

Other towns interested in new hunting bylaw

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville's new firearms bylaw is expected to be used as a model by municipalities across Ontario, those attending a public hearing last week were told.

Immediately after details of the proposed firearms bylaw were aired on April 16, Whitchurch-Stouffville council passed it, giving farmers the right to post signs and to allow hunters onto their property, providing their farms are a minimum of 25 acres.

Under the new law, a farmer can hunt wildlife or have a hunter use a gun on the farm as long as the farmer has given the hunter written permission.

Farmers are also allowed to post yellow plastic signs reading, "No Hunting Without Written Permission of the Owner."

The first sign, valued at \$5, will be a gift from the municipality.

"There's a great deal of interest" in what's going on in Whitchurch-Stouffville, said town clerk Michele Kennedy. Municipalities across Ontario

are expected to "model their bylaws after us," she said.

Last October, facing concerns from residents that hunters were shooting their guns near residential areas, council agreed to consider an across-the-board bylaw prohibiting the discharge of firearms. The only exception was to be farmers. There was, however, opposition to the proposal. It came from the farmers, the hunters and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Some wildlife populations, including coyotes, raccoons, white-tailed deer and Canada geese, have increased dramatically in recent years in municipalities where hunting is limited or restricted, Mrs. Kennedy said.

Farmers were worried that further tampering with laws linked to the discharge of firearms will pose a threat for the agriculture community as wildlife is a cause of major crop damage and loss, stressed Mrs. Kennedy. Many farmers rely on hunters to help control the wildlife population, she added.

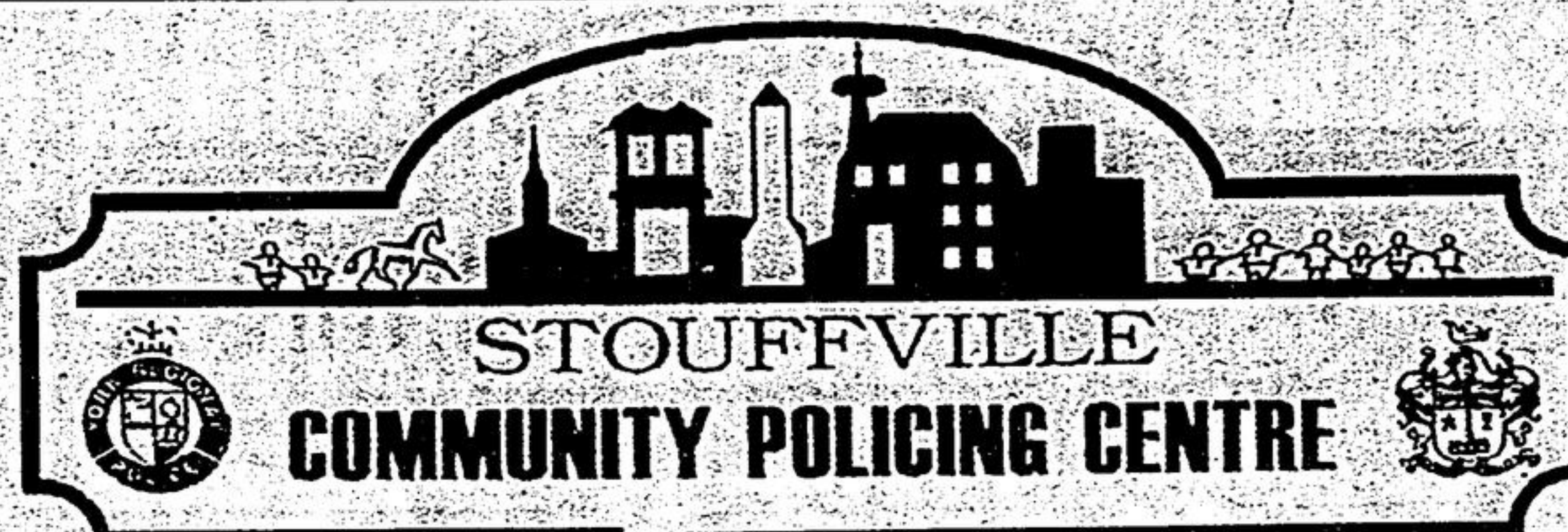
Last fall, when considering amending local hunting laws, town staff met with representa-

tives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Whitchurch-Stouffville veterinarian Dr. Terry O'Connor of the York County Crop Improvement Association.

