

OPINION

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Editorial

Not everyone can live in 4-bedroom backsplit

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

At least at one point in
our lives, we've all lived
in apartments.
College and univer-
sity 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 apart-
ments.

Many basement apartments
are illegal.

There are a handful of apart-
ment 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 develop-
ment 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
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The plan stresses the impor-
tance of building complete com-
munities, 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 sub-
mission 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?



DOUG MCINTYRE

"Absolutely not. They're already
well paid."



BRIAN SUTHERLAND

"Yes. More time if you're com-
paring it to other teachers that
don't."



DOUG ALLES

"That's really controversial. No, I
think it's part of their responsi-
bility 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, Con-
federation, Canadian sym-
bolism and the Canadian
flag. All excellent informa-
tion in its own right with its
sources clearly referenced,
stuff our children learn in
civics and new Canadians
learn as part of their citizen-
ship requirements.

But where is the report on
the community? Not a word,
not an event, not a name or
a place. Has nothing hap-
pened in our community or
in Ottawa that relates direct-
ly to our community, that
is worthy of report? Judg-
ing from this document it
would certainly appear so.

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

If this report was gen-
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 target-
ed with respect to the accu-
mulation 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 enti-
tled to a gratuity of \$313,431
and Dwight Duncan to
\$248,777 on the day of their
retirement. Previous edu-
cation minister Laurel Bro-
ten is presently entitled to a
\$246,057 gratuity. This is on
top of their generous pen-
sions.

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 enti-
tled to benefits, improving
the Canada Pension Plan,
etc. There is an African say-
ing: "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 mem-
bers. They are a balancing
force to capitalism which
tries to get the most from
workers for the lowest cost.

These union-won ben-
efits often translate into the
private sector (e.g. regulat-
ing hours worked in a week
and health and safety prac-
tices). 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 legisla-
tion (e.g. Bill 115) to elimi-
nate sick leave gratuities
for police and firefighters. I
suspect teachers will remain
special in that regard.

Feeling "special".

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN
STOUFFVILLE