

**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,  
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# OPINION

## Editorial

### Let the giving continue

Despite signs indicating the economy is starting to recover, now is not the time to forget about our most at-risk residents.

Sure, it was good to see last Friday's surprising Statistics Canada report that showed a net gain of 31,000 jobs in the country last month. But that's just a drop in the bucket compared to the job losses of the past year.

Ontario has lost 227,700 full-time jobs since August 2008, the report states.

Just look at food bank usage if you're not convinced.

In York Region alone, food bank usage is up a whopping 35 per cent this year. In Ontario, it's up 20 per cent.

We've seen it in Whitchurch-Stouffville, where record usage by clients led to a record community food drive last month.

In fact, 93 per cent of Ontario's food banks reported an increase in the number of clients who have recently lost a job.

The annual Thanksgiving drive to ensure no one went hungry over the holiday is over, but the need remains.

With just a little more than two months before Christmas and the next regular food drive, it's easy to be complacent and forget about those in need.

It's not just a seasonal problem, though. More than 350,000 people turn to food banks every month in Ontario and one in three food banks reported its ability to meet the needs of its clients has decreased this year.

Food banks have already been forced to reduce hamper sizes to further stretch the supply of food.

It's a vicious cycle. As more people find themselves out of work, there is more use of food banks, which can't keep up because there are fewer people who can afford to make donations.

What's the answer?

There are calls for producer and processor tax credits to encourage grower donations, but the simple fix is your support.

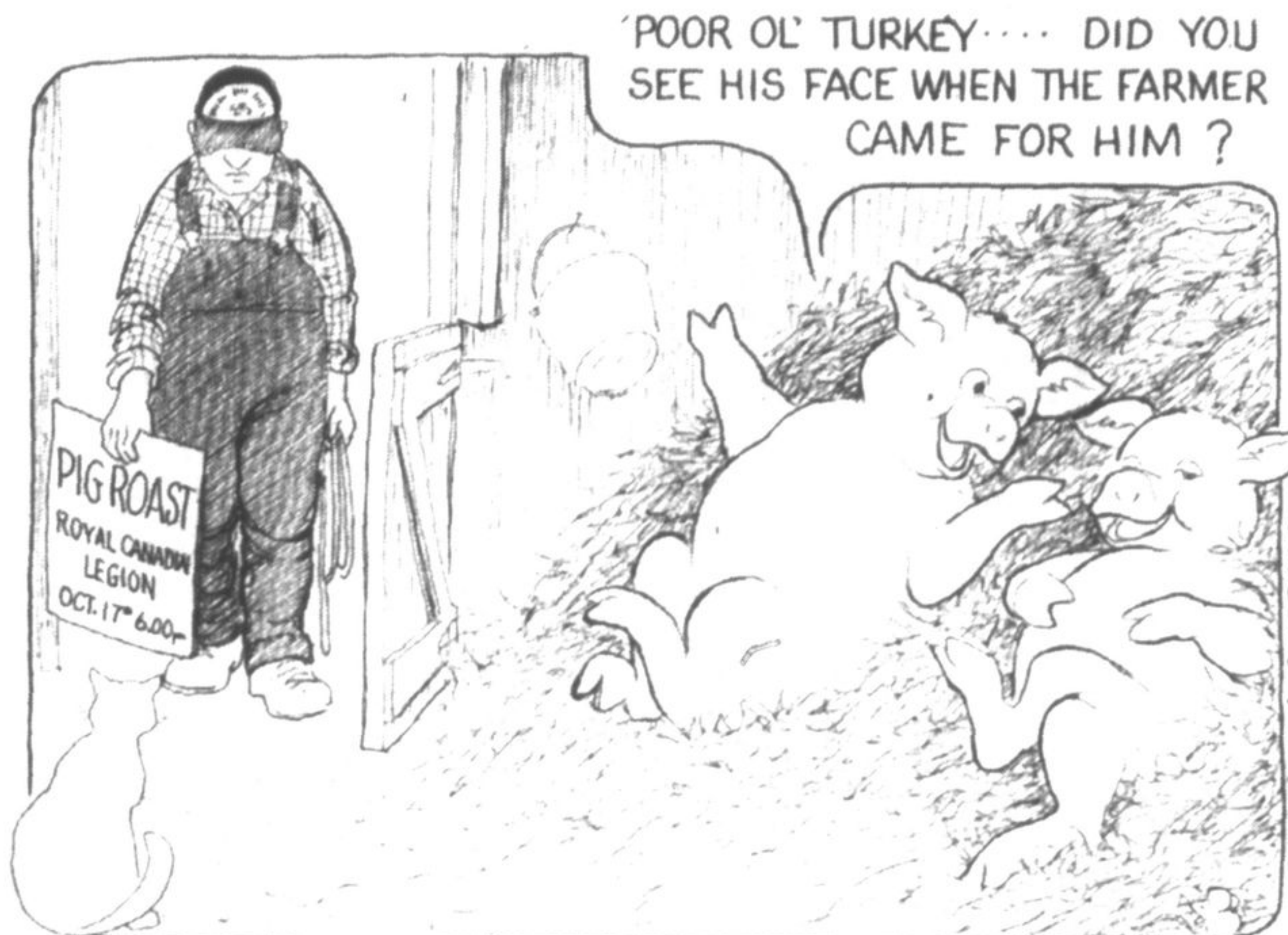
We need to take care of each other.

