

**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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Artists work all year for Stouffville tour

Re: Get inside the studio with artist, Oct. 1.

We wish to thank all the people who helped to make the ninth annual Whitchurch-Stouffville studio tour such a tremendous success.

We especially want to thank all those who came to the participating artist studios.

Everyone was so encouraging and supportive. They truly seemed to enjoy the tour. We continue to have such wonderful response from all who attended.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support of our sponsors and hope the artists and their patrons will in turn patronize them.

Thank you also to the Stouffville Sun-Tribune for continued support with its excellent coverage and photographs.

Our congratulations go out to Susan Campolongo, the prize

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH- STOUFFVILLE

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

winner in our \$200 draw.

Finally, we would like to publicly thank the 26 artists who so diligently worked all year, not only on the organization of the tour, but who consistently produce such a high calibre of art.

See you next year for a special 10th anniversary tour.

Thank you, Stouffville, on behalf of the Whitchurch-Stouffville studio tour.

RAY MCNEICE
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
STUDIO TOUR

You can read letters, columns and stories from The Sun-Tribune at yorkregion.com



We've all experienced health care chaos

This week, we launched Cross-Border Care, an investigative series that highlights the extent to which not only Ontario residents, but the provincial government itself, have come to rely on the United States to provide timely and state-of-the-art health care.

The eye-opening three-part series is the inaugural effort of Metroland Media Group's new special investigative projects team, of which York Region Media Group's own Joe Fantauzzi, a former resident of Stouffville, was a member.

The series continues in today's Sun-Tribune and wraps up Thursday.

While we will always focus on our local community in our pages, this special project means, several times a year, you'll also read top-notch, hard-hitting investigative series on topics that have provincial — if not national — impact.

It's a "priceless" benefit of being a reader of a community newspaper produced by Metroland, the largest news-gathering



Debora Kelly

operation in Ontario and one of the largest in Canada.

We begin with a bang with Cross-Border Care, which told the story of thousands of Ontarians stuck at the back of the line — and of thousands more unwilling, or unable, to wait any longer for diagnosis and treatment.

This month, nearly 140,000 people are waiting for CT scans and MRIs.

Billions of dollars are poured into health care — \$11 billion in Ontario and \$183 billion in Canada this year — yet most of us have real experi-

ence with the chaos in the system.

For me, it was watching my Dad wait weeks to see a specialist to confirm he needed a new hip. Then came months of discomfort and pain and an active lifestyle put on hold. Six long months later, he had hip replacement surgery.

For me, it was also helplessly watching a co-worker's health decline with heartbreaking speed as he waited nearly three months to see a cancer specialist.

Wait lists that stretch for months, unavailable procedures and technology and limited access to physicians are the everyday realities of health care in Ontario.

We know there are problems — and have accepted this. Accepted it to the point that, last year, 12,000 of us willingly crossed the border to pay for the care we once thought would be there for us when we needed it.

After reading our series — after seeing the scope of the crisis, after hearing the stories of people affected — I think you'll agree it's time to demand accountability and action from the province.

OHIP approval for out-of-country care has skyrocketed 450 per cent in 10 years, partly because the

province has lost step with advances in technology and therapies.

No surprise then that Ontario's spending on out-of-country medical care has tripled in five years — to \$164 million in 2010. Ontario became a bulk buyer of health services with 40 American providers this year.

For me, it was also helplessly watching a co-worker's health decline with heartbreaking speed as he waited nearly three months to see a cancer specialist.

What may have been a temporary solution for "at risk" patients sounds as if it's becoming an entrenched practice. Why isn't the money being invested here, so we can tackle the problem here? The dirty secret is out. Shovelling more Ontario taxpayers' dollars across the border and forcing desperate residents to pay for care themselves, has to stop.