

Comment & Opinions

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Send your letters
to the editor
to the address below

EDITORIAL

Parade shows community spirit

In many communities, one of the definitions of community spirit is the Santa Claus Parade.

It's a time when traditionally business leaders and community volunteers join forces for one reason alone — to delight and thrill children and the young at heart in their town.

Stouffville's annual Santa Claus Parade will march into town next Saturday (Dec. 6), and credit is due the Kinsmen Club, town staff and the multitude of volunteers.

The business community is also a key supporter of the fun event — this year called 'A Magical Christmas' — which takes months of planning and considerable financial and in-kind donations.

The five bands and 35 floats wouldn't be a reality without the combined support of many in this community.

When you bring out your lawn chairs and blankets or your canteens of hot chocolate at 2 p.m., bring along your appreciation and thanks.

If you see someone along the route who you know was involved in bringing the parade to life, or see a driver of a float or a Kinsmen parade organizer after the big event, why not tell them 'thank you'.

The parade demonstrates the kind of community spirit which makes Stouffville special and conveys the spirit of the season.



Food bank needs help with gift baskets

Dear Editor,

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Foodbank is gearing up for Christmas. We have an average of 60 to 70 families this year needing our help.

Our clients receive the usual two baskets of food in December, if needed, plus a turkey voucher and a special

Christmas basket of food. This basket contains food for a special Christmas dinner.

Each child receives a gift donated

by various groups in Stouffville (i.e. church groups, clubs and nursery school children etc.)

This Christmas to help us pre-

pare the Christmas baskets, we were asking for cranberry sauce by Nov. 25 and stove top stuffing by Dec. 1.

The Christmas baskets will be made up by the Foodbank executive Dec. 8. Thank you

Secretary,
Whitchurch-Stouffville Foodbank

LETTERS

Professional driver shares 'road rage' tips

Dear Editor,

As a professional driver, I would like to share a few thoughts on the subject of road rage.

I deal with this problem many times a day, particularly as people regard trucks as a slow nuisance on the road, even though everything that anyone has ever purchased was delivered to

the store by truck. To take a line from Rodney Dangerfield, "Truckers don't get no respect."

The secret to surviving is actually very simple. I just tell myself "If this driver is that unpredictable, the best thing I can do is to say as far away from him as possible." So, every time someone cuts me off, or pushes in, or

does some other stupid move, I just say, sometimes out loud, "Let it go, just let it go."

Because my income depends on my licence, I will not allow someone else's stupidity to ruin my life, all for the sake of a moment of anger. You have to think long term.

I have come to the conclusion that a

high percentage of drivers on the road today don't drive at all. They're just practicing for their next big accident.

Well, I don't plan to be around them when that happens.

Perhaps we could adopt the slogan "Don't be a fool — keep your cool." It's your life, after all.

Phil Penfold

Has our MPP really read Bill 160 document?

Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading Julia Munro's letter "clarifying the gov-

ernment's position on Bill 160" and I find myself asking "Has she even read the document?"

I urge every citizen to go to his/her local school and ask to see a copy of the proposed legislation. Can you find the words "curriculum", "students" or "standards" within its 262 pages? Carefully examine page 59. Why, if this bill is so instrumental in improving the quality of education is it not to be reviewed or questioned in any court?

Look at the Exclusive Jurisdiction clause on page 177. Why is it necessary for the Minister of Education to have total control of education without any "question or review" in "any proceeding or by any court"?

If this Bill is designed to better working conditions (and hence, students' learning conditions) why, on page 178 and 179, is it necessary to

have "liability for non-compliance" and "dismissal of officers and employees" clauses? Does the Minister really fear that a teacher will refuse delivery of a box of new text books?

I could go on and on... Why can any school be closed, sold and its students transferred to another facility without any input from parents?

This document asks more questions than it "clarifies". It is a dangerous piece of legislation that will adversely affect Ontario's students, if passed.

Please, read the document, and examine your stand on Bill 160. It has nothing to do with improving the quality of education, it has a lot to do with money and power.

Marianne Hobbs
Stouffville

Show will be annual event

Dear Editor,

On behalf of 'The Music Town, Ontario' committee, I wish to thank all those involved in the very successful Gong Show at Latcham Hall, Nov. 8.

Members are especially appreciative of the many hours of work put in by event organizers, Rick and Liz Lightfoot and Ann Gage.

Through their efforts and the assistance of others, a total of \$1,547 was raised for the proposed Clock Tower Concert Theatre project.

From opinions expressed it was unanimously agreed we should do it again.

Jim Thomas, Secretary
'The Music Town, Ontario' Committee

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Andrew Mair
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Tracy Kibble
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Business Manager

Pamela Nichols
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about us

News
(905) 640-2100
Retail sales
(905) 640-2100
Classifieds
(905) 640-2874
Distribution
(905) 640-2100
Fax
(905) 640-5477
E-Mail
thetrib@istar.ca
6244 Main St.,
Stouffville, Ont.
L4A 1E2

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