

Sun-Tribune

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Fax: 905-640-8778

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ADVERTISING
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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

DISTRIBUTION
Circulation
Supervisor
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
Press
Council

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Circulations
Audit Board
Member

OPINION

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

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly

BUSINESS
MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR,
OPERATIONS
Barry Black

DIRECTOR,
ADVERTISING,
DISTRIBUTION
Nicole Fletcher

DIRECTOR,
REGIONAL PRODUCTS,
CLASSIFIED,
TODAY'S HOMES
Debra Weller

Editorial

Study up for election day

How is your municipal election IQ, Mr. and Mrs. Voter?

In recent years, our informal surveys of residents have found a surprisingly large number of eligible voters don't have all the facts.

And with election day (Oct. 25) just more than six weeks away, it's time to start studying, Whitchurch-Stouffville.

We found residents who didn't know in which ward they lived, let alone who the candidates were.

And with Whitchurch-Stouffville's six ward boundaries tweaked for the upcoming election, you may need a refresher. In other words, that ward you always voted in may not be your ward this time around.

Some residents are luckier than others. They've had candidates already at their doors, dropping pamphlets and informing them of their ward, key dates and top issues, at least in the mind of that candidate.

And there are some interesting races out there on the eve of the final day to enter or withdraw from the contest.

The mayoral battle features three candidates, at this writing,

Justin Altmann got off the mark early with his brochures and campaigning. (Don't forget, he put on an impressive showing, albeit in defeat, four years ago in Ward 2 against incumbent Phil Bannon.)

Political newcomer Christine Vlachos submitted her papers Friday to also challenge incumbent Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

The \$64,000 question is whether or not former mayor and councillor Sue Sherban, who announced at a council meeting last March she was running for mayor, will register.

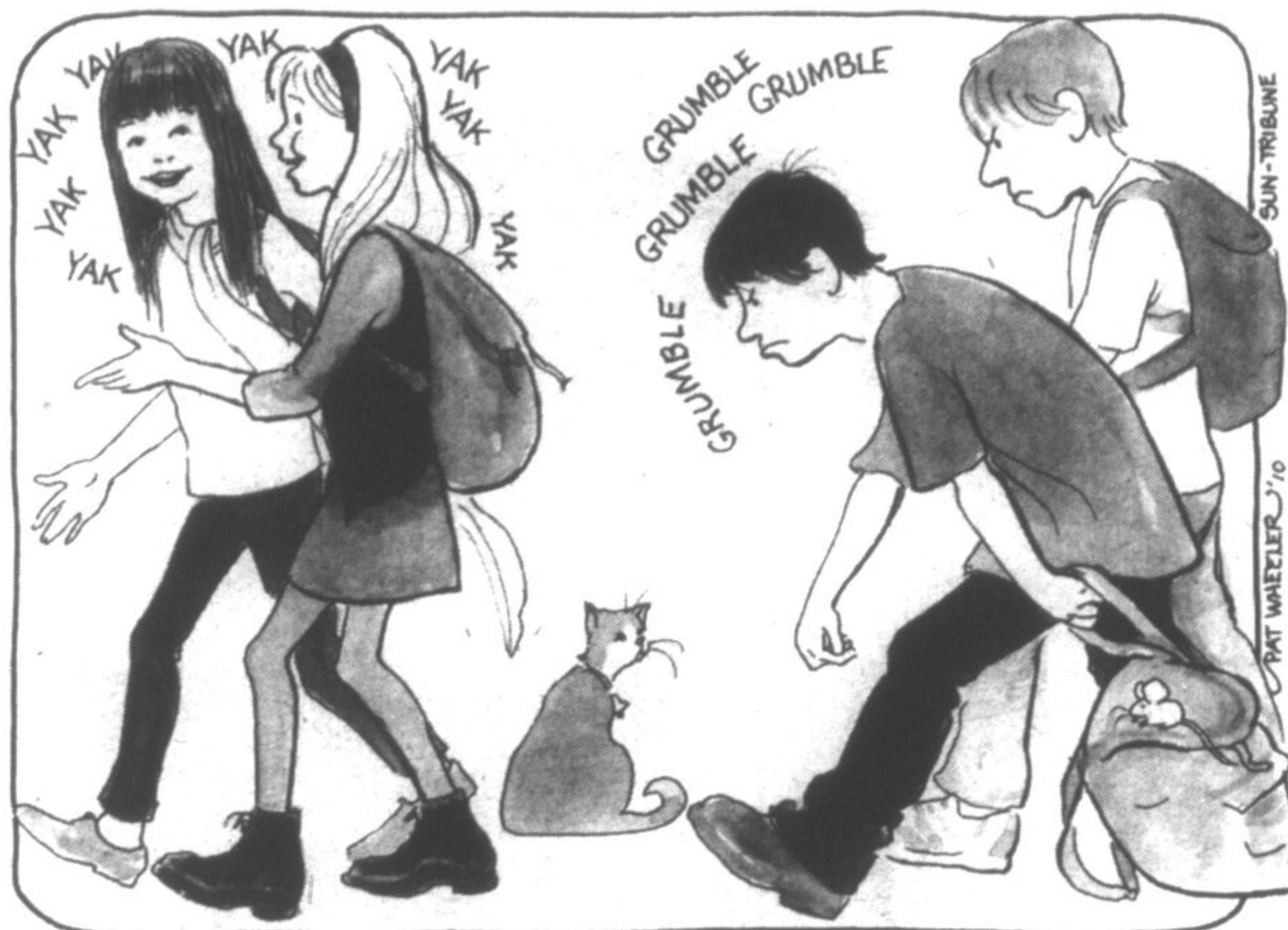
Stay tuned. We'll have the definitive answer on yorkregion.com tomorrow, as well as in Saturday's Sun-Tribune.

