

# Comment Page



## Participation key to town recreation

Stouffville is being urged to help map the recreation direction in which the town is moving.

A Parks and Recreation department advisory board meeting scheduled for tomorrow night is the perfect opportunity for residents with some recreation ideas to speak their piece.

But the town needs input to help chart the future of recreation in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The town's first step in creating the advisory board is indeed a laudable one, but for it to be a successful venture, it must first have some direction from the taxpayers, and then take heed of what is requested.

Though Advisory Board Chairman Dennis Murphy points out that the open meeting isn't a complaints session, it will provide a forum for thoughts — good and bad — about township recreation programs and policies.

Participation is the key to helping the advisory board succeed in its quest. It's up to local residents to give the board specific goals to strive for.

# Computer byte is worse than its bark

Why did I think that when I finally stopped worrying and learned to love my computer, nothing would ever go wrong with it?

Just two weeks ago, I was faced with the moment every techno-convert dreads; my mouse didn't want to play. In vain I rolled it around the mouse pad hoping for a reaction, but the arrow stayed stubbornly in the upper left corner of the monitor screen, refusing to open files or respond to my 'user friendly' computer's cheery little error messages.

I cleaned it out tenderly as instructed by the manual and put it back together; still nothing moved. I knew then we'd come to the



kate's corner

kate gilderdale

end of our sometimes stormy relationship. Apart from the fact that I had about 10 deadlines to make in 24 hours, I figured I could cope. I'd just drop into the nearest computer accessories store and pick up a new one.

You go to a bakery to buy bread and a grocery store to buy groceries, right? Going to the computer store however, will not necessarily result in the purchase of a new mouse. First of

all, I had to rehearse my line. "Do you carry replacement mice?" didn't sound right, so I settled on "this is a dead mouse. If you can't revive it, can you let me have a new one?"

"We don't sell the mouse without the system," offered my friendly salesman, apparently amazed that anyone still possessed a computer of such ancient (about five years') vintage. "Maybe it's time you thought about an upgrade." It was a nice, if fleeting thought. We were talking a mere two-and-a-half thousand here, but somehow I couldn't bring myself to be persuaded.

I heard the usual stuff about how much faster it would be to get into files and how I could operate a ton of software not compatible with my present, prehistoric system. His sales pitch fell of deaf ears. If only he'd realized it was useless to waste his breath on someone who remembers blowing on liquid white-out to hasten the drying process after erasing a typo.

To me, my computer is still a miracle of modern efficiency, but without my mouse it had all the impact of a speech on fiscal restraint by Toronto public school board trustees.

After my abortive trip to the store, I consulted the Yellow Pages and called several places to find out whether they had a mouse and, if so, what it would set me back.

How much could a small plastic box, measuring about three inches by 1½ inches by one inch, whose internal organs consisted of a mini squash ball, some metal rollers, a spring and a few wires, possibly cost? You're right. Much, much more than I thought. Estimates started at \$86 with a trade-in and climbed to more than \$150.

While I was bidding a tearful farewell to my faithful rodent on my credit balance, I thought I'd ask about another small glitch I'd encountered; the disk drive

wasn't ejecting consistently without the help of an unravelled paperclip. The customer services rep said it could be something really simple, which would probably run me up just \$200 plus, of course, the standard \$40 service charge.

On the other hand, it could be some problem with the machine and then we'd be talking quite a bit of money. I tuned him out and went round the corner to buy another package of paperclips. Isn't modern technology wonderful?

## Musselman's Lake resident gets no response from town

Dear Editor:

With regard to the article about the Lake Musselman Club in the Oct. 18 issue of the Stouffville Tribune, I wish to draw to your attention to the fact that the Mayor was supplied with the names of our club's four representative advisers well in advance of the town council meeting on Oct. 17.

The advisers' specific, geographic areas of concern involving the entire Lake Musselman community were presented clearly on a map.

We contacted the mayor through her personal secretary on Wednesday, Oct. 18 to ask why Mayor Sainsbury withheld the adviser names and constitutional outline of our organization from council.

To date, the mayor has not responded to anyone within the Lake Musselman Club.

Councillor Robb has been given a duplicate of our constitutional outline and the adviser quadrant

map that we originally supplied to the mayor.

He has been formally invited by letter to meet with these advisers to discuss the environmental concerns of the Lake Musselman Club. We await his response.

Yours Truly,  
K.E. Jobe

Adviser, Quadrant 3

## Time for change

Dear Editor:

Hooray for Pat Armstrong's letter on the traffic congestion on Main St. I am sure many of the town people think the same way so let's do something about it. Anyone interested in forming a committee to change the access route to the sales barn contact me at 640-7954.

It's our town, let's make it livable.

W. J. Thomas  
Stouffville

### Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune

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