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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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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Full day for teachers

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

I'm curious to know what Mr. Renaud does for a living.

As a teacher, I can tell you my day doesn't end at 3:30 p.m. when school dismisses and it doesn't begin at 8:45 when school begins. My day begins at 5:30 getting my daughters and myself ready for school.

I usually arrive at school before 8 a.m. I quickly start organizing for my day of teaching.

At 8:30, I am outside for yard duty, greeting my students before the 8:45 start.

Morning recess is from 10:15 to 10:30. During this time, I meet with a few students to go over lessons they haven't understood or read.

At noon, the students dismiss for lunch and I make my way down to the gym to begin volleyball practice. I grab my sandwich and head back to my

classroom to organize my afternoon for the 1:15 start.

Afternoon recess is from 2:15 to 2:25. I usually head outside for yard duty. After students are dismissed at 3:30, I spend the next hour going over activities they completed that day and getting ready for the next day.

Teachers spend so much of their personal time preparing meaningful, learning activities for their students, including weekends, Christmas and March breaks and summer.

They also take courses to further their own learning, have parent/teacher interview nights, where they are at school until almost 9 p.m., and complete report cards three times per year.

August is usually spent readying for the new school year.

Mr. Renaud, I challenge you to spend one day with a teacher and then decide if we have too much vacation time.

LINDA BOTELHO  
STOUFFVILLE



## Age-old solution to growing deer problem

Many people do not view hunting as a necessary part of living in our modern-day society.

Some may find it to be a grotesque or even barbaric sport.

Arguments are brought forth against hunting such as, "now that we have our meat delivered right to our supermarkets from farms, there is no need to hunt wild animals," or "killing animals is OK, as long as it's not for pure sport."

What many do not consider are the conservational aspects of hunting wildlife, by using the sport as a tool for over-population.

Wildlife populations in both agricultural and urban areas can become nuisance or pest species due to over-population and this is when conservational hunting can be applied strategically. Southern Ontario has a large problem with white-tailed deer.

The deer problem is especially complicated within the Greater Toronto Area, leading to an increased number of car accidents, destruction of landscaping and natural environments, as well as causing deer starvation when food becomes scarce.

Deer are not an uncommon sight in Whitchurch-Stouffville or even further south into more urbanized sections of York Region.



Ken Davie

A man died after his car crashed into a deer in Caledon last Saturday.

With the loss of their natural predators, such as coyotes, wolves and bears, in urban areas and recent mild winters, deer populations have been allowed to grow unchecked by natural methods.

Not only are deer causing increasing problems in urban environments, but they also cause complications for the agricultural industries.

Since the 1980s, deer have caused large amounts of damage to crops and orchards due to grazing or trampling.

Not only do farmers pay for such damage, but it causes a stress upon governments for reimbursements of property losses, which hits all taxpayers.

In 2008, the Ontario Ministry of

Natural Resources released the Strategy for Preventing and Managing Human-Deer Conflicts in Southern Ontario. This guide includes general approaches to address the conflict that incorporates the altering of "deer population densities".

As of 2009, ideas such as increasing deer hunting seasons and increasing areas that can be hunted for deer have been proposed.

The provincial government isn't alone.

Ducks Unlimited and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters are two of the largest pro-hunting organizations in Ontario. These organizations, made up of hunting supporters, often lead wildlife research and restoration ventures.

The federation, for example, has been behind such projects as the re-introduction of wild turkeys and elk into Ontario. It's currently active in the Atlantic salmon restoration projects. We know it locally from its work at the Ringwood fish hatchery.

Ducks Unlimited is participating in research projects on prairie nesting waterfowl, as well as projects dealing with greenhouse emissions and wetland's ability for carbon sequestration. Both organizations are prominent rep-

resentations of environmental advocacy.

Conservation is a key component to managing our wildlife and there is no better tool for managing pest species such as deer than the age-old practice of hunting.

*Conservation is a key component to managing our wildlife and there is no better tool for managing pest species such as deer than the age-old practice of hunting.*

Even with amended regulations to help keep these populations in check, many areas are finding there is no impact on deer populations since there just aren't enough hunters.

So why not pick up a bow or rifle and take up an age-old skill practised for generations? You may even save money on your grocery bill.

Ken Davie is a Stouffville resident studying ecosystem management at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Lindsay.