This isn't about an extra shopping trip to help fill the food bank shelves, it's about picking up a couple of extra items on your regular shopping excursion or going through your cupboards and giving away some of the extras you've collected.

Christmas is often called the season of giving, but don't wait until the snow hits the ground before doing your part.

Start now to ensure people who need help don't have to wait for Santa's arrival to get it.

Take it upon yourself to give what you can. That way it's your choice.



## Letters to the Editor

### More to arena community than just Clippers, council

Re: *Clippers' name on new arena, Oct. 8.*

What exactly was the point of asking the community to help pick a name for the new arena?

I think there was some excellent ideas put forth, but, in the end, the original name put forward by the mayor was chosen.

Yes, 19 rep and select teams carry the Clipper name, but what about everyone else who uses our arenas?

The Stouffville Stars girls rep teams, the Spirit Jr. A team, the Spartan high school teams, all the house league Spitfire teams and all the hard-working figure skaters.

I'm sure they would love the arena named after their teams.

It seems a bit exclusive to name the arena after one group of hockey players when there are so many teams that represent Stouffville so well.

The mayor may not have ever been a Stouffville Star or figure skater, but if he had, he may have considered them in this process as well.

HEATHER RISI  
STOUFFVILLE

### Stouffville youths deserve better skate park

It costs \$2.50 to travel from Stouffville to Markham and another \$2.50 to return.

The old Stouffville skate park was not a money-making asset to the Stouffville community.

However, it kept the kids off the streets, wrecking public property and from getting into trouble.

When I was 14, I was at the skate

park every single day from when it opened until I broke for dinner. And I was there to close up the place.

Now with the public skate park, also in Memorial Park, it has no closing time and it's free.

It's also a pig pen. Like every 13-year-old's room, it's covered with garbage. Some people draw terrible graffiti on the ramps, making them slippery.

Opening a skate park in Stouffville will not mean much to many people.

But to the kids who don't have a drive or the money to take the bus to Markham, it would mean a lot.

Sure, it may not be profitable for the town, and we're not in a great time financially, but it's a way to entertain the youth of Stouffville and give some of the businesses in town some money.

When I was going to the skate park every day, I would eat out that night, whether it would be at 2-4-1 or at The Fickle Pickle. Even \$5 dinners add up.

If the traffic the Markham skate park gets came to Stouffville, it would be a pretty penny for local business. The town could capitalize by opening a snack bar in the skate park.

Stouffville doesn't offer much for youth and by giving them a pretty terrible skate park, you're still not keeping them out of trouble.

