

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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Editorial

Buying locally makes sense

Get some good deals during your Black Friday trip south of the border last weekend?

Same goes for your online purchases from whoknowswhere.com? You saved money and completed most of your Christmas shopping. Good for you.

Or is it? We believe as many of your dollars as possible should be spent at home. That means Whitchurch-Stouffville.

And with Stouffville's growing retail side, there are more opportunities than ever to spend that money at home.

Why, you say?

Because dollars spent in your home town multiply several times over.

They pay the wages of your neighbours, who then buy food, gasoline, clothes, movies and other items here.

Those dollars sponsor local clubs, sports teams, festivals and other events.

They pay taxes at several levels of government, which supply services and facilities we all use.

There's also the matter of building community, of getting to know store clerks and managers. It comes in handy when you need something repaired or replaced.

At the same time, you're saving time and money by not driving out of this area or even the country. You're also reducing your carbon footprint. Even better, walk to a neighbourhood store.

Retailers and store associations are wising up to this, too. Downtown Stouffville merchants are giving gift certificates to shoppers spending at least \$150 by Dec. 12.

They are holding other events, too, including a men's shopping night, movie events and tomorrow night's light tour.

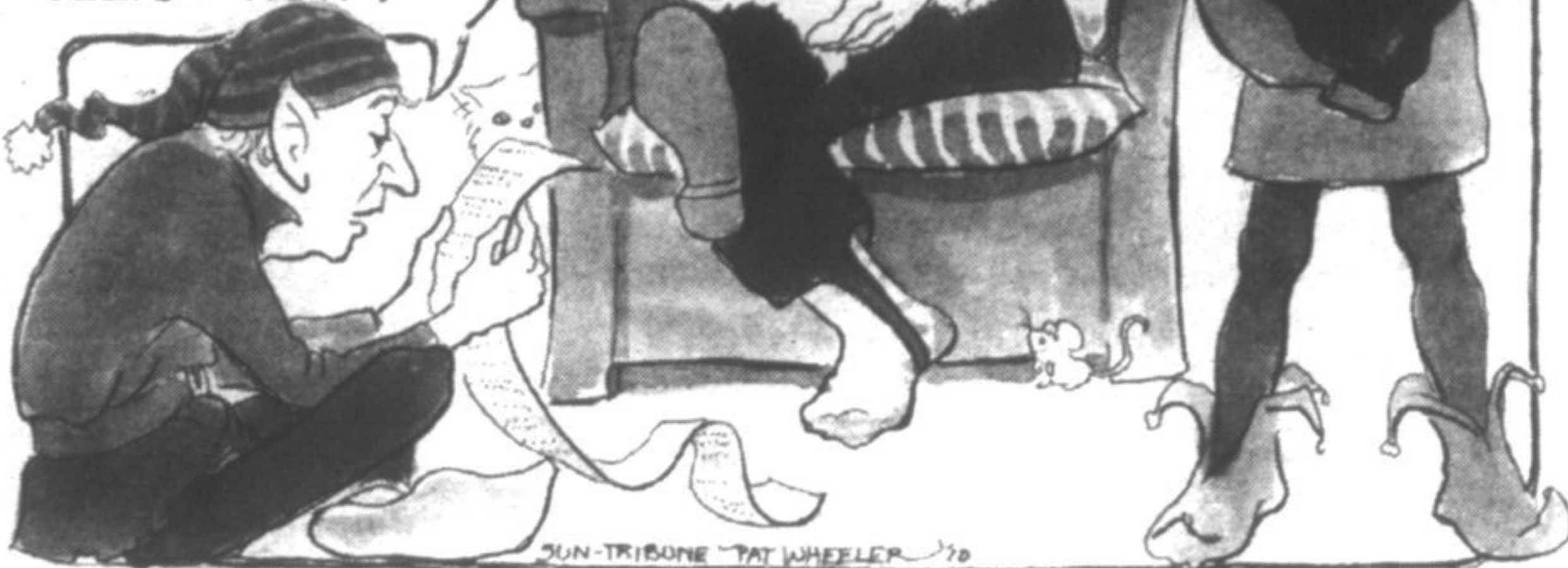
Smart move. It gets people into their neighbourhood, hopefully to return and tell their friends and neighbours about the experience.

