

Worlds colliding for SDSS student

Our town is rapidly changing. New homes bring new people. New people sometimes retain old traditions. For many, it's a different world. Different for natives as well as for newcomers. Trust and tolerance are required.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

Imagine what it's like should an Anglo-Saxon be transplanted into India, China or Africa.

At the same time, imagine what it's like for a resident of Africa, India or China to be relocated in Canada. Culture shock to say the least.

So what do people do? Many take or bring their deep-rooted cultures with them.

So it is in Stouffville. And so it is with Ayesha Wasin, a 17-year-old Muslim, born here but with parentage from Sri Lanka. She's a Grade 12 student at Stouffville District Secondary School.

What makes Ayesha unique is the fact she wears a hijab headpiece and a Niqab veil that, together, converts to a burqa. This garment, in its entirety, covers the entire body except for a mesh screen facial slot that reveals only her eyes.

Ayesha was five when her parents and two older brothers moved from Scarborough to Stouffville. She attended Glad Park Public School from Grade 1 through graduation.

Her father had his heart set on farming. Her mother wanted a home in the country. Their dreams have been realized. They own a 250-acre property near Zephyr, complete with cows, llamas, goats, donkeys and chickens.

Wearing a Niqab, Ayesha explains, is something for which she wished even as a small girl. At age 12, she took three months off school to accompany her family on a long-distance trip that included visits to Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Dubai and England. While in Sri Lanka, she became convinced this garment was meant for her. She's been wearing one of more than 20 different styles and colours ever since.

While Glad Park students were accepting, such was not the case at SDSS, Ayesha said. Not

initially.

"It wasn't understood," she recalls. "There was some joking around."

But Ayesha persevered, knowing that, eventually, the teasing would stop.

It did. Today, through quiet enlightenment, she's accepted by her peers as one of their own.

"From the beginning, my attire was always acknowledged by staff, Ayesha adds.

The concealment, for religious reasons, poses no complexities for Ayesha at school. Badminton, basketball and soccer are favourite sports. She doesn't wear the hijab/niqab dress within her family circle or when communing with other girls.

"It's a symbol of equality," she states, "where brains are respected more than beauty."

An A-student, Ayesha plans to enroll in a biomedical course at the University of Western Ontario following graduation in June.

While a modern worship site has yet to be established in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Ayesha and her parents hope this will some day be realized. At present, a meeting place called Darul-khair centre is located on Main Street next to Ann's Fabrics.

For Muslims, Jum-mahs are held Friday afternoons with prayer times five times daily.

Because Ayesha has lived 12 of her 17 years in Stouffville, she's grown accustomed to life here. But she still misses friends in Scarborough. However, nothing surpasses her love of the family farm where she can ride a four-wheeler - with or without a burqa.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

OUR MARINATED FLANK STEAKS

Now that the snow has receded to the point that your 'QUE' is at least partially visible, you can think about grilling up one of these. Even over winter these are a popular item given that they can be prepared indoors as well. What makes them so good is that quintessential flavour of beef, certainly more tender by marinating and they go a long way with a crowd because there is no waste at all, which often means that there will be enough for seconds. Reg. \$9.95/lb

25% OFF THIS WEEK

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE DELI!

We won't have the usual salad feature this week because we're making one from the U.P.S. Cookbook - and that's 'Roasted Smashed Greek Potatoes' from page 25. It's a warm salad and since it's not one of our usual items with an established retail, we'll do a 'Feature Price' which will be...

99¢ /100g

We'll be making some of our air-chilled chicken breasts which are stuffed with our Black Forest Ham and Swiss Cheese - it's Chicken Done Cordon Blue but without the breading. This will be featured at... **\$14.95 /lb.** Ready to go.

CREAM OF CARROT SOUP

This is one of, if not the very best-selling soups we make. We start by making our own chicken stock, use local carrots (when they're available) which are nice and sweet, some cream and it's spiced just right.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

Reg. \$6.99 each Serves 3-4

MANGOES!

