

Parkside Youth Centre

The rafters ring again to a joyful noise



The Parkside Youth Centre on the Stouffville-Gormley Road, is 'alive' again with activity, every weekend. Under the leadership of Howard Mills of Stouffville, new enthusiasm has been generated among young people of the community who gather there. —Mark Niblett.

By Mark Niblett
STOUFFVILLE - I don't think I'll ever meet a more congenial gentleman than Howard Mills.

Mr. Mills or Howard, which he prefers - has been involved in the operation of Parkside Youth Centre since last August. At that time, average attendance was around 10 or 15 people; two weeks ago, 375 people attended.

Howard refuses to take any of the credit for this.

"I've done nothing. I'm not important at all", he insists. "Everything is due to the Lord Jesus Christ".

His faith is a permanent part of his life; a deep and abiding axiom of his existence. It is not the faith of a "Bible thumper", or the gloomy religion of some fundamentalists; rather, it is a joyful thing.

"It thrills me to be able to sit here and talk with you about Christ", he said.

The Centre is, to some extent, a reflection of Howard's faith. It is not a church - a point he emphasizes repeatedly - but it is interdenominational, open to everyone. The young people who attend hear speakers; choral groups are invited; Howard and his board show "the best films we can find".

"Nobody puts pressure of any kind on the kids, telling them what they should believe", he states.

He is as firm about this as he is about his own personal faith. Howard sees the Centre as a place where the young people can come to meet one another, to talk about whatever they want. The board arranges corn roasts, ball games, car rallies, and similar events.

Along with his deep faith in Christ, Howard

has an equally deep faith in people.

"There are no bad kids in Stouffville", he said. "Some of them need guidance. When they form into gangs, that's when they land in trouble. We want to bring the kids in from the Town and the plazas".

The relationship between Howard and the young people is based on a mutual respect. All speakers are limited to three minutes, and preaching theology of any kind is not allowed. Howard treats all confidences with strict discretion, considering these a matter between the individual and God.

The young people call him "Big Howie". He puts on "strong man" shows for them occasionally - a carryover from his younger days, when he was a wrestler.

"We can't do anything unless we are all one in Christ Jesus", he states.

Howard sums up his basic faith very simply: "Christ was born, he lived, he died, he is risen, and he will come again".

Anyone who wishes to turn to Christ will find sympathetic help at the Centre; but Howard always urges them to work within their own church. No collection is taken at the Centre, but free-will offerings are used to maintain the building, pay taxes,

rent films and generally run the operation.

"God will provide. We have lots of room to expand, if we need to".

He talks hopefully of dredging the pond behind the Centre, and providing canoes for the young people. A coffee house, to be established on a regular Saturday night basis, is a project which Howard expects to announce soon. This, too, would be run on a strictly "hands-off" basis, with no attempt to "convert" people.

"They either accept

Christ, or they don't", he said. "There will be no pressure put on any kid, in any form".

Howard is a man who enjoys life; and working at the Centre, he feels, is one of the greatest things that ever happened to him.

"It's made me 20 years younger, to see what God is doing", he says.

Some might feel that Howard has made quite a success of his venture with the Youth Centre - but he doesn't see it in those terms.

"I'm just a humble tool in God's hands", he told me. "If He can

find something in me to use, I'm willing to have my life dedicated to these kids".

Howard Mills is a man suffused with joy. He is willing, even anxious, to share his happiness. While a journalist might not be supposed to know much about Scripture, he reminded me irresistibly of the 100th Psalm:

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing".

Photo Contest
Amateur photographers with a liking for pioneer subjects, are invited to enter the Photo Contest at Black Creek Pioneer Village, sponsored by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. There are two categories, black and white prints and color slides, with prizes of \$50, \$35, \$25 and \$15 in each. Entries will be received not later than Dec. 1. All pictures must be taken at the Black Creek site.

Church Services

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Ewart S. Orr B.A.
Call 640-3827 anytime.
Sunday, April 30th, 1972

REV. R. D. HOLLIDAY
Director of M.B.C. CAMP.
will be here.
9:50 CAMP pictures.
11 Pastor Holiday will speak.