Not everyone realizes how dollars circulate in our community. A minor sports coach called The Sun-Tribune to ask if we had contact names and other information for Stouffville's grocery stores. The team was running a fundraiser and looking for donations of food it could serve at the event.

When we suggested the coaches speak to a manager next time they were in the stores, we were told the team buys their groceries out of town at a wholesale discounter.

That's not how the game should be played.

SATURDAY YOU'RE IN
STOUFFVILLE, AND
MRS CLAUS SAYS...
...NO PIES, TARTS
SQUARES OR
COOKIES FROM
REESORS... YOU
BARELY FIT IN YOUR
SLEIGH NOW!



Letters to the Editor

Fill at mill wrong move, but money must stay in park

Re: Stouffville park's camping, BMX area scrubbed, Nov. 25.

I am puzzled by the term "restoration area" as applied to the dumping of fill at Bruce's Mill.

To restore means "to bring back to a previous or original condition". The dumpsite land was cleared of its original tree cover in the early 1800s and converted to agricultural use, which continued until 2009.

If the desire was to restore the area to forest cover, then restoration would be a simple matter of replanting it to trees. What was once a valley has been converted into a massive hill that has far from finished growing, thanks to the dumping of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of fill.

Ask any local farmer to take you on a tour of farms where fill has been dumped; you will find the productive capability of that farm has been severely compromised, at best.

This isn't an open pit coal mine being restored. It is (or, at least, was) pristine agricultural land with a soil profile that took millions of years to establish, ideal for agricultural crops or trees in its original state.

The only thing being restored is the TRCA's bank account for revenue it will receive for those 7,000 loads of fill. The project is a serious betrayal of TRCA's mandate of conservation and restoration.

To add insult to injury, conservation staff now inform us the revenue generated will not necessarily flow into improvements for Bruce's Mill.

Since the glory days of the early 1970s, Bruce's Mill has slowly circled the drain into its current state of neglect and disrepair, demonstrating it is one

thing to build buildings and trails; it is another to maintain same. There has always been a shortage of money for maintenance.

For the ambitious expansion plans to succeed and the conservation area to thrive, it is only right the money generated by the fill dumping stay at Bruce's Mill.

I hope there will be a large turnout at the next public meeting by residents of the Stouffville area and others who use the space to demand the same.

We must use the funds generated from this ill-conceived fill dumping project to stay on site to improve current conditions and future conservation projects at Bruce's Mill.

GUY FARINTOSH
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Girls night helps build museum

Re: Girls Night Out has historic cause, Oct. 21.

Thank you to the woman who attended the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum event Nov. 4 at Nineteen on the Park.

As a result of your participation, we were able to make significant progress toward our objective of raising money for the museum's Build A Future for Our Past campaign.

The money raised will be used to purchase specialized equipment to enhance the programming and preservation capacity of our new visitor/community centre building.

Thanks to suppliers and sponsors, including Applewood Farm Winery, Truly Scrumptious and The Cornerhouse on Main, plus the media, for promoting this event. Many attendees hope this will be an annual event.

BILL BURNETT
MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Living the dream has its nightmares

Mark Osborne would appear to have lived the dream.

He married a Hollywood actress, played 14 years under the NHL's brightest lights — in Manhattan, Toronto and Detroit and retired to work in the game — he still loves.

Not so fast, the Toronto native who still lives in the city, told about 75 men and boys at a breakfast hosted by Springvale Church Saturday at Sleepy Hollow Country Club. All our lives are pretty similar, with significant ups and downs, he said.

Downs? Try figuring out your dad committing suicide while you're on top of the hockey world with the New York Rangers. Or another family member, a Presbyterian preacher, being killed in a car accident.

Lately, it's been the deaths of former coach Pat Burns and Leaf teammate Luke Richardson's daughter, Daron.

Already a church-goer, Mr. Osborne, now 49, turned to Christianity at 14, thanks to a preacher from the Billy Graham organization, and hasn't looked back.

"I don't have the answers," he said. "But my faith helps me get through those times."

He works with Hockey Ministries International, which brings Christ into the game, including offering chapel in 25 leagues across North America.

That wasn't happening when Mr. Osborne, and friends Mike Gartner and Wes Jarvis who joined him for breakfast, played in the big 20 years ago.

He's also an analyst with Leafs TV, where an edge remains in his game.

"The last time the Leafs won the Cup, I was in diapers," he said, tongue in cheek, "and the next time they win it, I'll be in diapers again."

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.