

Sun-Tribune

905-640-2612
Fax 905-640-8778

EDITORIAL

ADVERTISING

905-640-2612

Classified: 1-800-743-3353

Fax 905-640-8778

DISTRIBUTION

905-640-2612

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jim Mason

jrmason@yrmg.com

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager

Stephen Mathieu

smathieu@yrmg.com

Marketing Manager

Mike Banville

mbanville@yrmg.com

DISTRIBUTION

Circulation Manager

Carrie MacFarlane

cmacfarlane@yrmg.com

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 com-

munity 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, bein-

gwell and yorkregion.com.

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.

Letters to the Editor,

The Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.

Stouffville, ON

L4A 1G7

jrmason@yrmg.com

Ontario Press Council

CCAB

Member

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON, L4A 1G7
www.yorkregion.com

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly

DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS
Barry Black

BUSINESS
MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR,
ADVERTISING,
DISTRIBUTION
Nicole Fletcher

DIRECTOR,
PRODUCTION
Jackie Smart

Editorial

Bring council into our living rooms

Let's turn Whitchurch-Stouffville's mayor and councillors into video stars, for all the right reasons.

It's all about access to local government and the sharing of information.

At present, if you want to see or hear your local council in action, you must attend meetings in person.

That's archaic in any municipality in this day and age. Technological advances have made it feasible to broadcast audio and video at little expense. Jr. A hockey teams do it in this area of Ontario. Some bands broadcast their concerts free of charge over the Internet.

Georgina council meetings are now being broadcast live on to the town's website. The pilot project was launched at a Monday committee meeting with a static camera stationed temporarily on the second-floor public gallery.

There is no archiving or recording of the broadcast to keep costs at a minimum. You can log on to the town's website and click a link that will direct you to the live stream meeting during the trial period.

The issue came under debate in the northern York Region community after many politicians heard from frustrated citizens during last October's municipal election that agendas aren't available to the public online and minutes take weeks to get approved and posted on the town's website.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, council meetings are not taped or live-streamed and agendas are still printed on paper but can also be downloaded from its website. That's a good start.

Elsewhere in York Region, Vaughan council meetings are live-streamed and agendas are printed and available on the web. In Richmond Hill, another of York's bigger urban centres, videotaping or web casting council meetings are something councillors are considering this year. Agendas are published online and on paper for residents attending the council meeting.

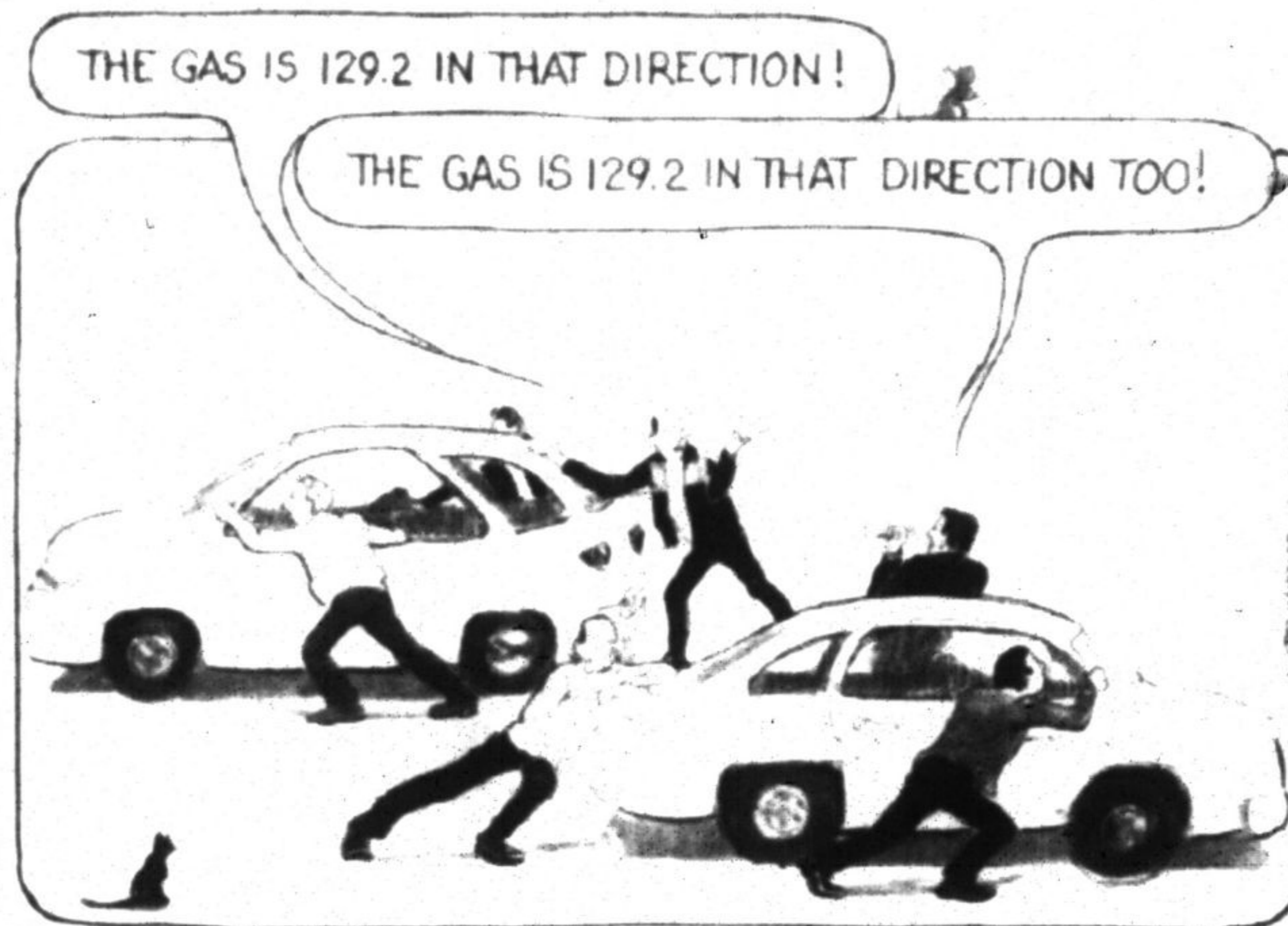
Markham's council and public meetings are web-streamed and audio recorded and the public can order CDs of specific meetings for a \$10 fee.

