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**EDITORIAL**

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Jim Mason  
jmason@yrmg.com

**ADVERTISING**

Retail Manager  
Dianne Mahoney  
dmahoney@yrmg.com

**Classified Manager**

Bonnie Rondeau  
brondeau@yrmg.com

**DISTRIBUTION**

Circulation  
Supervisor  
Carrie MacFarlane  
cmacfarlane@yrmg.com

**Stouffville**

Manager  
Carolyn Norman  
cnorman@yrmg.com

**PRODUCTION**

Manager  
Sherry Day  
sday@yrmg.com

**INTERACTIVE**

**MEDIA**

Marketing  
& Advertising  
Manager

Dawna Andrews  
dandrews@yrmg.com

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Letters to the Editor,  
The Sun-Tribune  
6290 Main St.  
Stouffville, ON  
L4A 1G7  
jmason@yrmg.com



# OPINION

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

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Debora Kelly

BUSINESS  
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## Editorial

### Transit fare hikes not better way

If you're reading this on a GO Transit train or bus, you shelled out a little more for your seat than you did in February.

Are you OK with that? Is GO still your better way, York Region commuter?

GO, the southern Ontario public transit provider, raised fares by 25 cents earlier this month.

The cost of an adult 10-ride pass rose by \$2.50 and a monthly pass is \$10 more expensive because of the fare increase. A monthly pass from Stouffville to Union Station is now \$238. That's \$2,856 a year and, if you don't work near Union Station, you also have to pay for a TTC ticket.

Customer fares pay 82 per cent of GO's operating costs, with the remainder covered by government subsidies. GO carries about 105,000 passengers by rail and about 25,000 by bus every day.

GO Transit said the hike, the second in as many years, is necessary to fund several service expansions, including trains for the Milton line, 12-car trains and a third track for the Lakeshore West line, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. In 2008, GO fares increased by 15 cents.

In GO's defence, it has ramped up service, including here in the Stouffville area. The \$5.5-million Lincolnville stop, at Bethesda Road and Tenth Line, was added last September. It takes pressure off the congested downtown Stouffville train and bus stop and provides better service for residents on the east side of Whitchurch-Stouffville and beyond.

There are five trains travelling from Stouffville to Union every weekday morning and returning at night, plus far more regular bus service.

But that doesn't wash with all riders. Some are signing an online petition ([petitions.com/petition/reject\\_go\\_fare\\_hike/](http://petitions.com/petition/reject_go_fare_hike/)) demanding fares be rolled back to reflect lower fuel prices, among other things, and make fare adjustments only after it files its annual report.

Many riders are already unimpressed with GO's record of late and cancelled trains. Might higher-priced tickets and cheap gasoline push them back into their own vehicles for the drive down the 404 or 400 into an even more congested Toronto?

Does raising rates in the worst economic times of the last quarter century make sense?

A fare decrease would be kinder to the economy and the environment.

Deflecting vehicles away from the city centre should remain one of GO's main goals.



## Letters to the Editor

### Minor hockey success not all about winning

Well, it's that time of year. Minor hockey season is coming to a close in Stouffville, and coach-evaluation forms have been handed off to the participants.

While the majority of us hang up the skates and helmets, the hockey folk set the stage now, making choices of leadership and responsibility for next year's hockey teams.

What takes the coach from being the guy with the clipboard, game sheet and whistle, to the trusted and inspirational leader we hope our kids can look up to?

For me, the answer lies in defining success for your team and for your child.

Success for a player should be wrapped up in their experience on the team, in the games, in the practices, in the change room and with their peers.

The players should grow, become stronger both in hockey skills but equally in spirit, sportsmanship, work ethic, self-confidence and self-respect.

For the team, success is manifested in teamwork, commitment, learning skills, building trust and respect and executing as a team.

These are the objectives of the coach.

He or she is the agent of change and learning on the team, and needs to focus on both the individual player and the team as a whole.

He or she has the ability to analyze the 'next best' opportunities for the player and the team to improve, and the communication, motivational skills and vision to take the team from

### HAVE YOUR SAY

▶ What do you think of these issues or others? E-mail letters to the editor to [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

September through to the end of the season meeting set goals.

