

**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

### OSPCA needs clean sweep

The OSPCA has lost all credibility, yet the agency is missing the boat on its one chance to restore public faith.

Its Whitchurch-Stouffville shelter has been plagued by bad decisions — choices that allowed a ringworm outbreak, the decision the best course of action to eliminate the fungus was mass euthanasia and the decision to stay tight-lipped for long periods of time while an angry public demanded answers — but the latest decision has the potential to make all those seem like minor slip-ups.

Its board of directors is selecting an independent consultant to launch an investigation of current protocols and suggest changes to the way the outbreak was handled, according to OSPCA CEO Kate MacDonald.

The investigation is the right move, but unless the OSPCA and its board of governors have no part in it, it's a waste of time.

The board could choose the most impartial consultant, who might perform the most thorough investigation, but if there's even a hint of a cover-up, the public won't buy it.

Yet Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees' attempt to have the province take control of the investigation was dismissed by acting premier Dwight Duncan, who insists the government has confidence in the OSPCA and will allow the organization to oversee its own investigation.

It's that kind of blind faith by the government that led us here in the first place.

The government had that same confidence in the agency when it decided not to intervene when the OSPCA announced 350 animals were to die. Fortunately, public backlash saved all but about 100 animals.

The shelter and its board of governors need to tell the Community Safety and Correctional Services Ministry, which is responsible for the OSPCA, to find someone else to handle the probe.

A government-appointed investigator would report back to the government, which would then have the authority to see all suggestions are put in place.

And those suggestions should be put in place under a new board of directors and CEO.

The directors and Ms MacDonald need to resign over the decision to euthanize all the animals, which, in the end, proved unnecessary, despite assurances it was the only option.

The shelter has the opportunity to undo a lot of the mess it created, but it can't do it on its own.



## Letters to the Editor

### Why does colour matter at Latcham Gallery?

Re: 'Colourless world' painted for SDSS, column by Jim Thomas, May 13.

After reading Mr. Thomas' excellent column concerning efforts at Stouffville District Secondary School to make it and society at large a "colourless world", I was dismayed to see an advertisement in The Sun-Tribune for an art camp co-ordinator and art camp assistant for Latcham Gallery where "priority will be given to visible minority candidates".

I thought in a perfect world jobs were given to the best qualified.

We should be living in a world where no one even notices anyone's colour, not one where, in this case, you have to have a colour.

Colourless vs colour only.

ANNE SCOTT  
STOUFFVILLE

### Town employees to rescue

I woke up one morning to find our house needed minor repairs, which would have become very serious if left unattended.

While out shopping, I approached some Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville employees and asked if they knew someone who might tackle the problem. They were not in an immediate position to recommend someone but would look into the matter.

Much to my appreciation, two town employees, after finishing their regular scheduled work, turned up at my house to initiate the necessary repairs. They then left, refusing to accept any remuneration. Thanks, fellows.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson, you can be justly proud of the high standards of community relationship our local

municipal employees have established on behalf of the town.

I am proud to live in Stouffville, where people help others.

GEORGE GORRINGE  
STOUFFVILLE

### Lebovic Centre instructors supportive, encouraging

This winter, I had a fall that resulted in a broken wrist and thumb.

After three casts and lots of sitting around, I realized I had gained seven pounds with each cast. Being a 57-year-old woman, to say I was not impressed with myself would be an understatement.

I went to the Lebovic Leisure Centre with my cast on and spoke with fitness supervisor Barb Armstrong. Her advice was that I could still do a lot of activities. I was so wrapped up in the "I can't do anything but feel sorry for myself and gain weight" attitude.

She set me up with a personal trainer named Eric. Just what I needed, a young man in great shape telling me what to do with this overweight, out-of-shape body.

The next week, I went to Jill's yoga class with, guess what, a young woman in great shape suggesting what to do with this overweight, out-of-shape body.

Well, five weeks have gone by. I haven't missed a class with Eric or my twice-weekly yoga class with Jill. I have traded in my cast for a brace, lost five pounds and, best of all, gained a whole group of instructors who give me support and encouragement to continue.

Now, if I could do that one push-up.

PEGGY SINCLAIR  
STOUFFVILLE



## Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Nominations open for citizen, sports awards

I think it's one of the coolest things about living in Whitchurch-Stouffville, but I'm biased.

For more than 30 years, the community has annually paid tribute to two of its best residents. The citizen and sports person of the year awards are handed out during the Strawberry Festival.

Not every Canadian town does this, but they all should.

The Sun-Tribune is proud to sponsor and organize the program. It's a bit like planning the small-town Oscars. During the weeks leading up to the Canada Day weekend presentations, the process is open to nominations.

A committee then reviews the submitted resumes, the recipients are selected, notified and duly honoured in front of a large — hopefully — gathering of their peers, family and friends.

The call to a winner is usually met with: "Wasn't there anyone else nominated?" or "This is a prank, right, Mason?"

Here's an inside tip: nominations for this year's award are now open. Your homework assignment is to assemble an impressive package promoting a worthy candidate from your corner of town.

This isn't a vote. One fact-filled folder with letters of reference and a strong resume is better than 100 one-line e-mails. Trust me.

And it's not just about what the nominee did during the last year in the sports world or community at large. It should be a culmination of their life's work. And the less self-serving the better. Judges appreciate residents who got involved, not to benefit their family or business, but to serve their neighbours. Period.

Nominations should be e-mailed to jmason@yrmg.com or dropped/mailed to 6290 Main St.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.