East Gwillimbury is still debating whether to live-stream but meetings are not televised.

Whitchurch-Stouffville council needs someone to champion this cause.

Residents have complained for years about being unable to attend afternoon council meetings. The disabled and others can't always make it to meetings.

Live-streaming meetings would provide taxpayers with another avenue of information



Letters to the Editor

Not teaching for vacation time

Re: Too much vacation time for our students, teachers, letter to the editor by Henry Renaud, March 24.

I teach. Why? Not because we get 10 weeks of summer vacation (without pay), two weeks of Christmas holiday or even a week in March. I teach because I love it.

I would much prefer to have less time off in the summer and be able to choose when I take my vacation. This would at least mean I wouldn't be forced to pay the ridiculous prices travel companies charge just because school is out.

I teach a JK class in the private system and when we go back to begin a new school year, we get one day off between September and the Christmas break. What I see in my students is that by the end of November, they begin to shut down because they cannot concentrate any longer. They need to recharge and a weekend is not enough, especially in this day and age of parents who believe their child should be stimulated 24/7 with no down time.

I agree some changes are needed regarding vacation time, but it has nothing to do with the fact teachers just want time off.

Having grown up in the UK, I know its system requires children get one week off after every six weeks of learning. This allows them to recharge and return to school ready to learn.

If you also count the days the children lose out on because they are too exhausted to concentrate, it actually totals a lot more than 62.

I think Mr. Renaud is caught up in thinking teachers have the ideal job and the only reason we teach is for the vacation. I guess I can safely say that Mr. Renaud has never taught.

N. FASULLO
STOUFFVILLE

One problem with Stouffville

We moved to Stouffville from Toronto a few months ago on the premise it would be a great place to settle down in and raise a family. People said "Hi" to you and waved as you passed them on the streets. Store owners were excited and happy to see you when you walked in. Children laughed and played freely on their front lawns.

Now that Stouffville has become home, I find while the neighbourhood has lived up to my many expectations, there is one issue that has stunned and disgusted me and moved me to put forth this appeal.

We live on a corner property and every time I venture into our front yard, without fail, I am greeted by at least one pile of dog poop.

I definitely do not want to lambast the majority of the neighbourhood's dog owners, who I am sure are conscientious and respectful. It is to the one or two owners who feel no shame in leaving behind their four-legged friend's dirty business on someone else's property that my comments are directed: pick up after your dog.

I am shocked this is even an issue. I assumed picking up after your pet would fall under the list of general things you would have the common sense and decency to do.

With spring upon us and summer around the corner, instead of looking forward to gardening in the warm sunshine, I am dreading another season of manoeuvring my lawn mower around piles of turd and cleaning up someone else's mess. Hopefully, this article will reach the one or two perpetrators and will be enough to make them at least think twice the next time they decide to just walk away.

MICHELLE LEE
STOUFFVILLE



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

2 letters spell out one controversy

Two little letters can make such a world of difference.

Like putting "un" in front of married or "ex" before wife or husband.

Or in the case of former local MP Lui Temelkovski, preceding election with "re".

If you didn't read reporter Sandra Bolan's story in last Thursday's Sun-Tribune or on yorkregion.com, you've no doubt seen the signs decorating every corner of your commute in anticipation of the May 2 federal election.

Both the incumbent, Conservative Paul Calandra, and Mr. Temelovski, the Liberal who was defeated in the last election, have the word re-elected on their signage, which often sit side-by-side.

I swear I've seen this done without a whimper during other elections.

Not this time. Not even close.

It's either scandalous that:

- Mr. Temelovski would dare do this;
- or anyone, including Mr. Calandra, would even question his opponent's right to do so.

Pick your poison. People are ultra-passionate and divided on this one. You'd think we were debating abortion or Canada's presence in Afghanistan.

My inbox ran steady with letters to the editor and anonymous comments since before the story broke. The Toronto Star and City-tv picked up on it, adding more fuel.

Elections of all varieties have been sleepy affairs in this corner of Canada, save for the Jag Bhaduria mess of the 1990s. If this "scandal" fires up interest in the vote, good on it.

I'd like to think my neighbours know who the incumbent really is and wouldn't simply endorse or write off someone because the word re-elect is on a sign.

I hope they read our stories during the next three weeks, attend the debate(s) and research what the federal leaders say and stand for.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.