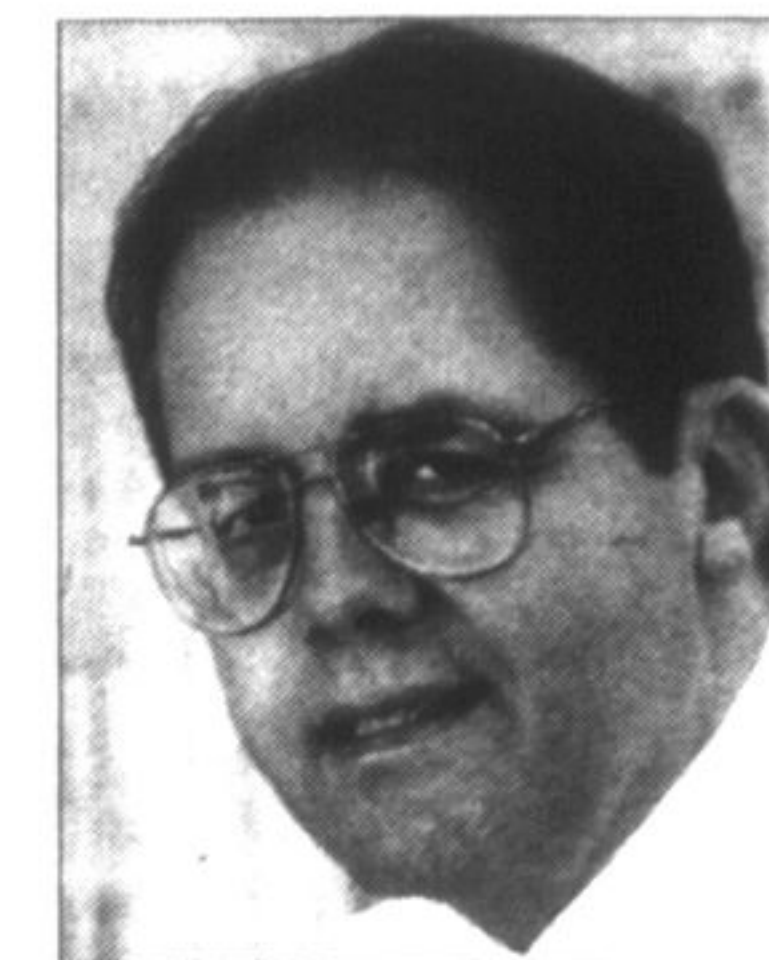
This requires skill, but more importantly it requires patience and a true sense of caring and concern for the needs of the players and the team. The coach is not a position of ego, it is a position of giving, teaching and role modeling, and carries a huge responsibility to influence our children's lives.

Measuring the success of a coach does not come through analyzing the win-loss-tie statistics, but comes through many years later, as our children become young adults with cherished memories of the things they learned and experienced playing minor hockey under the leadership of great coaches.

As a community, we should applaud those volunteers in our community who give in this way of themselves and consider the values and experiences we want for our kids in minor sport as we judge our teams' 'success' from our comfortable seats on the sidelines.

SHARON TAYLOR  
STOUFFVILLE

You can read letters to the editor, columns and editorials printed in The Sun-Tribune on our website. Go to [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Police presence meant unwelcome presents for some

I was driving so slowly and meticulously though Stouffville Saturday morning, I could have been leading the Rose Bowl Parade.

My stops were beyond complete. My SUV didn't approach the speed limit. Turns were signalled so far in advance they may have been illegal.

Paranoia will do that to you. "What's with all the police in town today?" our teenaged daughter said.

Yes indeed, neighbours. There were so many York Regional Police officers at work on our streets, you wondered if the rest of the region was cop-free.

Between Stouffville Secondary and Oscar Peterson schools on Hoover Park Drive, a constable stayed in the shadows of a hydro pole, about the spot where an intersection should be, her radar gun hard at work.

Business was good. Offending vehicles were directed into the lineup in the Oscar Peterson parking lot for processing.

The lineup resembled the one up the street at Tim Hortons, but those weren't double-doubles with a chance to win something they were handing through the windows. And the drivers weren't flashing morning smiles.

(As Bill Grant asked in a letter to the editor in November, is enforcing speed limits in school zones on weekends necessary?)

Downtown, more officers at the Community Policing Centre.

At the Tenth Line and Main Street, where a new traffic light is up and working, more uniforms.

Getting a full-time police station in Stouffville has been a sometimes election issue. Lobbyists got their wish Saturday, if end-to-end coverage is the goal.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.