

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spirit supporters helped team to title

On behalf of the Stouffville Spirit players and staff, I would like to say thank you to all the people of Stouffville and surrounding area for your unwavering support of our team during our journey through the Ontario Junior Hockey League playoffs and our trip to Thunder Bay for the Central Canadian Championships.

Collectively, you helped inspire us, often when we needed it most during the challenges we faced during our 29 playoff and tournament games.

Whether you attended one or all of our games, drew pictures at school that were hung in our dressing room, listened on radio, watched on the Internet from all over North America, sponsored us in some way or simply sent encouraging e-mails to us during the past 10 weeks, we would like you to know that we truly appreciate all that the Stouffville community and hockey fans have done to help us in our pursuit of the OJHL and national championships.

We proudly share our Buckland Cup championship with you.

CRAIG DONOVAN
HEAD COACH
STOUFFVILLE SPIRIT

Town not changing for the better

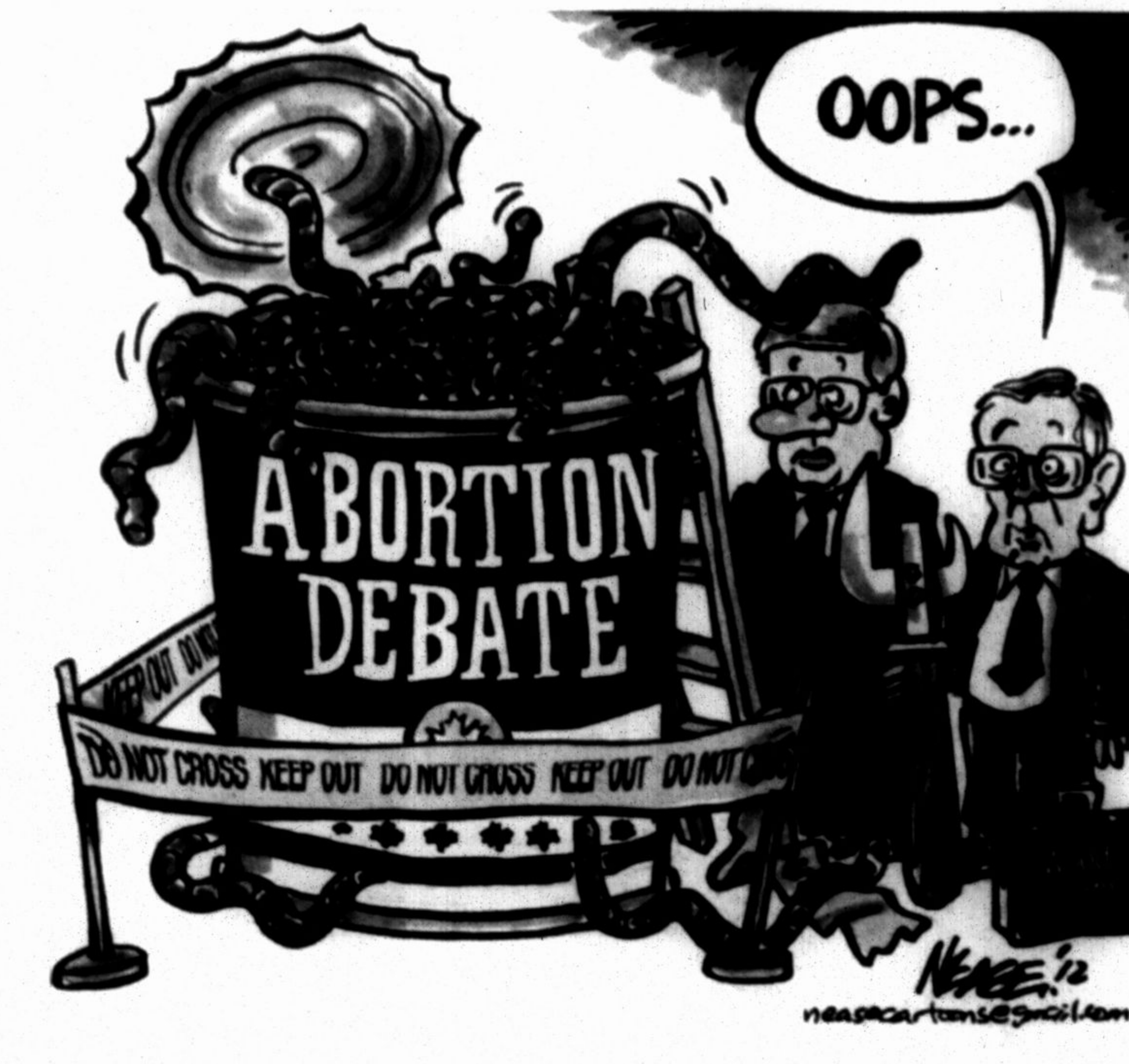
Stouffville was once a town where you acknowledged and spoke to your neighbours, shopped on Main Street, knew your favourite person at the bank and went to the main diamond to support your local softball team.

