

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
1-855-853-5613

DIRECTOR, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING
Debra Weller

DIRECTOR, CREATIVE SERVICES
Katherine Porcheron

DIRECTOR, DISTRIBUTION
Tanya Pacheco

DIRECTOR, REAL ESTATE AND CLASSIFIED
Gord Paolucci

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

Advertising Manager
Anne Beswick
abeswick@yrmg.com

Circulation Co-ordinator
Daphne Laurie
dlaurie@yrmg.com

York Region Media
Group community newspapers

The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday, 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



COLUMN

Do our holidays make sense to you?

Is it just me or does it seem unfortunate we celebrated Victoria Day, which marks Queen Victoria's birthday (she was born May 24, 1819) on Monday, May 19, even though people call it May Two-Four Weekend (yes — hiccup — there's a nod to beer in there)? The reason we still celebrate it all these years later, I thought, is it offers a chance to enjoy the first real warmth of summer with a three-day weekend.

And then on May 24 itself, which was a Saturday, we didn't celebrate at all. (Sorry, Victoria, or I guess I can call you Vicky, seeing as I've celebrated your birthday for decades.)

By government proclamation years ago, we take the first Monday off preceding May 25.

Unfortunately on May 17 to 19, our long weekend, it's too cold to be the first to jump in the lake or rollerblade in your bikini or plant your garden or whatever it is you are going to do on the unofficial kickoff of summer, since it's MAY IN CANADA! A week makes a difference in May.

But then, when Canada Day rolls around, which is a celebration of Canada's birthday (which was July 1, 1867), we actually celebrated it on July 1. Which was Tuesday, which meant many people didn't get a long weekend out of it, if they weren't able to take Monday off. Which seems so unsatisfying.

Not to mention more businesses are being allowed to open Canada Day and many other holidays, which means fewer people get the day off while businesses carry on like nothing special is afoot, other than customers wearing red and white and Canadian hat flags and maple leaf facepaint and caps with moose antlers.

"What's going on? Is it some kind of holiday or something?" "I think they're from the Liberal party. They just won two byelections."

Of course, what makes up for this is our newest statutory holiday here in Ontario, which is a Monday off... wait for it... in



Bernie O'Neill

February! How nice. I'd clap but it seems pointless with me in mittens and you in earmuffs.

About the only holiday that makes sense is the August long weekend, or bank holiday, as my parents used to call it. Simcoe Day, the first Monday in August, when it is nice and sunny and people can enjoy the outdoors, barbecue, go up to a campsite, go on a short trip to visit family and know year after year they are going to get those three days off, in a row, no matter when a queen or their country was born.

Fortunately, I'm not a Parliamentarian. But if I were, I'd propose the following (I hope this makes sense).

We do away with Family Day in February. Winter is miserable as it is and one day staying home watching the fireplace channel won't help much.

Move that day to the summer to make Canada Day a two-day celebration of our nation. If July 1 falls on a Tuesday, Monday is a holiday as well. If July 1 falls on a Thursday, Friday is a holiday as well. If it falls on a Wednesday (as it would once every seven years), well, at least we get a Wednesday and Thursday off together and all the smart people can book Friday off well in advance. If it falls on a weekend, we get the Thursday and Friday before it, off — to party, relax, enjoy.

Yes, it's tricky, as are many religious holidays. But there are hardworking, patriotic people out there who'd enjoy a warm three-day weekend arriving more often.

Bernie O'Neill is editor of the Markham Economist, sister paper to the Sun-Tribune.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Bad apples take joy out of Strawberry Festival

It is unfortunate to note the Stouffville Strawberry Festival took on a different meaning for my family and two others north of Main Street, in the early hours of June 29.

Our neighbours had a fountain, which was in their front yard, thrown through their car window, while another had a neighbour's garden ornament thrown through their car. We had our car keyed, so count ourselves lucky, this time.

Since we moved to Stouffville from Toronto seven years ago, we have had to call the police for several noise complaints, lived beside renters who were "known to police" and regularly clean up beer cans and bottles in my neighbour's cedars after every weekend.

Someone knows who these kids are. These children are not visitors to our town. They reside in Stouffville.

When I see them walking past my home

Out of town visitors impressed with fireworks

The fireworks were awesome this year! Congrats on a great job, Strawberry Festival!

We had friends from Germany visiting and we all went to wander about and finished the festival with fireworks.

They were impressed and I was astounded.

It was a fantastic show and kudos to you folks ... can't wait 'til next year!

Great job, you guys and gals!

MIKE PATERSON
STOUFFVILLE

Shame on flag thieves

I have lived in Stouffville for more than 25 years and have never had any problems before a recent incident.

A large 2- by 4-foot Canadian flag was removed from my fence on Hawthorn Avenue between the hours of Sunday 12:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

I am very disappointed and angry at the person or persons involved in this Saturday late night prank.

Even though I no longer have a Canadian flag displayed on my property, I can still say "I am proud to be a Canadian" — which is more than I can say for the person or persons involved in this theft.

Shame on all involved.

D. YORKE
STOUFFVILLE

with beer cans, I know it will be another sleepless night. Try and explain to me how you do not know your kid is out of your home until 6 a.m.? We have heard the police say (at 3 a.m.), "I told you to go home an hour ago."

In the meantime, we are hopeful the new police station in Stouffville will translate into more night patrols, as I am afraid my husband and neighbours will get seriously hurt when they are trying to prevent kids from ripping out stop signs at Park Drive and Manitoba.

I am offering a reward for any information leading to the arrest of whomever was responsible for these three acts of cowardice during the long weekend. We have all made a report to the police and our insurance companies.

Perhaps next year I will stay awake at my door and try to stop an attack before it happens. I, the meantime, have some respect.

GWENNE BILAS
STOUFFVILLE

Golf cart donation shows community's spirit

Shadow Lake recently received a special gift from Bennett Equipment Services.

We bought a used golf cart from them and while Ryan Bennett was delivering the cart he stopped, looked around and said "I've been to Shadow Lake a few times and each time that I'm here I'm more and more impressed with the work that you do. Tear up the invoice, I want to donate this golf cart to the camp."

What a great member of our community.

GARY OUELLETTE
DIRECTOR, SHADOW LAKE CENTRE
STOUFFVILLE

Young fundraiser needs support

It was a hot Saturday afternoon and at the east end of Main Street I spotted a police cruiser parked on the side of the road and a policeman talking with a young girl running a lemonade stand.

I also stopped as the officer drove off.

The young girl, Emily Winters, said he was really nice and bought a drink.

Emily had a sign stating the money is going to help fight cancer. Emily mentioned her granddad had cancer and now he is cured and she wants to do her part.

In two days she raised \$90.

God bless this young lady. Should you see her at her stand, why not stop and encourage her with a purchase and maybe leave a tip?

Emily's family must be very proud of her.

TIM FLYNN
STOUFFVILLE