

# Christian tradition lost in our schools

**S** touffville District Secondary School's 50th anniversary commencement Nov. 4 was, in my opinion, one of the best in years.

But there was something missing — the absence of an invocation raised many eyebrows.

Why, I asked, would such a long-standing practice be ignored? Vice-principal Leslie Johnstone readily responded: It was withdrawn two principals ago, she said, because of the school board's sensitivity to equality.

Prayer, she said, is an appeal to God, but today God doesn't appeal to everyone. Invocations are no longer considered appropriate, she concluded.

Another Christian tradition down the drain.

**Moving plans:** The Stouffville Medical Centre, at the corner of Main and Victoria streets, has been sold. Physicians and staff will move, next spring, to the site of the old Stouffville Creamery on Civic Avenue. They'll occupy the second floor of three-storey building that's also home to this newspaper. The original structure there, erected in 1895, was destroyed by fire June 14, 1989. Its replacement, built in 1990, served for a time as a women's fitness facility.

**Real classic:** I'm a classic car buff and, while I never expect to own one of those chrome-laden, gas-guzzling, head-turning beauties of the 1940s and '50s, it doesn't cost anything to look or dream. So who, in your opinion, owns a classic example of old auto perfection in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area? My choice is a 1951 Packard Patrician, the property of Bill Wilson of Wilson Water Wells. In all honesty, I've never seen anything its equal.

**This amazing automobile,** currently in hibernation, originated somewhere in South Dakota. She'll dangle, says Bill when describing the power of its elongated straight-eight engine. Those checking five-figure balances in their bank accounts can set those aside. It's not for sale.

**Not a snub:** Ward 5 Councillor Harry Bowes was not under the collar when, during VIP introductions at the Stouffville Student Music Scholarship Concert Nov. 5, he was ignored.

**This was not an intended snub.** An official statement from the town gave only the name of Mayor Sue Sherban as representing the municipality.

**The committee regrets the exclusion.**

**Quilt Auction:** The Stouffville United Church quilt auction held Saturday, in conjunction with the church's fall bazaar, resulted in receipts of \$6,110. A sam-



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

pler quilt, pieced by Heather Andrews, and completed by the United Church quilters club, brought a top bid of \$825. The purchaser was Ron Patrick of Stouffville. The auctioneer was Tom Clarkson of Bloomington.

**Saved by his cell:** Don't leave home without one. Lorne Smith of McCowan Road certainly won't — a cell phone that is. Recently, while checking site lines in heavy bush country near Bobcaygeon, Lorne became lost. As darkness fell, he pulled out his cell and called home, explaining to wife Carol the seriousness of the situation. He then dialled 911. Police responded, locating the resolute surveyor around 2:30 a.m.

**Fieldgate Hill:** Is it part of the town's subdivision agreement? Here's hoping the huge mound of topsoil in the Fieldgate development, north of Elm Road in Stouffville, is allowed to remain. What a great toboggan slide for young and old alike. We all know the benefits of Hunt's Hill in the Westlawn/Rupert park.

**Impressive Ceremony:** I was impressed with the Nov. 11 Remembrance Day ceremony conducted by Bey Aiken at Stouffville Branch 459 of the Royal Canadian Legion. The bugler was Larry Pogue and piper was Jim Anderson. Ceremonies conducted in all Whitchurch-Stouffville schools were equally impressive. Congratulations to David Barthau and staff of Barthau Jewellers on the appropriate Main Street window display marking this indelible event in our nation's history.

**Service Awards:** Sixty-six volunteers were honoured with long service awards when the Markham Fair held its president's banquet Saturday night. Among those recognized were: Stuart Watson (50 years), Pete Kortis, Harvey Brown, Dennis Seeley and Kay Thompson (35 years); Bill Burnett, June Ford and Marion Norton (30 years); Terry Boag, Betty Hoover, Cathy Lee, Ashmore Reesor, Jack Warriner, Bryan Gibson, Linda Kruuk, Bob Little, Isabel Risebrough, Jennifer Cosburn, Laura Heighway, Joyce Lapp, Bob Ramer and Diane Ward (25 years).

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