

OPINION



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Sun-Tribune

COLUMN

Why my truck smells like a Butterball air freshener

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The interior of my SUV smells like I received a Butterball air freshener for Christmas. Thankfully,

My son, Ryan, and I were on a mission late Christmas morning.

Our vehicle was one of 14 delivering 470 turkey dinners across the Greater Stouffville Area.

We arrived at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church where a small army of fellow volunteers was carving turkeys and dishing them up into Styro-foam containers.

Some sliced bird with gravy, vegetables, rolls and a slice of Christmas pie.

All the trimmings.

The 19th annual Stouffville event switched to delivery-only this year. Business was good. Organizers, including town councillor Maurice Smith, had expected to dish out 350 meals. They served up all of the food that was prepared.

No leftovers in this fridge.

Driver co-ordinator Lawrie Yakabuski gave us our directions and 16 meals to deliver. He had



Off The Top
 with Jim Mason

special thanks for sponsoring Stouffville Nofrills.

Many of the people we delivered to were alone this Christmas.

All were grateful. Some wanted to chat, to share part of the day. Some made donations to the dinner fund.

Our dinners delivered, we retreated to our own home.

My truck still smells turkey. I hope it lasts all year.

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



Volunteers carve turkeys for 470 meals on Christmas Day.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

We need to re-focus, Stouffville

Re: Spirit of small-town Christmas discovered in produce aisle, column by Jim Mason, Dec. 25.

A very good question in your column. Have we progressed?

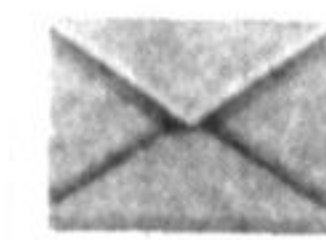
It depends on your definition of progress. For those who define progress as bigger with more choice, then yes we have made progress.

For those who define progress as a more loving and caring community, there has been no progress. Things are getting worse.

Your column, however, is titled Spirit of small-town Christmas. I will suggest the Spirit of Christmas, in any sized town, is loving your neighbour and showing it by caring. Even if your neighbour is a 25-year-old newbie with questionable cooking skills.

On a neutral note, I suggest the churches were strong and, thankfully, remain strong in maintaining the spirit. But, I fear, they are now a smaller proportion of the town and in that way doing less.

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The Lions Club of Stouffville has no religious affiliation and is solely to serve the whole community. They were founded long before you were born by the businessmen of the town.

Today, there are few businessmen, few under 60. We're mostly retirees with many over the age of 80. And today there are half as many Lions as there used to be even though the town is now four times larger.

People allocate their time to other things in the town. For those who define progress as a more loving and caring community, there has been no progress. Things are getting worse.

People need to change their time allocation and focus on the people of the town to get us back to where we were 32 years ago.

PAUL CROWE
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
 STOUFFVILLE LIONS CLUB

