

**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

# OPINION

## Editorial

### Recession over, start spending

The wet, soggy weather that's so far been the summer of 2009 couldn't put a damper on the relief that washed over York Region residents upon hearing that the recession is over.

Late last week the Bank of Canada reassessed our economic situation and declared the deep slump that has contributed to job loss, business closures and individual financial crises over. The bank's governor, Mark Carney, said that while we're still in the early days of recovery, we are definitely on the right track to recovery.

It's the kind of good news that gives us the confidence to start spending again, which helps local businesses.

You can see the evidence of recovery in our region, for example, where a new study from real estate company Re/Max says home sales are up.

Economists also warned there are still risks to our complete recovery, including the fact that this country's exporters rely heavily on the world economy picking up as well. Recovery will be slower than usual, we're told.

For those of us who were doing OK before the recession hit, the chances are good that we'll hang on, endure the pain, and quite possibly emerge in a stronger place than before.

The same can't be said for many of our neighbours. York Region's immigrants and newcomers are much harder hit by recessions, statistics show. They lose their jobs at a higher rate than their Canadian-born counterparts and have more difficulty re-entering the market once things pick up.

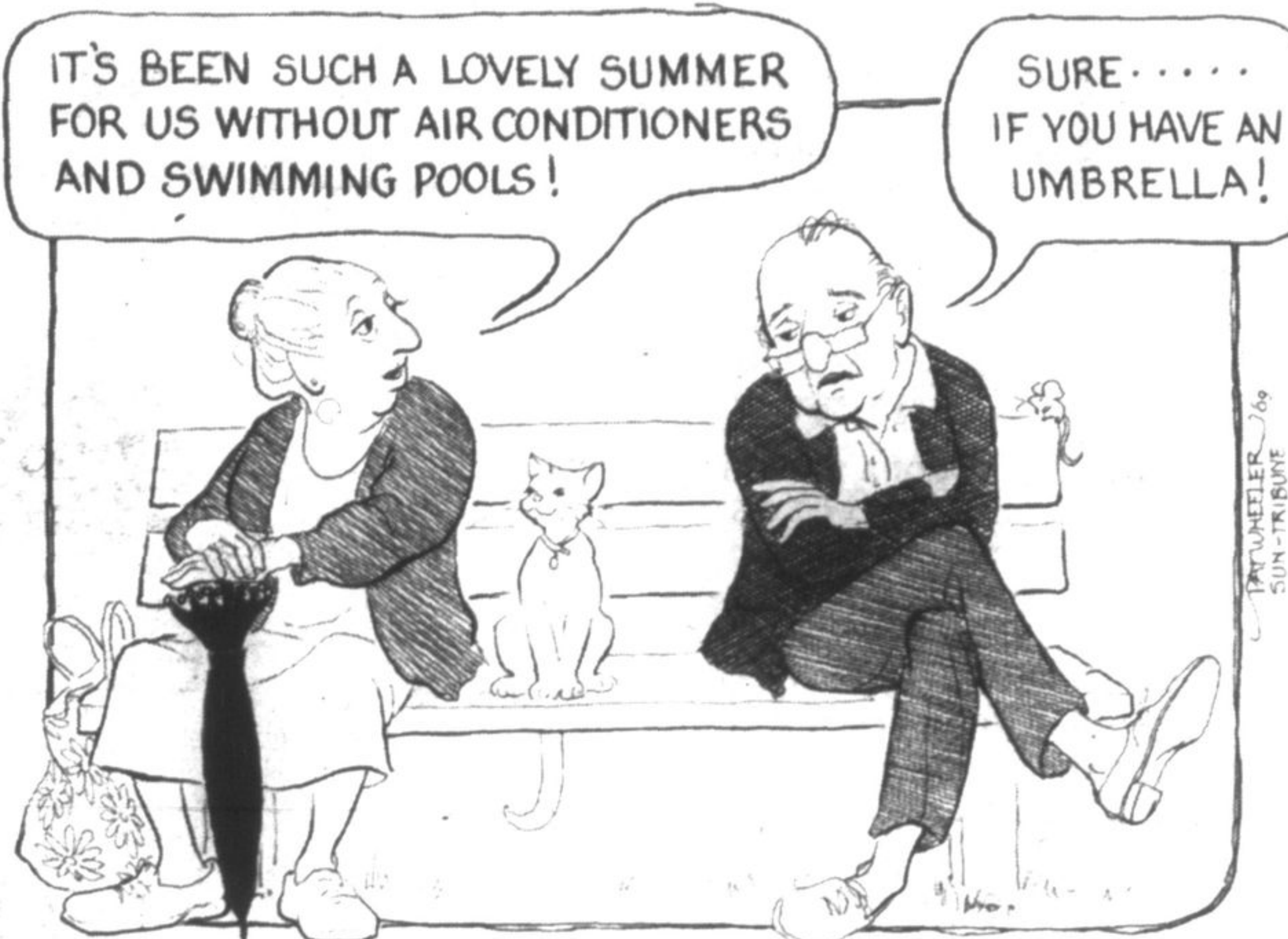
And when you consider that newcomers start off earning far less — \$42,998 per year for a newcomer compared to \$62,566 for his Canadian-born counterpart, based on 2006 Census statistics — it's clear there's an urgent need to rectify this terribly unfair situation.

