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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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## Editorial

### Now's time for Liberals to make tough choices

The Dalton McGuinty government laid out its economic game plan for weathering our crumbling global economy.

But Tuesday's throne speech read very much like a recap of the Liberals' fall election campaign handbook and prompts the question: Is this enough?

Vowing not to touch health care and education, the Liberals' speech served up tax breaks and other perks to Ontarians, such as tuition cuts, with no new taxes mentioned.

After the Ontario health premium, the HST and last year's flawed eco fee program, the Liberals appear to have finally received the message Ontarians are taxed to the hilt.

To curb spending and chip away at our growing \$16-billion deficit, the government is turning inward, with plans to cut Ontario's public service by 5 per cent — or 3,400 positions — by March and an additional 2 per cent by 2014 to save \$500 million.

It's about time. The civil service has grown under the Liberals, from fewer than 64,000 employees in 2003 to about 68,000 last year.

More notable, however, is the growth in workers who are not paid directly by the government, but work for provincially funded institutions, pegged at 1.2 million in 2009, which is about 180,000 more positions than in 2003.

The provincial Progressive Conservatives have pointed out just how good our public employees have it:

- They earn 27 per cent more than their private sector counterparts doing the same jobs, according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses;

- Public sector wage agreements have been 50 per cent more generous under Mr. McGuinty than they were under the previous three premiers, according to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

It's not so rosy in other sectors. In October alone, Ontario's economy lost 75,000 full-time jobs, according to Statistics Canada.

And we have yet to see the return of so many of the manufacturing jobs lost in the last recession.

Meanwhile, spending has increased by 70 per cent under the Liberals, while economic growth was just 9 per cent during the same period and the deficit is \$1 billion higher than the party claimed during the election.

As the global economy continues to crumble, placing more Ontario jobs in jeopardy, it's only prudent for our government to consider some hard choices.

WHY ISN'T THIS THING IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER?



## Letters to the Editor

### Police station needed here

Re: More doors kicked in, houses ransacked, Nov. 19.

It is with increasing worry and anger I have witnessed a dramatic increase in crime and unruly behaviour in our town.

When we moved here almost three years ago, Stouffville seemed a rather sleepy and community-based town and, to a large extent, it still is.

But during the past year especially, I have seen a dramatic rise in incidences of crime, some of which I have personally witnessed.

Our town's population is now approximately 70-per-cent larger than when we first moved here and it is about time we had a permanent police presence in the community.

The problem here is that during the day, I see plenty of patrol cars driving around, basically reacting to crime. Come sundown, they seem to disappear. Moreover, I do not see any real crime prevention policies in the town.

On any given night, especially on Main Street, there is a non-stop parade of speeding cars, extremely noisy residents, drug dealers, drunken kids roaming around, unsocial behaviour and everything in between.

Now, we read every week of break-ins, vandalism, dangerous drivers, unsocial behavior and the list goes on. How long before things turn much more violent? How long before your headlines make much more gruesome reading?

Stouffville needs a permanent police station and police that help prevent crime, patrol the streets and are part of our community.

GARETH PARRY  
STOUFFVILLE

### Protesters not being heard

Re: Council 'gives self' 43% raise, Nov. 17.

One only needed to read the headline on your story to understand the discontent of the "99".

Protestors are putting themselves on the line for justice and the hope of earning a living wage, while those in power continue their greed.

The message is falling on deaf ears and the blind who do not care to get it. Whitchurch-Stouffville included.

PEG KIRBY  
STOUFFVILLE

### Nov. 11 service memorable

A message from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Prayer Breakfast states: "to be a voice of the community along with many other voices to say that we still value and hold true to the strong Christian faith and heritage of Whitchurch-Stouffville".

We would like to recognize other voices, those of Pastor Tim Soukup of EastRidge Church and the Royal Canadian Legion of Stouffville, who presented our community with a marvelous service on Remembrance Day.

It was service to unveil a new cenotaph and to remember those who went to war and particularly those who never returned.

You honoured those who were to be honoured, you asked for God's protection for all of us. You presented a moving service for the large crowd that attended and you presented your new legion hall with pride.

Thank you.

DENNIS SEELEY  
ON BEHALF OF THE  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE PRAYER  
BREAKFAST COMMITTEE



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason

### Will town council be 'Occupied'?

I'm not sure what to expect when Whitchurch-Stouffville council meets Dec. 13. Councillors will be voting on a 40-plus-per-cent pay hike for themselves and Mayor Wayne Emmerson spread over the next two years.

Depending on how much you read into our letters to the editor, comments on yorkregion.com and threats and comments verbalized my way in recent days:

- Just as it's being neutered elsewhere, the Occupy movement could take hold in Stouffville, even if only for the night of that council meeting. Some folks are talking about staking out prime spots to pitch their tents on the manicured lawn of the civic centre on Sandiford Drive like it was Labour Day weekend in a prime provincial park. Bring a heater and your woolies, kids. It should be around -5 C overnight.

- There could be a whole bunch of nothing, similar to last week's council meeting where a grand total of two people spoke to the proposed pay hikes, including one who was in favour. (Then again, it was a 3 p.m. meeting in a commuter town where most workers were only thinking about heading up the Don Valley Parkway or boarding the GO train for home at that hour.)

The seven folks we elected a year ago could very well be entitled to a large pay day at some point. Maybe their salaries were allowed to severely lag behind those in neighbouring towns of similar size — under their own watches during the last few terms of council.

Double-digit increases just don't sit well with many during unstable economic times.

And I would rather have seen the recommendation come from a citizens review panel or even a paid consultant than the folks getting the raises themselves.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.