It had community spirit. The shops supported your child's team and your kids could walk to and from school safely.

Well, I guess time has changed and I am not prepared for it. There are countless amounts of farmland being rezoned for housing and numerous oversights by the mayor's office and council in a once picturesque town.

Now, we have schools being built beside water reservoirs and railroad tracks, a legion in an industrial area and a dog park in a commercial area.

Council held a meeting



to discuss the expansion of Memorial Park this month. It was the core of town before they flattened the toboggan hill, removed some of the diamonds and put in Park Drive.

All I heard at the meeting was how "Markham has this" and "I want that".

Stouffville never wanted to be Markham. If you want the so-called luxuries of Markham, then move to Markham.

There are countless conversations about the shops on Main Street and trying to keep the downtown alive. The park development will have no positive impact. Shoppers will continue to drive to the shops in the west end.

I may not be a politician, but I have a memory and I remember the small quaint town we all called home. The town projects a total population of 42,343 in 2013, 55,800 in 2021 and 62,321 in 2026. Those numbers not only astonish me, they are saddening.

We pride ourselves on being Country Close to the City, and yet we have no environmental advisory committee to ensure the security of farmland and wells. It was dismantled after the election in 2006.

For those new to town, we once prided ourselves on our polite humour, community

spirit and back yards. I see no spirit between the town and sports clubs, no connection to the people who inhabit this town and very little commitment from the town to its farmers.

Now neighbours are starting community watch programs to keep their homes and children safe. This is not the Stouffville I grew up in and the town I love. Town council needs a complete overhaul.

Once a town is changed, it is changed forever.

SHAWNA KELTERBORN
STOUFFVILLE

Record support for library book sale

Once again the community of Whitchurch-Stouffville has come through.

The library's giant book sale raised more than \$14,800 during the 4-1/2 days of the sale.

These funds will augment resources at the library, such as author visits and purchasing equipment.

The book sale fundraising committee has many, many people to thank for helping to make this sale so successful.

First, to the Stouffville firefighters, Kinsmen Club of Stouffville, Richardson

Lodge Masons and students of Stouffville District Secondary School and neighbouring schools for setting up and taking down the sale. Thanks to the many volunteers who gave so freely of their time, sorting, selling and packing.

And thank you to The Stouffville Sun-Tribune for supporting the sale through advertisement and publicity.

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks are due to the citizens who came out in record numbers to support this library fundraiser.

Their generous support of this event is responsible for its continued success.

All this dedication and commitment is most appreciated.

CAROLYN
NORDHEIMER JAMES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Don't just talk pro-life

Re: April 19 letters to the editor, Time to re-open abortion debate by Mary Lee Ramball and Female fetus protected, too? by Keith Grose.

I don't believe the abortion rights issue will ever find resolution in an emotional debate — and I don't believe it should.

In following these recent emotional arguments, it seems clear we all have our diverse opinions influenced by our religious or spiritual beliefs, age and financial or life situation.

Those of us against termination of a first trimester pregnancy (this is a rudimentary life form, not a "preemie" stage of development, as used in example by one woman) are, of course, entitled to that belief to guide our own personal choices.

I am not, however, comfortable instituting laws to govern the rights of any other woman's body based simply on opinions. This just opens the doors to the "back street butchers" once again. We would be indirectly promoting the endangerment of the life of the woman.

To intelligently and fairly resolve this issue, we need facts. We need something truly measurable and consistent in defining when the essence of what it actually means to be human beings. I don't know if that will ever be possible.

Until we can come up with something concrete, would it not be healthier to focus more on supporting one another in our lives and difficult decisions rather than endlessly arguing for rights about unknowns on purely emotional grounds?

I think it is important we immediately stop allowing the use of terminology like "murder" and "killing" in our discussions. Those words are not truths, just personal opinions.

We pride ourselves in advocating respect for the potential life of the yet unborn, but with our thoughtless and cruel words we can damage the living. Shouldn't we do more than just "talk" pro life?

How many of us join Big Brother or Big Sister-type organizations to help existing children who need us?

How many of us routinely donate very generously to food banks, underprivileged families and children's charities?

How many of us adopt not just babies, but older or challenged children who don't have loving homes?

These are lives that we can protect and improve right now. That is fact, not opinion.

BEV WELLS
STOUFFVILLE

HAVE YOUR SAY

► E-mail your letter to the editor
to jmason@yrmg.com