

# Vandorf General store holds great distinction

You can buy anything you want at the "Vandorf Shopping Mall" (This should be sung to the tune of Alice's Restaurant) Of course, Vandorf does not have

a mall, but the tongue-in-cheek name is often applied to our General Store. Whitchurch Township (available at the museum) written by the

Whitchurch History Book Committee shows two pictures of the Vandorf General Store. It looks very much today as it did in 1905, although then it sat on a dusty lane, not the heavily trafficked road that now exists.

Woodbine Avenue, the main street of Vandorf, was originally known as Union Street, and was a link to the trail between Newmarket and Uxbridge. By 1882 the community which would eventually be named Vandorf was large enough to need a store. The store was established by George Powell, who was granted land in



## A Voice of Vandorf

Elaine Stewart

Whitchurch in 1845. A post office was added in 1887, resulting in the naming of the village. The story is well known - the van Nostrand family's suggestion was pulled out of a hat when the first choice, Brookvale, was found to already be in use.

The names Powell, Snider, Foster, Brimacombe, Paine, Daniels and Viggers are well known to the community as past proprietors.

The current owners of the store,

who like many before them live on the premises, are the Cha family. Kwangyoo and Yangyun and their little son and daughter, Jaehyun and Jihyun spend long hours ensuring that we can purchase the variety of goods available. We can find the necessary munchies to enjoy while watching the movies they rent.

Lottery tickets for the gamblers and groceries for the hungry are available. Magazines, hardware and health and beauty products share the shelf-space with greeting cards and school supplies. If you cannot find your favourite coffee or tea, just ask. It will likely be there the next day.

Ice cream, popsicles and cold drinks are handy to the users of the park next door. For many years everyone has known which baseball teams are playing each summer evening by reading the names on the dozens of children sitting in front of the store enjoying their treats. Missing first-basemen can be found wending their way back across the lawn that separates the diamond from the store well after the play-ball is called.

Ice skate marks belonging to generations of children have been evident on the floor leading up to the counter.

Every owner of "the store" has been involved in the community. Many local "memory boxes" contain baseball shirts emblazoned with Vandorf General Store. My own shirt from my coaching years still fits!

The children raised in this store have been taught at our local school, Whitchurch Highlands, and one student, Tracy Viggers returned to the school as a popular French teacher.

If there is any gossip to be heard in the village, it will be exchanged at the Vandorf General Store.

Our store may be the longest continually operating general store in Ontario, if not Canada. Does anyone know?

Similar stores have been demolished or turned into convenience stores which lack personal attention.

We should be proud of the history that goes with the little store sitting in the middle of our "downtown." Let's hope it can operate successfully for many years to come.

### Public Meeting

A community meeting will be held in Vandorf Hall on Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m.

The topics are the following:

The history of Vandorf and the surrounding area.

The history of Vandorf Community Park, and current proposals for it.

Conservation and environmental concerns for our area which sits on the fragile and sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine, and our waters which feed into four river systems.

Suggestions to ensure that our community can work together as a community on all future projects are encouraged.

Everyone is welcome. Vandorf has no boundaries. Donations are welcome to help defray the costs of this meeting.



## I AM YOUR FLAG

I am our Country's flag - the flag of Canada.

I was born in freedom. I can be found flying proudly in schools, community halls, courtrooms, churches and parlaments across the length and breadth of our great nation - from Newfoundland to British Columbia, from the North Pole to the United States border.

I stand at attention on top of our mountains, beside our great forests and ripple with the winds that ripen our golden prairie wheatfields.

I shiver on the stern of an ice-breaking ship near the North Pole, and flap in a hot summer breeze in a cornfield. I strain at the top of a lighthouse on our rocky coasts, and wave at visitors at our ports of entry.

I am especially proud to be worn by our international peacekeepers - Canadian men and women of our armed services, doing their very best to bring peace and stability to many troubled areas of our world.

I can be found throughout the world on the uniforms of our Olympic Athletes and on those worn by our Girl Guides and Boy Scouts here at home.

I am the beacon of hope to the oppressed and downtrodden. I stand for tolerance and truth, honesty and humility, and most of all, I offer opportunity to millions who have come to our shores.

My strength comes from our people, and I will remain strong as long as grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters are proud of me.

I am now proud to belong to you.



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## TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

### IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE 1998 FINAL TAX BILLS AUGUST INSTALLMENT DELAYED UNTIL SEPTEMBER

The Province of Ontario has introduced new legislation regarding assessment and taxation for the year 1998 which to date has not been finalized. The Region of York is now responsible for making policy decisions relating to taxation which effect the Area Municipalities. These decisions should be passed by Regional Council on July 23, 1998 providing the Province has finalized the legislation, at which time the Town will be able to set the tax ratios, tax rates and to produce tax bills.

The Town anticipates that the 1998 Final Tax Bills will be produced early August with due dates of September and October.

These delays outside of the Town's control will cost the Town in lost revenue, a minimum of approximately \$60,000.00 per month that will have to be recovered by increasing taxation or through other revenue sources. If you have any questions regarding these legislation charges and delays, please contact Julia Munro, M.P.P. York/Durham at 640-3855 or 1-800-263-7411.

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