As it stands, about 60 per cent of the municipality is defined as an area where discharging of firearms is prohibited. "This is in our residential areas," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said. South of Aurora Road, which is a more heavily populated area of the town, hunting is prohibited on 75 per cent of the land. Only farmers are exempted from the ban in the areas where discharging a firearm is prohibited.

Neither the Ministry nor the town will respond to violations of the firearms law. Only the York Regional Police will deal with calls linked to guns, the mayor told last week's meeting. "The police will have the right to lay charges," Mayor Emmerson said.

Individuals who do not want any hunting on their property are being encouraged to purchase and post red "No Trespassing" signs. "These signs can be purchased at a dollar store for about one dollar," said Mrs. Kennedy.



SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

Community Policing Centre volunteers participate as little as four hours a month.

We would like you to join our team and help make your community a safe place to live and play!

Self Rewarding
905 640-4248

www.spc.info.com

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
Education Minister: Nancy Monteith

Sunday April 28th, 2002
10:30 am Intergenerational Service
Camp Sunday
Camp Lunch Following Service
Baby Fold Available

Everyone Welcome

Wideman Mennonite Church

Sunday April 28th, 2002 • 10:50 a.m.
- Worship Service
Message: Fortress or Family?
Pastor Ken Wellington

1 km. North of Major Mackenzie on Hwy 48
Church Office: 640-6219 For a ride call: 640-4185

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Fellowship Church
6273 Main Street
Pastor - Gordon M. MacCormack 905-640-2911

Sunday April 28th, 2002
Sunday School Service 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Message: In The Nehemiah Series
"The Spark of Revival"

Wednesday - Prayer Time 7:30pm
(Held at The Pastor's home)
Kids Club & Coffee & Crafts are discontinued for the season, have a happy safe summer
Coming Events: May 5th - 129th Anniversary Service, with Rev. Gordon Abraham
Music: a.m. Ruth Ann Opley
p.m. Hilltop Vocal band
"If you see people without a smile today give them one of yours"

All Welcome - God Bless - We Care

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH

254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
The Rev. Robert A. Shields
(905) 640-1461

Sunday, April 28th, 2002
5th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Choral Eucharist
Church School and Nursery provided
Wednesday May 1st, 2002
10:0 am Seniors' Service & Tea

Everyone Welcome

e-mail: christchurch.stouffville@sympatico.ca
web site: www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville

Welcome to...

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 28th, 2002
Worship & Church School
10:30 a.m.

Nursery also provided
Friday, May 3 - 8:00 pm
Our 31st Annual Sacred Music Night
Free-will Offering
Sharing God's Love
Everyone always welcome.
6432 Main St. Stouffville 640-3151
st.james.stouffville@sympatico.ca

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

6853 Main St., Stouffville (905) 640-5696
Saturday, April 27th, 2002
7:00 pm
Watoto Children's Choir from Kampala Uganda
Sunday, April 28th, 2002
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Community Prayer at Harvest Family Church

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line
905-642-4414
Pastor - Dr. John Howarth
(South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)

Sunday, April 28th, 2002
9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 a.m. "Elijah Steps on Stage"
1st Kings 17:1

6:30 p.m. "Plural prayer for patience"
Acts 21:1-14"

Chosen People Ministries
Everyone Welcome

VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
473-3543
Pastor: Robert Okum
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.
Holding forth the doctrines of grace

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
Everyone is Welcome

Parkview Village
12184 Ninth Line South, Stouffville

Sunday, April 28th, 2002
Ontario Presbyterian Chorus
Parkview Village presents
Smile Theatre performing
"Peggy's Garden" A new musical by Tom Kneebone & Dinah Christie,
Fri. May 24/02 - 7:30pm
Tickets \$7 available at Recp. Office or at the door. Call Joanne (905) 640-1940 ext. 24 for further information
7:00 pm Village Auditorium

Springvale Baptist Church
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
905-887-5651

Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton
Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell

Sunday April 28th, 2002
9:45 a.m. Guest Speaker
11:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
5:00 p.m. Celebrating Pastor Bob's 20th Anniversary

Wednesday May 1st, 2002
7:00 pm Kids Club, Jr. High & Midway Ministries

For more info call Church Office

To advertise in this section please call
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