

Editor's mail

# Academy visitors offer thanks

Dear Editor  
On behalf of the 10 students from Stouffville District Secondary School attending the U.S. Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama this fall, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our cause as we tried to raise some money to decrease the \$10,000 total cost of going.

## Local aided after storm

Dear Editor  
We have lived on 10th Line south in Stouffville for more than 30 years. Although there have been many changes, the people are still friendly, helpful and caring.

During a recent violent storm, a large tree in front of our house blew down.

After the storm, I phoned the emergency number. Help arrived shortly. Many thanks to the

writing about our progress and previous upcoming events.

- To the people who were generous enough to donate money to our coin collection; to the SDSS student body who bought our Jelly Bean Draw tickets and to Mrs. Leroy and Mr. Connell of the Physical Education Department who helped us organize the student-teacher hockey game, and for helping sell chocolate bars after school.
- To the people with cars who

kind police officer who set up flares and directed traffic and stayed until my son and daughter arrived, although he had other calls.

Thanks also to the young men (whom I did not know) who came with the chain saw and cleared the branches blocking the road so traffic could get by.

Than you all for your help  
Mae Budd  
10th Line S.  
Stouffville

helped by attending one of our car washes held at SDSS, but most of all to our first customer at our first car wash who tipped us \$20.

The list of people who helped us is long and distinguished, but to name a few:

Mr. Peter Bright, Mr. Jim Kelly and Company at StorageTek Canada, Linda Wood of Spar Aerospace, Julian Franklin and the rest of the 1988-89 Student Council, Mrs. Grove (our typist), Mrs. Jackson (our accountant), everyone at Stonehouse Travel for all flight arrangements, Julie and John Woods of Wheels entertainment, Norm Faulkner and Norm Copeland and SDSS custodians and many more.

To all our friends and family, thank you for your support and encouragement toward our trip and our dreams. Thanks to you, it has become a success.

Yours truly  
Jenni Allen  
Head Co-ordinator

### Outdoors

# Rain is helping the berry trade

ART BRIGGS-JUDE  
Correspondent

The overtures of rain of late may not be enough to help the second cutting of hay.

However, it may give the wild berries some much-needed nourishment. Any kind of crop would be better than last summer's disaster, when the seared little nubs of shrivelled fruit had to be regurgitated by the local robins to reach any semblance of softness.

Of course when it comes to berry harvest time, there's a vast difference between picking the cultivated berries and the wild ones. The domestic kind are planted in neat, easy to reach rows that have weed-free aisles big enough for a cart to go between. There's really no challenge to it.

But to go up on the ridge to pick, or along the overgrown hedgerows, or into the woodland openings, now that's an experience. Right away it entails an

exploration trip or two, not only to locate the berries, but to find out if they are ready to harvest.

Now if there's one thing I learned as a lad picking raspberries for a nickel a pint near Vineland, it is that you use two hands to pick. You tie a quart box at your belt line with a piece of binder twine and put your picked fruit in a pint box set in the larger one.

Carrying your extra boxes in an 11-quart basket gives you a good carrier to bring home your full pints and saves dumping them all together.

While blueberries get most of the attention further north, it's often the blackberries and thimbleberries that attract the local people in these parts. But thimbleberries, I soon found out, have much in common with roses. The largest and most attractive specimens are always protected by a myriad of prickly thorns. And these biggest berries also seem to be always just out of arm's reach.

Changing position means pushing the scratching brambles away and stumbling over a fallen branch or two in the process.

By the time you have an inch or two of well-earned fruit in your box, you think you're primed for anything. Wrong again.

Without warning, your foot goes down a hidden groundhog hole and your berries all self-eject into the surrounding shrubbery. Now if you think it's tricky picking the fruit off the bushes without getting lacerated, try retrieving the ones you spilled underneath. It's enough to get a person hung up on himself.

Another common occurrence that happens on any wild berry expedition is becoming separated from your companion. You're both led in different directions by that old axiom, "The berries are bigger on the other side of the bush."

I often think back to the time a few years ago when we had the last bumper crop of thimbleberries in the wilds of our homestead farm. While I was engrossed in picking a clump of particularly large fruit, my efforts were interrupted by a series of low guttural sounds coming from the nearby tangles.

My first thought was that my wife picking somewhere in the vicinity had forgotten her allergy pills and was having some kind of pollen reaction. However, when the shrubbery began to shake and Wendy did not appear or answer my call, it was time to take more drastic action.

But I couldn't just run away and leave my wife to face whatever wild thing was on the prowl, so I bowed to compassion, stopped running and walked away at a fast pace. About then, I remembered the camera hanging on that elm stub back there in the little clearing. Black bears now replaced blackberries in my uppermost thoughts. When the sound of cracking brush greeted my return, I sought safety behind a large climbable pine.

Wendy emerged from the greenery. "Did you hear those two porcupines fighting in there?" she asked. "Porcupines!" I stammered. "Oh yeah, but I was too busy picking to pay them much heed."

# Flintstones 'kidnapped'

MATT NICHOLLS  
Correspondent

A kidnapping has taken place in Stouffville and Bev Spence isn't very happy about it.

Two "one of a kind" lawn ornaments shaped in the form of the TV cartoon favorites Fred and Wilma Flintstone were lifted from the Spences' front lawn on Millard St. two weeks ago.

And the 15-year Stouffville resident isn't impressed that two of her favorite possessions have mysteriously vanished.

"It's a little annoying, that's for sure," she said in an interview last week.

"You try to keep your property nice and then this happens. I just hope somebody sees them and returns them to us."

The two-foot-high wooden figurines were purchased four years ago from a Scottish couple at the Pickering flea market, Bev says.

"And both are multi-colored, just like they were on TV. They are one of a kind because I don't think the couple (from Scotland) makes them anymore."

Bev says she thinks the probable culprits behind the heist are local teenagers "just wanting to have a little fun."

But for the young children on Millard St. who frequently came to play with the figurines the heist is no laughing matter.

"Young children in our neighborhood would come down and play with the figurines and I'm sure they'll be disappointed."

Bev has informed her neighbors of the situation and all are searching for the lost "couple." And even the York Regional police are lending a hand.

"I called them up and told them I wanted to report a kidnapping," Bev says, laughing. "A female officer came and she was very good-natured about it."

With her lawn now bare, Bev says she will look for new lawn ornaments when she goes to Florida with her husband in October.

But for now she's keeping her eyes peeled for Fred and Wilma.

"We'll keep looking and hopefully they'll turn up."

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## Rolling Stones

### TICKETS



Here's your chance to win tickets to the Rolling Stones concert September 3. Just answer four trivia questions on the ballot below and bring them in to us. The correct ballots will be entered in the contest. Two pairs of tickets will be given away. This contest is co-sponsored by the Markham Economist and Sun, Stouffville Tribune and Labatts.

Mick Jagger recently celebrated a birthday. How old is he?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

When and where does the Rolling Stones Steel Wheels Tour begin?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

What Toronto night club was "Love You Live" album recorded at?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

In what Canadian city did the Rolling Stones do two benefit concerts in 1977?  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip out this ballot and send to Markham Economist and Sun, 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, L3P 1M3 or Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune 54 Main St. W., Stouffville. To be eligible, ballots must be received by August 31 at noon.