Your homework assignment is to learn as much as possible about the candidates and your ward.

Start with townofws.com/election.asp where the municipality has compiled much of the information you'll need, including contact information for the candidates. There's also a list of commonly asked questions and answers. Don't have access to the Internet? Phone in your questions to 905-640-1900.

Want to see the candidates in action? The Sun-Tribune and Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library are hosting an all-candidates meeting at Stouffville District Secondary School Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. Meet the hopefuls and see how they react under pressure.

Get your election on, Stouffville.



Letters to the Editor

Modern trains sound like moose in quicksand

Re: Train whistle wastes energy, awakens people unnecessarily, letter to the editor by Paul J. Youngman, Aug. 19.

In early Britain, the train had a single whistle similar to the note on a little tin whistle. (Check out Thomas on the kids channel.)

The great steam engines in Canada in the 20th century has a pleasant major third, key of F, not unlike the first note of the ladies' duet at church.

As the diesels took over from steam, we got used to the C major 6th, four notes, the cord often found at the end of a '60s pop number.

Recently, several new engines have been coming into town and the call is sounding very much like a bull moose caught in quicksand or in a bog.

Dear Mayor Emmerson, I will welcome the sound of the robins and cardinals when the train whistles are silenced.

RON BROWNSBERGER
STOUFFVILLE

Why rip up new trees?

I'm curious as to who the brilliant planners were that arranged for Enbridge to rip out all the recently planted trees along Ninth Line to install pipe.

Talk about a prime example of poor planning and wasteful expenditures.

Two years ago, dozens of trees were planted on the east side of Ninth Line south of Stouffville, I would assume in preparation for future beautification.

Anyone driving along Ninth Line north of Sixteenth Avenue in Markham last week saw many of those trees now uprooted and lying

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

dead or dying beside an Enbridge pipeline.

The municipality or region ought to be ashamed of itself for such waste.

STEVE BULL
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

New Good Samaritans embrace spirit of Stouffville

On Monday evening, my 85-year-old father took a series of falls, the last of which had him land in his driveway, unable to move or rise.

