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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

### Your chance to plan our future

Your future is in your hands. Last week, we wrapped up our six-part series, Shaping Our Future. In it, we explored York Region's past as a means to determining feasible future goals, based on expert commentary from planners, leaders and academics and fact and trend-based forecasting.

Our writers created a picture of what our world might look like in four decades, exploring public safety, leisure, infrastructure, education, poverty, economic vitality and top growth areas.

But while based on facts and expertise, these visions of our future are just educated guesses. It's up to you, the residents, to help craft our future by speaking up about your needs and desires.

The goal of our series was to get the conversation started and fuel your creative juices.

And if we decide we must grow up, not out, as our planners intend, it's clear we need to change our thinking.

We simply can no longer evolve the way we have for the past 40 years. In some cases, our municipalities no longer have room for the subdivisions of single-family dwellings that monopolize our landscape.

Many of us tout the benefits of denser urban cores, serviced by public transit, but choosing to live such a life is something entirely different.

Growing traffic congestion and limited transit use are key indicators that we simply don't want to give up our double-car garage lifestyle.

Yet for our communities to grow in a sustainable manner, accepting this kind of societal change is necessary.

We don't all have to live in towering condominiums, but we must at least accept the type of growth is a necessary part of our home town's future.

The same goes for the development community.

Our towns have started mapping our future by setting aside land for residential development, with other areas earmarked to provide jobs for those who choose to live here. Yet developers continue to bulldoze through developments of homes, turning to the Ontario Municipal Board for its blessing.

Luckily, we seen some victories in this area. The board, last month, protected Aurora's plan to set aside 400 acres at the east end of town for an employment area that could create up to 5,000 jobs.

As we map out our future, having agencies such as the OMB endorse our plan is key.

It will be so much easier if we march forward with a common vision, not a mishmash of plans fuelled by self-interest.



## Letters to the Editor

### Clerk will be hard to replace

Re: Community centre bookings going online. June 26.

In 2001, we moved to our new farm in Lemonville.

For many years, Dave Probert was the booking clerk for our Lemonville Community Centre and, because he was always there working, our younger children were convinced that he lived at the centre.

He took great personal pride in ensuring the facility was meticulously clean and the playground was safe for the children.

On his own time and initiative, he built units on wheels so chairs could easily be stacked and moved for easy floor cleaning.

He painted huge pegboards so art groups could easily display their artwork.

In addition, he often volunteered, rain or shine, to help put up signs along Stouffville Road and other streets to advertise an event.

Mr. Probert was always busy doing things for the centre. The list is endless. He went far beyond his job description of "booking clerk".

In Ontario, community centres we know are virtually always run by the communities in which they exist and the booking clerk is, of course, a resident of the community in which the centre is located. This way, he or she has a pulse on the community being served. There is true and tried wisdom in this arrangement.

Whitchurch-Stouffville has taken over the role of "booking clerk" for our community centres. It is puzzling the municipality, which is experiencing phenomenal growth, can afford the time, energy, and valuable resources, not to mention the cost involved to change an arrangement that has run

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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

very smoothly for countless decades and still does for other towns in Ontario. With progress comes change but one must wonder why the town made this decision.

Will our community centres be managed more efficiently? We find that hard to believe, as Mr. Probert put his whole heart and soul into the job. His miniscule financial compensation was extremely disproportionate with the enormous time and energy that he devoted to the centre.

Thank you, Dave Probert, for your many years of dedication and hard work for the Lemonville Community Centre.

