# OPINION

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Sun-Tribune

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York Region Media Group community newspapers

The Sun-Inbune, published every, Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a whollyowned subsidiary of Torstan Corporation.

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CCAB

#### **Editorial**

# Not everyone can live in 4-bedroom backsplit

ISSUE: More variety in housing types, including apartments, needed in Stouffville.

t at least at one point in our lives, we've all lived in apartments.

College and university students. Single parents. Seniors.

The living spaces may be small but the marketplace is not.

And in case you hadn't noticed, Stouffville is not awash in apartments.

Many basement apartments are illegal.

There are a handful of apartment buildings in the urban core. But it's been many years since a rental building was erected here.

Condominiums are another story. There's a market for them, too, and money to be made, apparently.

Not so much for rentals or we'd be seeing them flying up just as quickly.

Down-sizing is the catch phrase. Those rapidly graying baby boomers don't all want or need their 3,000-square-foot two-storey homes any more.

And there's the rub.

The people buying or building homes don't want units smaller than theirs, be they townhouses or apartment buildings, in their back yard.

How selfish.

Where are our children to live? How about our parents?

It would be a sad legacy for a town to be built only around single-family homes, especially a community noted for its caring such as Whitchurch-Stouffville.

We're not backing development that does not meet local standards or does not fit into a neighbourhood. We've seen examples of that here. We don't need any more, thank you.

The province may be better known for its errors in recent years — see Ornge, eHealth, the Ontario Lottery, Presto cards and gas plants — but it got it at least partly correct in its Places to Grow Act from 2006.

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The plan stresses the importance of building complete communities, whether urban or rural, "which offer housing and services to meet the needs of people at all stages of life". In many cases, that means building up not out, or intensifying development.

Drum roll, please, Stouffville, where a new plan for a condo complex remains on the books for the downtown core.

The PACE Credit Union plan many not be perfect, but it fits the bill, being steps from public transit, shops and services.

It's the kind of growth every sprawling community needs — and should want.

BOTTOM LINE: Every family has a need for an apartment at some stage in its life.

Is there an issue about which you are passionate?
You could be a Saturday Forum contributor and get
the chance to have your piece published along with
your name and headshot. E-mail your 450-word submission to jmason@yrmg.com

### STOUFFVILLE SAYS/SANDRA BOLAN

Should teachers who coach and volunteer in other ways at school receive a bonus from the school board?



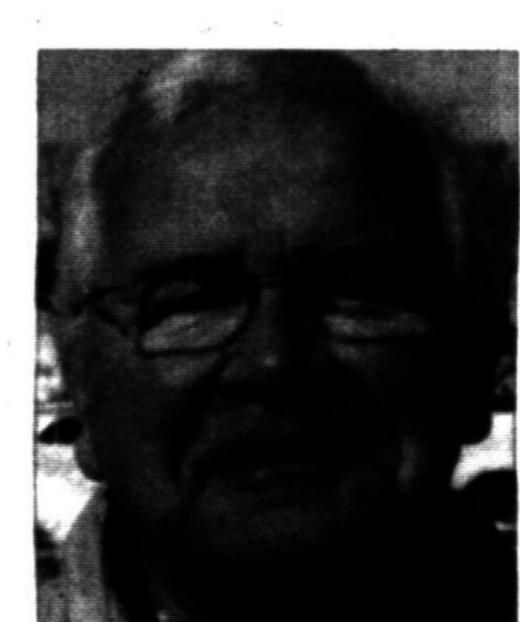
\*Absolutely not. They're already

well paid."



Yes. More time if you're comparing it to other teachers that

don't'



"That's really controversial. No. I think it's part of their responsibil-

ity when they take on teaching."

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Community lacking in MP's report

Last week I received my copy of Paul Calandra's February 2013 Community Report and read it through with a sense of increasing puzzlement.

It contains information on John A. Macdonald, Confederation, Canadian symbolism and the Canadian flag. All excellent information in its own right with its sources clearly referenced, stuff our children learn in civics and new Canadians learn as part of their citizenship requirements.

But where is the report on the community? Not a word, not an event, not a name or a place. Has nothing happened in our community or in Ottawa that relates directly to our community, that is worthy of report? Judging from this document it would certainly appear so.

As a history or civics project it might garner a B assessment; as a Community Report it definitely gets a failing grade.

erated and circulated using public funds, then it also gets the same exasperated

sigh I have been issuing recently over some senators' questionable expenses.

ANDY WRIGHT
STOUFFVILLE

# MPPs should look at their own gratuities

Police, firefighters continue to bank sick days, March 2.

As a teacher, I guess I should be happy we are not the only ones being targeted with respect to the accumulation of sick days and gratuities.

It would be even more gratifying if the MPPs who initiated this attack on teacher benefits would have first looked at their own generous gratuities and led by example.

Dalton McGuinty is entitled to a gratuity of \$313,431 and Dwight Duncan to \$248,777 on the day of their retirement. Previous education minister Laurel Broten is presently entitled to a \$246,057 gratuity. This is on top of their generous pensions.

What I feel rather than satisfaction though is a sick sense that we are preying on each other rather than

trying to fix general societal ills such as a poor minimum wage, use of temporary workers in place of full time workers who would be entitled to benefits, improving the Canada Pension Plan, etc. There is an African saying: "When the water hole gets smaller, the animals start looking at each other differently".

Unions fight to maintain and improve remuneration and benefits for their members. They are a balancing force to capitalism which tries to get the most from workers for the lowest cost.

These union-won benefits often translate into the private sector (e.g. regulating hours worked in a week and health and safety practices). What we take away from others, we cannot expect for ourselves or for our families.

It will be interesting to see if governments again use the blunt instrument of legislation (e.g. Bill 115) to eliminate sick leave gratuities for police and firefighters. I suspect teachers will remain special in that regard.

Feeling "special".

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN STOUFFVILLE