

## Stouffville Says

By Hannelore Volpe & Alyshia Higgins

### Do you think students should be forced to stay in school until they're 18?

Asked at Stouffville District Secondary School

Sue LeROY



First the government worked to get rid of OAC, now they would be reversing themselves. Co-op programs would be ideal for them, but the government has to provide adequate funds.

Rob BUTTERS



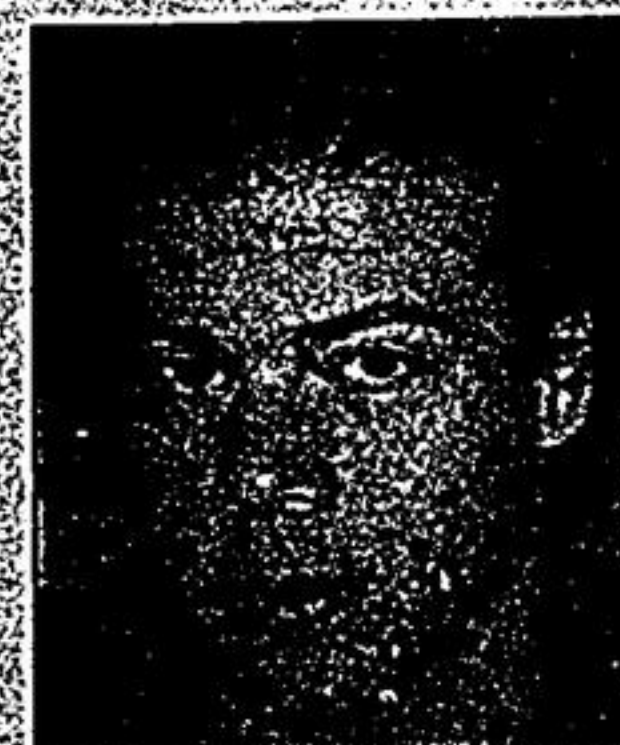
No, they shouldn't. It is not for everyone to pursue learning in an academic setting. It would not benefit all students.

Tracy MANTZIOURAS



Keep the age at 16. Kids can make their own decisions. They don't have to be forced into doing something they don't want to do. They should have the right to drop out.

James UPTON



Yes, they should, so teens won't make a mistake they'll regret the rest of their lives.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

## Signing Simon

Popular children's author Simon Rose signed copies of his books for Emma Cooke (left), Erin Devenport, Brittany Barber, Britney Brunelle and Miranda Clayton during a visit to Summitview Public School in Stouffville.

## Lights fight downtown crime

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Brighter lighting in downtown Stouffville's back alleys and laneways should alleviate some security concerns for residents.

Special security lighting protected by sturdy wire enclosures should be installed on a number of town and privately owned buildings and facilities. Whitchurch-Stouffville council decided Tuesday night.

"We will encourage everyone to come on board with this project," said Eric Button, chairperson of the BIA (Business Improvement Area). "It is for everyone's benefit."

Several landlords are on the BIA board of directors.

### DUSK TO DAWN

Owners of buildings in the BIA core will be requested to install or upgrade to high pressure sodium lamps. After installing the \$200 light fixtures, property owners will be responsible for keeping them in good working order. The lights will stay on from dusk to dawn.

The town will install security lighting at the Silver Jubilee Club, the Lions gazebo on Main Street and the grandstand in Memorial Park. The total cost of upgrading light

ing on town-owned property is \$1,500.

Councillor Susanne Hilton, a member of the BIA board, made a resolution at Tuesday's meeting that leisure services staff investigate the status of lighting on the grandstand with the aim of upgrading and replacing them with suitable lights, that

**They definitely need to do something about the youth vandalism in this town!**

Larry Irwin  
downtown merchant

aren't overly-bright for the neighbourhood. She also requested security lighting for the rest of Memorial Park be explored.

The owner of The Pet Stop, Rebecca Stanley, thinks lights are a good idea. She finds her store is a big draw with young people coming to look through the window.

Insurance agent Larry Irwin of The Co-operators, who had a large storefront window smashed in the spring at his Main Street location, is also in favour of the move.

He believes the lights will

be a deterrent but isn't adverse to using security cameras if they're needed as well. He would also like to see a curfew in parks unless there is a planned event.

"They definitely need to do something about the youth vandalism in this town," he said.

### 'HOT SPOTS'

So-called 'hot spots' were identified by the BIA and Stouffville Community Policing Centre earlier in the year.

York Regional Police received a map of high-abuse areas in town from Ruth LeBlanc, the BIA's manager. She met with town staff about a year ago to request security lighting be installed to prevent loitering and vandalism.

Ms LeBlanc requested York Region Police step up patrols in downtown Stouffville.

The new lights shouldn't affect tenants in apartments above stores on Main Street. Paul Whitehouse, director of public works, said pointing out the lights will be angled down.

They would provide security lighting for residents when they leave for work in the morning and when they return, he added.

## Briefly

### 30 entries already in Santa Claus parade

The Christmas season officially kicks off Dec. 4 when the Santa Claus Parade hits Stouffville.

Sponsored by the Stouffville Kinsmen Club, the parade starts at 2 p.m. at Cam Fella Boulevard and 10th Line and heads for Main Street and downtown Stouffville.

Bruce Gribbon, a parade organizer, noted 30 entrants are already registered and, by parade day, he expects the number to top 100.

Entrants include bands, floats from local schools, businesses and service groups and walkers and drivers decked in their holiday best.

To register a float, band or other entry, call 905-640-5004. The commercial float entry fee is \$25. There is no charge for non-profit groups.

—Alyshia Higgins

### School e-mailing parents

To help keep parents updated on their children's progress, Stouffville District Secondary School is sending out a weekly e-mail newsletter.

To make it work, however, principal Arlene Smith needs addresses of more parents or guardians. About 250 are on the list so far.

Notes and newsletters sent home with students only reach about 20 per cent of parents, Ms Smith said.

As well as letting parents know about events, the newsletter includes students' attendance and marks and teachers' phone extensions.

Several other schools, including Markville Secondary in Markham and Huron Heights in Newmarket, have adopted the electronic format.

Advantages include saving costs of paper and photocopying, which could go toward other school supplies.

Parents can provide their addresses by e-mailing stouffville.dss@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

—Hannelore Volpe

## Quoteworthy

**'Just to see the joy in the kids' faces that day will be worth it.'**

Const. Mark Lau on Toys For Tots campaign. See Jim Mason's column on page 6.

## Contacting Us

Have a news tip? Please:

- phone us at (905) 640-2612
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