

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

Smallest of crimes leaves large impression

On a beautiful Saturday morning, my two-year-old son and I were attending the Latham Gallery's family day.

We arrived with a child's wagon (my son being pulled by me) and to avoid creating congestion inside, we left the wagon out front of the gallery and Care & Share building.

I wasn't worried about it being taken because, after all, this is Stouffville.

I thought, "The people are decent here and who would want to steal a faded blue wagon in such a busy place?"

I was wrong. When we exited an hour later, the wagon was gone. With the help of others, we looked all around, but no luck in finding it. My son kept asking all day, "Where is wagon, Daddy?"

I know this is a fairly minor crime. The point of my letter is as minor as this crime was,

HAVE YOUR SAY, STOUFFVILLE

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

there is still a victim.

I feel hollow and angry. When something like this happens, you lose a little bit of your faith that people are good for the most part.

Crime hurts us all and even the smallest of crimes changes a person. It's not just a financial or material loss; it's an emotional scarring that isn't undone easily.

Crime affects people and people make up communities. Each time it happens, we lose a little more of our innocence and start locking away more and more of ourselves.

Thank you for reading,

STEVE NOORHOFF
STOUFFVILLE



Stouffville teenager proves he has political future

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, we need the new generation to step up to the plate.

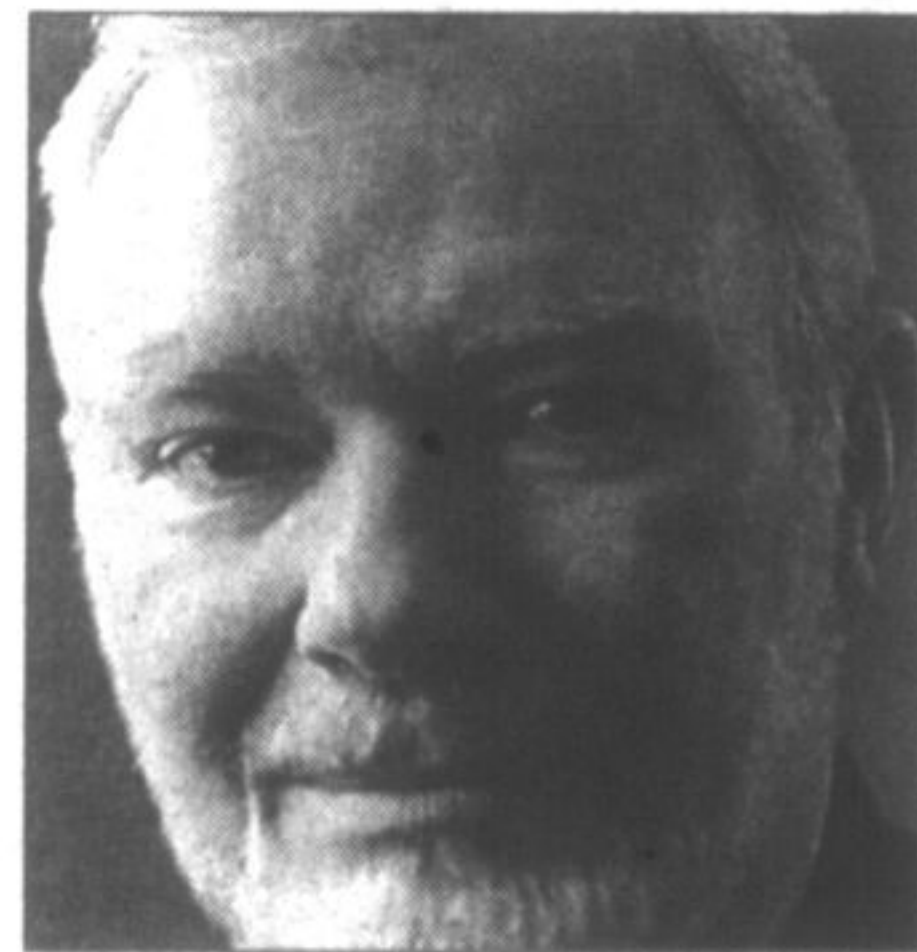
I was pleased to recently read in The Sun-Tribune about Stouffville student John Pehar who managed to convince the town, with relatively little effort, to place a four-way stop on the streets near his house.

The 16-year-old is to be congratulated for his initiative and community spirit for his concern.

Whenever I get the opportunity to speak to local politicians or municipal staff, I always point out one hazardous problem that has existed for many years but with not near the interest or success generated by this one young man.

Since all my talking, cajoling, prodding, complaining and writing letters for the past 20 years has made no difference, I would ask John to come over to Summitview Public School and check out the lack of sidewalks for the many students and their parents who must trudge to school each day on Stouffer Street.

The sidewalk on Main Street makes a graceful turn onto Stouffer street and ends at the



Morley Lymburner

first driveway entrance to the school. From that point south, there is no sidewalk. With winter snowbanks, parents and children must walk on the roadway north to the school driveway entrance.

The sidewalk on the east side only services the plaza and pedestrians wishing to safely stay on the sidewalks must cross at the traffic lights about 100 meters to the north.

Since we are on the subject, there is no shortage of work for this young man in Stouffville.

He could also start by putting in reports about:

- Dead-end streets: There is no apparent traffic-load grid in the

town. If one attempts to take almost any side street north from Main, you will find it blocked off at some point. This, of course, causes heavier traffic congestion on other streets, not to mention what emergency services people must think when they have to get to an address in a hurry.

A fine example is the dead-end on Edward Street where the old high school was torn down.

There is no apparent reason for this to be closed off. A new police officer in town might be in for a surprise if he goes north thinking he can answer a call on Millard.

- Tripping over existing sidewalks: There is no shortage of sidewalks heaved and cracked to make pedestrians walk with caution.

- Lack of sidewalks: Anyone who has walked around the heritage areas will quickly see the contempt the town has for separating pedestrians from cars. It is obvious, when given the choice, cars win.

- Obstructed views at stop signs: Several locations have shrubs and bushes so thick near intersections that motorists automatically pull their cars much further into the cross streets than is safe.

- Plethora of senseless 40 km/h

zones: There was a time when 40 zones were strictly for school zones. Given this criteria, Stouffville must have a high number of schools that are not apparently obvious as such.

The real pointless part of all this is that if there are schools on these streets, why not put more sidewalks on them so the kiddies don't have to walk on the roads?

Add to all this that we live in a town with a hyphenated name where the first two syllables are silent (causing us to look under "W" in the phone book for Stouffville), I have come to the conclusion that there is no such thing as gravity... the whole world just sucks.

Given the realization I am probably getting a little too old and grumpy to complain about all these apparently minor things, I now see a perfect opportunity for the younger generation to take over.

John, it is an election year. You could well be just the perfect answer. You may have my vote whenever you are ready.

Stouffville resident Morley Lymburner is group publisher of Blue Line Magazine Inc. on Main Street, a national magazine serving the law enforcement community.