



DINO BABIES: Students at Mother Goose Academy at the Springvale Baptist Church in Stouffville gather in front of their dinosaur cave which they have worked on for the past week. From left are: Carley Berry, Karter McCoy, Alyssa Thornton, Christopher Lieb, Jonathan Wiseman, MacKenzie Stover, Shavonne Nice, Laura Simpson, Emma Guast, Carson Trempe, Andrew Cory, Allison Stewart, Marcel Cenic, Michael Bourgeois, and Jordyn Rowntree. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Make-over planned for Main Street

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The move to spruce up Whitchurch-Stouffville continues on March 3 at 7 p.m. Business owners, members of local council and town staff will meet at the Stouffville train station on Tuesday at 7 p.m. to continue with the plan to not only make the

entrances to the town more appealing but to revitalize Stouffville's downtown. Eliminating eye sores, getting rid of the tired look and, in the process, putting some oomph into Main Street from Hwy. 48 to the 10th Line is all part of the agenda. In the past month, a committee visited 53 business owners to encourage them to join the beautification plan which includes plant-

ing trees, flowers and shrubs. Business owners were also asked to consider new lights, appealing signs, awnings, fencing, some painting and lots of spit and polish. "If we want business to come, we have to make it happen," stressed local Mayor Wayne Emmerson. Yesterday (Wednesday), York Region added its blessings to Whitchurch-Stouffville's Secondary Plan, paving the way for

the Big Pipe to come to town. The Big Pipe should be here within two years, said Emmerson. Once it's in place, it's expected to trigger development in Stouffville. "We need to get ready," said Emmerson. Existing business owners are being reminded of both the indi-

vidual and community benefits of adopting a "pride-in-property" philosophy. Not only does it enhance property value, it attracts business. Last month, local council authorized \$10,000 as "seed money" for the revitalization plan.

North Rd. ownership disputed

While everyone agrees, major road repairs are overdue. The hitch is ownership. About 60 years ago, in an agreement with the road owner and the homeowners, it was agreed that the municipality would not assume this road as it was for summer use only. Property owners were simply given a deeded right of way over the developer's land and paid \$1 a year towards maintenance.

"As a result, no standards were imposed upon these rights of ways," said Leigh. Life on North Road changed in the 60s. "One family fought with the town for the right to live here all year round. They won." Once this trend was started, others followed. A new association was set up and homeowners were directed to pay \$325 a year each for road maintenance. "This is on top of regular taxes," said Leigh.

Leigh also pointed out that no one living in the North Road area gets a tax break because it isn't town-owned. As the roads deteriorated, becoming more and more inaccessible, residents started to refuse to pay their fees. "This made matters worse. There were less funds available for maintenance, but these non-payers still use the roads, in turn causing more wear and tear. This has caused feuds in the neighbourhood. Neighbours have taken others to court, liens have been placed on residents' houses.



STREET SCENE: This is the view of Main St. looking east, just west of Hwy 48. Council is inviting residents to suggest ways to spruce up the heart of Whitchurch-Stouffville. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Board hopes to deliver more computers to St. Mark

Unlike two-thirds of the region's Catholic elementary schools, Stouffville's St. Mark hasn't yet shared in an ambitious program to furnish its younger students with new computers. But the district Catholic school board plans to have its "foundation" package in all its 62 elementary schools this year, if its budget permits, associate director Jack Cronin said recently. Between 1995 and 1997, 42 district schools got the package.

Jail time not long enough say parents of dead teen

"not enough," said Jennifer Cook, Darlene's mother. The Crown attorney is appealing the sentence. "We were expecting more in the line of 18 months (in jail). This sentence blew me away," said Cook. "He's responsible for my daughter's death." In November, Lafrate pleaded guilty to criminal negligence causing death. He was the driver in the single vehicle accident that took place on the Ninth Line in August '96. The Grade 11 Stouffville District Secondary School student was the lone passenger in the car.

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