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Students at Claremont Public School learned more about government last week during a study unit in which elections were held. Voted co-Prime Ministers were (left) Matt Simmonds, 12 and Gordon Turner, 12, both Grade 7 students.

## Stouffville set for great change

Nothing, it has been said, is quite as sure as change. For Stouffville, it is almost ironic that so much of this change has involved the west end, or Golden Mile approach to town, as if to



**FROM WHERE I LIVE**  
Bruce Stapley

signify the sun's sinking in the west on the Stouffville that seemed to remain static for so many years.

For Stouffville is very much a village in transition. Business concepts considered wild dreams just a few years ago are fast becoming a reality.

The stunning contrasts are everywhere, such as the new Firestone Tire Shop at the southern end of Sandford Drive, complete with the most advanced computerized diagnostic equipment, yet situated directly beside a farmer's field. You don't see that sort of thing in Toronto.

Where else would you see a scruffy looking abattoir marring the visual effect of an otherwise attractive new recreation complex? Now hopefully, the owners will have seen fit to cease holding the Town ransom by the time the building finally comes to deserve the name 'complex'.

For years, Graydon Card, and all the rest of Stouffville, simply got used to the sight of the open field that suddenly has become the Stouffville Place Mall. The mall's grand opening this week marks a truly historic occasion in Stouffville.

Graydon could see the future. One is forced to wonder how much longer Stouffville residents will be able to walk through the streets of the new subdivisions like the one at the south end of Stouffer Street, looking past the gorgeous new homes and gazing at the old barn on the Tenth Line.

Is the Sales Barn destined to become just another memory of the time Stouffville was thought of as nothing more than a cow town by residents and non residents alike? Rumors of the Barn's change of location are becoming more and more prominent.

The inevitable notion that 'cliques' actually control what happens in a small town becomes more wide spread as newcomers take up residence here, unaware of the town's history and traditions.

An unfair charge, I believe, in that the old timers are simply banding together in an attempt to maintain their ties with a past when they felt secure with that which always seemed to remain the same.

All candidates in the recent municipal election focussed upon the physical effects of these drastic changes that have so altered Stouffville. But neither the politicians nor the residents of the village can know just what effect all this rapid change will have upon the intangible mystique that is Stouffville.

No one wants to see it become 'another Markham.' That's a cliché that has become automatic wherever people get together to discuss the future of Stouffville.

But on the other hand, most of us who live in town have big city backgrounds, and have come to expect big city services.

Do we eventually fall into the Disneyland perfection that is Unionville, or are there built-in limitations that will keep us from becoming so grand and so exclusive?

The truth of the matter is we've been discovered. And it may well be that there is not much we can do to keep from experiencing more of the progress we have come to know in recent years. I suppose its sort of like a ride at Canada's Wonderland where you pay your money, strap yourself into your seat, and hold on. We can only hope that the new Council is able to guide us confidently through the turns.

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