This is just a little note to say that we have some of our nice size Peruvian Mangoes, some Organic Peruvian Mangoes which are pretty darn good, and some amazing Tree-Ripened AMAZONAS, which are about twice the price and they are sublime.

WHAT'S BLOOMIN'!

Last week I attended a Birthday Party that had a table arrangement which had been made at the store. It was amazing (and still is, because it came home with me) and monopolized a good amount of the conversation. Greg will be making a number of them at the store this week in various sizes.....and prices, made with orchids and tropical foliage.

We'll have an assortment of Lady Slipper Orchids, something that you don't find everyday, and.....we'll have a deal happening on mini Phalaenopsis Orchids, at \$10.00 each, in a variety of colours.

GUINNESS SAUSAGE ROLLS

We've made our sausage rolls with a twist for St. Pat's! Instead of the more mild-mannered English Breakfast Sausage as the 'meat-of-the-matter', we've used our Guinness Sausages made in the smaller size. The result is a sausage roll with a bit more of a gregarious character, very fitting for the occasion. These will also be available on feature up to and including next Thursday. Package of 10 Reg. \$6.99

25% OFF THIS WEEK

OUR OLD-FASHIONED CABBAGE ROLLS

Cabbage Rolls are a hot item in our store; I imagine it's because they're so time-consuming to make that few of us make them at home. Whatever the reason, they don't last long in our freezer - especially when they're on sale. So come early and get them while they last! Reg. \$11.95 Pkg. of 4

25% OFF THIS WEEK

GUINNESS SAUSAGES

If there's one way to serve these, this is it! These are made with coarse ground pork, some apple, a few nice, mellow spices and a good amount of beer that made the land of St. Patrick famous. The weather is a bit changeable yet, so grilling might not be an option, but if it is, that's when these are at their best. Reg. \$4.99/lb.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

POTATO-LEEK SOUP

This is one of the soups that we make in our store kitchen and hence, it's fresh rather than frozen. It's displayed in the little cabinet across from the milk along with any of our other 'soups of the day'. I had this for dinner last night along with a few slices of the Bavarian Light Rye that we sell... and I can report that everything was amazing, except for the hockey game I was watching. It's nice and filling and really full of flavour. Serves 2 hockey fans or 4 normal folk.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

WHAT'S BAKING THIS WEEK

We'll be doing our St. Patrick's Day baking for this weekend to give you a head start with the celebrating (next weekend wouldn't be as much fun since it's after the fact). We'll be having a lot of specials, because this is 'My Favourite Holiday' (just like I say about every holiday, hee, hee), either using Bailey's Irish Cream or making everything else green. We'll be making...

Bailey's Cheesecakes - Shortbread crust with a generous amount of Bailey's Irish Cream in the filling and a little bit of ganache swirled in. Whole thing is topped with a mound of Bailey's Whipping Cream and shamrocks. Reg. \$14.95 & 22.95 ea.

Bailey's Jelly Rolls - Chocolate ganache painted on the fluffy white cake sheets, drizzled with caramel and rolled-up with Bailey's Whipped Cream. Reg. \$15.95 ea.

Bailey's Poundcake - Beautiful, melt-in-your-mouth texture in a large 1.8lb size loafcake spiced up with Caramel and Bailey's in the mix. Nicely wrapped with ribbons in a cello bag. Reg. \$7.95 ea.

Pistachio-Bailey's Biscotti - Ok, so Biscotti is Italian, not Irish, but we have made it more Irish by adding Green Pistachios and a lot of Bailey's Irish Cream in the mix. Reg. \$2.59/100g

Bailey's Creme Brulee - The name says it all... Reg. \$4.50

Our whole St.Pat's repertoire will be...

25% OFF THIS WEEK

and beyond - to and including the very day!

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH

Hours: Mon. 10:00-7:00 - Tues.-Thurs. 9:00-7:00 - Fri. 9:00-7:00

Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

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