

## Stouffville Says

By Hannelore Volpe

### On the eve of Canada Day, what does it mean to be Canadian?

— Asked at Orchard Park Public School in Stouffville Tuesday morning



Alex POPPER

It means that you have rights, it is a democracy and you are free — and you play hockey.



Matthew HAUTH

Being free and living in a peaceful country with no wars. Canada allows people into the country from all over the world.



Mary WOLFE

I can skate in the winter and water ski in the summer. Canada accepts different cultures and different beliefs. I had people fight for my life so I would be free.



Taylor BAGGS

I get to go to my cottage and Canada's Wonderland. I am free to go to different places. We get to see fireworks in the park for Canada Day.

## Shepherd of Main St.



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

Crossing guard Sharon Norton leads Summitview Public School students Rebecca Benn (from left), Rose Wideman, Cassie Feguson, Jessica Spencer, Jessica Benn, Richard Wideman and Lauren Barr and Councillor Harry Bowes across Main Street. A bench was erected on the corner Friday in honour of Mrs. Norton's 17 years as a guard.

# Parents honour crossing guard who goes extra mile for children

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Her bright red stop sign held aloft like a beacon, Sharon Norton has shepherded neighbourhood children across Main Street to Summitview Public School for the past 17 years.

The love and care she has shown the community's children has been so appreciated by the school's parents they erected a stone bench with a plaque bearing her name in front of the school Friday.

Mrs. Norton was overwhelmed by the gesture. It took a while for the shock to wear off and the tears kept flowing throughout the day, she said.

The crossing guard comes to work early every morning to make sure children heading to St. Brigid Catholic School get across the busy intersection safely.

"She knows all the kids by

name," parent Isola Wideman said. "She gives them candy canes at Christmas and freezies in the summer."

*'She knows all the kids by name. She gives them candy canes at Christmas and freezies in the summer.'*

At the end of each school year, the light standard near the school at the Main Street and Stouffer Street intersection "looks like a Christmas tree," because of the gifts parents and children bring to her, Mrs. Norton said.

Over the past 17 years, Mrs. Norton has watched the first crop of children grow up, head off to university and get married.

"I have a good bunch of kids," she said. "If you respect

them, they will respect you."

The intersection she looks after is getting more dangerous as the years pass and traffic volume increases. Her major complaint is the number of drivers who run red lights. She has, on more than one occasion, had to pull children back from the paths of oncoming traffic.

Several years ago, two youngsters got hit by a car, but fortunately the injuries were so minor they didn't have to go to hospital.

"It was just enough to put a scare in them," Mrs. Norton said. "I was on one side of the road and they were on the other."

Over the years, she's noticed more and more parents are walking to school with their children instead of sending them on their own.

Sharon Norton has lived in Stouffville with her husband, Larry, for 34 years.

## Briefly

### Home to become condos

Parkview Home on Rupert Avenue has been sold and is being turned into seniors condominiums.

The anticipated opening date of the 159-unit facility is 2008.

About a dozen people attended a public hearing last week to find out what would happen once the new Parkview Home on Weldon Road is completed.

There will be 105 condominium units plus another 54 apartments that can be leased at the 481 Rupert Ave. location. About 200 to 250 people will eventually live in the building.

There will be a restaurant and swimming pool for residents' use as well as nursing care and a physiotherapist.

The building will occupy the same area as the original building except for wings extending toward the back, Councillor Susanne Hilton said.

"I am pleased it is another seniors' complex that will fit in well with the neighbourhood," Mrs. Hilton said.

### Gym trashed, boy charged

A 13-year-old boy has been arrested in connection with an act of vandalism at Summitview Public School.

The gym at the Main Street elementary school was trashed around 6 p.m. Sunday.

Toilet paper was strewn around the basketball nets and ketchup sprayed on the walls.

Profanities were written in black marker and ketchup around the change rooms, eggs were smashed on the walls and several chairs were bent.

School staff found the mess the next day and reported it to the police.

A Whitchurch-Stouffville boy is facing charges of mischief and damage to property under \$1,000.

## Quoteworthy

**'The time has come to face up; meet the situation head on and treat the trend as a positive, rather than a negative.'**

Jim Thomas,

on the changing face of Stouffville. See column on page 7.

## Contacting Us

Have a news tip? Please:

- phone us at (905) 640-2612
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