

OPINION

PUBLISHER *Ian Proudfoot*
GENERAL MANAGER *John Willems*

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune
6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON L4A 1G7
www.yorkregion.com

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

905-640-2612
Fax: 905-640-8778
Class: 1-800-743-3353

DISTRIBUTION
905-294-8244

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly
dkelly@yrmg.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

Director
Regional Products
and Classified
Debra Weller

DIRECTOR,
OPERATIONS
Barry Black

DIRECTOR,
ADVERTISING,
DISTRIBUTION
Gord Paolucci

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

Advertising Manager
Dave Williams
dwilliams@yrmg.com

Regional
Office Manager
Melanie Attridge
mattridge@yrmg.com

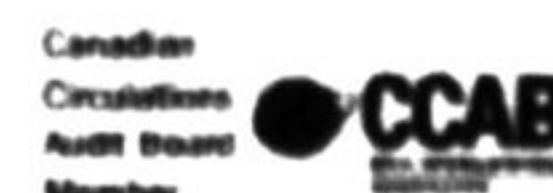
Production Manager
Jackie Smart
jsmart@yrmg.com

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LETTERS POLICY

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WEEKEND FORUM

Your spring cleaning can be environmentally friendly

The spring clean. I think there is a correlation between being cooped up indoors reading flyers heralding home organization and the urge to start cleaning. Spring is just around the corner, (apparently) and I have taken time away from the flyers to find out just where to put the clutter that I will eventually clear out. In all honesty it will likely happen in the fall rather than spring, but it still counts as far as I'm concerned.

In an effort to avoid the mountain of seemingly important paperwork I accumulate in a year, I start with the kids' drawers, using the colder days to wistfully inspect the summer inventory. My son's pants have a self-sacrificing quality in each knee and they become this summer's shorts thanks to my mother's gift for sewing. For items that can't be easily modified into summer attire that still fits, there are a few decluttering options available to Whitchurch-Stouffville residents.

Nearest to me is the Care and Share Thrift Shop on Main Street. There is something to be said about helping to sustain a local resource and more to be said about being able to hand donations to a person rather than a box in a parking lot. In speaking with manager Elna Coetsee, I was able to compile a list of items the shop is looking to resell: clean clothing items for all ages and sizes that are new or lightly used and in season are always appreciated. Due to limited space and laundry resources, dirty and out-of-season clothing are not accepted. Interestingly, clean ripped shirts are accepted and are repurposed into tied blankets which are sold or sent to communities serviced by the Mennonite Central Committee.

The Care and Share also accepts household items that can be reused and electronic waste including old printers, cellphones, and certain ink and toner cartridges. For more information on thrift shop donations, visit: thrift.mcc.org/donate. As much as I enjoy dusting my VCR, perhaps it's time to send it for recycling now that my DVD player is on the verge of obsolescence.

Another local resource eager to



Tracey Hardie

accept donations is the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library. CEO Carolyn Nordheimer James says the library accepts many books and DVDs in good condition, particularly in the spring in support of its Giant Book Sale, (April 10 to 14). The library is also willing to take your gently used family members in the form of volunteers during the sale, particularly high school students looking to complete their community service hours. The library also accepts cellphones and printer cartridges for recycling. For more information, along with a detailed list of items not accepted (such as textbooks, magazines and encyclopedias), see whitchurch-library.on.ca/support-us/library-fundraising for further details.

Once all of our reusable items have been donated, I inevitably find a bin full of items that don't belong in any of the household waste containers, specifically dead CFL bulbs and batteries. Since both products contain compounds that should not be added to landfill, they need to be recycled appropriately. Most residents are likely aware of the recycling centres located throughout York Region, but if you're not inclined to make the trip to Richmond Hill or Georgina, Canadian Tire accepts CFL bulbs and dead single-use or rechargeable batteries. Given the number of AA batteries this family consumes, this find was cause for celebration.

Last but not least, if you don't want to haul your clutter, let someone else do it for you and welcome the season of the yard sale with a folding table and open arms.

Tracey Hardie is a member of The Sun-Tribune's Community Links Panel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friends keep old Stouffville alive

Arriving in Stouffville in 1968, we encountered a village of welcoming and caring folk.

While Stouffville grows and grows, it has not forgotten its past.

Recently we were having a trying time and found ourselves blessed by good friends and concerned neighbours who made sure that we were well looked after over a protracted period.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to wonderful friends who gave a great deal of help beyond what friendship calls for: Michelle Garbutt, Lovanna and Jim Sanders and Kathryn Mifflin. Also to fine neighbours Dave and Joan Parcells, Glen and Nancy Dean and Greg Traill. All are great "Stouffvillians".

We hope that our newcomers to Stouffville will discover pockets of "the old village" alive in their new communities.

KATHLEEN & ROGER
GLAZIN
STOUFFVILLE

HAVE YOUR SAY

► What do you think of these issues? E-mail jmason@yrmg.com

Thanks, snow crews

I would like to send a big thank you to the team at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for the fantastic job they did clearing the snow after the recent storms. Awesome job. We appreciate the hard work!

LAURA MURGATROYD
STOUFFVILLE

Rumble strips would alert drivers

Re: Crash course at corner for couple, Feb. 14.

In both cases Marie Flynn was on Reesor Road, which is a through road, and was T-boned both times by vehicles that were eastbound on Elgin Mills Road.

I travel up and down Reesor Road twice a day in a school bus and this east and west traffic, which is trying to get across town morning and night, leaves you won-

dering many times if they are going to stop and if they are going to yield

And some of the intersections are pretty blind and you don't see them until it would be too late if they did not stop.

Maybe an easy and simple solution would be to install rumble strips across the road three times before the stop sign, along with the large stop signs and/or red lights on the signs.

I don't think Markham has rumble strips anywhere across the town that I have driven over, but I find them very attention getting in rural areas where they are installed.

One of these accidents occurred during foggy conditions and these strips certainly get your attention, even when it is foggy.

The problem is not the speed limits, by the way. In my opinion, most of the 60 km/h in town should be 70 km/h, like the old 45 mph.

And I say that after having served a lot of my police career in traffic enforcement, supervising the investigation of serious accidents.

DENNIS SEELEY
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING PUNCTUAL AFTER THE TIME CHANGE, IF THERE'S NO ONE THERE TO APPRECIATE IT!

