

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

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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Editorial

Party with purpose at our festival

The 27th annual Strawberry Festival takes over Whitchurch-Stouffville this week.

You should be all over it. Why?

This is much more than a good time.

Call it partying with a purpose.

If you are one of the thousands of newcomers who moved to this community during the last five years, welcome.

The long-weekend festival is an excellent opportunity to immerse yourself into the life of this town.

Most of Whitchurch-Stouffville's service clubs, churches and other organizations will be front and centre throughout the event. Talk to representatives. Get involved.

Your community has a history of warmly welcoming steady streams of new residents during the decades. Most of your long-time neighbours also moved here at some point - and chose to stay and put down roots.

Newcomers are a hot commodity. Organizations are looking to add them to their rosters, to provide fresh blood and insight into what the "new Stouffville" wants from its community.

Organizations, governments and churches that ignore this are missing the boat. It's the equivalent of running a business and not listening to your customers.

In this edition of The Sun-Tribune, a Markham theatre company, which is setting up a satellite operation in Stouffville, is advertising for volunteers and actors.

Similar appeals have been issued by churches, charity runs and other organizations.

That's smart.

Enjoy the festival. Celebrate our top citizens during tonight's opening ceremonies.

Take in the fireworks and dig into a slice of birthday cake on Canada Day.

Walk the closed Main Street, eat shop and hook up with old friends on Saturday.

Take in a concert, comedy night or the church service, all under the big top in Memorial Park.

Have fun, but also check out the good works of our town.

The festival is a showcase of our community. It's one-stop shopping for those looking to get involved.

Have fun, Whitchurch-Stouffville, while completing your weekend homework assignment.



Letters to the Editor

Coyotes were in Stouffville before new houses arrived

Re: Coyotes scare Stouffville neighbourhood, letter to the editor by Christine Cobel, June 23.

We, as residents of this area, need to remember we've moved into the wildlife's area, where they used to inhabit and live.

We've taken over their hunting grounds and are squeezing them out of living space.

All around us, near the Lebovic Leisure Centre, is precious green space where these coyotes live.

These coyotes are out prowling for food. Food that your neighbour happens to be providing to them by letting his cats wander around outside.

These cats are prime food for coyotes in the area. The cats, to the coyotes are like prime rib dinner to us humans who choose to consume it.

I'd consider speaking to your neighbours and asking them to keep their feline friends inside and not helping to instigate and invite the coyotes into our residential areas. I'm sure you and your children will feel that much safer, and your neighbour will still be able to enjoy his feline friends.

The coyotes will eventually move on to somewhere else where they can actually find the food source they're supposed to eat, not our family pets, who shouldn't be outside in the first place.

This will help protect my family, your family and other families in the area who don't know about our coyote population related to our green spaces.

We all need to remember, we moved to this area for its sprawling green space, proximity to the city, country and everything in between.

We need to remember we're the ones

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

invading the wildlife's space each and every time we build the new houses we move into that used to be prime forest and farmland.

The animals need to move somewhere. Hopefully, we can all work together to help us humans and animals live in peace together. And hopefully these coyotes move on and you can feel safe again, Ms Corbel.

COLIN THOMPSON
STOUFFVILLE

Help with screen door, anyone?

I have a screen door that backs on to my yard. The dog and subsequently the cats have ripped the screen off of its moorings.

