

An evening to toast some of town's finest

Stouffville Lion Tom Winters shared a laugh with figure skater Elvis Stojko before the group photo was taken. Five women from the ladies auxiliary to Stouffville's Royal Canadian Legion branch smiled for the camera.

Like a proud father, Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees stood on the end as the camera flashes lit up this group of handpicked stars. Twenty-five people from his riding that includes Whitchurch-Stouffville, Richmond Hill and the north end of Markham.

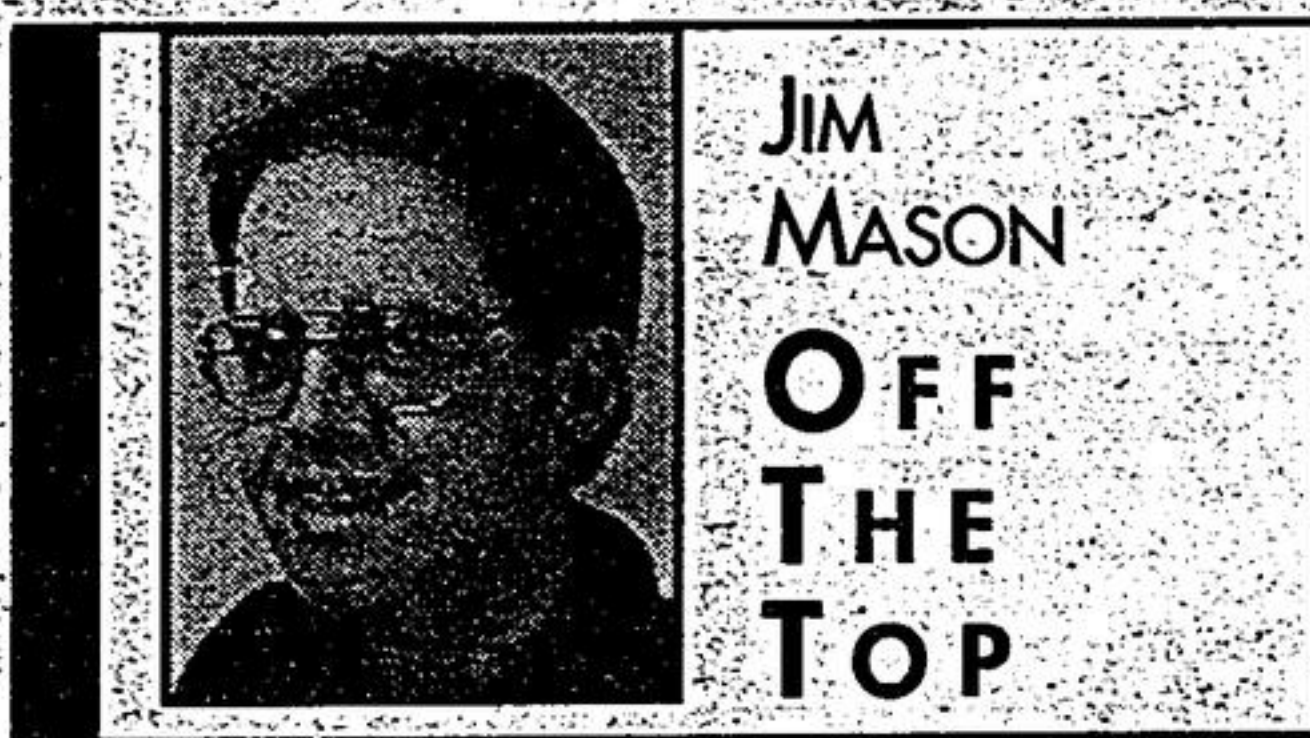
They were at Queen's Park one recent frigid evening to receive the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal. Similar ceremonies are happening during this anniversary year for Queen Elizabeth II across this country.

When it's over, 46,000 Canadians will wear the medal presented by their local MP and MPPs. Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert hosted a similar event late in 2002. Stouffville's Margaret Bibby received a medal at a ceremony in Markham last month.

MPP Klees, Ontario's Minister of Tourism and Recreation, praised the recipients for their work in their home towns.

"They could be doing other things, but they choose community service," he said before introducing the eclectic group.

It included former local MP Bill Attewell of Vandorf, Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum curator Dorie Billich and Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce workhorse Helene Johnson. Members of the



**JIM MASON
OFF THE TOP**

Legion ladies - who celebrate their 50th anniversary this month - honoured were Jennet Abbott, Gladys Clarkson, Marion Murphy, Aurelia Smith, and Marjorie Smith.

There was ex-cop Steve Hinder, the Aurora councillor behind the York Region Community Safety Village which opens at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area in Whitchurch-Stouffville this fall.

