcome to Whitchurch-Stouffville, newcomers.

Unless you're First Nation, you've all been new here at some point.

For the newest of the newbies, those folks in the subdivisions that have cropped up at all corners of Stouffville, a few tips on life here:

- We may work in "the city", cheer for Toronto sports teams and go to the theatre south of Steeles, but we're from Stouffville.

We're Stouffvillites, Stouffvillians or Whitchurchians

It's a point of pride.

- I know it sounds like a bizarre concept, especially if you are from Brampton or Scarborough, but we say hello to each other.

Perfect strangers do it. On the street, in line at Sobeys and in the park. It's friendly. It's so Stouffville.

It separates us from the impending mass of civilization on our southern doorstep, at least for now.

- There's no need for butting in on Main Street because we let other drivers in front of us.

And when this is done for you, it's appropriate to acknowledge with a wave, using all fingers in your hand. There's that wave thing again.

- We know our neighbours and not just those of the next-door variety.

We know the kids down the street, the people who own the variety store in the plaza, the guy from across town who was drafted by an NHL team and the couple on the next street with health problems.

We hold fundraisers for people in need, financially and emotionally. And half the town shows up.

- We celebrate together.

Residents show up in large numbers for minor hockey championships, fireworks displays and Santa parades.

- We grieve together.

Funerals and memorial services draw large numbers, even for those who thought of themselves as little known.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

Letters to the Editor

Enjoy swans, but don't feed them

Re: Friend of swans a reservoir fixture, column by Jim Thomas, June 12.

It's wonderful that we can enjoy the sight of trumpeter swans and other waterfowl at our local reservoir.

However, as a wildlife veterinarian, I would encourage Chris Stainton and other bird lovers to admire these beautiful creatures from afar.

While his intentions are obviously of the purest sort, he is inadvertently doing far more harm than good.

The regular feeding of a food such as bread, that offers little nutritional value, can cause the birds to become deficient in many nutrients. As a result, their overall health will suffer.

The cumulative effect of this can render them unable to withstand the demands of life in the wild. Their natural diet is quite diverse and nutritious and sets them up best for the rigors of competing, breeding and migrating.

Artificial feeding can also cause these birds to be reluctant to leave during migration time and can cause them to succumb to the cold.

The fact they now eat out of his hand is also of grave concern. A lack of fear of humans could lead them to approach others who may not have such honourable intentions.

Sadly, I have seen the tragic end result of this too many times.

So, I ask on behalf of the waterfowl, please do not feed them.

Enjoy their beauty from afar and help keep them healthy and wild as a result.

DR. SUE CARSTAIRS
STOUFFVILLE

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

▶ What do you think of these issues or others?
E-mail letters to the editor to jmason@yrmg.com

Relay for Life walkers, sponsors remind us cancer never sleeps

On behalf of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Relay for Life planning committee, I would like to extend our thanks to:

- our sponsors and donors who made each area of the event possible, our volunteers who worked tirelessly on many different tasks, even in the middle of the night

- our survivors who walk that first important round of the track to start the evening and;

- a heartfelt thanks to the teams who raised the money for the Canadian Cancer Society, braved the elements and walked the night away on the track at Willowgrove.

You are all wonderful examples of what Relay for Life is about.

Relay for Life is an important time to remember cancer never sleeps.

See you all next year for Stouffville's third annual Relay for Life.

HEATHER ANDREWS
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.

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
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.