

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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Editorial Your chance to give back

As we prepare to close the books on 2012 in Whitchurch-Stouffville, let's recap.

Several hundred more new residents moved into one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada.

Most of those new home and condominiums went up in Stouffville. Many more are on the horizon.

The growth that long-time residents are getting used to has brought many new opportunities. That includes new facilities, community organizations, stores, businesses and schools.

Beyond the physical attributes are the opportunities to bond.

To give back.

To get involved.

To be a true community.

You moved to or remained in this community because you seek a place to call home. It's more than an address, a tax bill and a convenient commute for most of us.

We want to commune.

And there's no better time to meet your neighbours and lend a helping hand than during this holiday season.

Some opportunities?

• The Stouffville Community Christmas dinner was launched in 1995.

More than 200 volunteers are expected to serve about 250 sit-down meals at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church and deliver roughly 250 full meals to the doors of area residents who can't come out Christmas Day.

The event, which started next door at the Stouffville Country Market, has no church affiliation.

Care to volunteer in the kitchen or serenade dinners with a song? Call 647-285-4551.

• Ring in 2013 at Mayor Wayne Emmerson's annual New Year's Eve in Memorial Park event.

About 3,000 to 5,000 people come out to the affair each year.

It's a great opportunity to network and celebrate, all in one evening at a family-friendly, free evening.

Shake the hands of a newcomer to Stouffville over hotdogs and hot chocolate, fireworks, horse-drawn wagon/sleigh rides, music and a bonfire.

In the new year, there will be more chances to get involved.

The Lebovic Centre for Arts & Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park and The Sun-Tribune will host its second Conversation evening in March.

The newspaper is always looking for newcomers to join our Community Links Panel.

They are all excellent opportunities to contribute, be you a lifetime resident or a newcomer.

Welcome.



Letters to the Editor

Are you feeling the love this Christmas, Stouffville?

Have you noticed there is less smiling this year?

I predict a good, old-fashioned grumpy Christmas this year.

There is nothing like grumpiness to bring back memories of Christmas with my brothers. Pushing and shoving and fighting over presents and complaining that Murray, Lorne or Gordon got more than me. Those were good times.

And my brothers taught me a valuable lesson on how to protect your pie. As soon as you get your piece, lick the entire top crust. Nobody will touch it after that.

I can't wait to teach my granddaughter that. How can people say we don't have a Christmas heritage to pass on to the next generations.

But, I must tell you, Mr. Editor, there is something odd in this grumpy town. There is this smaller checkout clerk at Canadian Tire who is far and away too pleasant and too happy. I try to avoid her.

Even though I felt a little grumpy, I dragged my sorry person to Main Street to watch the annual Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus parade two Saturdays ago.

Hey, was that car Carol Morin, the Sun-Tribune's citizen of the year, riding in an official float?

Sometimes I cannot tell what's a float. They should have signs that say "This is an Official Float". Except the Hillbillies riding their toilets; I'm pretty sure they are not floats, but I like them.

I got some candy this year, but I am still thinking of taking \$20 and going to Bulk Barn and doing things there that no man with my kingly physique

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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

should do.

Belgian chocolate wafers, English mints, Crispy Crunch pieces and caramel corn.

I am sure I will still feel grumpy afterwards but I won't care as much.

Christmas reminds me that on Dec. 28, 1976, I married a great wife. She does not like jewelry very much so I have saved a fortune over the years with this lady.

Sometimes I buy her a bag of garlic party mix. She feels the love. Baby, this Christmas I am going to take you somewhere special. You can have anything on the combo menu.

Isn't this what Christmas is all about - feeling the love?

Bah, Humbug.

RON BOYD
STOUFFVILLE

You can read letters, columns and stories from The Sun-Tribune on yorkregion.com



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

No escape from reality

A vacation company is promoting itself with the motto "Escape completely".

It can't be done.

Impossible.

Barring a forged passport, facial reconstruction of Joan Rivers proportions and a witness protection plan, it's not gonna happen.

Leaving my cellphone, laptop and business cards at home during a two-week cruise south certainly wasn't enough to completely leave Stouffville in the rear-view.

"What part of Toronto are you from anyway?" a guy from the left coast with a hate on for Rob Ford for some reason asked during dinner one night.

"Stouffville? That's just part of the city now, another Mississauga or Pickering, right?" he said, before admitting he hadn't been back in his native Ontario for many years.

He was not alone.

A poolside beanbag toss tournament was whittled down to an all-Canadian final. Sadly, just like in kindergarten, this boy was on the losing squad.

"Stouffville, really?" said a member of the championship team, a Tim Hortons owner from Victoria. "Real small world."

She grew up in Toronto but spent many a weekend with family friends, the Bangay clan in Stouffville.

There was more.

The guy standing next to me as our ship traversed the Panama Canal lives in my home town, Thunder Bay. One of his golf partners was one of my best friends and point guard from high school.

A sales manager from North Carolina said his top Canadian rep lived in Stouffville.

Before his passing, the Stouffville salesman predicted the end of his beloved community as he knew it with a simple: "Walmart is coming in".

Rest in peace, friend.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.