2:30 He will conduct a WORKSHOP for Christian workers.
7 Pastor Orr on Luke 12:51 and our CHOIR will sing THE FRIENDLY CHURCH on the corner invites you to come and enjoy this great Lord's Day.

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH (Church & Duchess Sts.)

Minister Rev. J. L. Carder B.A.B.D.
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
11 a.m.—Worship service
9:45—Jr. & Intermediate
11 a.m.—Nursery, Kindergarten and Primary.
Mr. A. Gent, Organist

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN STOUFFVILLE

Reverend Fred E. Miller
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
EASTER IV
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer—Nursery
10-12 noon Spring Rummage Sale Sat. May, 6th

MELVILLE UNITED CHURCH

6th Conc. Markham
Rev. George Davison
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
11 a.m.—Sunday School
11:15 a.m.—Worship Service.
MISS Eleanor Moyer of Home Missions working in Thunder Bay will be our guest speaker in the Sunday School. All welcome.

MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Minister: David Barker
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
10:00 Sunday School Classes
11 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Main St. E., Stouffville
Rev. Fred Cromey (294-1633)
Rev. Alex. Adam (640-4369)
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11:15 a.m.
Preacher: Mr. Don Donaghey
All Welcome

BAKER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. H. J. Lafleur
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
Bible School—9:50 a.m.
Morning Service—11 a.m.
Evening Service 7:30 p.m.
Wed., 8 p.m.—Prayer Service

RINGWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Minister: Mr. T. Harland
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
10 a.m.—Sunday School
11:10 a.m. Worship Service
7:30 p.m. Worship Service
8:00 p.m. Wed. C.E. Missionary prayer meeting.

MCCORMACK MEMORIAL

Hwy. 48 & Vivian Rd.
Phone: 473-2825
Pastor Dick Horner
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
9:50 a.m.—Sunday School—Classes for all ages—Interesting Beginner Dept.
11 a.m.—Morning Worship—Arturo Norams of South America speaking in Spanish, Rev. Allan Burrows interpreting.
7:30 p.m.—Mr. Hume Wilkins, History Prof. from C.B.S.
Tuesday, 7:00—Pioneer Girls, ages 8-12.
Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.—New Life Hour.
Thursday, 7 p.m.—Boys Brigade, ages 13-18.
—Nursery facilities at all services—

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Temporary Location
ALTONA COMMUNITY CENTRE
Rev. S. A. Grant, Pastor — 640-4903
Friday, 8 p.m.—REV. RICHARD & SARA MICKALASKI with reports & news from Iron Curtain countries.
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11 a.m.—Devotional Service
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Meeting
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Bible Study & Prayer

BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

STOUFFVILLE MASONIC TEMPLE
Second Ave. and Ninth Line
Rev. Howard Milner, Pastor
This is the Generation of Them That Seek Him
Sunday, April 30th, 1972
10 a.m.—Bible School—SAVE Tomorrow's Generation TODAY
11 a.m.—CONFIDENCE IN GOD, OR MAN
7:30 p.m.—REV. G. H. NUNN, National Leader of the Pentecostal Holiness Church will minister.
— ATTEND THIS GROWING CHURCH —
For help or information please phone 294-1099.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

of last year including Rev. and Mrs. James Carder, Stouffville; Rev. and Mrs. Martin Jenkinson, Victoria Square and Rev. and Mrs. George Davison of Melville.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARKHAM
132nd. Anniversary Program
Sat., May 6
8:30 a.m.—Breakfast (men, women, young people)
2:00 p.m.—Jr. and Int. Sunday School anniversary party.
8:00 p.m.—Coffee House (open invitation).

Sunday, May 7

11 a.m.—Morning worship (special music)
12:30 p.m.—Pot-luck lunch.
Rev. Bertie Crooks, M.A., Parry Sound, guest speaker at all above events.
YOU ARE WELCOME



On May 12, the senior and intermediate bands of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, will appear in concert, under the direction of staff instructor, Mr. Hawley. It will mark the first time that a program of this kind has been held here. One of the participants will be 18 year old Lynn Gresham, Grade 13, a clarinet player in the senior band. —Jas. Thomas.

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