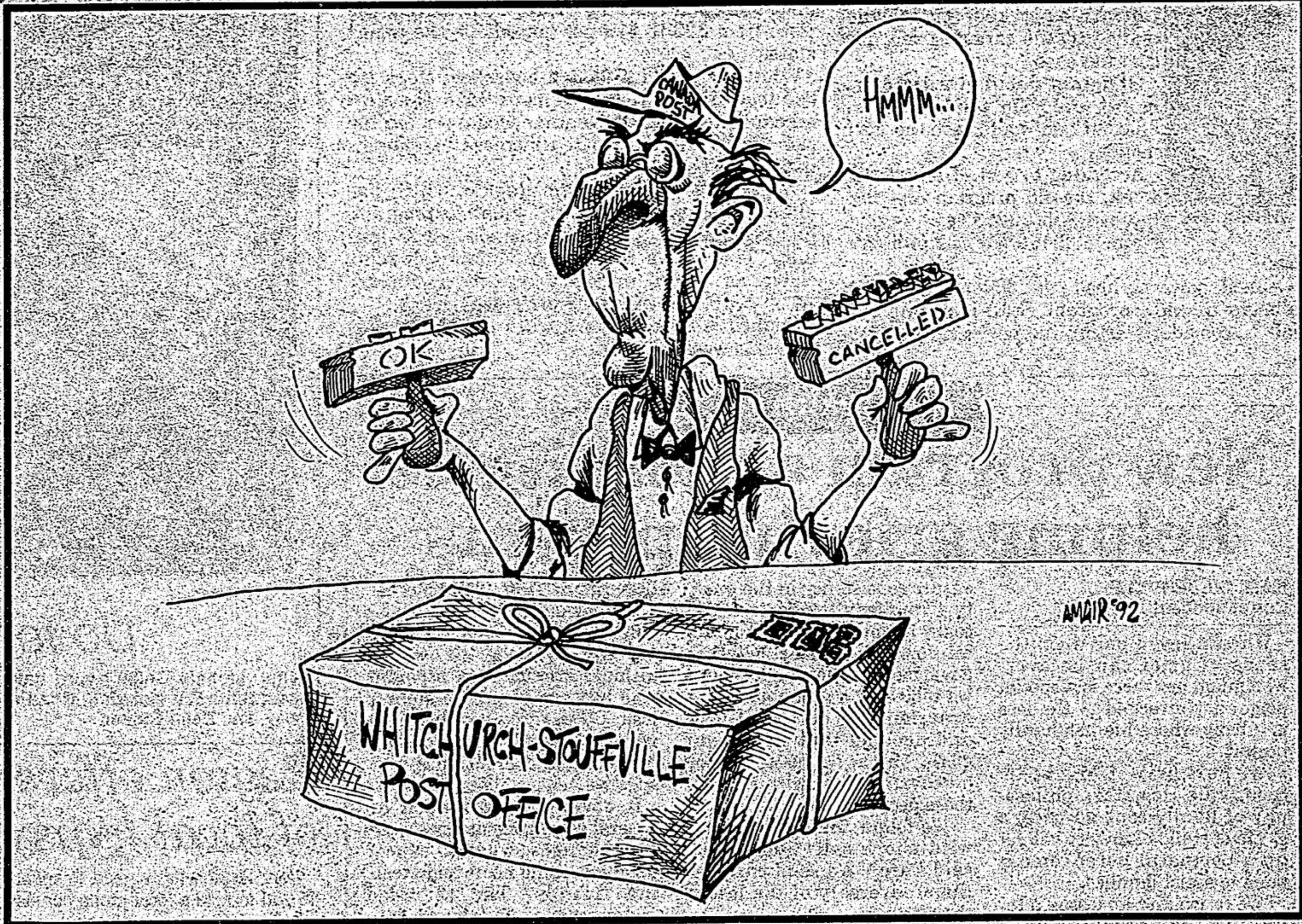


stouffville comment

No reason for comments about youth

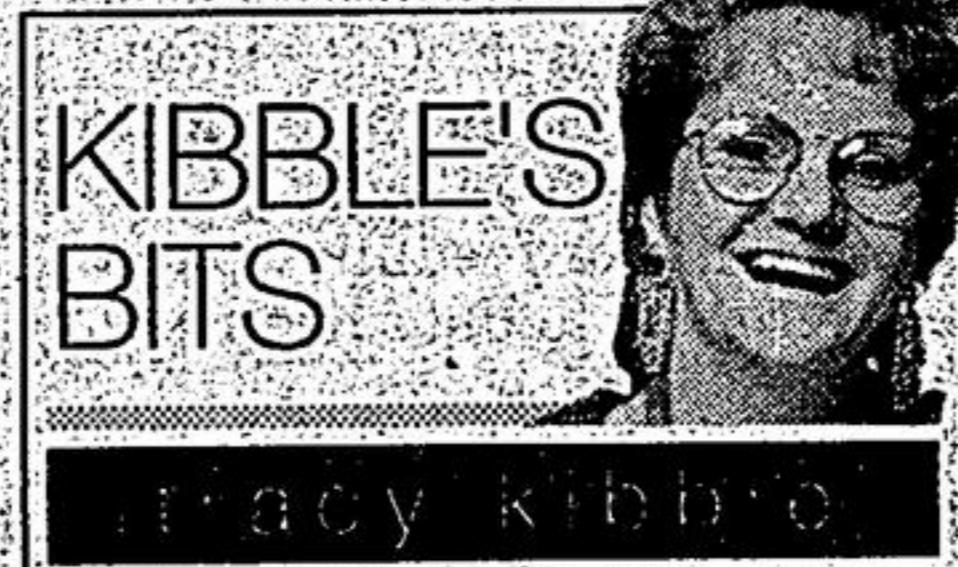
There is plenty to do for teenagers in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Why, just look around you. There are plenty of organized activities and sports. Teens are always saying there is nothing to do. It is hard to believe these were comments made in open council last week. More study is required in assessing the need for a youth centre, they said. Sixteen cars with tires slashed in four locations is not reason enough? One hundred teens ready to do battle in a local park is not reason enough? Girls assaulted in the park is not reason enough? Crimes committed by young people, even on school property is not reason enough? Teenagers killed in traffic accidents is not reason enough? There is no excuse for council's comments.



