

OPINION



PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot
GENERAL MANAGER John Willemms

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

Sun-Tribune SATURDAY FORUM

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

DISTRIBUTION
905-294-8244

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly
dkelly@yrmg.com

DIRECTOR, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Robert Lazurko

DIRECTOR, REGIONAL PRODUCTS AND CLASSIFIED
Debra Weller

DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION
Jackie Smart

DIRECTOR, DISTRIBUTION
Tanya Pacheco

DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND SALES DEVELOPMENT
Gord Paolucci

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

Advertising Manager
Dave Williams
dwilliams@yrmg.com

Circulation Co-ordinator
Daphne Laurie
dlaurie@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

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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

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Are tryouts for competitive sports teams just a sham?

I have been in Canada for the last 12 years and come from a country where I grew up playing soccer and other sports. Ice hockey was new to me, although I did play field hockey. However, hockey fever never got to me and I always saw immigrant kids flocking to play the internationally popular game of soccer or football in many places in the world.

Over the past many years, I realize it is extremely important to have the right connections in clubs and other associations, if you want your child to fulfill his or her dream of becoming an international soccer player.

My experiences have been mixed with various soccer clubs where my son has tried out and he did have an opportunity to play rep. or competitive, soccer for the last year.

But I'm writing this to create awareness, that as a parent, you must keep on trying until you get through.

I certainly do not have the connections that are required, as some say, to get my son into the best clubs.

Here are some actual words my son heard from coaches after tryouts:

"You have good legs, but you need to bulk up by about 10 pounds". (No comments offered on his skills.)

"He played well for most days but on the final day, he did not come to play". (Final day?)

"You should come and join our academy, where your skills will certainly improve". (Good sales strategy.)

What I heard from other par-



Vikki Mungre

ents is the following:

"Maybe you need to speak Italian, because the coach talks to the team in Italian."

"The team is already selected before tryouts."

"This team has been playing together for the last five years."

What bothers me is even if the team is solid for the last five years, I am sure a good coach would look for better talent and fresh legs for the team, if he truly believes in and is as passionate about soccer as kids I know.

My million-dollar question to the community, clubs, associations and all parents and players is: are tryouts for real or are the players already selected before they happen?

I hope that people who read this can identify with what I am sharing and come together to make soccer the truly wonderful game that it has been and always will be.

Vikki Mungre is the father of two sons and is a writer, guest speaker and human resources professional. The family has lived in Richmond Hill for eight years.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Council didn't listen to residents, merchants

Re: Condo building good for economy: Hargrave and Neighbours unhappy with council, Sept. 26.

There was a complete lack of compassion for those who live, shop and have businesses on Main Street during Tuesday's Whitchurch-Stouffville council meeting.

Council approved the PACE/Geranium complex for Lloyd and Main streets.

My heart goes out to the merchants, residents of Buckingham Manor and people who own homes on the heritage streets around the approved site. That area is the Rosedale of Stouffville.

Now, those in and around the site will be subjected to construction from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week. For the seniors living in the manor, their last months of life will be spent breathing in dust, not being able to go outside and listening to the construction vehicles all day.

Councillor Rob Hargrave gave reference to the "once bustling downtown core" of

40 shops, of which now five are closed down. There was no reference that it was town council that also decided to move leisure activities off of Main Street for which people came to Main Street for, as well.

The arena, Royal Canadian Legion (due to the region's realignment of Ninth Line) and library were all moved away from Main Street, which brings up the question: are the people working in the planning department actually living, shopping and sending their kids to schools here?

There will be parking and safety concerns in the neighboring areas with the onset of construction. Any challenges to the approval of this plan fell on deaf ears.

Our motto is "Country Close to the City", but at Tuesday's meeting it was easy to see that will soon be "City-Looking in the Country".

Even with the region's mandate to grow, there is a proper way to do it. There is a way to incorporate small segments of new builds in town.

Ask and actually listen to those in town who have been here for genera-

tions and decades and they will have a better answer than those who do not live in town - but hold all the design power.

During the meeting, there was a blatant disregard for heritage, the merchants, the town's people and the farmers - who actually built this town.

Members of this council will never see my vote.

SHAWNA KELTERBORN
STOUFFVILLE

Government set age for school attendance

Re: Child too young to ride school bus, letter to the editor by Teri McTavish, Sept. 21 and Mom gets system changed after child's bus misadventure, Sept. 14.

Why question a mother for putting her three-year-old on a school bus?

The question should be: As parents should we not trust our children are safe at school if the government allows this age to attend?

Don't blame the taxpayers. Blame the government and school system.

IVONNA C. HUNTER
STOUFFVILLE

MUST BE TIME FOR ENTERING MARKHAM FAIR!



PAT WHEELER/SUN-TRIBUNE