And Helen Fuyarchuk, known in Stouffville for her work with Evergreen Hospice and the Care & Shop.

The number of recipients from small-town Whitchurch-Stouffville did not go unnoticed.

"They sure have a lot of good volunteers from that town," Louise Harris, Mr. Klees' chief of staff, said while helping with the presentations.

And of course there was Elvis, the international star in this group of hometown heroes. He took time out from eating his cake to have his photo taken or to sign autographs. "\$1,000 each tonight," his mother kidded.

If this ministerial thing doesn't work out for MPP Klees - this appears to be an election year - he can likely find work giving tours of Queen's Park. He led the medal recipients and their



Oak Ridges riding Queen's Silver Jubilee medal recipients - including several from Stouffville - pose with Minister of Tourism Frank Klees at Queen's Park in Toronto.

PHOTO COURTESY AMIR GAVRIELY

families on a well-narrated walk through part of the historic site, ending on the floor of the legislature.

The festivities returned, for sandwiches and juice, to the Tory caucus room where minutes before the medal winners were applauded loudly by the audience.

"This room is the home of good, dynamic discussion," Mr. Klees said of cabinet's weekly and sometimes heated discussions. "But this is the first time I've seen a standing ovation in this room."

Jim Mason is managing editor of the Stouffville Sun.

STOUFFVILLE SAYS

BY HANNELORE VOLPE

"In recognition of heart and stroke month, what can we do to keep ourselves and our families healthier?"



DEBBIE PHILLIPS

"We still do outdoor sports as a family, even though my two sons are 19 and 25. We play basketball, go snowboarding and skating. A good diet with lots of fruits and vegetables is important."



DONNA GARDINER

"Outdoor activities for children should be encouraged. When I was young, I played from morning till night. We were on the cutters and bobsleighs all winter. There used to be a toboggan run where the baseball bleachers are now."



DUNCAN MacTAVISH

"Pay attention to nutrition. I believe we should have supplements because many foods no longer have the proper nutrients in them. Try to avoid preservatives and pre-packaged foods."



MARY ANDERSON

"We are trying to eat better, more fruits and vegetables in the winter, and we are trying to do more exercise - mostly walking."



VEVERLY LASCONIA

"You have to do something you can stick with. We have the rec centre and several rinks in town. Putting out more information about where all the facilities are would be very helpful."

Who do you think will be next mayor?

I didn't have to roam far afield this past week to discover what most Whitchurch-Stouffville coffee crowds were discussing.

It was, and still is, Mayor Wayne Emmerson's announcement he'll not seek another three-year term. So who'll fill his shoes? Or perhaps better put, who'll try to fill his shoes?

A straw vote would indicate most are of the opinion Ward 6 Councillor Sue Sherban is his most likely successor. And where will Emmo next hang his hat? My bet is his sights are set on chairperson of York Region. And why not? Eldred King, a predecessor did it and did it well. So could Wayne.

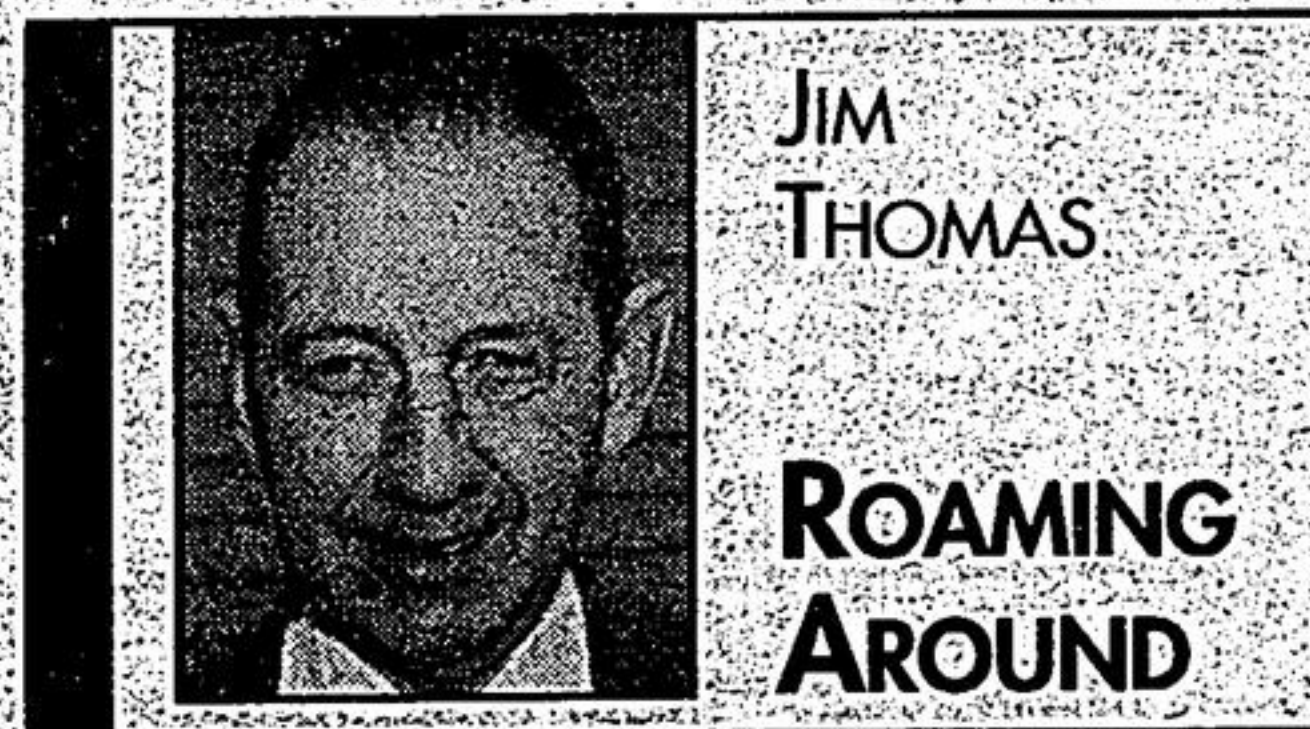
COFFEEHOLICS! How many cups of coffee are sold at Stouffville's Tim Hortons on an average day? Take a guess. Five hundred? One thousand? Two thousand? Guess again.

