

Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville's shining lights have big accomplishments

They may be young, but they're energetic and committed to making the world a better place. Check out this section to see what some of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville's most enterprising young people are up to.

Sandiford has no regrets at early start

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Kenny Sandiford Jr. and Mark Twain have a lot in common. Like Twain, Sandiford left school because it interfered with his education.

The 23-year-old Stouffville businessman has no regrets. He enjoyed his time at Summitview Public School and Stouffville District Secondary School.

But he's happier in a business environment than in the classroom. One thing is certain: He accomplishes far more.

When Sandiford left school, he joined A & S Construction Ltd., a Stouffville business owned by his father and uncle.

The younger Sandiford was taken into the family business not as a partner but as a general labourer.

He saved his hard-earned money and, during the course of the year, learned he had an aptitude for business.

The very young Sandiford bought an empty building on Edward Street in

Stouffville. It was a carpenter's dream.

When the renovation job was complete, Sandiford had an impressive income property: four apartments and a retail unit.

"I fixed it up and rented out the apartments, and rented the retail unit to a guy who opened up a pizza place," he said.

Sandiford was not only the property owner, he was a landlord. "I was 16 years old," he said.

A few years later, Sandiford put his property on the market and sold it at a profit.

The sale put him in a position to open his own construction company.

He's the sole owner of Sandiford Excavation Ltd. Its a mini excavation company.

Sandiford specializes in offering machinery that's able to get into tight spaces to dig out holes for basements or swimming pools.

As well, Sandiford owns two Bobcats. They've been retrofitted

enabling him to use them to plow snow from sidewalks.

The business has flourished. "I'm busy. I'm one of the few companies that doesn't need a business card," he said.

As well as the business, Sandiford owns a house in Stouffville. It's an income property.

He lives with his parents, Ken and Kathy Sandiford. "Mom does my laundry and the food's great," he said.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT
Stouffville's Kenny Sandiford Jr. has had his own business since the age of 16.

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