

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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OPINION

Editorial

Convertible lid answer for pool?

Our view on current issues of local relevance:

- Few issues have raised the ire of residents like the closing of the outdoor pool in Stouffville Memorial Park.

Surprising, since swimmers had been notified several years ago that the pool was listed as year-to-year.

Not surprising, since the news came in the background of a report on a related matter, four months after town officials learned there were serious problems with the 53-year-old facility.

There's something sentimental about the old pool. There's also something almost religious about swimming outdoors, readers have told council and The Sun-Tribune.

If a new pool is the answer, is it wise to sink millions into the ground for a facility that, given our climate, is only usable for up to three months a year?

Given that the Lebovic Leisure Centre pool is at capacity, wouldn't it be wiser to build another indoor pool? Is a retractable/convertible roof possible? The Clippers Sports Complex has been mentioned as a possible site by some councillors.

- Crossing Main Street in Stouffville without the benefit of a traffic light can be a death-defying dance. We see it every day from our offices in the downtown core.

People have been killed walking on our busiest thoroughfare.

It's especially dangerous at dusk, as commuters exit one of five daily GO trains. Some choose to cross the street to get their homes and rides on the south side. They're often in packs, crossing without the benefit of a light or a crosswalk. Meanwhile, vehicular traffic is at, or near, its peak.

Without adding another traffic light to the main drag, is there another solution? Would a well-marked crosswalk, like the ones in other municipalities, work here?

Or is that too new a trick for old dogs, both drivers and pedestrians, to learn?

- It was great to see crowds averaging around 600 a night for Jr. A hockey playoff games between Markham and Stouffville last weekend.

League officials hit it lucky when the neighbouring rivals were pitted against each other in the second round.

Hopefully, more residents will catch on to the fact there is high-level sport being played in our area arenas, parks and high schools. You can go to a game, meet your neighbours and cheer on the local side.

There's more to the local sports scene than the Leafs, fans.

HEY, LOOK!... WE CAN TAKE A SHOP CLASS WHEN WE GO TO HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR.



Letters to the Editor

Don't erect more traffic lights or repair outdoor pool, council

Re: Council can afford to fix, replace Stouffville pool. letter to the editor by Sue Sherban, Feb. 19. and Lights out at train station? Feb. 10.

Come on, town council, show some intestinal fortitude and put this swimming pool issue to bed. Do not repair the old pool.

It's just putting good money after bad and everyone knows it will cost well beyond the repair estimate as quoted by Betz Pools. With all the upgrade requirements for accessibility and health requirements, the cost will more than double.

If an outdoor pool is warranted, build a new one next to the present indoor pool where the existing plant is large enough to accommodate a second pool and cut out the duplication.

And former mayor Sue Sherban, what is she thinking? She was at the same meeting as I when the draft plan for Memorial Park was presented at the EastRidge Church and the then director of leisure services, Tom Graham, informed all present that the outdoor pool was not included because the repairs were too extensive.

That was in your term as mayor, Sue. Why didn't you initiate repairs if it was so important to the people? Come on, Sue, you are sounding like a leader of the Opposition and that form of government is not part of a municipality.

On the proposed crosswalk at the Stouffville station, I think Councillor Rob Hargrave has gone too far on this one. We all know there are too many traffic control lights on Stouffville's Main Street - 11 from Ringwood to Tenth Line North). If it is not safe to cross there, choose an alternative.

How would we deal with crosswalk

signals, as well as train crossing barriers? It is not that far to walk to Market and Main and the exercise would do us all good.

Whatever happened to the days when you were responsible for your own actions?

WILF MORLEY
STOUFFVILLE

Companies, residents should save town's outdoor pool

Re: Stouffville pool at mercy of budget meeting, Feb. 17.

I find it surprising none of the owners of the pool companies in Stouffville have stepped up to offer pro bono services to save the town's outdoor pool.

These companies, after all, are in the pool business and have made a lot of money off of residents in this area for many years, yet they have been particularly quiet on this issue.

Wouldn't it be great if these companies got together along with the many other construction and contracting firms in Stouffville to come up with a plan?

After all, many of the owners of these companies are leaders in our community. How about coming up with some ideas, business owners, even if it only covers part of the cost?

The balance could be covered by a community pool fund, whereby even some of our taxes could be directed and citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville could contribute and provide volunteer services.

I, for one, would be more than willing to write the first cheque for a \$100 to any pool fund that is established.

If this doesn't work, I'm seriously considering writing a letter to Ellen.

MEGAN KNOX
STOUFFVILLE

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Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Rehill, er Richards ready for return

It's been three decades since Mike Rehill was entertaining the troops from the stage of the since-demolished Stouffville District Secondary School on Edward Street.

The class clown of 1983 parlayed that experience and teenaged performances at Yuk Yuk's in Toronto into a substantial Canadian radio career.

Now going by the name Mike Richards, he worked his impressions and stand-up on CHUM, MIX 99.9, KISS-FM and The FAN 590 in Toronto before building a big-time morning sports show on THE FAN 960 in Calgary.

He was rumoured to be coming home last year when THE FAN in Toronto was rebuilding its roster.

Now, it's official. The kid who starred in goal in Stouffville minor hockey and on the volleyball court at the high school is back in the GTA.

The Mike Richards Show will be in the morning drive slot from 5:30 to 10 a.m. on TSN Radio 1050, an all-sports station that premieres April 13.

The station, a joint effort between CTVglobemedia properties TSN and CHUM Radio, will also feature Argonaut CFL football and PGA golf. They'll broadcast from CTV's Queen Street headquarters and TSN's studios in Toronto.

"It will be a cross between ESPN's Mike and Mike and Howard Stern," the host told the Toronto Star of his show.

Make no mistake, this is the former Stouffvillite's dream gig. It's a shot at Canada's biggest market in the shadows of his old home town.

Where all-sports failed on 1050 before - remember the ill-fated TEAM 1050 of 2001-02 - is Toronto big enough for another sports radio station?

A kid from Stouffville who is now 47 thinks so.

Stay tuned. And good luck Mike Rehill, er Richards.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.