

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 Lazurko

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 Lawrie
dlawrie@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?

To speak to a customer
service rep:
1-855-853-5613

Delivery inquiries:
yrcustomerservice@
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

Ontario
Press
Council

Canadian
Circulations
Audit Board
Member

COLUMN

Community connections found behind the tinsel

The Toronto Christmas Market has made top 10 holiday to-do lists in USA Today and Fodor's Travel.

It's a throwback to European yesteryear, a 13-acre street market in the trendy Distillery District, the brochure writers enthuse.

I'm sure it's quite lovely.

I may even get there some year. (For the record, I couldn't find a parking spot in the general vicinity while trying to pop into the Distillery District for a bite to eat after a Jays' game last summer. We ended up in Greek-town.)

And while we all like to escape every now and then, there are plenty of holiday — dare I say Christmas — events right here in our home town.

And these soirees and gatherings can pay dividends all year long.

If you moved to Stouffville strictly because you could afford a home here, this isn't for you. You commute to your downtown career, buy your staples in Markham and recreate elsewhere, too. You're good.

This is for those of you who want to make those community connections.

You were in the minority who voted in this fall's municipal election.

You not only pay your taxes, you make sure you get your money's worth, beyond trash pickup and snow clearing.

You can find the library, town offices and maybe even the museum without the GPS. You've been north of Millard Street and know Musselman's Lake isn't in Muskoka.

You've bought in.

Maybe joined the multicultural association, attended a street festival or two and signed up for a pilates class.

You know your neighbours. Got the kids playing soccer and maybe hockey.

Christmas is prime time to take your relationship with Stouffville to the next level.



Off The Top
with *Jim Mason*

You can simply attend Saturday's Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade and mix with the thousands who will line Main Street. Maybe make some new friends and learn more about your community.

Or you can cruise social media and discover organizations (ie. the Terry Fox Run) are looking for volunteers to be in the parade.

The Stouffville Christmas Day Dinner is now a delivery-only event, but volunteers are needed to peel potatoes, slice large birds and hand over styrofoam containers to the needy and lonely. Call the town (905-640-1900) to sign up.

Stouffville is blessed with several community choirs. Two of them, Bach to Blues and Men of Note, host popular Christmas concerts. If you can carry a tune there might be room in the chorus, not the audience.

A new community group that seems all about volunteering makes its debut at Saturday's parade. It sounds an awful lot like a service club, minus the weekly meetings and dues.

But really, it's not about seeing Santa singing along. Joining and taking part are just subcultures of making or keeping Whitchurch-Stouffville the caring community we want to live in.

Make that *most* of us.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.
Follow him on Twitter @stouffeditor

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Lengthen Santa Claus Parade to include seniors residences

Re: Arena traffic tie-ups behind shorter Santa parade, Nov. 27.

Let me see if I understand this correctly, the sports complex on Weldon Drive takes priority over Santa Claus, something about traffic?

There's more than one route to get to the arena. Besides, I don't recall hearing from the fire department that there was an issue, or NoFrills, or the apartments and homes on the east side of Weldon Road as well as the homes on Hoover Park Drive and nearby.

Shorten this Saturday's Santa Claus

Parade? Why not extend it even further west and let it end where the municipal offices are on Sandiford Drive?

It just seems silly that a number of local residents in the Parkview complex for seniors, who are unable to physically attend, should be deprived of viewing an event just because of a couple of hockey games whose participants don't necessarily reside here.

Perhaps someone will step up to provide a live-feed to the residents of the seniors facility.

Let's see what happens.

STEPHEN KORNBUM
STOUFFVILLE

CRTC heavy handed with decision

Re: Decision could shut down station, Nov. 20.

One of the nicest things about moving to Stouffville was discovering WhiStle Radio, 102.7 FM. Listening to it gives me a sense of belonging and the feeling that we have a unique identity here in Stouffville.

The CBC does much the same thing on a national basis. Not everybody listens to the CBC or agrees with all its programming, but it is allowed to exist and is a source of national pride.

This CRTC decision is heavy handed. There are other local community radio stations operating on the same frequency — will they be shut down as well? For me, listening to WhiStle is just one of those things that makes Stouffville feel special.

I think we all should be concerned about losing our small town volunteer radio station.

STEVE MACQUARRIE
STOUFFVILLE

Clean sweep welcome at lake

In recent weeks I have read comments about the new mayor Justin Altmann.

First, I think everyone should step back and take a deep breath, the man was just sworn in Tuesday.

I know Altmann and I voted for him, it was a last-minute decision but I felt it was the right one. Altmann is no dummy. For as long as I can remember he has been going to many council meetings, learning the ins and outs. The insults are uncalled for.

He must have done something right since he did get the majority of the votes, and the others did not. Richard Bartley was the only other alternative, but he did not win people over.

Nor did now-former Ward 2 councillor Phil Bannon and thank evolution he did not win since he was by far the worst Ward 2 council-

lor in the history of Ward 2 councillors.

Will Altmann make mistakes? Of course he will, everyone does. But let's just look south to Toronto and the mayor they had. A complete disaster.

I am not ashamed to admit it but I cried on the night of October 27, 2014 when I heard Altmann and Maurice Smith (Ward 2) won. They were not tears of sadness, they were tears of joy. And I did not even cry at my mother's funeral less than a year ago,

I and many other Musselman's Lake voters are hoping for big changes up here.

I think the insults and complaints should not be towards the new incoming mayor, but only 45 per cent of the voting population who put the effort in to vote.

Need we remind these lazy people more than one million men and women died in two world wars to give us the right to vote and make a difference?

We should all watch the news and see what the people of Hong Kong are having to deal with and the protests they are having just to keep the rights we take for granted or look at the governments of North Korea or Syria.

Women did not get the right to vote until 1919 in Canada, but I bet many men and women waited in line for fast food longer than it takes the time to vote.

For shame.

MARK HARPER
MUSSELMAN'S LAKE

GET CONNECTED



SEND YOUR LETTER: Email your
comments and/or suggestions to
jmason@yrmg.com



COMMENT & POST A PHOTO:
[facebook.com/StouffvilleSun-Tribune](https://www.facebook.com/StouffvilleSun-Tribune)