

# OPINION



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## Editorial

# Our heritage homes worth saving, too

### ISSUE

**We need a refuge for our  
heritage buildings before  
they are gone**

Commuters heading to and from Stouffville should be familiar with the Henry Bartholomew's house. It was built about 160 years ago on 260 acres on the south side of Stouffville Road between Hwy. 48 and McCowan Road near Ringwood.

You could see it not far from Stouffville Road just east of the lights at McCowan.

What was once a beautiful farm house not too many years ago had fallen badly. Its paint was peeling and the landscaping overgrown. Even worse, the interior was crumbling. Mould was present, possibly the aftermath of a marijuana growing operation.

A plaque will be placed on the property and some pieces of the home may be salvaged and given to the local heritage committee. But the building was too far gone to save.

That's a shame.

The demolition was delayed as parties looked at saving and moving the structure.

It didn't happen.

If council did not grant a demolition permit request this month, the home would have remained boarded up.

There are no mechanisms in place for the town to force the

property owner to fix it.

That, too, is a shame.

Earlier this decade, some members of town council talked of creating a home for heritage homes.

There is a beautiful example to our south. Markham Heritage Estates is a 42-lot, heritage subdivision owned by the town.

"In recognition of the inevitable conflict between the pressure for new development and the conservation of our heritage in a growing and developing municipality like Markham, (it) functions as a subdivision of last resort for heritage buildings in the community that cannot under any circumstances be successfully retained on site," is the official message.

Sound familiar?

Sounds like something that could work in Whitchurch-Stouffville, a town that has already invested heavily in its past at its wonderful museum.

It's not just the Bartholomew house. Demolition permits for heritage homes regularly pop up on town council agendas. Most are granted.

Other homes, in Stouffville and beyond, have mysteriously burned while waiting for their disposition to be sorted out.

We need a mechanism to preserve that heritage.

**BOTTOM LINE: Markham  
Heritage Estates is a template  
Stouffville can use.**

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### 10 years later, see what town support did for Luke Anderson

Ten years ago, many gathered to support a young man in our community who suffered a tragic accident.

The 2003 Bid and Bop for Luke Anderson raised funds to secure Luke's future. More than 700 people stepped to the plate in support of Luke.

Fast forward to 2013. Luke has surprised no one in his ability to accept what he was dealt and moved forward.

Today, Luke works at an engineering firm in downtown Toronto. StopGap is a result of Luke's vision 'to create a world free of barriers.

Check out their activity at [www.stopgap.ca](http://www.stopgap.ca)

On May 30, Sleepy Hollow Golf Club in Stouffville, will host a fundraising dinner for StopGap.

I encourage you to join with Luke and celebrate all he has accomplished. See how

### Looking forward to 30 more years of Mason

*Re: Our grand unscripted journey, column by Jim Mason, May 9.*

I would like to acknowledge all of the work done to promote our town by Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason through his work at the paper over the years.

It was not until I read his column, Off The Top, last week that I realized how lucky Stouffville has been that one of life's detours brought Jim here more than 30 years ago.

Jim's unscripted journey has been a blessing to our community. His life experiences have enhanced his perspective and resulted in well-balanced editorials and entertaining columns.

I hope Mr. Mason was not talking about his own career when he used the phrase "dead end". We now use the words "no exit" and all of his faithful readers never want him to exit Stouffville.

Here's looking forward to another 30 years of great writing.

**PETER PUHL**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Break-in artists spoiled Mother's Day

Whitchurch-Stouffville is, for the most part, a wonderful place to live. The people are friendly and hardworking.

However, there is that faction of the population who feels justified in breaking down a door and taking what others have worked their whole lives to attain.

These cowards feel entitled to steal from an elderly woman, things that may not even have great monetary value, but have huge sentimental value, a concept these punks will clearly never understand.

These sick individuals think it is fun to trash someone's loved and well-cared-for home. They think they are special and do not have to work like the rest of us to purchase the extra things we all like.

Fortunately, life has a way of evening the score.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

► What do you think of these issues? E-mail letters to the editor to [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

the support of our community 10 years ago, enabled Luke to move forward and make incredible contributions to the community beyond our borders.

*Today, Luke works at an engineering firm in downtown Toronto. StopGap is a result of Luke's vision to create a world free of barriers.*

Dinner tickets are \$75. Call Gary Betts at the Sleepy Hollow Pro Shop to reserve your tickets.

A day of golf is also being offered. Four-somes can book through Mr. Betts, as well. Call the pro shop at 905-640-2949.

Hope to see you there.

**SANDY SCHELL KENNEDY**  
STOUFFVILLE

These miscreants may have got away with it this time, but life is long and karma's a bitch.

I am only sad that they are probably not reading this as they have already demonstrated their clear lack of intelligence.

(Not a) Happy Mother's Day. Would their moms be proud?

**INGRID LESLIE**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Cut teachers salaries

*Re: Sick days abused, letter to the editor by Bob Couperthwaite, March 14.*

I agree with Mr. Couperthwaite 120 per cent.

I worked for a company as a dispatcher for 30 years. You could count on my eight fingers the number of days I was absent from my job. Now is this dedication or what?

I have a solution regarding Bill 115 between the teachers and the provincial government. If the province cut the teachers' salaries in half they would still be making more than they are worth.

**GERALD MCGUCKIN**  
STOUFFVILLE

*This is debatable*

**WEIGH IN ON THE DISCUSSION ... e-mail your  
comments to [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)**