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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

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**

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## Editorial

### We can feel safe living in York

It shouldn't come as a surprise to many of you that crime, in general, is down by about 5 per cent overall in York Region.

That's certainly a testament of the absolute commitment to public safety amongst our police, fire, emergency and rescue service personnel. It also speaks volumes about how generally safe we feel in our neighbourhoods.

The region's frontline police officers are doing fine work, and, if there's any doubt, one need only consider their high rate of solving cases, such as hate crimes, break and enters and offences against property.

For example, there were 2,531 break and enters last year, compared with 2,858 two years ago, according to the latest statistics released by York Regional Police.

What could be the most serious threat to our safety, given the amount of time most of us spend on the roads commuting to work, school and places of recreation are fatal vehicle crashes. But even they, too, are at their lowest in three years.

The downward trend in the numbers means we don't just feel safer, we are safer.

And that's something of which we can all be proud.

Safety is, after all, a shared responsibility. Safe communities emerge when everyone works together to tackle crime and disorder.

And that includes taking into consideration what causes people to get involved in crime, as well as the social and environmental issues at play.

York Region has more than its fair share of happy and healthy neighbourhoods, with people who feel a sense of well-being, confidence and security as they go about their day-to-day activities.

One need only read about the contributions of the York Region Character Community award winners (go to yorkregion.com) to see there are more unsung heroes than there are awards with which to recognize them.

It would be all too easy with our hectic lifestyles and increasingly diverse neighbourhoods to resign ourselves to the fact we don't have the time to get involved, make a difference or begin a conversation with a potential new friend.

That's clearly not the York Region way and, for this, we can all feel proud to have contributed.



## Letters to the Editor

### Vandalism another reason to move out of Stouffville

This letter is for the individual(s) who vandalized my car. It was parked in the lot just south of Main Street on Park Drive, near my apartment.

Sometime between 11 p.m. April 23 and 4 p.m. April 25, you thought it would be fun to kick in the passenger side front-quarter panel, stomp all over my hood and leave a rock on my windshield. Surprisingly, my car alarm did not go off.

I haven't lived in Stouffville very long and don't know anyone here, so you don't know me personally.

If you did, you would know I'm a very peaceful person and would never do any harm to anyone or his property.

It is difficult not to take it personally because violating my property is like violating me.

It's bad enough being woken up at all hours by young people yelling and fighting up and down Main and Park. Why is nothing being done to stop this?

This is just one more reason for me to move, which is unfortunate because, for the most part, I like this town and I'm sure this behaviour is not indicative of the majority of people who live in Stouffville.

So, thank you for making me feel so welcome and safe in my new home.

SHARON MUISE  
STOUFFVILLE

### Book sale big on community

Once again, the community of Whitchurch-Stouffville has come through.

The public library's giant book sale raised more than \$14,700 during the

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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

4-1/2 days of the sale this year.

These funds will go toward augmenting the resources at the library, offering programs such as author visits and purchasing equipment.

The book sale fundraising committee has many, many people to thank for helping to make this book sale so successful.

They include the Stouffville firefighters, Lions Club of Stouffville, Richardson Masonic Lodge and the students of Stouffville Secondary and other neighbouring schools for their involvement in setting up and taking down the sale.

Thank you also to Lindy's Floral Boutique for donating balloons to the sale.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who gave so freely of their time, sorting, selling and packing and a special thank you to your newspaper for supporting the sale through advertisement and publicity.

Last but certainly not least, our greatest thanks go out not only to the citizens of Stouffville, but to our friends in neighbouring communities who came out in record numbers.

The continued success of this event is due to your generous support.

All this dedication and commitment is most appreciated.

JOHN RELPH  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOOK SALE COMMITTEE



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Class of '59 gathers while old school falls

Isn't it ironic?

Some members of the first Grade 9 class at the old Stouffville District High (now Secondary) School on Edward Street (now Bramble Crescent) reunited for the first time in 51 years – as their old school was being demolished.

Members of the class of '59 gathered with their wives near Guelph this spring. Lorne Avery lives on Vancouver Island. Gord Burkholder came in from Brantford, Gord McKay out of Ajax and Dave Stouffer from Thornhill.

"We were inseparable buddies in high school," Mr. Avery, 68, said. "And we were well known at the time to our science teachers (including John Marshall) as amateur rocket builders – an enterprise that would probably land us in serious trouble today."

None became rocket scientists, but some came close. They could be poster boys for launching careers and families out of once tiny Stouffville High.

Mr. Burkholder was a mechanical engineer. Mr. Avery was an astrophysicist with the National Research Council for 35 years. Mr. Stouffer was an actuary in Toronto and Mr. McKay taught at Pickering High for 34 years.

A couple of them stayed in touch through the decades. Some visited each other. Another was tracked down over the Internet, once the idea of a reunion was hatched.

"We used to have a problem achieving controlled burns with our home-made rocket fuel," Mr. McKay said. "Our rockets tended to go bang on the ground rather than soar aloft."

The new school they walked into in the mid-1950s closed three years ago and was replaced by the new SDSS on Weldon Road, with or without an amateur rocket club.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.