SILVANA & ADRIAN DE BOER  
LEMONVILLE

### Terry's dream lives on

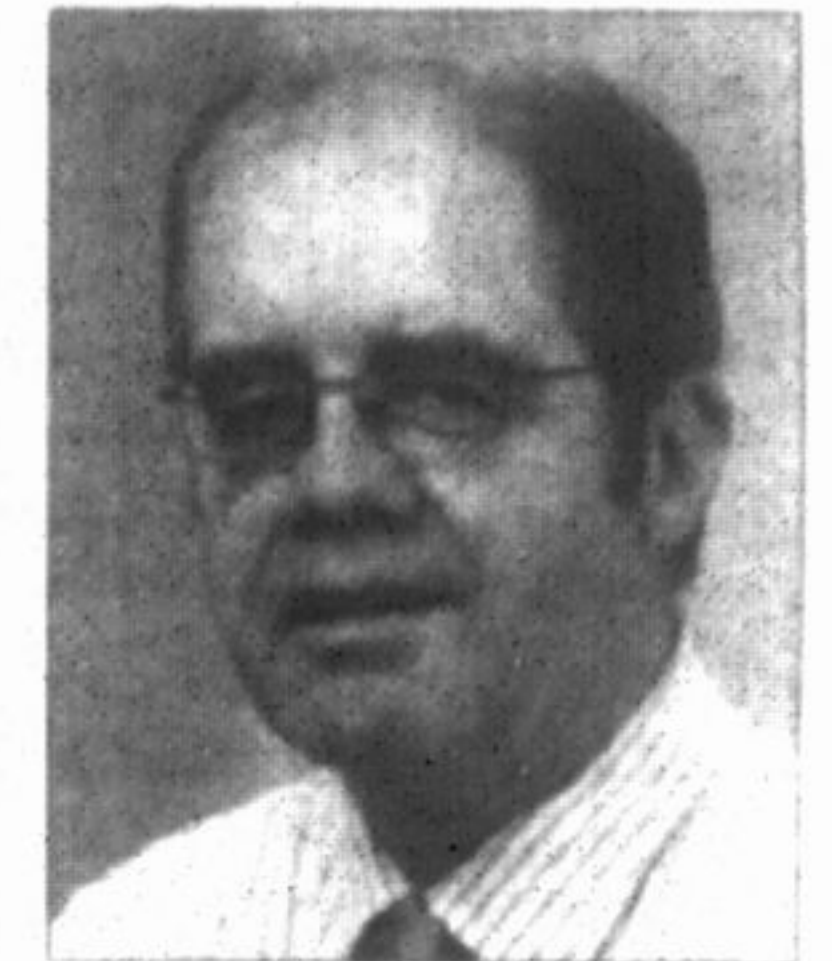
On behalf of our incredible volunteer team of more than 100 and the Terry Fox Foundation, thank you to our wonderful community for another record Terry Fox Run in Stouffville.

Our generous community came out and celebrated cancer survival and shared remembrances of those lost.

We are turning a corner and will continue to forge forward in the fight against cancer. More than \$106,000 was raised for cancer research at the community event Sept. 18.

Thank you for continuing Terry's dream.

SANDY SCHELL KENNEDY  
STOUFFVILLE TERRY FOX RUN



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### We survived minus Sunday shopping

The parking lot at the Eldred King tract of the York Region forest was overflowing Monday afternoon.

The balmy summer-like weather you've probably already forgotten about certainly helped. National records were set in our region.

People in shorts and T-shirts walked almost every kind of dog you've heard of along the tree-lined trails just north of Ballantrae. Others were on horseback.

Along Hwy. 48, pumpkin sales appeared brisk. The only thing selling better was the discount gas - about four cents per litre less than in Stouffville - at competing stations along the Ballantrae strip. (The same main drag many residents want further developed. See our story on page 9.)

Unless you were in a designated tourist zone, there wasn't much else open for business.

It was a throwback to 1980s Ontario, before the doors flew open on Sunday shopping in 1992 and we consumers got so used to our worry-free, 24/7, drive-through culture.

Back in that day, the line of traffic going to and from the Stouffville Country Market often stretched through downtown to the Ninth Line.

There was nowhere else to shop, save for pharmacies and gas stations.

If you ran out of hamburgers or cereal on a Sunday, there was a good chance you were eating in a restaurant that day. Lumber or garden supplies? Forget it.

Somehow, we survived. Lunches were still made Monday morning. The laundry got done. Homework, too. Life went on.

The horse is too far out of the barn to ever return on this issue.

But we've lost some of our innocence and peace of mind along the trail.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.