

# New owners pledge changes at Green Gables

**MATT NICHOLLS**  
Correspondent

Stouffville's Green Gables Manor has changed ownership. Gerald Harquail, Percy Thadane and Paul Grossman purchased the manor — located north of Stouffville on the 9th line — and a five-acre parcel of land, Aug. 11 from previous owners Dmytro and Natalia Haluszka.

Terms of the purchase were not disclosed.

Mr. and Mrs. Haluszka owned and operated the manor for the past 17 years.

"We are looking forward to

working in Stouffville," Mr. Harquail said in an interview last week. "It's obvious this centre has been looked after very well in the past and we will continue to maintain a high level of service."

Mr. Harquail — whose group owns the Cedar Crest seniors home in North York — hopes to bring a new sense of community to manor residents.

"We want to bring a community feeling here," he said. "And we'd like to see more town organizations, like churches, get involved with our events."

Mr. Harquail said steps have already been taken to establish a sense of community within the manor.

"Yesterday we encouraged everyone to come down for a family dinner and the response was wonderful," he said. "I think changes like this are very positive."

Harquail said almost every resident turned out for the dinner and all had a great time.

But Mr. Harquail's ideas for the manor don't stop here.

He also wants to build a new ultra-modern centre for Alzheimer's disease patients on

the land behind the existing building.

"It would be a perfect place for it because it's so peaceful here."

The new centre would be built within the next few years after all the necessary political hurdles are passed, he said.

"It's something we're looking at for the future."

Green Gables director of care Irene Evans told The Tribune last week that the change of ownership "is a positive step" for the manor.

And Mr. Harquail's idea to develop stronger ties with the

community is imperative, she said.

"I've worked at a number of centres and they all have been involved with the community," she said.

Mrs. Evans said many residents have already expressed their delight with recent changes to the manor.

"One of my ladies cried at supper (the new family dinner) because she said she hadn't done that in years," Mrs. Evans said. "It was very moving."

"I think this will turn out well for the manor."

# Cyclists no problem to merchants

**MATT NICHOLLS**  
Correspondent

Accidents involving pedestrians and bicycles are not a serious problem on Stouffville's Main St. sidewalks despite the increasing number of bikes using them, the town's chief building official said last week.

Bruce Arrowsmith told The Tribune last week no pedestrian/bicycle accidents have been reported on Main St. over the past few years.

He added that over the past two years, only "a couple" of com-

plaints have been received by the town concerning bike traffic on Main St. walkways.

"It is not a serious problem," Mr. Arrowsmith said. "We certainly aren't actively looking for cyclists to tell them to stay off the sidewalks."

The town currently has a bylaw which restricts cyclists from riding on sidewalks.

But increased traffic congestion and tight parking on Main St. has forced some cyclists onto the sidewalks, Mr. Arrowsmith said.

"At this point though, it doesn't

seem like a serious problem," he said.

But some local merchants disagree. They believe bicycles are dangerous and a hazard for downtown shoppers.

"I think they are very unsafe, particularly for the elderly," Tom Thompson, owner of The Villager Men's Store, said.

"Some of the older shops have doors that open onto the street and cyclists can't see people step out," he said. "I think cyclists should know the rules of the road before they ride."

Mr. Thompson said bicycles aren't the only obstacle facing pedestrians on city sidewalks.

"Skateboards are even worse," he said. "They are very unpredictable. You never know where they'll go."

Rob Croxall, head pharmacist at Aiken's Pharmacy, said he has almost been hit by cyclists on the sidewalks.

"It's obvious there's a problem but not to the point that people are refusing to shop downtown," he said.

"I wouldn't say they aren't coming into the store because of it, but they definitely shouldn't be riding on the sidewalk."

Mr. Croxall said he believes more young people are riding on the sidewalks, mainly because "they just don't care."

"There's always been a lot of traffic on Main St. but that's not the only way to get through town," he said. "They don't (the cyclists) necessarily have to ride through the downtown area."

Ann Rae, owner/manager of Ann's Fabric's, said she "has no complaints" concerning cyclists on the sidewalk.

"It's safer than that stupid road that's for sure," she said. "It hasn't hurt our business at all."

# Mare says 'nay' to baby — mother goats fill in for her

**MATT NICHOLLS**  
Correspondent

What does a perplexed horse breeder do when a previously healthy mare suddenly rejects a newborn filly?

He simply replaces the mare with a mother goat, of course.

This seemingly unorthodox technique is precisely what local horse breeders Eric and Arlene Lehmann used last month after their four-year-old Egyptian Arabian mare Set El Dar failed to properly care for her newborn filly.

"We were surprised that it worked right away," Arlene Lehmann said in an interview last week. "We've been breeding Arabians for 15 years and this is the first time something like this has happened."

Mrs. Lehmann said the idea to use a goat as a foster mother was not the initial plan.

But after the filly refused to drink milk from another mare, a bowl and finally a bottle, a solution had to be found quickly.

"We brought in another mare but she didn't have enough milk," Mrs. Lehmann said. "Then we heard of a farmer in Orangeville who used goats. Goat milk is very good so we decided to try it and it worked."

The experiment was a success from the start and now, almost two weeks later, both foster mother and one-month-old baby are progressing well.

"It was obvious she wasn't doing very well with her original mother," Mrs. Lehmann said. "But now her physical and mental state are much better."

Mrs. Lehmann said the new filly will be named after the two goats used as foster mothers. Their names are Aly and Halena.

"It's really quite a sight to see them all together," she said. "We're not sure if she'll have an identity crisis, but at least she's healthy."

# Hands up for pizza



Peppercorn the Clown waves to motorists during the grand opening of the Main St. Pizza Pizza outlet Saturday. Discount pizza and games were a highlight of the day. The proceeds were raised for the York East Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

# Former Stouffville man finds family

It took almost 59 years of searching, but former Stouffville resident George Peck has finally located his family.

The 61-year-old pastor of the Christian Fellowship Chapel in Orillia was reunited with his two brothers and one sister last month.

It was the first time the family has been together since 1929, after the Depression forced Mr. Peck's father to put the children up for adoption.

"He was very thrilled to be with his family," said Stouffville resident Laura Logan, Mr. Peck's aunt. "George had been trying for years to contact his family and now he finally has. It is just so wonderful."

Mr. Peck's quest began April 10, when he located his youngest brother Ralph.

Mr. Cottrell was born in 1929 and, after he was given up for adoption, the Toronto Children's Aid Society found him a new home.

Now a security guard with Versa in Woodstock, the 59-year-old Mr. Cottrell was thrilled to hear from his older brother.

In mid-July, Mr. Peck was also reunited with his sister Dorothy Goodal, 65, of Toronto.

The family reunion was completed last week when George and his sister met their older brother, Arthur Foster.

Mr. Foster, 69, was born in 1920 and he worked for the CPR for 29 years. He currently lives in Scarborough.

A special family reunion was held in Alliston last Saturday to celebrate the family reunion.



There wasn't much left of this Pontiac after it crashed at 1:30 a.m. Sunday at Stouffville Rd. and Durham Rd. 30. The owner of the car is Robert Landry of Richmond Hill. He suffered minor injuries. The crash was investigated by Durham Regional Police and no charges have been laid.

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