

Sun-Tribune

905-640-2612
Fax: 905-640-8778

EDITORIAL
ADVERTISING
905-640-2612

Classified: 1-800-743-3353
Fax: 905-640-8778

DISTRIBUTION
905-640-2612

EDITORIAL
Editor
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

York Region Media
Group community
newspapers

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 also 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.

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

Ontario
Press
Council
Canadian
Circulation
Audit Board
Member
CCAB

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly

DIRECTOR,
OPERATIONS
Barry Black

BUSINESS
MANAGER
Robert Lazurko

DIRECTOR,
ADVERTISING,
DISTRIBUTION
Nicole Fletcher

Editorial

Change needed to get transit moving

The province has tabled legislation to merge GO Transit with Metrolinx, the agency mandated to improve the integration of transit in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas.

In doing so, it means municipal representatives on the 11-member board, including regional chairperson Bill Fisch, will get the boot and be replaced by provincial appointees.

It's a good move, with one caveat.

The intent, according to Transportation Minister Jim Bradley, is to get planned transit projects up and running faster — to get things rolling, literally.

York has a large stake in this, with the extension of the subway into the region, as well as enhanced GO train service on several local routes, planned.

Appointed in 2007, one of the projects with which the board was tasked was the implementation of a smart card system, allowing riders to seamlessly move from one regional system to another.

Two-thirds of the way through their three-year appointment, board members have yet to make this happen.

After the merger, a new 15-member board will include experts in planning, finance and development. No elected politicians are expected to remain on the board.

By eliminating the politicians, the province is doing away with the NIM-BYism and turf battles that naturally result from creating a group of people from across a diverse region to work on consolidation.

It's important, however, public involvement remain a key part of the decision-making process.

As much as it is anticipated to speed things up, removing politicians from the mix creates a void.

The series of public open houses Metrolinx hosted last year, for example, help achieve this and should continue.

But let's face it, the average transit rider in Whitchurch-Stouffville isn't all that concerned about the process.

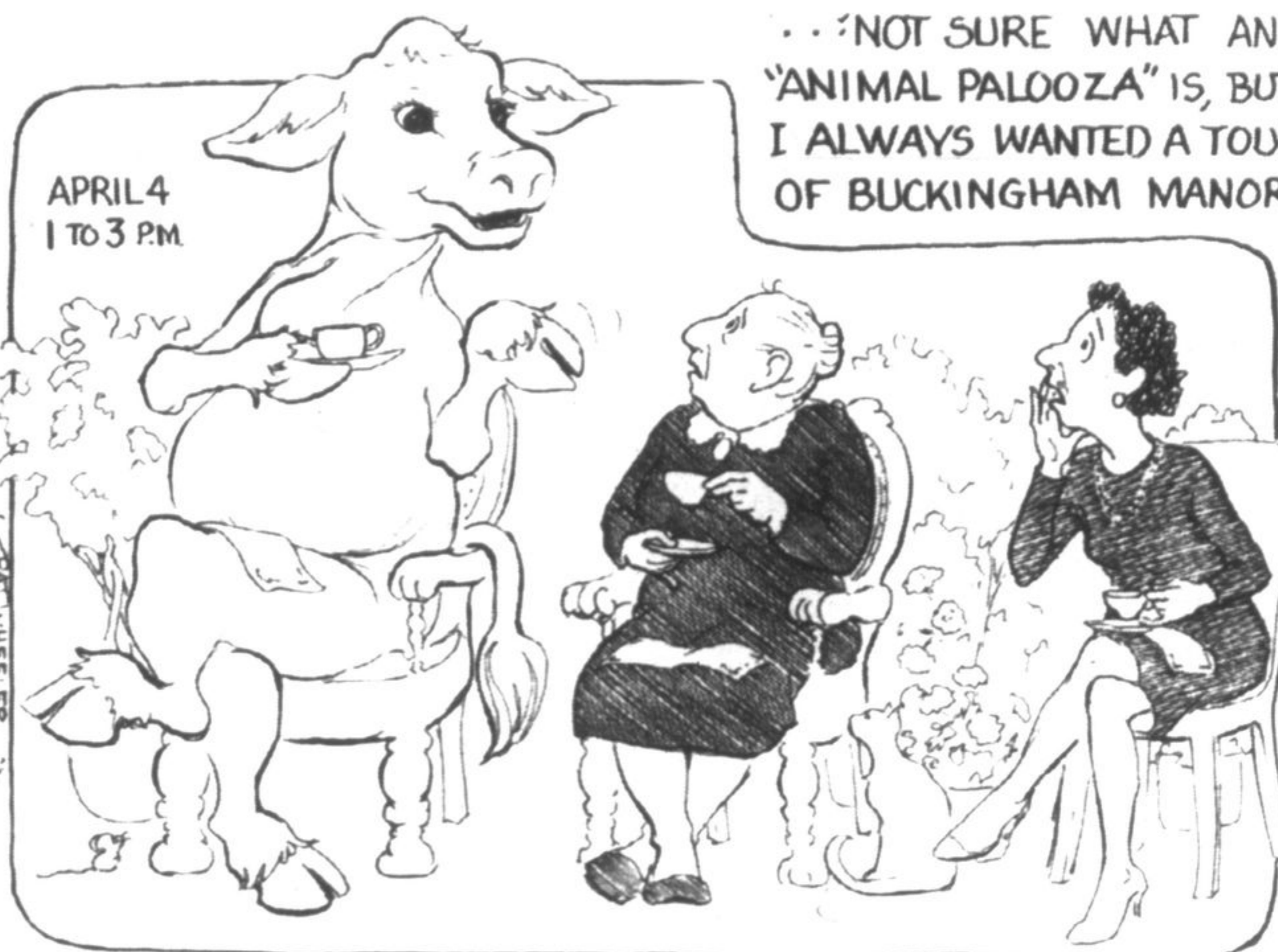
Those bus and train riders want results.

