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York Region Media Group community newspapers  
The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 100 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Media Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Newmarket Era, Aurora Banner, Vaughan Citizen, Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Georgina Advocate, Bradford West Gwillimbury Topic, Beiwell and yorkregion.com.

# OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pool neglected to death

*Re: No money to fix, open Stouffville outdoor pool, Jan 13.*  
The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville seems surprised that "despite a growing population, there has been a marginal decline in the pool's use".

Well, here is a blinding glimpse of the obvious. If they neglect a public facility to the point that it could constitute a public safety risk and then only operate it a few hours a day, people will go elsewhere for a swim.

I have nothing against water parks, but they aren't fun for all. You can't swim laps in a splash pad. Put them in new subdivisions where they belong.

Memorial Park, once a quaint and quiet park, has already lost two ball diamonds and greenspace to accommodate a road. Find the money to fix the pool and make it accessible for everybody.

DOUG MCGHIE  
STOUFFVILLE

### Clean up Main St. snow

Maybe if there was an effort by the town to clean up some snow on Main Street, people could actually park and exit their vehicles curbside.

Until that happens, I will just shop and have coffee over at the Walmart mall.

HERB HOOVER  
MARKHAM

### Splash pads no answer

Please keep the outdoor pool. We already have splash pads. They are great for little kids, but not fun for bigger kids.

On a hot summer day it is more fun and healthier to be swimming outside. We get important vitamin D on our skin from the sun, which builds our bones, and swimming is very good exercise.

Not everyone can afford a back-yard pool and not everyone can go to a cottage.

YASMINE, 11, & MALL, 7, TUCKER  
STOUFFVILLE



## Maybe windrow clearing warranted after all

Let me say I've never been one to join in criticism of the people of southern Ontario as snow wusses whenever a "storm" comes along and we the freak out begins.

Hey, that's just not the kind of thing you do if you're into love for your fellow man and celebration of our differences, nation building and unwavering patriotism, and all that stuff, as I am, in case you have not noticed.

Truth be told, however, I was kind of surprised by the response last week when the forecast was calling for Snowmageddon.

Everyone seemed convinced that, for the first time in the history of meteorological prognostication, a weather forecast would actually be correct and we would end up buried in our homes under 10 feet of snow and huddled together in the dark under the blankets after the power went out.

(I can see the editorial cartoon: a black box with two pairs of eyeballs and the words, 'Gerald, your nose is all cold and shrivelled' to which Gerald says, 'That's not my nose'.)

Falling snow can, in fact, be beautiful.

For some reason, we tend to view it here as nuclear fallout.

At the grocery store, I saw people



Bernie O'Neill

stocking up on snacks that included the ever delicious dried beans, rice and crackers, not to mention candles, batteries, cat litter and bottled water.

"Not going to work tomorrow?" I asked one man, who had this wild look in his eyes as if Hurricane Katrina were only miles offshore.

York Region District School Board took it like a man and allowed its schools to stay open.

However, when I got my oldest to the high school, students were leaving the building rather than entering it.

"So, is the school on?" we asked one young man making a hasty retreat.

"It's open, but they cancelled classes anyway," he said, with a look of utter disappointment hidden only by the

huge grin on his face as he entertained visions of "shredding the gnar" (kid-speak for go snowboarding — don't ask me how I know this) for the remainder of the day — although the ski hills on Lakeridge Road were closed, too. (Where else do ski hills close because of too much snow?)

Even at my younger son's school, the building was open, but only 10 classmates showed up — to watch movies.

He called me at lunch asking if he could do what five of the 10 did, which is take his backpack, head home and not come back, the way a true southern Ontarian, born and raised, would react.

I was born in Toronto, but spent my childhood in Sault Ste. Marie, which by Toronto standards is "up north" and is, in fact, on the eastern edge of Lake Superior in its own little snowbelt.

So, depending on the winter, it can snow there a lot.

Which would then make me one of those jerks who felt he had the right to criticize others for their snowphobia.

On the contrary, I think other parts of the country may not realize what life is like in the GTA and how cars, commuting and work are part of life.

Not to mention how packed the roads can be, even on a good day. Add a layer of grease called snow and look out.

Do you own a snowblower? Not many

around here do, as it just doesn't snow enough to warrant the expense.

Everyone on my parents' street owned one, except at our house, since that's what my parents had all the kids for, they'd tell us (there were five of us).

Really? That's why all these babies came into the world? To aid with shovelling so dad could get off to work?

Funny because once we were old enough, we all thought it had something to do with excessive smooching on cold nights.

Up for debate soon is windrow clearing — equipping trucks to clear the mound of snow from the end of your driveway after the road is plowed.

Let's just say such a service would not be cheap (in the millions), but it certainly sounds wanted by many.

Our friends in other parts of Canada might say that's an excessive expense.

However, most of us in the big city don't have that five-minute commute or the five kids to shovel or a neighbour with the \$2,000 snowblower.

You just have to put it in perspective.

And also not lose your mind whenever the snow starts to fall.

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

### 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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Canadian Circulation Audit Board  
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