The total number of drinks is something like 3,625. Broken down, it goes like this: coffee, 3,000; tea, 300; cappuccino, 150; other, 175. Now you know.

PEPPER SPRAY: Is it permissible for a newspaper carrier, like myself, to carry pepper spray as a means of warding off ferocious dogs? Absolutely not, says Keith Saunders, the town's senior bylaw enforcement officer. Mail carriers either. Only police officers. It's a prohibited weapon, Mr. Saunders states. His suggestion? A big stick.

MY PICK: Every month, I select an individual who, in my opinion, displays business skills second to none when dealing with customers. I doff my February hat to Jo-Anne McNeill, franchise owner of M&M Meats, Main Street, Stouffville.

LOVED IT! Last week, while visiting



**JIM THOMAS
ROAMING AROUND**

Stouffville's Summitview School, I saw this poster on a corridor wall. It read: "Only a teacher could crowd an entire world into one little classroom." I believe it.

IMPRESSED: As most people know, I enjoy dropping in unannounced at any one of our local schools. Recently, I had occasion to visit St. Brigid Catholic School on Millard Street.

As I approached the office, I was met by a young lad about 10. "Can I help you, sir?" he said, holding the door open for me to enter. Only at St. Brigid, you say? I hope not, but certainly at St. Brigid, courtesy's a No. 1 priority. And it shows.

TREASURED LETTER: Recently, a senior citizen left a 1916 First World War letter in the copier at Box Office Movies, Winona Drive, Stouffville. It's signed simply "Hamilton." The staff's hanging onto it, hoping the customer will return.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL: The concept design for the new Stouffville Missionary Church is now on display. It's spacious, practical and beautiful.

The sanctuary will seat close to 650 people with parking for 300 cars. The congregation hopes to turn the first sod this summer. The site donor is Norm Clements of the Stouffville Country Market.

GREAT GATE: The much-anticipated

community centre at Stouffville's Eastern Gate, should be completed this month, according to development manager Paul Hope. An official opening will take place later.

As for Eastern Gate itself, this project now boasts 118 homes and 190 residents, with a long waiting list. A casual drive-through explains why.

BURGER KING: Stouffville's new Burger King opens this week, possibly today. The smoke-free site boasts a large indoor children's playground. Hours extend from 6 a.m. to midnight.

HOT TICKET: Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, presented by Charlie Parker and the youth of Christ Church, Anglican, Stouffville, is the hottest ticket in town. Show dates in Latham Hall are Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m., March 1 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 and \$8 (children under 12).

LIKE SPAGHETTI? If you're a spaghetti lover, come to Latham Hall Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. The dinner is hosted by the Stouffville Lioness Club. Admission is \$6 at the door. A similar feast is set for the Stouffville Missionary Church, March 1 from 5 to 9 p.m. For tickets, call Sue Kay at 905-640-0217.

EXTREMES: First it was the town hall on Civic Avenue. Now (some suggest), the town's proposed theatre for the performing arts should move to the present Stouffville Missionary Church, currently for sale. Talk about exchanging a peanut for a watermelon!

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.