Politicians ignoring youth of Stouffville

Local politicians are ignoring a cry for help from Whitchurch-Stouffville teenagers. That's what it sounded like in council chambers last week, anyway. Officials want to see a copy of the survey sent to area students in Grades 7-10 before they make any decisions about whether the town needs a youth centre. They want to tour other facilities that apparently offer the very activities that teens are screaming for. They want more behind-the-scenes study. The town needs a youth centre. Wake up, guys. The young people in this community have spoken. They collectively told your staff in a questionnaire

that they want and need a place to go - a place for youth. Survey results prove that at least 727 teenagers desperately want something to do that will keep them and their friends off the street. The youth of this town are crying out for your support and all you can say is you want more information. Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice told officials he visited the 'barn' - a drop-in centre for teens run by the Stouffville Pentecostal Church. But most teens just wouldn't feel comfortable going there. It's not theirs. It's not public property because it belongs to the church. It's not something they created, and it's not intended to serve the mass



KIBBLE'S BITS
TRACY KIBBLE

general public. Great as it is for some - this just isn't the place for a PUBLIC youth centre. Prentice also chuckled that "adults are also invited" to the barn, and isn't that just jim-dandy. But that's exactly what the youths DON'T want. More adults around to organize their time. They can get

that at home or in their hockey, baseball, ballet, figure skating, soccer, or singing clubs. Let's give them a building that is all theirs. A place they can go and do their own thing or just do nothing. There would be some sort of supervision, of course. They're not asking for a newly-constructed building, but a place that's perhaps not used to its full potential now. I don't know how long ago it was that council members were teens, but for me it's been just more than a decade. There can't be that much that's changed since then. I grew up in a smaller town than Stouff-

ville and it is frustrating and isolating with nothing to do. You always wish you lived "where the action is," and you walk around feeling bored and wonder why you have to live in 'Deadsville'. Stouffville doesn't have a theatre or an arcade or a mall with a food court so everyone can meet. There's nowhere teens can go and just be together. The youth in this town deserve some recognition and if any are reading this, you should let your local council know it! I guess council figures teens aren't old enough to vote - yet.

Stouffville Tribune

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Publisher | Patricia Pappas |
| Editor-in-chief | Jo Ann Stevenson |
| Editor | Andrew Mair |
| Advertising Director | Debra Weller |
| Business Manager | Vivian O'Neil |
| Promotions/Distribution Mgr. | Jennifer Hutt |
| Operations Manager | Pam Nichols |

Staff: Reporters: Tracy Kibble, Julie Caspersen, Roger Belgrave. Photographers: Sjoerd Witteveen, Steve Somerville. Real estate: Joan Marshman. Classified: Doreen Deacon, Debbie Amundson (Uxbridge). Retail sales: Joan Marshman, Doreen Deacon, Heather Hill Gibson (Uxbridge). Distribution: Arlene Maddock.

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #439010
Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3 Tel. 294-2200. The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday, at 6244 Main St. Stouffville is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Collingwood Connection, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland Express, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era Banner, North York Mirror, Northumberland News, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa-Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, and Uxbridge Tribune.

NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.

640-2100 640-5477 (fax)

The name game can be confusing

Way back when I married the old man, women were merrily casting the family name into the bin and taking on that of their spouse without so much as a word to their therapist. Having a double-barrelled moniker meant you were posh rather than assertive. Those of the upper classes often tended to have names like Fotherington-Smythe or, in the case of one girl at the secretarial school for young ladies I had the misfortune to attend, Tweedie-Williams. Chloe Tweedie-Williams was not married. Her mother did not get hold of her surname and attach it to that of Mr. Williams or Mr. Tweedie. The Tweedie-Williams were pretty upmarket, probably rolling in inheritances, and much posher than my family, admittedly not a difficult achievement. My name may not have been impressive, but it was long. Ten let-



KATE'S CORNER
KATE GILDERDALE

ters in fact. I got married and swapped it for another ten-letter word. And my maternal granny also had ten letters in her family name. I'm delighted that I was born too soon to consider spurning my husband's name, or attaching it to mine, which would have saddled me with Kate Macalaster-Gilderdale. Imagine having to spell that lot out every time you left a message for someone. And imagine filling out forms for everything from a driver's licence to a passport. It's hard enough to find an official form which has enough of those little boxes to

accommodate Stouffville, Ontario, without the added trauma of a 21 character surname. It seems to me that the best way to overcome the question of family names is to marry somebody with the same one. This would have been tricky for me, of course, but it might have gone a long way towards solving the problem of over-population. One friend of mine actually did manage to fall in love with, and marry, a young woman whose family name matched his own. "And whose name will you use after you're married?" I inquired wittily. "We'll be the Robertson-Robertsons, of course," he said. One can't help wondering what will happen when all this equality hits the next generation. But at least I'll have a legitimate excuse for saying, "I'm terribly sorry, I've completely forgotten your name."