

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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

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

Canadian
Circulations
Audit Board
Member

OPINION

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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 Lazaruk

DIRECTOR,
OPERATIONS
Barry Black

DIRECTOR,
ADVERTISING,
DISTRIBUTION
Nicole Fletcher

DIRECTOR,
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TODAY'S HOMES
Debra Weller

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Writers shouldn't attack

Re: letters to the editor, Train whistle wastes energy, awakens people unnecessarily by Paul J. Youngman, Aug. 19, and Council has bigger things than whistle to work on by P. Kovach, Sept. 4.

The first letter writer put forth his thoughts in a civil way, but the second letter, replying to the first, was rude, vitriolic and personally insulting.

Mr. Editor, is it a good idea for the paper or for the community to print letters that attack other writers?

I think not.

MARILYNN MULKINS
STOUFFVILLE

Foundation helped sick cat get better

I want to share how the Farley Foundation helped my family get medical attention for our beautiful four-year-old male tabby cat.

If it weren't for the foundation, sadly, we would have been forced to consider euthanizing our otherwise healthy cat, which had a urinary tract infection.

Our little furry guy was in a lot of pain and my family could not afford the veterinary fees.

Thanks to the foundation's generosity, our cat is on the mend.

SANDY COOPER
NEWMARKET

Flowers brighten Main St.

I would like to commend the person who has been taking care of the Main Street flowers this year.

They are beautiful and the nicest we have seen in our 10-plus years living in Stouffville.

L. TODD
STOUFFVILLE

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



Sit down, discuss election issues with our psychiatrist

Setting: Psychiatrist's office, somewhere in York Region, just days before nominations close for the upcoming municipal elections. There is a knock on the door and a patient walks in.

Psychiatrist: Hello, Mr. Editor! How are you? Longtime no see, er, I mean see. You're looking good.

Editor: Thanks, doc. I'm OK, I guess.

Psychiatrist: Why, I haven't seen you in nearly, well, let me see ... four years! What brings you here?

Editor: It's the election.

Psychiatrist: Oh yes, the provincial election. Isn't that next year? I can see why you're anxious. Could be a close one. Sit down, let's talk about it.

Editor: No, it's not the provincial election.

Psychiatrist: Oh, of course, my apologies. The federal election. Could happen at any time, they always say, what with the minority government... Although they've been saying that for years. Is that making you nervous?

Editor: No, not the federal election.

Psychiatrist: Oh, well, I knew that. Let me see. Not the provincial election, not the federal election. It must be...er ... the upcoming congressional elections in the U.S! I can see how that might upset some people. Could be a setback for Obama. Please, tell me your thoughts and you might feel better.

Editor: It's not the U.S. elections.



Bernie O'Neill

Psychiatrist: Um, ah, well, then — the UK! They have a new, I guess, prime minister? Not with a majority but, some sort of coalition ... with another chap who looks just like him. Has that prompted feelings of depression?

Editor: Not the UK elections.

The psychiatrist scratches his beard and paces around the room next to the couch, where the editor is now lying down. Finally, the psychiatrist's eyes open wide.

Psychiatrist: Of course! It's the hockey association board of governors election! I knew it! I recall those things bothered you, how that was all conducted. Held at the restaurant and some of you "who have to work" can't get there on time. Yes, yes, I remember...

Editor: No, it's not the hockey association.

Psychiatrist (pausing for a second, then smiling): Well, you've stumped

me. We've been at this 10 minutes and I still can't figure it out. But that's fine, seeing as you're paying by the hour.

Editor: Doctor, don't you see? It's the municipal election. You know, the mayor and the councillors.

Psychiatrist: Counsellors? As in psychiatric counsellors?

Editor: No, not counsellors. Councilors, as in people who sit on the council. They make all kinds of decisions regarding, well... municipal stuff.

Psychiatrist: You mean like health care and education? A council candidate dropped a flyer at my house and said those were two of his big issues.

Editor: That's the problem, doc. The council doesn't make decisions on health care and education. Yet some of the new candidates will say their issues are health care, education, you name it. The St. Lawrence Seaway. Canada's role in the Arctic. Off-shore oil drilling. NATO. The B.C. salmon fishery.

Psychiatrist: Oh yes, the salmon fishery. They could put some pressure on, couldn't they? Write some letters?

Editor: But doc! That's the point. Half the town doesn't even know what the councillors do! And a few candidates don't know, either.

Psychiatrist: Well, you have to educate them.

Editor: We've been reporting on what the council does. And a lot of people still have no idea and couldn't be bothered

to find out.

Psychiatrist: And why is that?

Editor: I think it's because the councillors make sure the garbage is picked up and roads are plowed and the water comes out of the tap.

Psychiatrist: I see. It's just not sexy.

Editor: Exactly. Not sexy at all.

The psychiatrist scratches his beard.

Psychiatrist: What about firefighters.

Editor: Firefighters?

Psychiatrist: You know, firefighters, lifting weights and posing for calendars and cooking lasagna in the fire hall.

Editor: What about them?

Psychiatrist: Aren't the councillors the ones who, indirectly, decide how many firefighters get hired?

Editor: I suppose so. But I don't mean "sexy". Local government is not that interesting to some people. But the truth is local government may have more direct impact on their lives than any other level of government, with libraries, rec centres, city beautification, parks, roads, police and fire. That's it! That's what I'll tell people. That local government has a huge impact on their lives, more than federal and almost as much as the hockey association! Thanks, doc. You've been a real help.

Psychiatrist: No problem. That will be \$200.

Stouffville resident Bernie O'Neill is a York Region Media Group editor.