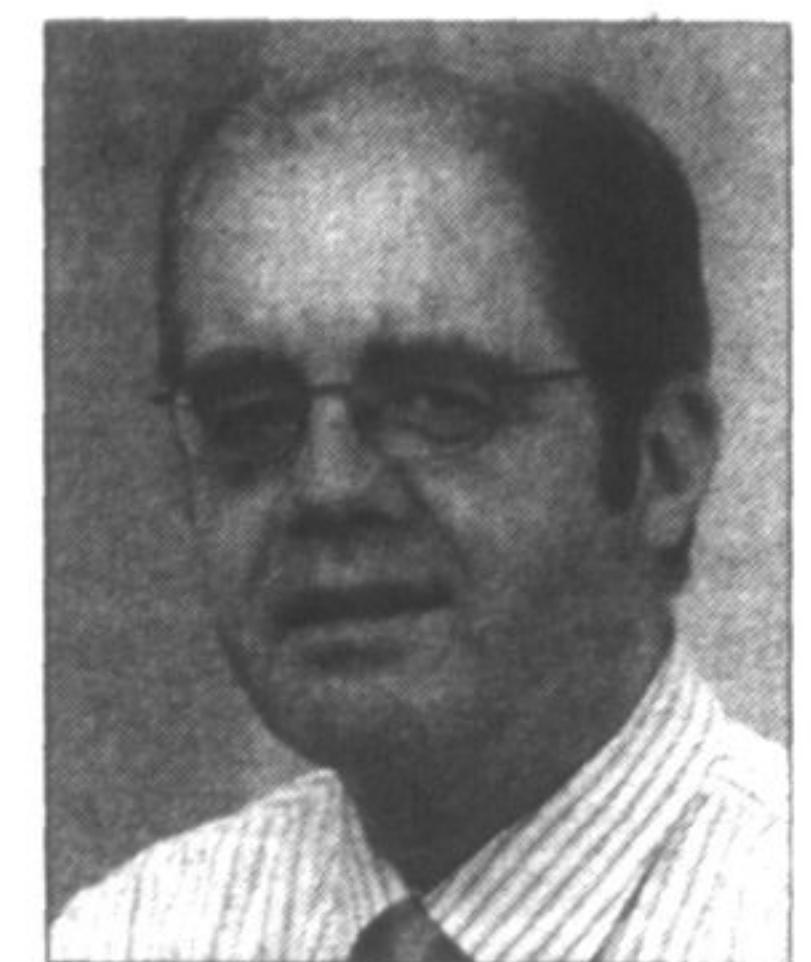
I met some really good friends at the old Stouffville skate park.

Truthfully, there's not much for anyone between the ages of 10 and 15 to do here now.

Really, Stouffville, all I'm asking is for you to make a little effort into making a good place for your youth to practise biking, rollerblading and skateboarding.

We have two arenas and not even one good skate park? Not all sports require an audience.

JUSTIN LAWRENCE  
STOUFFVILLE



## Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Council missed shot at naming new centre

If there was a hockey game, Whitchurch-Stouffville council missed a tip-in. An empty-netter.

But the naming of the community centre going up on Weldon Road has nothing to do with hockey, as Mayor Wayne Emmerston told us this summer. Councillor Clyde Smith reminded all three taxpayers in the audience at last week's council meeting. A pool, gym and more could be attached to the two arenas.

Still, council voted unanimously to name it the Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex. For those of you keeping score at home, Phil Bannon was on the injured/sick list and Mr. Emmerson only votes in tie games, er resolutions.

As a periodic volunteer for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, the parent organization of the Clippers, I declare a conflict in saying I don't mind the name. Clippers ties in the past (1952 Ontario Sr. B champs), the present (town-record three Ontario titles in 2009) and an internationally known brand (remember those MasterCard commercials?), as Richard Bartley said in making the motion.

Still, council missed its shot at honouring a resident in the name. As I wrote this summer, I think Keith Acton's road from Stouffville to the NHL and back is more than worthy. Other residents responded big time. Most agreed with me, but others argued passionately for their choices. Fair enough.

Council seemed to want to duck controversy like it was an elbow to the jaw, but may have some of it on its face anyway.

York school trustees had no trouble naming schools after living political legends Harry Bowes, Bill Crothers and Don Cousens.

I'm tired of only paying tribute to people at funerals.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.