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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

Stouffville **Sun-Tribune**

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## Editorial

### Go public with information

No one should be surprised the future of the outdoor pool in Stouffville Memorial Park is up in the air.

It's been on life support for years, given an annual extension even after the indoor pool in the Lebovic Leisure Centre opened next door.

Until now.

A local pool company estimates it will cost around \$1 million to repair it.

With that in mind, town staff is telling council it should put money into an accessible water park in the pool's place. There is big-time grant money available. And no one can argue our town needs to be as accessible and inclusive as possible.

No decision on the pool's ultimate future has been made, but there is no money in this year's budget to rehabilitate and open it.

Councillor Rob Hargrave, whose ward includes Memorial Park, says he knew nothing about the poor condition of the pool until a report was received by council last week. He was caught flat-footed and ill-prepared, he said.

The councillor is now rallying residents to save the pool - or tell him they'd prefer the new water facility.

Fair enough.

It's interesting that none of this came out during last fall's municipal election campaign. No discussion on the pool's future. No promises to build a new one in the list of capital projects candidates preferred.

Most candidates, even the incumbents, talked about scaling back their project list after a very busy last term.

Hopefully, the town learned an important lesson on its toboggan hill in the same downtown park.

Children protested on-site and adults wrote letters to the editor, saying they were unaware the hill was being moved last year.

The town said residents were told five years earlier the park was being redeveloped. They should have known. But many residents moved into the area within that time. They wouldn't know.

There are many ways to inform taxpayers. Signs on properties affected showing the future plans have been erected. Media releases and updates on the town's website would help.

So would neighbourhood newsletters. Councillors have a budget to prepare and deliver them, but not all take advantage. At least one, Phil Bannon, sends e-mail blasts to update residents of action in their community.

When buying or selling property, council can't go public.

But the more information to the public the better should be the norm.



## Letters to the Editor

### Stouffville residents paying price for cheaper electricity

Re: Have your say on power outages at meeting, Dec. 11.

Recently, nine homes in our neighbourhood were experiencing flickering lights and increased brightness of our lights.

This had persisted for a couple of days.

Finally we called Hydro One emergency service Jan. 21 at 9:45 a.m. It was a cold and windy day.

A service truck with two lineman arrived within 30 minutes. It was quickly determined that a recently installed transformer, which had been placed during a major rebuild of the hydro wiring on the street, was malfunctioning.

The crew informed us they would have to go to the nearest supply depot to obtain a replacement transformer.

They returned by 1:45 p.m. and the job was completed by 2:15. What excellent service.

Over the last several months, there have been complaints about hydro service in Stouffville.

Several years ago, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville sold its private electrical utility to Hydro One.

The town sold them a bag of crap for \$6 million. There was antiquated and obsolete equipment involved.

For years, Stouffville residents had bragged about their low electrical rates. We at Musselman's Lake had been served by Hydro One and paid its rates.

Unfortunately, the people of Stouffville are paying the price now.

We at the Lake, using the example above, are receiving excellent service. Sometimes what appears to be a bargain at the time isn't.

### HAVE YOUR SAY STOUFFVILLE

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

Job well done, Hydro One maintenance.

BOB & MARY ANN JAMES  
MUSSELMAN'S LAKE

### YRT staff wonderful

I would like to commend the wonderful women who answer the telephone lines at York Region Transit (YRT).

They are always cheerful and courteous - even when I call very early in the morning.

I have called to seek directions when I need more guidance than the website can offer and the staff answer all my questions with patience and respect.

They are so genuinely caring and helpful that I often feel as though I am talking with a friend.

So many times we complain about those with whom we interact, so I thought it might be nice to show some appreciation for a wonderful group of helpful employees in our community.

SUSAN KENDAL  
THORNHILL

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



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Toronto mayor talk of town

The doughnut shop chat was all about the mayor.

Folks were fascinated, amused and bewildered. Some at the same time.

Sorry, Wayne Emmerson, this crueler and coffee conversation may have happened in Whitchurch-Stouffville, but the content was all-Toronto.

This Rob Ford guy is as captivating as Oprah, apparently. He's Mel Lastman on something.

A year ago, few up here knew who the Chris Farley look-a-like from Etobicoke was.

But living in the shadow of Canada's biggest city, one can't help but read the headlines in the newspaper boxes and catch clips on the all-news stations.

A Stouffville resident even thought he could vote for him last fall. Nice try.

Freeze taxes and hiring, sort of. Bring the NFL to Toronto, full time. Cancel a light-rail transit contract. Stop talking to a media outlet.

Juicy stuff from a guy who has only been in office for a few weeks.

A penny pincher with a somewhat checkered past somehow appeals to the majority.

Maybe he's the everyman. The youth sports coach, entrepreneur, community fundraiser and dad who lives in all our neighbourhoods.

One wonders what Mr. Ford might do if was in charge of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Would his council turn its outdoor pool into a splash park, renovate its former civic centre into a theatre and then buy another building for another civic centre? Maybe.

And if this Rob Ford magic works in Toronto, are we looking at a future premier of Ontario?

Nothing's stopping the son of a former MPP at this point.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.