

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stouffville donors make top 10

As Christian Children's Fund of Canada's country director in Burkina Faso, I would like to thank the community of Stouffville for its generous support of our Christmas gift catalogue this year. A

After recently witnessing a delivery of gift catalogue items to children living in the most desperate of circumstances, I was humbled by the overwhelming support that residents in Stouffville have shown to these children in need.

Since October, there has been an outpouring of generosity from residents, making Stouffville one of the top-10 most charitable cities in Canada to make donations through our 2008 Christmas Gift Catalogue.

This is a remarkable achievement and residents should take pride in knowing they have helped thousands of impoverished children, families and communities around the world, despite any economic uncertainty they may personally be experiencing.

Working for CCFC in Burkina Faso, I have seen first hand the effect your gift purchases have on the children in these poverty-stricken regions.

Items purchased through the gift catalogue supply families with clean water, prevent deadly but preventable diseases like malaria from taking innocent lives, and provide livestock to extremely poor families, giving them the resources they needed to feed

their families and generate a steady income. Stouffville's generosity of spirit has truly made a difference in helping the world's "poorest of the poor".

MARIE-HENRIETTE SALEMBERE
BURKINA FASO
CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND OF CANADA

Magical night aided Mexicans

St. Mark's Church in Stouffville hosted a successful fundraising and awareness evening called Christmas at Cuernavaca Dec. 9.

Despite inclement weather, many from the Stouffville community came out to help us raise money and awareness for a community we support in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

We would like to thank Anne Pride and Sue Sherban for their organizational work and creativity. Special thanks to Sue's team: Lindsay and Lisa Sherban, Ruth Hadji, and Brenda Lobraico. Our live auction was highly successful and entertaining because of the talents and generosity of Tom and Emily Clarkson of Clarkson Auctions. Jay Cushing of Mainstreet Printing offered his artistic talent and created a keep-sake ticket.

Thank you, Father Lorenzo, for supporting our cause and to all patrons who donated items for the silent auction. It was a magical night.

COLIN WHITEBREAD
STOUFFVILLE



Dr. Santa: About that speeding ticket I didn't pay on time

Dear Santa,
How's it going? I know, I know. It's been a long time since I've written. I hope you're not disappointed.

I imagine you thought I simply grew up, like all the other kids. But sometimes I'm not so sure.

I was thinking of writing a few years ago but had given up doing the hand-written letter thing. (I almost wrote one time and the only pen I could find was out of ink. Don't you hate that?!) And I didn't have your e-mail address. (I've since heard you are still not yet accepting e-mail requests for gifts and I admire that. We are all slaves to our e-mail inboxes. Sometimes traditional things are better. Like the sleigh and reindeer. I imagine their carbon footprint is limited and you don't get in trouble with David Suzuki, despite all the miles you are covering.)

How is Mrs. Claus?
I saw you at the Santa Claus parade a few weeks ago.
I waved.
I appreciate that you weren't throwing any candy like some of

the other parade participants. I've got this sore tooth at the back and I don't think sucking on a candy cane would improve the situation.

If I'm not careful I might be getting a visit from the Tooth Fairy. (Maybe you've met her at a convention or seminar or something.)

I must say I admire your management abilities. You are off making public appearances while the elves are back at the workshop doing the grunt work.

You really are a master of delegating tasks. I make public appearances but still have to go back to the workshop and lay out pages, post stories to the website, assign the photos and so on. But, hey, don't get me wrong. It's fun. Couldn't see myself doing anything else.

The reason I'm writing is that I just wanted to clarify a few things.

Right around this time I'm sure you're making your list, checking it twice, you're going to find out who's naughty or nice. Or maybe you've delegated that task to an assistant.

Either way, about that "speeding" ticket I got back in the summer, and then did not pay!

I just want to explain.



Bernie O'Neill

It was one of those roads in the rural part of town — 10th Line — and I was only going about 72 km/h, according to the ticket.

I did not realize the speed limit is 60 km/h, all the way down to Steeles Avenue, as the officer later explained to me. There was no one on the road. There are no houses around. I don't know if I could have gone any more slowly without my car stalling or me falling asleep.

Suddenly, the police officer mentioned above leaps out from behind some bushes with a radar gun pointed right at me. (Those of us who grew up watching Star Trek and Star Wars always think for an

instant that he is about to vapourize us — or blow dry our curls, his radar gun looking like a cross between a phaser on stun and a hair dryer.)

The ticket was for \$12, which I could hardly believe. It was like I had received a gift from you, Mr. Claus, when I was expecting to be paying \$75 or more.

Still, if I didn't know better, I'd say the officer's time could be better spent somewhere else (like at that other speed trap people tell me is on Hwy. 7 east of McCowan — if you're ever sledding near there, Santa, watch out!)

The problem is, the fine was so small, I shoved the ticket into a little spot under the radio and more or less forgot about it.

A couple of weeks later I got thinking about the ticket, but then couldn't find it.

So I thought, oh well, they'll send me another ticket with some kind of \$20 penalty. I'll just have to pay it then. Which is what happened.

Except that with a bit of restructuring around here, I was sooooo busy. And you know those "super mailboxes" (now there's an oxymoron if I've ever heard one) you can

sometimes not check the mail for a week or so.

And now that I'm doing Internet banking I don't really need to check for the bills. I do it all online! (You should try it Santa. I'm sure the feed store could deliver oats for the reindeer and let you pay online in monthly instalments.)

And then there was a death in my family which kind of threw things off. When I finally paid the fine, it was late. So they said I owed even more money and would have my licence suspended!

So I paid the additional funds and, as far as I know, I am still licenced to drive in the province of Ontario. Although considering the justice system's methods to this point, I can't be 100 per cent sure. So I'm just letting you know.

Meanwhile, I hope you believe my brush with the law was completely unintentional — I am not a habitual speeder — and never for a minute did I mean to not be "nice".

If you are still able to give me a gift, the return of door-to-door mail delivery by Canada Post would be a great one, although I know that may be beyond even your powers.

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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