

Stouffville Progress Club enjoys helping community

Despite raising \$200,000 for a variety of charities and causes in its 10th anniversary years, the Stouffville Progress Club is just as dedicated to having a good time as it is to helping those in need.

So says this year's Progress Club President Brian Ziegler, who suggests his chapter's 21 full, and six associate members have developed a social closeness through a decade of working shoulder to shoulder in the community.

The Stouffville contingent is one of 54 that comprise the Canadian Progress Club, which boasts 1,560 members nation-wide.

Such is the stature of the local group that it has been chosen to host

the Southern Ontario - Quebec Regional Convention this coming June.

Mr. Ziegler, who has been with the club for four years, claims his members are committed to the community.

"We're a proud bunch of guys," he says. "We enjoy working in the community, and our main objective is to help people less fortunate than ourselves."

Towards that end, the club has donated \$22,000 to the Markham-Stouffville Hospital in the past five years and helped with fundraising for the Stouffville Recreation Centre.

They chipped in when Parkview

Home purchased a wheelchair van, have supported Glenbrook Day Camp, and are involved with the York Regional Police Department's Drug Awareness program.

Not to mention their three to four thousand dollar annual contribution to the Special Olympics and an annual donation to Sick Kids Hospital each year.

And whether the club is running a bingo every other Friday at Diamond Lil's Bingo Parlor in Richmond Hill, selling hamburgers and sausage on a bun out of their food trailer at local events, or taking part in Stouffville's Santa Claus Parade, the members usually enjoy themselves.

"We're quite active socially, in addition to our fundraising efforts," says Mr. Ziegler.

"A lot of our guys have known each other for years. Without the social aspect, the charity part wouldn't be as much fun."

The club holds four ladies' nights annually, along with dances, a snowmobile weekend up north, and, of course, the party that always follows the Santa Claus Parade.

The Progress Club, Stouffville chapter, is still an all-male fraternity.

But Mr. Ziegler recognizes that there are chapters scattered across the country which have admitted female members, and that the day may eventually come when this group goes co-ed.

"We are a men's club for now, but who knows what might end up hap-

pening in the future.

The club currently draws its members from Stouffville, Markham, Unionville and even Toronto.

Mr. Ziegler claims there is a healthy blend of professions represented, everything from farmers to professionals.

The Progress Club has a dinner meeting every other Wednesday at the Deer Park Inn, just north of Stouffville.

This year's vice president is Brian Yantz, with Doug Ellis acting as Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Ziegler maintains that the club is as strong as ever as it heads into its second decade in Stouffville, and that he is quite confident his members will be able to go on holding their heads high as they exemplify the Progress Club motto, "Proud to be a Canadian."

Disabled man seeks independence

Bob Berthelot is a disabled Stouffville area resident who is determined to gain more personal independence.

Mr. Berthelot, 39, suffers from chronic epilepsy and other last effects of childhood encephalitis - a disease causing inflammation of the brain. Despite these physical challenges, he's attempting to lead as normal a life as possible.

First on Mr. Berthelot's list of priorities is finding his own place to live. "I want to find a place of my own because it would allow me to be more independent," says Mr. Berthelot, who boards with a family in a Dickson Hill farmhouse.

He's supported by a \$561 disability pension and also receives guidance from social services professionals within York Region.

As he approaches middle age, Mr. Berthelot says he's ready to take on more responsibility for his own welfare.

"I want to find out what life's all about - things I've never had a chance to discover in the past," he says. He's looking for affordable rental accommodation in the Stouffville area and would welcome a roommate to share the rent.

A willing worker, Mr. Berthelot is anxious to find some sort of light employment to help fill his days. But his health condition rules out any kind of heavy labor.

The native of northern Ontario resided in the Rideau Regional Centre and other provincial facilities before being integrated back into society in the early 1980s.

He's a tireless advocate of women's and children's rights and often petitions government officials for improved conditions. Both women and children

deserve more support and protection against the evils of today's society, he says.

Mr. Berthelot frequents local donut shops and is well known by many local residents. He suffers severe epileptic seizures but this condition is controlled to an extent by medication. Mr. Berthelot can be contacted at 640-3424.

Goodwood news Local residents enjoy dinner

It was right before New Year's and there wasn't a seat to be spared but the spirit of the day was certainly there.

The dinner was tremendous and so was the cheer, when along came the big hand of the Mike Fagan Band.

Dancing to the strains of every boogie-woogie and jazz, many slow dancers were also there.

Everyone had a good time, and the ladies wore heavenly colors. Mrs. Wade was dressed in a raspberry gown.

Many Stouffville fathers were there and sure showed what they could do.

There was a beautiful wedding that took place at the Maples on New Year's Day.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, Mabel Postils gave her family a dinner for Christmas. She has a family of 12, nine boys and three girls, as well as numerous children and great-grandchildren.

She lives in Uxbridge now but her hometown is Green River on the Markham-Pickering Townline. Karen and Yvonne, George and Joanne Postils, Debbie and Orvil Bilby, Russel and Mary Postils, Donald and Joanne Postill, Helen and Patrick Marine, Ronald and Linda Postills, Frederick Postill, Will and Blanche Postill, Keith and Roxanna Postill, Linda and Ron Eng, Rick and Ann Postill, all enjoyed the dinner.



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