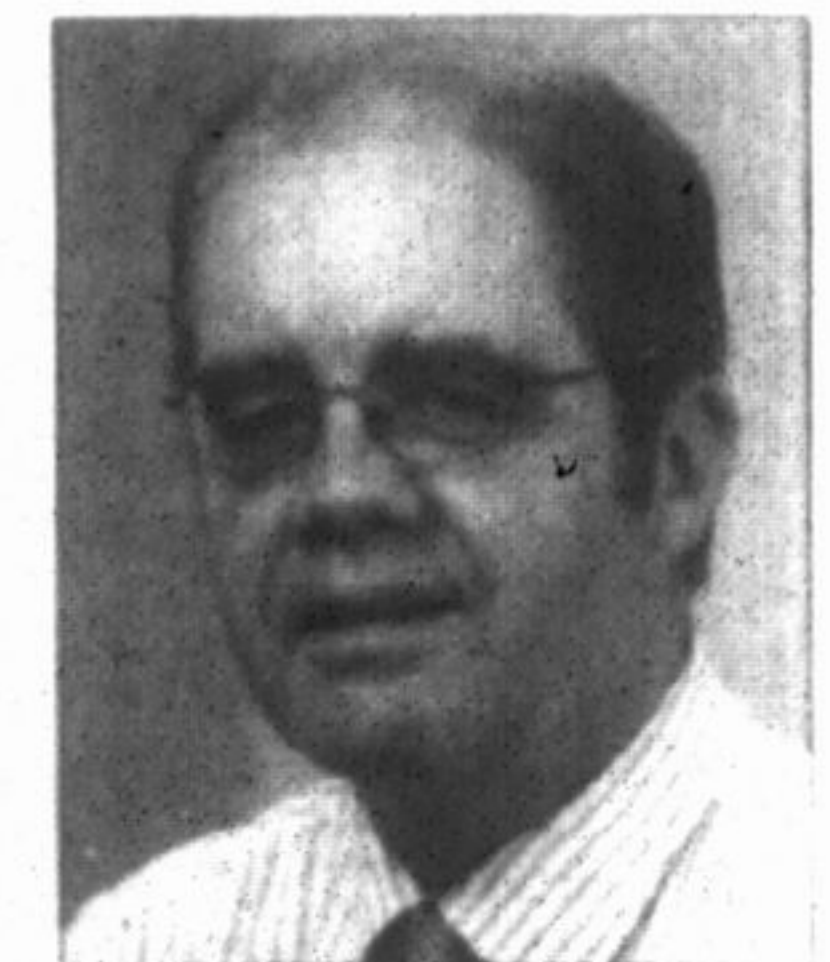
I have called many stores and other assorted phone numbers derived from cyberspace and found no solution to my problem.

Sure, if I want a brand-new door they will be happy to charge me \$500 or \$600. There were a couple of outfits in Toronto who come to the house, but not houses as far away as Stouffville.

I did however find a series on YouTube that gave a series of step-by-step videos to do it myself.

The bottom line? Is there anyone out there in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area who fixes screen doors? There must be a bunch of us animal-owning-screen-doorists who need help.

GARY REID
STOUFFVILLE



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Thanks for taking thankless job

An e-mail from York Regional Police got me thinking last week.

It promoted one of the service's recruiting events, held across the region throughout the year.

My thoughts? What kind of people grow up wanting to be police officers.

And thank God for them.

I can't think of many tougher careers. You're constantly under microscope, be it through the court system, we in the media or the public at large.

There aren't a lot of happy times. You're delivering bad news, be it in the form of a speeding ticket, or worse charges, or telling a family their loved one has been injured, or worse.

Protecting our lives and property, working nights, weekends and holidays.

I know people want to be cops, from the kids in kindergarten career days to some of my high school buddies. Thank God for them.

One of the biggest hockey superstars in our neighbourhood watched his police partner get shot to death during a gun call in 1978.

Another friend battled hard to get on a police force, any force. On last check, he was climbing up the ladder of the OPP while seeing all corners of the province.

Tuesday's death of York Const. Garret Styles hits home for us all. By now, we all know he was run over while making a traffic stop on Hwy. 48, just north of Whitchurch-Stouffville's border, a road take often by so many of us.

A young father of two. A fellow York Region resident. He could have been your son, your brother or your neighbour.

He was the tenth officer in York killed in the line of duty. Sadly that list includes two members of our former Whitchurch force, Const. Edward G. Holdsworth in 1966 and Const. Gerald F. Mills in 1968.

Thank God for them.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-