

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

Time to pony up for your hospital

When the long-awaited \$400-million Markham Stouffville Hospital expansion was formally finalized last month, hospital CEO Janet Beed asked residents to reflect.

To consider the life cycle of an average family, from coming to the hospital to deliver their first baby to mammograms, magnetic resonance imaging, hip replacement and eventually end-of-life care.

"This is what one hospital means to one family," she said.

Excellent reminder.

Markham Stouffville Hospital boasts 1,800 staff and 330 physicians. The expansion will double the size of the facility and bring in 875 more staff and 60 new physicians to meet the needs of more families amidst a growing and aging population.

It will offer, among other things, more inpatient beds and operating rooms, expanded ambulatory clinics, a maternal child unit and a mental health program.

There will be tree-lined boulevard-like driveways, big glass windows, a state-of-the-art new emergency department, a wellness garden and helicopter landing pad.

"This is your hospital in 2013," Ms Beed said.

But before looking ahead, let's go back to pre-1990.

Pre-Markham Stouffville Hospital. Consider your life without it.

For residents of Stouffville, and many more in Markham, that meant at least a 20-minute ambulance ride to the nearest hospital. That was hardly acceptable - as the 290,000 residents of Vaughan know so well. They still don't have their own hospital.

Most Stouffville babies were born in Scarborough. People requiring specialized care or assessment had to travel similar distances for help.

We now have a hospital 10 minutes from our back door. We have specialists and clinics on the same campus.

Stouffville residents must take a bow, from philanthropist Art Latham who donated the land for the hospital, to the pioneers who fought for years to have the province recognize a need for a hospital in this corner of Ontario.

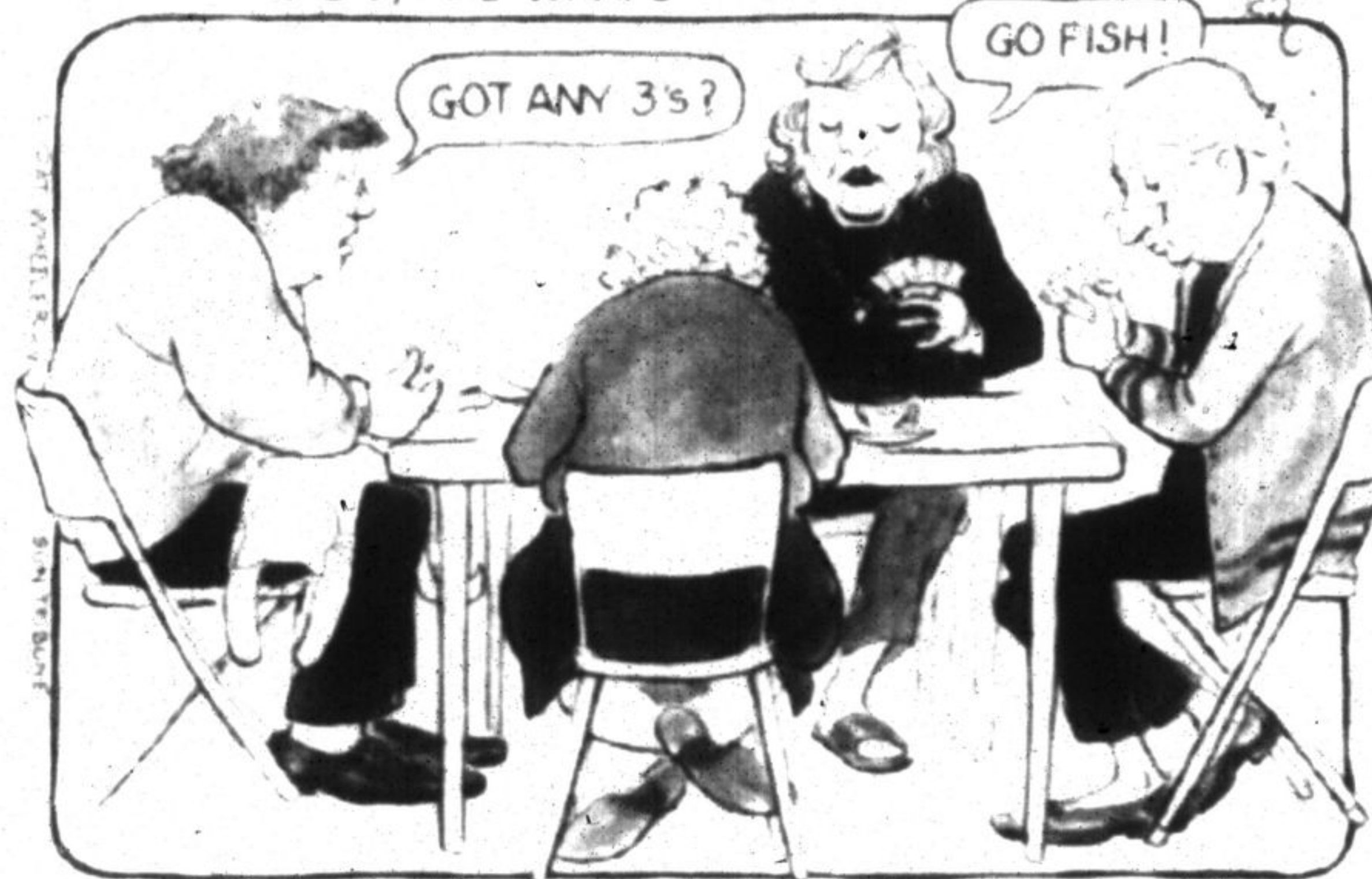
Now, Markham Stouffville Hospital is asking for our help.