They want a system that gets them where they need to go, at a reasonable rate.

They want service on time. They don't want service breakdowns and cancelled trains.

They want to get what they pay for at the ticket booth.

Here's hoping the new amalgamated agency will be able to deliver this in a timely fashion.



Letters to the Editor

Some nerve to complain about police blitz, Mason

Re: Police presence meant unwelcome presents for some, column by Jim Mason March 19.

I am glad to see the police are doing a great job on the streets of Stouffville. I am sure that police blitz you saw in our town on that Saturday morning was in response to a complaint. Drivers in the town are out of hand. They speed, fail to stop for stop signs, don't stop or yield to the school crossing guards and think they own the road.

Motor vehicle accidents cause more hardship to more people in our country than any crime, disease or medical problem. Motor vehicles are controlled by good drivers and bad drivers.

The bad drivers are quite evident. The bad drivers were the ones stopped and ticketed on Hoover Park Drive.

Hoover Park is a 40 km/h zone any day of the week. There is a large playground with children playing and people walking on the sidewalk. Hoover Park is an access street next to residential. Hoover Park has been a major topic discussed by residents at town council.

Our community loves to see the police doing the job they get paid to do.

I can't understand that people like yourself and Mr. Grant in his previous letter have the nerve to complain that the police are doing their job. You are on a day off with your family while the officers have left their families at home. They are out on the streets protecting you and Mr. Grant.

If you check, there were no major crimes in Stouffville during the police blitz and hours after they left.

Job well done. Thank you, officers.

KEN WILSON
STOUFFVILLE

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Town's money well spent on hard-working councillor

Re: Council saving money by not sending out newsletters, March 12.

Reporter Sandra Bolan wrote in her story Councillor Richard "Bartley led the way for councillors by shaking \$2,540 worth of hands".

I feel that money goes beyond the handshakes. This money was spent on "attending functions on behalf of the municipality". The key to this statement is "on behalf of the municipality".

I've known Mr. Bartley for many years and I know he is a very hard-working individual who spends long hours working on our behalf.

Any questions or concerns that I've had have always been dealt with quickly.

I believe the money paid to Councillor Bartley is well spent, versus someone who only spent, say, \$830.

DAVID BROWN
STOUFFVILLE

You can read letters to the editor, columns and stories on our website: yorkregion.com



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Headed for the big league, son? Don't bank on it

'My boy's gonna play in the big league, my boy's gonna turn some heads...'

- Tom Cochrane, Big League

I shudder to think of the consequences every time we print a story on Keith Acton, Brad May or the next Stouffville kid headed for the NHL.

It could very well be Ethan Werek, featured in today's Sun-Tribune. He's off to the world under-18 championships this week and could be a first-round pick in June's NHL draft.

Problem comes with the expectations created in some circles of our hockey community.

For the record, your kid has about as much chance of a big-time paid hockey gig as you have of cashing in on 6/49 Saturday.

A study of the 30,000 boys born in 1975 who played minor hockey in Ontario revealed their odds of making the NHL were 0.036 per cent. And that was the best year ever for this province.

In other words, you've got to be exceptionally good and extremely fortunate to make it.

It was terrific to see Stouffville Clipper teams skate off with three Ontario Minor Hockey Association A-level championships last month. The players made life-long memories and friends. The community will celebrate and I don't want to rain on their parade. Banners will be hung in our rinks.

But, let's not get ahead of ourselves. Kids from these teams are unlikely to play even Jr. A let alone college or pro hockey. And that's fine, hockey heads.

Coaches should be, and in many cases are, producing good citizens who value team, family, school and community.

The NHL will always be there for the next Keith Acton.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.