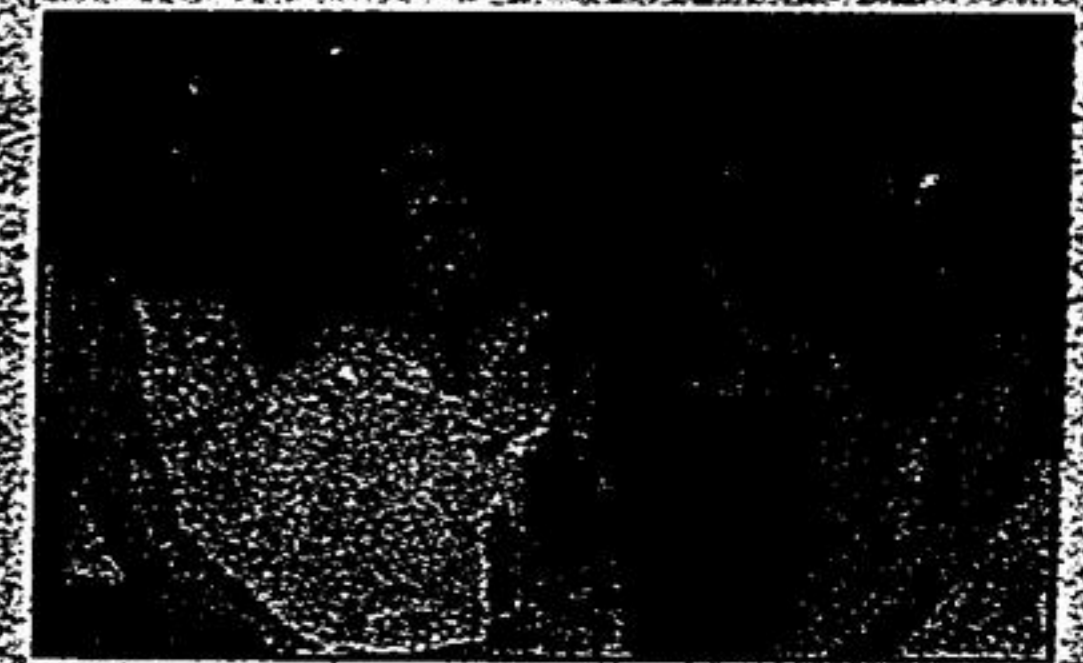


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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Town bans idling — voluntarily

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville has joined the war against smog. Recognizing that idling vehicles create smog and poor air quality, Whitchurch-Stouffville council recently adopted a volunteer idling bylaw applying to all municipal facilities and operators of municipal vehicles.

Places such as Stouffville Arena and the Lebovic Leisure Centre have been designated idle-free zones. Thirty-two signs are being erected to remind motorists of the new bylaw.

Council agreed with staff to introduce the bylaw on a voluntary basis because Whitchurch-Stouffville does not have enough staff to enforce it.

Following the lead of schools including Ballantrae Public School, the town has launched a 'idle-free' campaign, designed to encourage motorists to turn their engines off when parked.

Two weeks ago, students at Ballantrae Public handed out 'Nothing Nowhere' brochures to the parents who drop their children off for morning classes.

The parents were reminded unnecessary idling harms the environment. The town is asking all schools in Whitchurch-Stouffville to join the campaign.

Idling vehicles are a significant contributor to poor air quality, which in turn affects health, Keith Saunders, Whitchurch-Stouffville's chief bylaw enforcement officer, said.

Motorists are being asked to reduce warm-up idling and turn their engines off after being parked for 10 seconds.

Motorists are also encouraged to minimize the use of remote car starters, as these devices encourage the driver to start the vehicles before he or she is ready to leave, which means wasteful idling.

As well, the use of block heaters in winter is being recommended.



BERRY NICE

Five-year-old Carolina Freixa is all smiles with her strawberry face painting at the 19th annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival in downtown Stouffville. The festival ended Tuesday night with Canada Day festivities in Memorial Park. For more photos, see pages 3, 18 and 25.

BILL ROBERTS PHOTO

see BIKE page 8

BIKERS FIGHT BACK

Brothers of Blade not Hell's Angels, president says

BY ROGER VARLEY
Staff Writer

The Brothers of the Blade is an intimidating name for an organization, especially when it happens to be a biker club.

Stouffville's Bruce Arrowsmith, the president of the Blades, acknowledges the members are "bikers," but insists no one need fear the Blades, despite what some police say.

"We're bikers and proud of the fact, but we're not outlaw bikers," Mr. Arrowsmith said last Friday. "We've been riding motorcycles all our lives."

He said his group — which only wants to ride Harley Davidson motorcycles and raise money for disabled people — has unfairly been lumped together by police with known outlaw clubs such as the Hell's Angels and the Outlaws. That hurts the Blades' fundraising efforts, Mr. Arrowsmith said.

Donors read this stuff and raise their eyebrows, he said. What police think about the Blades is confusing.

On Tuesday, Det.-Sgt. Dave Ground of the York Regional Police Intelligence Unit said the Blades are not being targeted by police.

"They are not a one-per-cent gang," said Det.-Sgt. Ground. (When outlaw biker gangs emerged after the Second World War, the American Motorcycle Association commented at the time only one per cent of motorcycle riders were criminals or troublemakers.)

They are not a major concern to us. They are not a group that is being focused on.

Last year, however, following a

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