

Changes welcome in town

Have you noticed? Our town is rapidly changing and I'm not talking only in terms of asphalt and concrete. I'm referring to people, non Anglo-Saxon people.

Every day I see it more and more. Are we ready? Are you ready? Am I ready? I honestly feel our young people are, through the assimilation of races at school, better able to cope than we oldsters steeped in time-worn tradition.

The time has come to face up; meet the situation head on and treat the trend as a positive, rather than a negative. Personally, I find these growing pains exciting. I hope you do, too.

Double gold for SDSS

Belated congratulations to director Dan McConnachie and the senior band of Stouffville District Secondary School.

This 65-member group brought honour to our town by winning gold at the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival, then duplicating the achievement in competition at York Region.

Six schools to perform

The 13th annual Student Music Scholarship Concert, hosted by St. James Presbyterian Church, isn't scheduled until Nov. 4, but already positive replies have come from Summitview, Orchard Park, Whitchurch Highlands, St. Brigid, St. Mark and SDSS.

As in the past, one student from Whitchurch-Stouffville will be selected, on the basis of his/her music abilities, to receive a \$100 scholarship. Past recipients have been Georgina Muir, Clara Jordan, Jocelyn McDowell, Cameron Mackenzie, Kathryn Irwin and Carly MacLean. Any suggestions? If so, please e-mail me at thomas-jim@rogers.com

Oh, baby, it's a contest

Our Strawberry Festival wouldn't be the same without a baby show. And yes, for better or for worse, I'm the emcee.

It's Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Latcham Hall. This popular event will be hosted by Children's House Child Care. Sponsors are Tim Hortons and Stouffville IDA.

There will be four categories, three to five months; six to eight months; nine to 11 months and 12 to 15



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

months. Blue ribbon winners from each class will then vie for the grand championship. Last year, the show attracted a record 36 entries.

From the barbecue line

Another must for me on the festival agenda is the Lions barbecue this evening in the park. Servings begin at 4:30 p.m. and continue till 7. Last year, the guest list surpassed 1,300 patrons, a mark that, weather permitting, may be exceeded.

Hot! Hot! Hot!

How hot was it Saturday? While perhaps shy of a record, temperatures far exceeded predictions in the 2005 Farmers Almanac. For example, at the home of Ken and Carol Smythe, Maystone Court, Stouffville, the pool water registered a steamy 86 F and the pool deck, a blistering 110. That's hot!

Churches are youth centres

First, it was Parkview Home. Now two churches, Springvale Baptist and Christ Church Anglican, are asking town council to waive fees associated with major construction projects. While speakers delivered passionate pleas, I believe one important area was overlooked. Most churches here, including Christ Church and Springvale, organize youth centres where hundreds of young people gather weekly. They fill a vacuum. On this basis alone, the town should show mercy rather than dispense a penalty.

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

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A special thank you to Tedd Mann for organizing the event, also thanks to Matt Layfield, Tammy & Dwayne Jones for helping out.

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