

Grapevine

Stouffville case of puppy love

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Local resident Anne Starke didn't get much sleep on Tuesday night when the family German Shepherd, Heidi, gave birth to a mammoth litter of pups.

"She started giving birth about midnight," said a weary Anne. "When she got to number six, we thought it was all over. We were timing them, and according to the book I'd read, they were supposed to come every half hour. I waited for about an hour after the sixth one and then went to bed."

Soon afterwards, she heard Heidi whining, and along came number seven. After that, "they kept coming and coming. In the end, she had 12 and I was up all night."

Heidi is an excellent mother, but with that crowd she does need help. "I've been making formula and putting it in baby bottles," Anne confesses.

It's all good practice for Anne, who's expecting her first baby in July. In the meantime, anyone interested in acquiring one of the those adorable German Shepherd puppies can call Anne at 649-1241.

Long distance love

When Brian Tinker of Ballantrae landed a job as vice-principal of continuing education in North Bay last year, wife Gill and children Matthew, 14, Alex, 10 and Jesse, 7, were all set to pull up stakes and move their new home in time to settle in before the start of the 1989-90 school year.

They hadn't reckoned with the volatile real estate market, however, and eventually Brian had to move up to take his post without his family. He commutes back to Ballantrae on weekends so they could be together until their home was finally sold.

It will be a big relief when the family is permanently reunited at the end of February, says Gill, and they're all looking forward to their new life.

"We wanted to move further out into the country because we love the outdoors, and our new house is right on Trout Lake," she says.

Get it on credit

Fourteen-year-old Stouffville resident Paige Maddock has finally arrived. Like Peter Ustinov and Ella Fitzgerald before her, she's just received the ultimate accolade: an invitation to apply for an American Express card.

Strangely enough, Paige, who attends Unionville High School, hasn't jumped at the chance; perhaps she'll reconsider when they come up with the equivalent of a frequent flyer plan for regular patrons of the school bus.

Hospice help

The fantastic community response to Markham-Stouffville Hospice has proved that this service is a welcome addition to our town.

Completely volunteer run, the Hospice offers in-home care and emotional support for the terminally ill, as well as for their families, for as long as they're needed.

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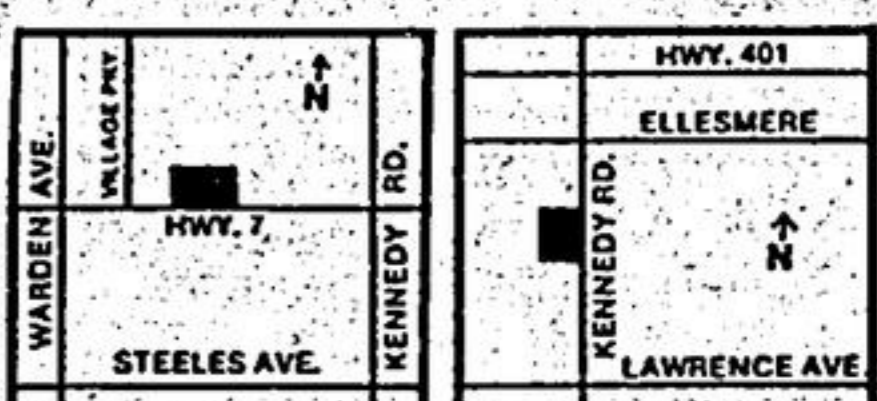
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