

OPINION



PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot
GENERAL MANAGER John Willems

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

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 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

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E-mail jmason@yrmg.com



Editorial

Downtown opportunity mired in infighting

ISSUE

**PACE/Geranium's downtown
condominium project too large
for its potential neighbours.**

Jennifer Goodbrand nailed it in her letter to the editor in Saturday's Sun-Tribune. The PACE/Geranium Group's proposal for a condominium/retail building in downtown Stouffville is dividing our community.

How sad is that.

A golden opportunity to improve the look of our central business district could be lost to infighting.

On the same weekend editorial page, fellow Stouffville resident Nancy DiGiovanni writes about the same development proposal, hoping the housing in the plans will be of the affordable variety so her children will be able to remain living in their home town.

The DiGiovanni family is not alone on this issue in Stouffville and across York Region as our current series on housing problems in this area has revealed.

Not everyone can afford, or needs, a four-bedroom backsplitted on an acre of land.

Affordable or not, the downtown condominium project is exactly what the province ordered municipalities to do: intensify development.

In other words, build up not out. It's the opposite of the systematic sprawl we've known so well in York Region.

Residents of a downtown condominium would add foot traffic for our Main Street stores and services.

Condo owners wouldn't even require their own cars, with our extensive GO train and bus service almost at their doorstep. That's another positive lifestyle change in our normally vehicle-dependant world.

The problem is the scope of the project.

It's no surprise a developer is shooting for the moon, and as many units and floors as possible, in their opening salvos.

That's business.

It's up to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, especially our elected councillors, to make the call.

Reduce the size and impact of the project.

Move on.

(Kudos to the town for involving residents by providing regular updates and hosting a series of information meetings for residents of the neighbourhood and beyond.)

We hope the project is a go. It could be a ground-breaking game-changer for our community.

It could set an example for what can and should be done with some properties on our main drag.

**BOTTOM LINE: Shortened
condo building makes so much
sense for downtown renewal.**

**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**

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Hockey volunteers help our kids for right reasons

Did you take in the annual meeting of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association last week?

A room full of people who simply care about our community and the game of hockey.

Thanks to the board: Don Easter, Tim Messner, Peter Harmsen, Peter O'Boyle, Don Barker, Ron Bremner, Jennifer Asselin, Kristal Kobold, Louie Volpe, Sharon Taylor, Andria Stevens, Eric Ross and Wendy Armstrong.

The Dan McNeil Award was given to Curtis Davis and Jon Colley. Two better winners could not have been selected, especially the year that Bob McNeil, Dan's father, passed away. These kids are our future in business and our community, as well as our future coaches and board members.

The Steven Wright Award was handed

out to Andy Cartwright, a guy who has done more for hockey and kids in this community and I bet most of you do not even know his name. Well deserved, Andy, and then some.

Don Easter chose Kristal Kobold for the President's Award. The look on her face was worth the price of admission.

Kristal has changed the dynamics of the entry-level house league in minor hockey with passion, caring and creativity. Simply put, the kids are having fun in our community because of her.

None of these individuals want anything in return. There followed a fast-paced meeting organized to the point, with a small profit that will most likely be put into more training for the kids next season.

No new business is something everyone on the board wants to hear and then the motion to adjourn. That tells them they did their job.

Thanks for your time.

MIKE HUMPHREYS
STOUFFVILLE

Beautiful deed won't be forgotten

On a recent Friday evening, a group of special needs young people nicknamed "The Friday Night Friends" was enjoying dinner at Swiss Chalet in Stouffville.

When we were about to order our dessert, we were informed by our server that dinner for our entire party had been paid for. She did not know who the gentleman was.

Earlier, when I was accompanying one of the group to the washroom, a man and his family approached me and asked what organization we were with. Appreciating his interest, I explained that our group met every other Friday for a variety of activities and the members were from Stouffville and Markham.

Was he our anonymous benefactor?

The Friday Night Friends - David, Dikran, Jaclyn, Kevin, Mary, Vanessa, Theresa and Peggy - would like to thank our anonymous friend from the bottom of our hearts.

Your act of kindness and generosity delighted us all. It was a beautiful deed that will not be forgotten. God bless you and your family.

PEGGY CANIGLIA
MARKHAM

Records broken at library book sale

Once again the community of Whitchurch-Stouffville has come through.

The library's Giant Book Sale raised more than \$18,000 over the 4-1/2 days of the sale this year - the most successful book sale ever.

These funds will go toward augmenting the resources at the library, offering programs such as author visits and purchasing equipment.

The book sale fundraising committee has many, many people to thank for helping to make this book

sale so successful.

First, to the Stouffville Firefighters, Kinsmen Club of Stouffville, Richardson Lodge Masons, Stouffville Lions and students of SDSS and other neighbouring schools for their involvement in setting up and taking down the sale.

Thanks also to Barthau Jewellers and Card's TV & Appliances for the use of their signs. Thank you to the many volunteers who gave so freely of their time, sorting, selling and packing.

And thank you to The Stouffville Sun-Tribune for supporting the sale through advertisement and publicity.

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks are due to the citizens who came out in record numbers to support this annual library fundraiser. Their generous support of this event is responsible for its continued success.

All this dedication and commitment is most appreciated.

CAROLYN NORDHEIMER
JAMES

**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

HAVE YOUR SAY

Stouffville, send your letters to
jmason@yrmg.com