

Is Stouffville only for wealthy families?

My house is so small, when I have company I have to leave.

My little cottage near the lake measures 900 square feet. The lot is about 140 feet deep. The frontage is 45 feet. I bought the property for two reasons: it was affordable and I knew I could turn it into a home.

When it comes to providing adequate housing, Whitchurch-Stouffville has failed. You can work in this town, but you can't afford to live here.

There's little affordable accommodation for young people starting out, for singles like myself or for seniors wanting/need to downsize. As for low-income families and landed immigrants — including refugees — the message is clear: take a hike.

My girlfriend's daughter and her partner grew up in Stouffville and would dearly love to lower their anchor here. Despite having saved about \$35,000 for a down payment, houses in Whitchurch-Stouffville are out of their reach.

They are in their early 30s, work in the service industry and earn about \$53,000 between them. While they can wait on you hand and foot, they can't live next door to you. They feel snubbed.

Other friends, a retired couple, had a plan: sell their three-bedroom home in Stouffville and buy a one-bedroom condominium.

They had their eye on the seniors' development slated for downtown on Duffins Creek. Trouble is, after three years of red tape the project never got off the ground. The couple has moved to Aurora.

I'm not the only single woman living in Musselman's Lake. The hamlet is one of a very few places in Whitchurch-Stouffville offering small, affordable housing. Lake property is ideal for singles. We buy the cottages and over time, turn them into homes.

During the last two months, I covered public hearings dealing with developers' plans to build about 4,000 new homes in Whitchurch-Stouffville over the next 15 years.

The meetings attracted large crowds. As was expected, residents are not laying out the welcome mat.

They don't want Whit-



Joan Ransberry

church-Stouffville to grow. People object to small lot sizes. Anything with less than a 50-foot frontage is a no-no. As well, if the house isn't big, it won't fit in.

People want big houses on big lots occupied by small families. They want a mom and a dad and 1.2 kids. A dog's OK, providing it's small and doesn't bark or poop.

At these meetings, residents played the old drawbridge game. It has one rule: move in and pull up the drawbridge, preventing anyone else from getting in.

The words "density" and "traffic congestion" and "lifestyle" were endlessly repeated. Developers either pulled a no-show or avoided offering critical information, such as how much would one of these small homes sitting on a small lot cost?

"Let's be totally honest," said one 12-year-old. "This is not about affordable housing. This is about how much money the developers can make." Did the child touch a nerve? Maybe.

However, down the road this child had better stay clear of the service industry. In order to call Whitchurch-Stouffville home in a decade or so, she will have to be part of a family that has an income in the \$100,000 a-year range.

So far so good. We in Whitchurch-Stouffville stand proud: we do not tolerate landed immigrants, struggling young couples with unplanned pregnancies, waitresses, landscapers, mechanics, store clerks, seniors on fixed incomes or newspaper reporters living next door.

We don't let such riff raff buy houses in our beloved Whitchurch-Stouffville. We price them out with our 50-foot lot requirements.

We go to public hearings and play the drawbridge game.

We make so much noise, the council of the day dances to our tune.

OUR OLD-FASHIONED CABBAGE ROLLS

Cabbage Rolls are a hot item in our store. I imagine it's because they're so time-consuming to make that few people make them at home. Whatever the reason, they don't last long in our freezer — especially when they're one of this week's features! So come early and get them while they last.

Container of 4
Reg. \$10.95

25% OFF THIS WEEK

NEW ZEALAND ORANGE ROUGHIE

This is one of the most flavourful and versatile white-fleshed fish available. The fillets, which are boneless, come in generous serving sizes and are just the thing to have if you're planning an indulgent dessert!

Reg: \$12.95 lb.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

WILD BLUEBERRIES FROM NORTHERN ONTARIO

We're into the plentiful part of the season when these become more 'reasonable' in price. So if you like to make pies, or just have some frozen away in reserve for baking or snacking, it's a good week to buy these in the 11 qt. size. They freeze easily and keep a long, long time.

11 qt. Basket
(15 lbs.)

45⁰⁰

SEEDLESS GRAPES!

We'll have a good deal happening this week on both our Thompson Seedless and our Red Seedless Grapes. The California crop is in full swing and these eat really well.

From California

1⁹⁹ LB. THIS WEEK

KILLER PEPPERETTES

We've made a lot of these this week for our ad ... they've got some heat. They're best with a beer in the other hand (so I hear) and they're full of flavour.

Reg. \$1.29 / 100 g

50¢ EA. THIS WEEK

OUR BAKERY HAS THE BLUES THIS WEEK, VERY WILD!

We were just cruising along, minding our own business, when, out of the blue, came an avalanche of wild blueberries. What had originally looked like a bleak year with blueberries has suddenly turned into a bumper crop — and they all ripened at the same time. So to make a long story short, we're baking blues this week!

* **WILD BLUEBERRY Custard Cakes.** These are the ultimate coffee (or tea) cake **\$13⁹⁵ & \$18⁹⁵**

* **WILD BLUEBERRY-ALMOND TARTE** — It's got a cooked blueberry filling with a hint of lemon in a toasted almond shortbread crust, sprinkled with fresh blueberries and toasted almonds **\$7⁹⁵ & \$17⁹⁵**

* **WILD BLUEBERRY AND WHITE CHOCOLATE CHEESE CAKE** — Really good! **\$12⁹⁵ & \$20⁹⁵**

* **WILD BLUEBERRY SCONES** **\$1²⁹**

* **WILD BLUEBERRY LEMON LOAVES** — This is my favourite! **\$4⁵⁰ ea.**

* **WILD BLUEBERRY PIES** with either our butter streusel or pastry top **\$2⁹⁹ & \$10⁹⁵ ea.**

ALL AT 1/3 OFF THESE REGULAR PRICES!

KING JAMES PLUMS

I love summer fruit — it's pretty much the high point of my produce life — you can give me cherries any day over spinach. On my Monday trip to the produce terminal a couple of friends and I were talking shop and they asked if we had bought the King James Plums. They're a black plum with red flesh, and they eat like candy. When our coffee was done, the first thing I did was buy some — and my friend Bryce is right, they're black — and they do eat like candy — and they're quite large, too. Tree Ripened!

— While they last —

1⁴⁹ LB.

FALL MUMS

We'll be receiving our Fall Mums early next week, but we'll have to clear out any remaining plants and flowers at the store — and I've instructed our flower ladies to do whatever they must to have them gone by the time I get back from our family getaway on Sunday. We've got a few hibiscus in bloom or soon to be in bloom, a few larger ones for indoors, a few Bougainvillea, some ivy's (indoor as well) and some stragglers.

M & M COOKIES

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK
Reg. \$5.95 pkg. and \$1.49 each.

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY AUGUST 18th

Hours:
Mon. 10:00-5:00 - Tues. Thurs. 9:00-7:00 - Fri. 9:00-8:00
Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

548 Carlton Road, Unionville

940-1770

the VILLAGE GROCER
QUALITY FOODS