

# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**

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

**PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Debra Kelly

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
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## Editorial

### Being a hero in our community

You can be a hero during this holiday season.

We all should be.

No one has to tell you our economy is in a tailspin.

Small and large businesses have closed in our neighbourhoods.

Some of York Region's largest employers, including Magna International Inc. car parts plants, have announced they will close.

Hundreds of jobs are being lost, sending shock waves through our communities, economically and socially.

We see the effects of a slumping economy locally. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank saw record numbers of clients earlier this fall.

And this in an affluent community in which many people don't even know there is a food bank. Sadly, it is all too necessary even here.

(Located in Churchill Community Church, on the Ninth Line north of Aurora Road, the food bank is only open Tuesday mornings.)

The people who donate money and food to the facility are heroes.

So are the service club members, student leaders, church parishioners and workplace leaders who head up drives to collect food, money, toys and clothing for our less-fortunate neighbours.

We have heroes here at The Sun-Tribune and throughout the York Region Media Group, too. They are collecting for our Santa Fund to give back to needy families across the region.

It's a return to old times in our once small towns, where everyone looks out for one another.

And it's not just about cash, especially for those without money to give.

You can give your time to the less fortunate, the infirm and the elderly.

You should not give of yourself for the personal glory, a newspaper headline or a thank-you.

You should do heroic deeds for the satisfaction of helping others.

For the warm feeling of doing the right thing.

For the knowledge that you are making your community a better place to live.

It's about connecting, sharing and being human.

It's not about fretting over dwindling retirement investments and buying a useless Christmas gift for the person who does have everything, all from the comfort of our \$500,000 homes.

Even in our well-heeled communities here in the burbs north of Toronto, unemployment, poverty and hunger live among us.

Merry Christmas, Whitchurch-Stouffville.



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Nothing could rain on our parade, or the doctor

It's probably just a bad dream. But, when I think of the Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade, I get visions of *Animal House*, the John Belushi classic from the 1970s. It's that last scene, where the bad boys from Faber College sabotage the small town's homecoming parade that sticks.

But nothing, it seems, can wreck our parade. On the first Saturday in December, the weather is as predictable as the TSX. Torrential rain, blinding snow, hard winds or tropical sun. It's a crap shoot, folks. Welcome to Canada.

Rip up the last couple of blocks of the route for reconstruction? No sweat. Shorten the route to an even more manageable length? Done.

A tip of Santa's hat to the Kinsmen. Running this event cannot be easy, especially with the club's small roster.

People, being people, always enter floats the night before. People aren't supposed to drive into the Cam Fella subdivision where marshalling and judging take place. But people do, often going the wrong way. People aren't supposed to tailgate like it's an NFL game, but, judging by the coolers and empties along Main Street, they do.

If you've never taken part in the parade, do it. Sure, you don't get to see most of the other 50-something entries, but you do see this community at its best, weather aside.

The crowds grow each year, especially downtown (free hot drinks and hotdogs may have helped) and near Tenth Line.

I get the privilege of chauffeuring our Sun-Tribune citizen of the year on parade day. Dr. Don Petrie sat out back atop the Mustang ragtop provided by Houston Ford Saturday.

I had the heat blasting, but it was the good doctor who was basking. He had to be from so many people who called him by name all along the route. They thanked him for keeping them healthy, delivering their kids or themselves.

No one could rain on his parade.

Or ours.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Stouffville shows troops it cares

It is hard to put into words the mixed feelings I have regarding Stouffville's Koffee in Kandahar project.

As we headed into last weekend, I was higher than a kite with all the great feedback and generous donations.

People were stopping me on the street and handing me money. Even my dental appointment turned into a donation for the cause.

On Friday, my joy turned to tears when I heard about three more soldiers being killed in Afghanistan. My thoughts immediately went to the families who have someone serving over there and I felt so helpless.

However, on Saturday came the Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade with the firefighters accepting donations along the parade route. We went back to the fire hall and a grand total of \$1,594.87 was raised. I am so proud of your generosity, Stouffville, proud that we can let the troops and their families know that our town cares.

We have also set up a few more locations where people can donate: Stouffville Florist and Fame Salon and Spa as well as the Lebovic Leisure Centre. My trusty elves, Phil Bannon and Mr. Anonymous, and I still have work to do. We'll keep you posted.

LORETTA LAVELL  
STOUFFVILLE

### Disgusted by coalition

As a voter, I am disgusted with the thought of a coalition of parties telling me who will govern my

### HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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country. They have not been given the right by the Canadian people to govern. I demand that we go to an election and let me decide whom I want to govern.

They should be brought forward as a Coalition Party and the Conservative Party, not three individual parties. I then have a choice, and whomever wins will have the legal and moral right to govern.

Not this abomination that has been brought forward.

A. ADAMS  
STOUFFVILLE

### Foreign wheels faux pas

We attended the Markham Santa Claus parade Nov. 29 with our family.

What a surprise to see both our federal Member of Parliament and our provincial member riding in European-made cars!

Although we aren't in favour of any government bailout for the automakers, this was bad PR for our elected members.

DON & JOANNE CAMERON  
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](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

**EDITORIAL**  
Editor  
Jim Mason  
[jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

**INTERACTIVE MEDIA**  
Marketing & Advertising  
Manager  
Dauna Andrews  
[dandrews@yrmg.com](mailto:dandrews@yrmg.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Retail Manager  
Dianne Mahoney  
[dmahoney@yrmg.com](mailto:dmahoney@yrmg.com)

**Classified Manager**  
Bonnie Rondeau  
[brondeau@yrmg.com](mailto:brondeau@yrmg.com)

**Special Events Manager**  
Pam Burgess  
[pburgess@yrmg.com](mailto:pburgess@yrmg.com)

**PRODUCTION**  
Team Leader  
Sherry Day  
[sdlay@yrmg.com](mailto: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**  
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