

# 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 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.

## Delivery issues?

For all your delivery  
inquiries, please  
contact  
ycustomerservice@  
yrmg.com

## 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



## Salute to Medical Professionals

### 'Thanks, doc,' you share your heartwarming stories

**T**hey are there when we need them, like a beacon of hope during our darkest hours.

*Seldom thanked, they make sure we are healthy and provide a word or two of kindness to help us keep up our spirits.*

*York Region Media Group is saluting our medical professionals — asking you to write to us about those unsung heroes who have taken care of you and your families over the years.*

*Here are words of kindness from your neighbours:*

Dr. Yishai Wise of Markham Family Physicians is my doctor.

Previously, I was a patient of Dr. Susan Maclean for 20 years, but she left the Markham area and I was forced to find a new doctor.

Normally, I only had female physicians, but when Dr. Wise arrived, I had no choice but to see him. I already didn't like him. I tried to convince myself.

But Dr. Wise demonstrates an ability to reach you even when you don't want to be reached.

He is pleasant, warm, funny, caring and knowledgeable. He gives you a feeling of family interest.

I am older than 60 and not once has he ever been dismissive or disinterested. In fact, he goes the extra mile, there is no sense of age at all. He is a truly lovely person who, without a doubt, cares about me.

I am happy to have him in my life when I need him.

**JAN RUTHERFORD**  
STOUFFVILLE

Dr. Karen Tanaka has been my family doctor for more than 15 years. She is one of a dying breed of family physicians who delivers babies.

Through my pregnancies and being a new mother, she gave me the confidence to trust my instincts.

My girls are now 14, 12, and nine and she has been there through routine concerns such as breast feeding, high fevers, chicken pox and the scarier moments of learn-

ing to manage asthma in my oldest, the constant daredevil injuries of my middle and a seizure condition in my youngest.

She has been thorough without being alarmist and I have always left her office feeling as if we were all in good hands.

When my youngest was hospitalized with pneumonia for eight days, I saw what a true credit Dr. Tanaka is to her profession. Every morning as I woke on the cot next to my daughter's bed, I would see her face peek around the curtain.

Most recently, she not only volunteered to assist in my surgery, but came and sat in the pre-op waiting room with me.

She is a doctor who constantly goes above and beyond the call of duty. She deserves recognition.

Thank you, Dr. Tanaka.

**NADIA WARRINER**  
AURORA

I want to acknowledge my family physician, Dr. Parm Singh who works at the Markham Family Health Centre on Church Street.

She is an amazing doctor who goes above and beyond all expectations. She has an exceptional bedside manner and shows great empathy and understanding.

Dr. Singh is personable and listens to what you have to say and always ensures that her patients understand and are comfortable with her diagnosis and plan.

When my son was born a month early, I had a lot of concerns and questions. Dr. Singh helped me feel at ease and provided me with the information I needed to help my son.

Recently, I had quite a few medical situations, some scary and some not so scary. Her knowledge and character helped me to get through it. She took the time to follow up with me and answer any questions I had.

**MEAGAN PATTERSON**

**WANT TO READ MORE? visit**

[yorkregion.com](http://www.yorkregion.com)

<http://bit.ly/10Mab0H>

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### Wrong poster child for homelessness

*Re: Poverty, homelessness go hand in hand, May 9.*

I sympathize with Kristine Turner, the woman portrayed in the article. But it is not indicative of the thousands of people living well below the poverty line.

Most still pay their rent, support their children and don't live in mould and mice-infested homes. Certainly, they may live hand-to-mouth, use the food bank, payday loans and rely on the kindness of others, yet they struggle through.

### Infill plan could affect our water

*Re: Neighbours: 'Not in my backyard,' May 25.*

The article covered all the facts as presented during the council meeting, but when I read it, I can't help but feel someone who lives in town would not care about a few residents of Bloomington.

Yes, it is happening "in my backyard" and I will have to put up with the noise and dust, but this proposed fill operation could affect many more lives for years to come.

The presentation did not provide any evidence to even suggest these ponds are a threat to the water source, so why should we mess with them?

All Stouffville residents get their drinking water from two wellheads that are less than 500 metres away from the proposed fill site. This is a highly sensitive area due to the close proximity of the wellheads.

With the lack of strict regulations, having fill operators testing their own fill and virtually no one monitoring them, we could be allowing big money developers to dump stuff into drinking water used by all of us.

Please try to encourage your readership to do some

It seems Ms Turner was offered help by her landlord when it comes to fixing her home and avoiding eviction. But her problem seems to be of her own making through poor choices.

She's fortunate she has someone to care for her son. Many don't have that luxury.

I agree that many families are one pay-cheque away from being homeless.

But using Ms Turner as the poster child leaves a bad taste in the mouth of those willing to help when you see someone who won't help themselves.

**KAREN DYNES**  
STOUFFVILLE

research. They can start here:  
[www.stormcoalition.org](http://www.stormcoalition.org) or  
[www.ctcswp.ca](http://www.ctcswp.ca)

**MIKE HARDER**  
STOUFFVILLE

### Take a stand to help aboriginals

I am writing to inform Stouffville Sun-Tribune readers about the living conditions of aboriginal people on reserves.

Water, medical care and housing are big issues. Every Canadian has the right to good living conditions. They deserve better. It's not fair we have more than they do.

Every single Canadian has the right to clean water. The First Nations don't have clean water. That means they can't take baths, drink clean water, use the toilet and sink.

At school, children don't have water coming out of a fountain. They can't cook because they might need water. They become dehydrated without water. They need clean water to survive.

It's not fair we just turn on a tap and clean water comes pouring out. They should have that, too. It's their right.

Every Canadian has a right to medical care, but they have very limited medical care.

There are more than 24

hospitals in just the Toronto area. For the First Nations, they have to travel so far for so little.

Hospitals don't have the right equipment and technology. The medicine is so expensive, considering they have very little money. It's everyone's right. If they don't get proper medical care, we shouldn't either.

Lastly, they don't have money to fix their homes. They have holes, cracks and chips. It would be dangerous if they stepped on a crack or chip. In the winter, snow goes through the holes and cracks and it may even freeze the windows open.

In the spring, when it rains, it can cause a flood in their homes because water can flow right through the cracks.

Animals break into their homes because the cracked doors may not close properly. Windows may not shut.

I think Stouffville should be aware of these living conditions of aboriginals on reserves. I think we need to take a stand as a community and do what's right for the aboriginal people.

Thank you for taking your time to read my letter.

**RISHIKA AGASHE**  
GRADE 6

WENDAT VILLAGE PUBLIC  
SCHOOL, STOUFFVILLE

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