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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  
Mike Banville  
mbanville@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

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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.

Letters to the Editor,  
The Sun-Tribune  
6290 Main St.  
Stouffville, ON  
L4A 1G7  
jmason@yrmg.com

Ontario  
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# OPINION

Stouffville  
**Sun-Tribune**

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

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Debra Kelly

BUSINESS  
MANAGER  
Robert Lazurko

DIRECTOR,  
OPERATIONS  
Barry Black

DIRECTOR,  
ADVERTISING,  
DISTRIBUTION  
Nicole Fletcher

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Councillors concerned with growth now?

Like many people, we have made Stouffville our home for many reasons, including the community in the country we call our own.

It is ironic to hear many current councillors who are so surprised and upset. They are concerned about growth and say it is an issue for this year's municipal election.

Tell me, weren't they the ones on council to make the decisions?

To the benefit of all residents, I hope the current crop of councillors steps aside and lets some people who will work hard to control the growth here and keep our taxes in check have a turn. We do not need career politicians here.

This is not Toronto. Have you seen what's happening there?

STEVE CICCHILLO  
STOUFFVILLE

### HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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

### New hill won't be same

Re: Kids protest toboggan hill move, April 17.

My six-year-old son, Logan, is devastated the hill in Memorial Park was taken away. A new one is being built, but it won't be the same, he said.

The old hill was "the best toboggan hill, best racing hill, best rolling hill and best kite-flying hill and we'll never be able to run down it again."

He wants the people who decided to take the hill away to know how sad they made some people.

Laurie Lewis  
STOUFFVILLE



## Music Mania brought town together for 50 years

This is the 50th anniversary of Music Mania – the second longest continuously running variety show of its kind in Ontario.

I have been involved in the Stouffville show for 45 of these years and Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason suggested that I put together some of my thoughts and memories. Firstly, I got started because my wife, Jackie, had participated the year before and I saw how much she enjoyed it.

Over the years, I have taken part in most of the sections – skits, tech crew, props, stage crew, etc. and various committees such as format, proceeds and others. So, I have pretty good knowledge about what is required to get the show to the stage. And that really does need a tremendous amount of commitment by many volunteers.

Often, it is their winter project as planning starts in September and rehearsals begin weekly in January. These meetings provide an opportunity for the various members to get together and socialize while getting ready. It becomes a night out in a different setting.

One mother of four young children whose husband was away a lot told me, "Music Mania saved my life."

New participants are heartily welcomed. They meet many new acquaintances,



Don Petrie

learn about our community, and often establish long-term friendships.

For the performers, the show provides an outlet for whatever talents they possess. Although the show has recently attained an almost professional level, it definitely remains an amateur show and it is enthusiasm and commitment that count rather than the degree of talent.

After a few years of involvement it "gets in your blood".

Some of my personal memories:

- The joy of working with Frank Mellon and John and Terry Foulds in creating the pantomimes.
- My 3-year-old son believing that I was really being swallowed by a boa constrictor.

- The choked-up sensation on hearing the chorus sing the Abide with Me/ Last Post medley and the powerful Battle Hymn of the Republic.

- Taking the show's director down to my medical office and suturing a laceration, then returning to the rehearsal.

- The camaraderie of people from many different walks of life at the rehearsal coffee breaks.

- The tech crew figuring out which of the thousand wires went from the stage to the sound and light boards and then out to the correct spotlights and loudspeakers in the auditorium.

- The gratitude of the recipients as they accepted their cheques from the proceeds of the show.

- Script meetings where some of the best jokes could not be repeated on stage

- The maps of chorus choreography steps taped all over the kitchen floor.

- The standing ovations.

- The Orchard Park students cheering for their principal, Keith Sutherland, in his boxing match.

- Our daughter, Olivia, taking over her mother's job in organizing the black-light numbers (some families have had three generations in the show).

- Getting all the crew together to erect the marquee around the stage.

- The mingling of the cast and crew

with the audience at the Tuesday night shows for people with special needs.

- The women around the dining room table at a costume sewing bee.

- Going home in the early morning daylight after a Saturday-night cast party.

Looking back, I have no bad memories at all from my experiences in Music Mania – surely that says something about it. My memories have now become a blur of happy times.

Each person you talk to will, no doubt, have their own thoughts and memories of their participation in Music Mania but a common theme will be pride and satisfaction with their contribution to a worthwhile effort. More than 1,640 individuals have taken part in some way in Music Mania and more than \$84,000 has been given to 91 different charitable causes. Thus, there is no doubt that Music Mania has been a unique and strong force for good in our community.

In closing I would echo a line from this year's show, "The future of Music Mania will be assured as long as we have such a dedicated core of local enthusiasts." It remains a significant community-building tradition.

Former citizen of the year Don Petrie has been involved in 45 of the 49 Music Mania productions.