

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

Facilities wish list for Stouffville

Our summer wish list for
Whitchurch-Stouffville:

- That Nineteen on the Park, the arts and culture centre being built in the former town hall, is a true centre and not the white elephant some are claiming it will become.

Town council will be looking pretty bad if the \$3.4-million project doesn't get the amount of use that has been projected.

While we're all for preserving our heritage, one wonders how far that same money would have gone in building a new theatre.

The new Stouffville District Secondary School seemed like a logical spot. One only has to look at Newmarket High School and the attached municipal theatre for the template. But that didn't happen, and the previous edition of council must answer to that decision.

- That the old Stouffville Secondary be acquired from the public school board by the town.

It's too valuable a piece of property to fall into public hands.

The location is central and adjacent to downtown, as well as other public properties, including the Franklin-Connell Track, soccer/rugby fields and Stouffville Arena.

The building could work nicely as the new municipal offices, should council ever decide to get out of rent mode.

It would also be large enough to house the new seniors centre that is badly overdue in this community. Our rapidly growing population of seniors deserves far better than the old post office that now serves as the Silver Jubilee Club. It's hard to access with very limited facilities.

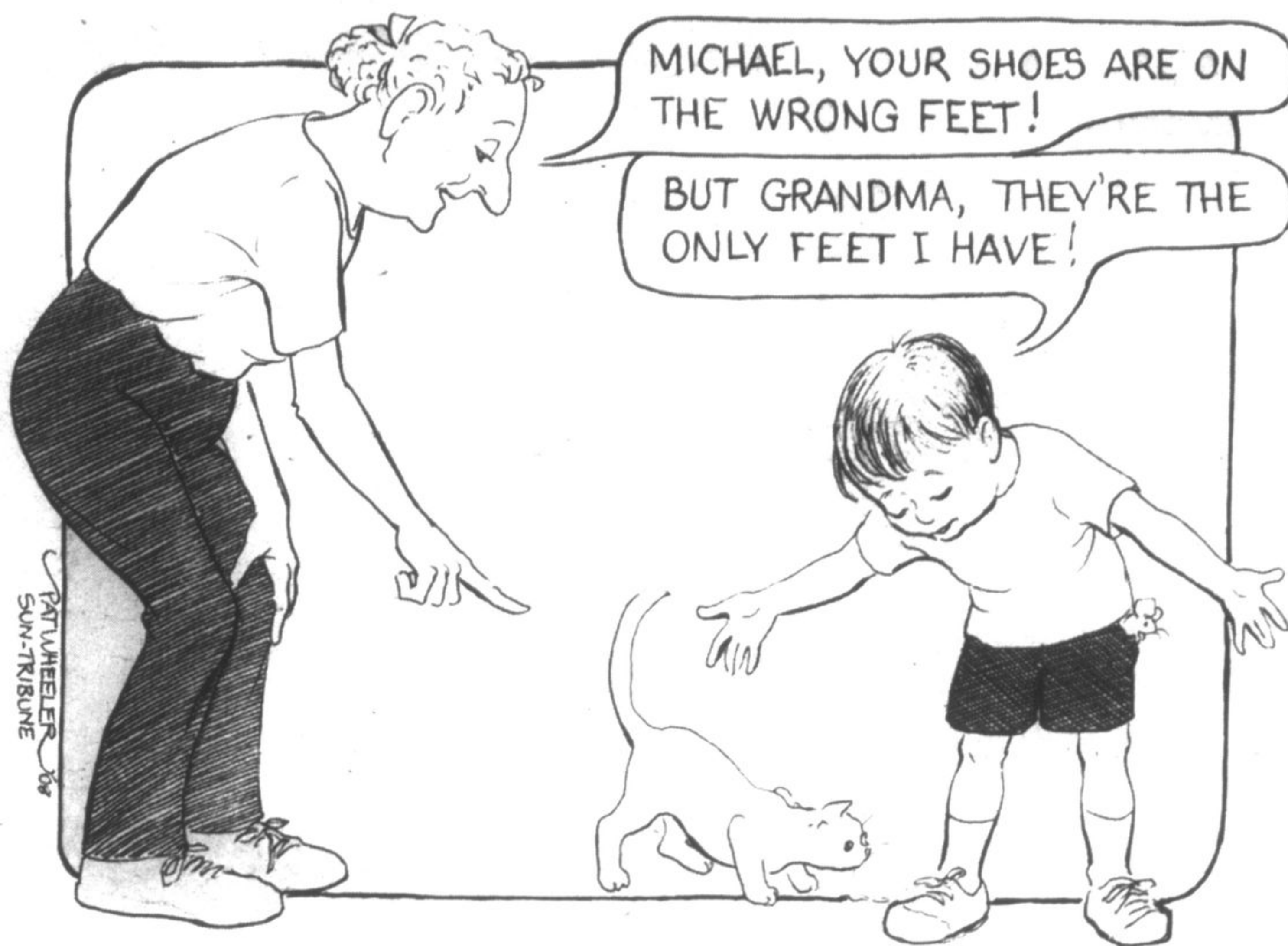
The track remains one of the best in York Region. The regional elementary school finals were held on it this year. Amazing, considering it was a project spearheaded by volunteers, not politicians or bureaucrats.