The province will fund 90 per cent of eligible construction costs; the hospital foundation will raise \$50 million within the community to furnish the new building.

As you consider donating to the campaign, consider life without your hospital.

It's a no-brainer.

WHEN THE BRIDGE CLUB NO LONGER REMEMBERS WHO DEALT, WHAT WAS BID, AND WHAT'S TRUMP



Letters to the Editor

Collect development money before spending it, council

Re: Questions grow around development charges, letter to the editor by Margaret May, Jan. 8.

Question? Why are there different rules and regulations for these developers, when there is a Development Charges Act? Who is responsible for the Development Charges Act?

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's development charges deficit has been increasing under Mayor Wayne Emmerson's leadership.

The status of these development charges are unknown. We only know they have increased and the mayor and his office seem to be ignoring this, conveniently.

The treasury department needs a complete overhaul and someone to take over the helm and get the job done.

If the person who is now in charge cannot fulfill their obligation to the taxpayers, then resigning is the proper thing to do.

This does not mean Mr. Emmerson should bring in his consultants to tell us what we already know, all at an added cost to all of us.

Concentrate on collecting the money before spending it.

ANNA ALDRED

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Consumers can't tell where food is from

It is extremely disappointing Canadian consumers wanting to support local food are not always served well by Canadian food labels.

The members of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario are very

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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

disappointed that the labelling practices of Canadian food processors and retailers don't always clearly identify where the food was grown and processed.

But there are some bright spots. Our fresh fruits and vegetables have excellent mandatory labelling rules that provide Canadians with informed choices when making their purchasing decisions.

We believe consumers should have that same knowledge for all of their food purchasing decisions.

If you care about where your food comes from, you need to ask yourself if current labelling practices really give you enough information about where your food comes from.

If you find the answer as dissatisfying as we do, you need to talk to your MP about this important food issue.

HENRY STEVENS

PRESIDENT
CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION
OF ONTARIO

You can read letters, columns and stories from The Sun-Tribune on yorkregion.com



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Our growing environmental problem in bag

I'm not sure if I'm part of the problem or the solution.

And whether they could have actually shot an episode of A&E's Hoarders in my garage is also up for debate.

But like many suburbanites, there was a large collection of disposable bags from pretty much every retailer in and around Stouffville piling up out there.

Funny, back then, the couple with the bring-you-own canvas bags at Metro (then A & P) or the LCBO were the oddballs.

Flash forward to 2011 and I've got more reusable bags than I know what to do with it.

They're now piling up.

Our son returned from a university and college fair a couple of years ago saddled with enough satchels to open his own retail outlet. Selling bags.

Awkward, but it does leave one with options.

If I want to look intelligent, I can lug a fruit tray to a friend's in a bag from Queen's or the University of Toronto.

Creative? An Ontario College of Art and Design or Sheridan College bag will work.

My York Regional Police number is not a get-out-of-jail card. I just like its look.

I looked, but didn't have a bag from Lululemon or Sears, both recalled over concerns with lead.

Brampton-based Loblaw, which includes Stouffville's NoFrills in its group of stores, has sold more than 35 million reusable bags. There are about 34 million Canadians.

When will we officially have too many reusable bags? Is enough enough already?

And when will an environmental group point to the reusable as the next anti-green problem?

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.