

stouffville comment

Citizen has benefited community

Tradition continues this week, as *The Tribune* presents the 12th annual Citizen of the Year award.

This year's recipient is no stranger to Stouffville residents. Our committee selected Ged Stonehouse after receiving a flood of ballots for him.

He was the obvious choice this year, after his seemingly tireless work to get Stouffville a prime athletic facility like the community track.

Ged was on hand when the sod was being set down, he worked within the business committee and with community groups to bring the project to fruition.

And this is not the first time the Stonehouse hand has been pushing a project to benefit the community. He was instrumental in securing projects like the Rec Centre for Stouffville and has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the community.

The Tribune is proud to be the sponsor of the Citizen of the Year award and is proud to recognize the contributions of Mr. Stonehouse - a real community person.



Festival spirit comes to Stouffville this weekend

There are few weekends like the July 1 weekend.

In almost every town and city across the country there is a festival or carnival celebrating all that is Canadian, usually with a supplementary theme.

Stouffville has been put on the July 1 map through its Strawberry Festival; an event I have yet to experience. But I am familiar with a few other holiday parties.

Like, say, the Trout Festival in Flin Flon. And while a host of events dedicated to a fish can be called no more unusual than a tribute to a field crop like the regal strawberry, the strangest festival dedication I've run across has to be that which is celebrated each year in my former community of Elliot Lake. Every summer, the residents band together and organize the Uranium Festival.

It always struck me as odd that for a week in the summer, the townfolk would strike up the band for a radioactive element, but of course, the town's sole reason for existence came out of the yellow material found there.

The festival in that town was much like any other, with bed races, ball tournaments and baby contests, but it had a few that were unique to a mining town.

The drilling and mucking contest, for example, drew large crowds and the finals in the competition were as well-attended as the fireworks.

Great brawny men would drill into a bare rock face, scale off huge chunks of rock and race back to the

MINUTE WITH MAIR

andrew mair



starting line with loaded ore carts. The fastest team won, obviously. There were other strange events like the fireman's hockey game, where the local FD would hook up their hoses and blast a ball towards the opposition goal with 200 pounds of pressurized water. Needless to say, the crowds would leave dripping

from all the excitement. And it looks like the Strawberry Festival will have much the same fun in store.

The reunion at SDSS will make this year extra special, and I know that the 14 months of work put into the event will pay off with many happy memories for those involved.

There is plenty to do on this year's roster of events, and to help you plan your weekend, we have included a Strawberry Festival section in today's paper.

As well, keep an eye out for the SDSS Reunion '91 magazine we've produced. It is being handed out at the reunion, and we'll have copies at locations around town.

Congratulations go out to Ged Stonehouse, 1991's Citizen of the Year for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Stonehouse has been instrumental in bringing to life many community projects, including the Rec Centre and this year, the community track. Well done.

Teachers get deserved break

"No more Latin, no more French; no more sitting on a hard school bench. No more beetles in my tea; making googly eyes at me." Anon.

That little gem comes from my ancient and tattered, but highly treasured, book of childhood poems celebrating the end of school. Despite its sentiments of unalloyed pleasure however, I've always regarded the start of the holidays with mixed emotions.

The last two weeks of school are a lot more fun than the first 37 or so. Teachers are more relaxed, lessons often go by the board and there's an air of camaraderie even among those students whose chief claim to fame is the astonishing number of times they can insert the 'f' word into a sentence.

Summer holidays represent change, some of it permanent. Students are leaving to go to high school, college or university, to start

KATE'S CORNER

kate gilderdale



a job, or to move to a new community. Teachers are leaving or changing classes and suddenly it seems like only yesterday that your child was in kindergarten, and next year he'll be in grade eight.

The final rush of the school year is replaced by a less structured way of life and, even as I heave a sigh of relief, I feel bereft. After all, the school has been at the centre of our lives for nearly ten months. How can I justify missing my deadlines without the children's endless activities to blame? Where will the next fascinating piece of gossip come from? Militant parents must have a really

hard time come the end of June. What on earth do they do all summer? No doubt they keep sane by hanging out at the baseball diamonds and soccer fields, threatening legal action at what they perceive to be bad calls and berating the coach for failing to recognize their child's budding genius.

It's easy to be critical, but as the school year ends I'd like to thank teachers and school staff everywhere for doing their best to educate and care for our children, often against awesome odds. It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it. I'm just grateful it isn't me.

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