We owe thanks to SDSS teacher David Connell and student Julian Franklin for leading the project in 1991.

- That the multitude of sports facilities on the drawing board happen sooner than later.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club has been especially patient, waiting for fields as its enrolment mushrooms.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey, which already turned some players away, will have to wait two more seasons for the two new ice pads on Weldon Road.



Off The Top

with *Jim Mason*

Saturday in the park no music town extravaganza

So, this was once Music Town, Ontario, eh?

It sure wasn't Saturday.

In Stouffville Memorial Park, the artists outnumbered the spectators at a free concert held in conjunction with a drowning prevention event.

The sweet twang of guitar and a blend of voices carried through the mid-summer air wonderfully. It was the perfect break from weekend chores and boredom.

But nobody cared here in the former music town.

Sure, it had rained Persians and poodles earlier in the afternoon. But, now the air was flushed and sweet.

Hundreds of folks living within earshot of the park pavilion had to hear the 12-string guitars and Bruce Cockburn tunes. None cared to put the lawn mower or groceries away and saunter over for a listen.

Concert organizer Brian O'Sullivan and fellow Stouffvillian Marie-Lynn Hammond, famous for her days in Stringband, had the crowd, such as it was, join in on Hank Williams' classic Jambalaya. (At some point, I believe I had a solo in there, Mom, the audience being so tiny.)

Don't say you didn't know.

Mr. O'Sullivan and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville promoted the heck out of the event. There was plenty of warning in all sorts of places.

Still, no one cared.

The guitar cases have been packed up and the artists have left. It's too late to save this one.

A hundred metres north, the shell of the old town hall waits to be transformed into Nineteen on the Park.

Is it the white elephant some have labelled it?

If they build, it will the acts and crowds come in Field of Dreams fashion?

Not if a Saturday in the park is any indication, Music Town.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

Letters to the Editor

Residents not friendly to all, caregiver discovers in Stouffville

Re: Residents went out of way to help senior visiting Stouffville, letter to the editor by Charles E. Spiteri, July 10.

I'm happy to hear Mr. Spiteri will surely have a great story to tell to his friends in California and he will return to Stouffville frequently.

I experienced such hospitality when I picked up my nephew from one of his activities. As we were walking home under a scorching yet bearable sun, a minivan with a woman driver pulled over and offered us a ride home.

I politely declined and thanked her since we were only a block from our house and my nephew was not complaining.

My main reason for writing is to tell you how residents of this town tend to judge a book by its cover and worse, treat fellow Stouffvillians with a double standard.

My job is to look after my nephew. Every time I'm with him, strangers put on the widest smiles for us.

A senior even gave me a thumbs-up while complimenting me presumably for being his male "nanny". Parents with children in tow also smile. Some even engage in small talk.

But, this "warmth" from strangers is completely lost while I'm walking by myself. Gone are the smiles.

I tried to smile in hopes of eliciting a response the same way that I get when I'm with my nephew but to no avail. A generous hand to help me alone will be as rare as cheap gas.

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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

It all gives me a clear picture on what "situations" must be here in Stouffville. Either my nephew has to be on my side or I have to be an octogenarian. Then, I'm not capable of doing anything untoward.

I have to admit, I'm not the friendliest person on this planet. I'm in my late twenties and I stand three inches shy of 6 feet. I sport a goatee and a shaved head.

Now, that doesn't look like the typical good, trustworthy adult does it? Nevertheless, I still have this same appearance whether I'm with my nephew or not and don't plan to get a makeover just to make a "good impression".

It would be better if people here just show their true colours. It's better to be snobs rather than put up with this conditional, double-standard treatment of others.

I can't wait to move to the city. Even though the environment there is more impersonal, at least it's less hypocritical.

MELCHIZEDEK MAQUISO
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
sdlay@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](http://www.yorkregion.com) and York Region Printing.