At least one group in York Region is trying to do just that with innovative, out-of-the-box thinking.

Organized by Human Endeavour, a non-profit organization that helps immigrants and newcomers, and including businesses and social service groups, the new coalition has a mandate to raise the economic and social conditions of the most vulnerable.

The key focus is on employees and employers creating an environment that encourages community empowerment and social well-being.

We strongly encourage local business owners to create opportunities for those who face the toughest obstacles.



## Letters to the Editor

### Closing of recycling depot means mission accomplished

Re: *Death by blue box*, July 18.

In the late 1960s when John Garbutt envisioned a recycling centre for this area, his primary goal was to alert people to the need to conserve our planet and to persuade other communities to do the same.

Ever the teacher, he hoped future generations would be moved to reduce waste.

To help encourage this way of life, the Stouffville Recycling Group sponsored kids craft days at the public library using recyclables.

However, as hard as he and all the others involved worked to build the depot in Memorial Park, his most important goal was to put ourselves out of business by having governments at all levels realize the importance of waste reduction and recycling by taking over the process.

I am sure he would say now, "Mission accomplished."

MICHELLE GARBUTT  
STOUFFVILLE

### Moment of inattention can cause lifetime of grief

Re: *You can make our roads safer*, editorial, July 23.

Your editorial really hit home. A momentary inattention can cause a lifetime of grief. That sounds like hyperbole but it's true.

I used to prosecute in traffic court — speeding tickets and the like — and I was horrified at how easily accidents occur.

An accident at speed can easily lead to death or lifelong injury.

If you are driving 80 km/h, which is

### 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)

not all that fast and your attention drifts for one second, you will travel more than 20 metres.

Think of that when you are close behind someone on the 407.

Slow down, focus on the road and arrive alive.

JAMES MORTON  
THORNHILL

### Sharpening service, produce at downtown market

Re: *In search of a sharpener*, letter to the editor by Gary Reid, June 25,

As the owner/operator of a sharpening service, I must inform Mr. Reid his search is over.

I have a permanent booth at the Stouffville downtown farmers market. The market operates every Thursday from 2:30 until 7 p.m.

At the market, I sharpen most items while you wait, including knives, scissors, mower blades, pruners, garden shears, chainsaw chains and axes.

Reel mowers, carbide saw blades, router bits and planer/jointer knives would need to be serviced at my shop in Mount Albert.

Visit us at the market on Thursday for all your sharpening needs, as well as for the fresh produce and other value-added services the market provides.

I hope to see you soon.

DENZIL MIAO  
EXACT EDGE SHARPENING SERVICE  
MOUNT ALBERT



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### In defence of Stouffville's new-look home

We call it home, for a variety of reasons.

Some of us were born here, never to move anywhere else.

For others, it was a job, southern GTA housing prices or other circumstances.

"A friend moved to Stouffville, fell in love with it and the rest is history," a newcomer told me at this month's Strawberry Festival.

Bill Hutchison, the affable CTV Toronto news anchor, tells a story about being invited to dinner in Stouffville a few years back and never leaving. Welcome to the show, Bill.

At the same Strawberry Festival, I was flabbergasted with the number of long-term residents I ran into who have moved away. The festival is their annual homecoming, apparently.

Change and growth made them, some former lifers, leave.

When plans to greatly enlarge Stouffville were first considered early this decade, I heard it. People could sense the sounds of subdivisions, power centres and road construction coming. They were selling the homestead and moving to Gravenhurst, Uxbridge or other points north.

Fair enough. But I like our new Stouffville. Shoot me now. Go ahead. I like our new arts centre, schools, fire halls, arenas, pool, library and roads.

Out three children all took part-time jobs that didn't exist in their home town five years ago. All thanks to growth.

It's beyond fascinating to talk to my neighbours about their pre-Stouffville lives in Africa, the Caribbean and Sri Lanka.

Sure, I liked my 1980s life in Stouffville. But change was inevitable. This remains a wonderful place to call home, neighbours.

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