

Sun-Tribune

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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.

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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christ Church's loss, will be another's gain

Re: Anglican departure, column by Jim Thomas, Dec. 10.

Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville lost the many talents of a good man when Rev. Canon Rob Shields resigned.

Rob Shields brought much to the congregation at Christ Church and to the community at large.

He also introduced to Christ Church the Lenten dinners enjoyed by parishioners and the wider community alike.

Also, he was interested in providing something for the mind and thus introduced Lenten discussion groups.

The 'Blue Christmas' service was another valuable contribution for those grieving for any reason in the Christmas season.

Rob Shields is a man of wide ranging vision and con-

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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

cern. Our loss will be another congregation's gain.

Rob, we appreciate and thank you for your 18 years with us as our priest and friend. Deus tibi faveat.

KATHLEEN & ROGER GLAZIN
STOUFFVILLE

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



Our busy hospital needs community's support

Recently, when the H1N1 vaccine was made available to the general public, I decided to get the shot. It was administered efficiently and I was given a sheet about possible side effects. I glanced at it quickly, never thinking it might apply to me. I never had a reaction to a flu shot and have no allergies.

The rest of the day seemed to go normally except that when I went up a flight of stairs, I had run out of breath. My wife would later ask me if I'd taken the dog out for a run.

Two days later, after I passed out six times, my wife called 911. They arrived at my house but by then I seemed to be fine. Still, they advised us to go to the hospital. But since I "knew" what was best for me, it wasn't until two days later, after lying listlessly in bed, I finally agreed to take Elaine's advice and go to Markham Stouffville.

Our hospital, at the best of times, is very busy but because of the interest and scare of the H1N1 flu, it was very busy.

I heard a lady there with her little boy say to the nurse that although she lived in Scarborough, she would only take her children to Markham Stouffville Hospital.



David Tsubouchi

Although it made you think about our hospital's reputation, you also thought how much of a strain it was on the hospital when people from far and wide are coming to our hospital and that we did not receive any additional funding. It was good we were finally moving forward with the expansion.

That evening and the next morning I received an IV drip, blood transfusions, an ultrasound and gastroscopy test.

When the doctor sat with me and explained I had bled out half the blood in my body through an ulcer and that I had been severely dehydrated, my kidneys had been in possible danger of shutting down and my blood pressure had been low, I finally realized how serious this had been. I was told that

luckily they located a small ulcer that had been the source of the blood loss and it was fixable.

If I had just remained in bed and the problem had not been found, in 10 days it would have been all over.

Eventually when my system normalized enough, I was discharged.

Throughout this I could see how the men and women who worked at Markham Stouffville Hospital — the nurses and doctors, the people who pushed the wheelchairs and beds and even the cleaning staff, really cared about what they were doing. This was not simply a job to them.

They were just as human as anyone else with their own problems. And yet they tried to bring a little empathy to someone.

To find a blanket for someone who was a little too cold. To get a pillow when one wasn't available for a child who was in pain.

Or the young man who is working long hours pushing patients from one area to another under what anyone would consider stressful circumstances who had a cheerful word for someone to make their life just a little bit better. Or a student nurse responding to a difficult patient in a very caring way, well beyond a normal person's patience.

These men and women work in cir-

cumstances that are difficult and we, as patients, are not understanding. All we can think about is how much time it is going to take to process us.

In many cases we don't care about anyone else and certainly not the circumstances of people who work there.

Before all of this, I strongly believed in supporting our hospital because of what I thought it meant to our community. It wasn't until I saw first-hand under difficult personal circumstances what it meant to me and others that I fully understood what it truly meant.

It's not simply the building — although if we, as a community, don't fully support the campaign for expansion I can't see how health care can survive in this community.

It is the nurses and doctors and all the workers and volunteers in our hospital who make it truly great.

We should ensure, as a community, we pull out all the stops in supporting the hospital in its major effort in fundraising because it is precious to us.

The other lesson I learned is, yet again, if I had listened to my wife, Elaine, in the first place I would have been better off.

Lawyer David Tsubouchi is a Markham resident who has served as a ward councillor and later as MPP and provincial cabinet minister.