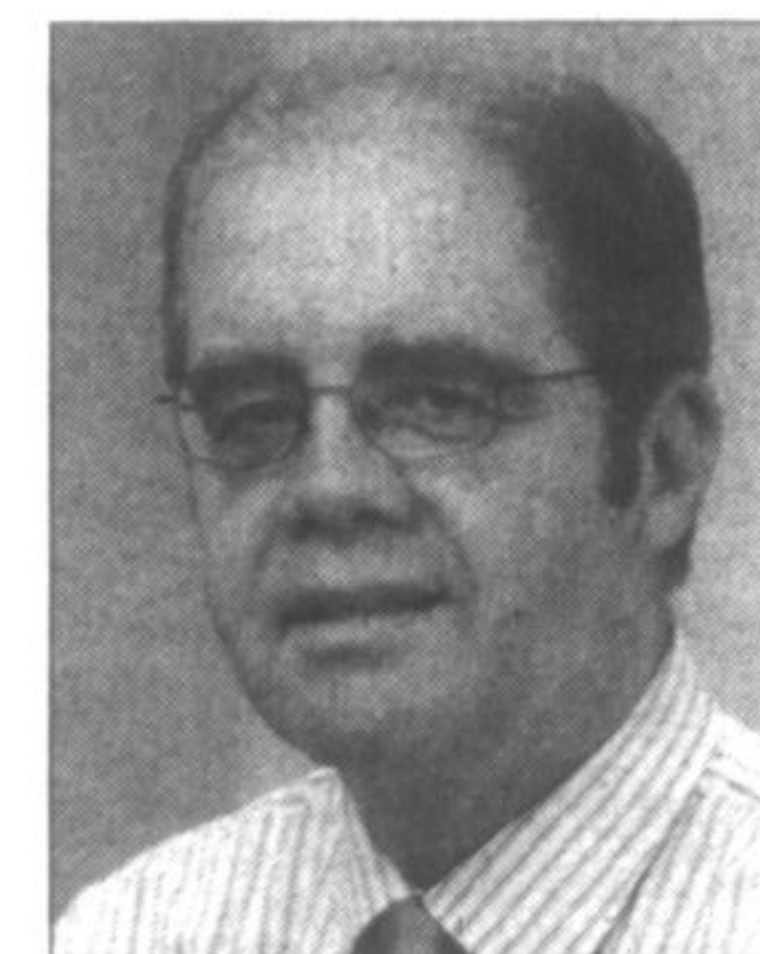
A young couple driving by glimpsed Dad in the driveway as they passed and turned around to render assistance.

They took him into the house, called 911 and waited with him until the arrival of an ambulance. They called me to alert me to the problem and before they left, they turned out the lights and locked the door.

For those who think Stouffville has become too large and our newer residents have not embraced or seen the kindness of spirit in our town, I would like to remind them that people like Jan Strudwick and her husband are very much among us.

Our family's heartfelt thanks is owed to this wonderful young couple.

JOAN LUCE
STOUFFVILLE



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Thank your kids for making you new friends

I feel badly for people without children and, this time, it has nothing to do with the kids.

Those offspring are merely a means to an end this time around.

Before the children of Stouffville storm our Main Street offices like Lilliputians and tie me down like Gulliver in Memorial Park, let me explain.

Parents will do anything for their kids, from doing their science fair projects to donating vital organs.

But there's a fringe benefit those of us fortunate enough to raise kids know all about - adult friends.

Chances are, many of your friends were introduced to you via your children's friends.

It's especially true at this time of year, as sports and leisure activities seasons end and begin, meet-the-teacher barbecues are on the front burner and youth groups fire up for the fall.

It's like eHarmony without the Internet or the romance. You're grouped with people with things in common, including age, geographical setting and children of like ages.

You'll meet over a steaming cup of joe at the soccer field or dance studio or a hotdog in the school/church yard or arena lobby.

You'll reconvene at birthday parties and school concerts.

You'll end up doing dinners and taking road trips together.

But just like in dating, you won't take every relationship to that level.

In some cases, you'll make lifelong friends who you'll see at weddings and anniversary celebrations.

For that, you can thank your children.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.