



Helene  
**JOHNSON**  
for...  
**COUNCILLOR**  
**WARD 2**  
Whitchurch Stouffville

## Rooted in the Community

Based on experience in the whole  
community

~ Helene Johnson can speak for you

**Nov. 10, 1997**  
**VOTE**

**JOHNSON HELENE**



# My brain drifts in and out as stocks fly and plummet

Even I have been unable to help noticing that the stock market is not so much flying as plummeting.

Every morning, I awake to the dulcet tones of a newscaster on CBC Radio One (the radio station formerly known as WASP). While Mr. Wallethead sets the alarm at various times, depending on his schedule, we always wake up to the news itself, or a preview of the upcoming national news or a quick encapsulation of the local news we've just missed.

There is no cause for panic, since more news is always on the way, be it a regional round-up or an analysis of some aspect of one of the late-breaking stories I have just heard, but utterly failed to absorb. Or the ultimate cure for insomnia - the business news.

Occasionally we'll get a bit of weather, or the sound of Jim Curran firing a cannon down Highway 407 after abandoning his search for a traffic jam (i.e. two cars driving in the same direction within five minutes of each other). But these days, whatever you listen to, news is just a time check away.

On 680 (all news, all the time) the news is changing. There was a time, particularly in early sum-



**Kate's  
Corner**

*Kate Gilderdale*

mer, when you wouldn't have noticed if they'd just recycled the same headlines for a week or two.

World news was about the French reaction to Quebec separation. National news was about another premiers' conference on Canadian unity. Local news was about protests by myriad communities rejecting the Euro-centric biases rampant in the People's Republic of Ontario.

When Diana died, all other news abruptly ceased, to be replaced by 24-hour re-runs of the car wreck and tributes from world leaders and photogenic celebrities.

These were swiftly followed by charges against the dastardly royals and the paparazzi, and much hand-wringing over the invasiveness of the media.

Meanwhile, if a whole third world nation had been wiped out by genocide, that news would have had a tough time making it to the Life Section.

A few weeks later, however, the

Canadian search for identity had reasserted itself and we were back to news as we know it. Then along came the market collapse. Experts were all over the airwaves like a rash, explaining how we had come to such a pass and examining the potential for a complete crash. As always, my brain drifted in and out of their in-depth analyses and even Mr. Wallethead, whose grasp on financial reality is the only thing that keeps me fiscally afloat, was at a loss.

All he could tell me was how many thousands of dollars our investments had lost in the past 24 hours. On Metro Morning's business news from England, meanwhile, the Canadian dollar was reported to be taking a nosedive in a flamboyant and entirely unCanadian fashion.

Our currency usually slips or climbs with appropriate restraint, and the poor bloke who is stuck with reciting its meanderings is hard pressed to introduce a note of urgency into his broadcast. Last week, his excitement was entirely unfeigned. I still don't know what it all means, but it certainly woke me up.

Next time I win \$10 on the lottery I'll bypass the money markets and invest in a pair of socks.

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A STRONG COMMUNITY**

elect on November 10



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