

# OPINION

PUBLISHER *Ian Proudfoot*

GENERAL MANAGER *John Willemus*

Stouffville  
**Sun-Tribune**

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

Stouffville  
**Sun-Tribune**

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

DISTRIBUTION  
905-294-8244

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
*Debra Kelly*  
dkelly@yrmg.com

BUSINESS MANAGER  
*Robert Lazurko*

Director  
Regional Products  
and Classified  
*Debra Weller*

Director of  
Production  
*Jackie Smart*

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

York Region Media  
Group community  
newspapers

The Sun-Tribune  
published every  
Thursday and Saturday is a  
division of the Metroland  
Media Group Ltd., a wholly  
owned subsidiary of Torstar  
Corporation

## LETTERS POLICY

All submissions must be  
less than 400 words and  
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.  
E-mail: jmason@yrmg.com

Ontario  
Press  
Council

Canadian  
Classification  
Authority  
Member

## Editorial

# Social issues growing in our affluent community

### ISSUE

**United Way looks for local solutions to issues residents raised in Stouffville this week.**

It's a shame. It's too bad a community forum on social problems in Whitchurch-Stouffville was held on the same night as a town council meeting and a session on public transit in the community.

There were links between all three events. But it was impossible to attend all three.

United Way York Region's Meeting House 2013 series — *Unleashing the Power of Community* — came to Whitchurch-Stouffville Tuesday.

About 20 residents and representatives of local organizations and regional social service agencies gathered at the town's leisure centre.

This series visits York's nine municipalities between March and June and allows you to join the conversation and share what is already happening in your community around poverty and families struggling to make ends meet.

Not that town councillors and regional politicians could solve — or answer to — all of the problems raised Tuesday night.

United Way is looking for community-led solutions to the region's most pressing issues.

But councillors should get a

copy of the meeting's minutes. They should be fascinated by the comments of residents and outsiders. (See Saturday's Sun-Tribune for a report on the meeting and its fallout.)

All is not well here, despite record prices for homes, the doubling of the population in recent years and the construction of new facilities and stores, forum participants said.

Some of the issues:

- The lack of full-time employment, especially in light of this spring's closure of one of the town's biggest employers, Southwire Canada.

- The growing number of poor residents, highlighted by record use at the local food bank.

- While GO Transit has added train and bus service to Stouffville, YRT service is limited.

That's a problem for people getting to and from Stouffville for service-related jobs across the region. And there's no east-west service from Stouffville, making it difficult to get to nearby Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill for work and other services.

The discussion isn't over. And the issues won't go away, experts said Tuesday. It will be all in how we deal with them.

**BOTTOM LINE: Despite outward appearances, all is not idyllic in Whitchurch-Stouffville.**

**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](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)**

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### Care and Share more than a store

*Re: Stouffville thrift shop moving over rent hike, Sept. 27.*

I am a 15-year-old girl who has volunteered at the Care and Share Thrift Shop for years. It began as a way to get volunteer hours for school, but has turned into more.

In my first month of working there, I already had all of my required 40 hours. I learned so much from volunteering there it is remarkable. I learned responsibility and independence. I was soon trusted enough to be a cashier. I loved it there and began working three days a week, all day. I got to know some of the people in my town, people I never would have met otherwise.

Working there became fun, a way to make a difference in the store, the town and the world. Store profits go to the Mennonite Central Committee, which provides disaster relief, helps develop sustainable communities and does peace-building work locally and globally. A purchase in our very own

Care and Share can help the world.

The store is also environmentally friendly. I am an environmental advocate and I am so proud to say we have a thrift shop of this caliber in Stouffville. I am also proud to say I shop there. Buying at Care and Share is also nicer on your pocket. In this time, a recession, money is tight. In tough times, it is great to have a thrift shop to turn to.

Now there is talk of the store having to relocate. It deeply hurts me to hear such news. The town wishes to use the building for other activities, possibly for seniors? Do you know how many seniors walk through those doors everyday? Not only do they come to shop, they also come to volunteer.

I believe the town shouldn't increase the rent by as much as it planned to. Has it lost anything all of these years? I don't think so.

The Care and Share brings our community together and it would be a huge mistake for it to leave its home.

**ROSA ALAIMO**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Weekend market better for residents

*Re: Farmers market looking up for 2013, March 7.*

With the warm weather around the corner and as a relative "newcomer" to Stouffville, I was wondering why the farmers' market is held on Thursdays.

I would think having it Saturdays and relocating to the path behind the Memorial Park ball diamond would be a far better idea.

As it stands now, my wife and I come home, from work pick up kids at daycare and by the time we actually get home the last thing I want to do is go back out to peruse the market on Thursdays.

Having said that, I have no problem loading the SUV on a Saturday and driving to Aurora for a leisurely morning at its market. The sense of community there is quite apparent with many people gathering and chatting, getting caught up on each other's busy lives. All the while buying and sampling the many items offered.

With our community continually expanding we risk the sense of losing the small town feeling that

attracted all of us to live here.

They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and by all accounts we should be imitating what looks to be a successful and thriving market in Aurora.

**J. MCCARTHY**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Wrong message sent

*Re: What I did on my March break vacation, March 16.*

I was dismayed and disappointed to find a photograph of a young woman, age 17 clad in a bikini and boots playing in the snow. This sends out to the public and especially to the minds of young girls and boys the message that a female is valued only for her youth, looks and body and to be used for one purpose only.

In light of the abhorrent news regarding the abuse and mistreatment females continually receive around the world, I would have thought The Sun-Tribune might exercise more sensitivity to ensure what it published did not further promote this type of message.

We need to start sending out a new message, one that promotes females as human

beings that should be valued for their intelligence, creativity and compassion other than just as a sex object to be used, abused and discarded afterwards.

We get enough negative stereotyping through films, the fashion industry and the business world to fight. Let's not have to fight it in our community newspaper.

**PAMELA WRIGHT**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Don't waste our cash

*Re: Tricked-out projects score landscaping honours, Feb. 16.*

I see in a recent Sun-Tribune article that my taxes are going up about \$100 next year. This follows another article about the compass pattern put into an intersection and how much it cost.

I do not object to paying taxes. I absolutely do object to my hard-earned money being wasted on frivolities. How many necessities are not being accomplished by our elected officials because they are installing interlocking brick to make a road look nice?

**ROBERT GREENWOOD**  
STOUFFVILLE