

OAC phase out doubles graduates

Double cohort. Two words that many Grade 11 and 12 students know well.

Since the introduction of this topic, many students have taken the time to think about how it affects them and what they are going to do about it. For me, a Grade 12 student at Stouffville District Secondary School, it means graduating with twice as many people. Also, I get the chance to fight for one of the few spots at college and university against everyone I am graduating with.

Some schools are constructing new buildings, hiring more staff and even opening new campus locations to prepare for the rush. But that is their choice, and no matter how much they try to prepare, it is still going to be tough for students.

With the introduction of the four year high school program comes a new, more intense curriculum. It takes five years of learning and packs it into four. The new curriculum requires new material, such as teachers' books and textbooks for the students, which cost money, and lots of it.

In my opinion, this money should be spent on providing things for the entire student body, not just a select group. Things like science lab equipment and up-to-date technology are necessary for the betterment of students' education. And the cost of the new curriculum is taking away from that.

Sitting in an OAC biology class, students may hear about how the Grade 11 students are covering the same material. It happens to me all the time. That

Student Opinion

By Shannon Kerr - Stouffville District Secondary School

makes me feel as though I'm not getting the same level of education as other students are.

I feel like I'm being ripped off. Sure, I'm getting

a good education, but students a year behind me seem to be getting a better one. And that makes getting into a good school hard, for me at least.

All of a sudden, there are younger people going off to college and university. Some people don't even think the kids going now are mature enough to go away to school. So, now what do they think when students are ending high school a year early and going off to school at a younger age?

When you look back at the past, and you see the older education systems, do you see anything wrong? Is there a flaw that makes it impossible to give students the best education possible? Looking back, I can see nothing really wrong with the education system. People seem to have received the education they need for life.

So, here's my question: Why the need to change it now? Why spend all this money to create extra stress? Just because I'm a student doesn't mean I am not occupied with other things. The added stress the double cohort creates is not needed and certainly not welcome. This is my one chance at high school, and suddenly it seems to have gotten a lot tougher.

I really don't know much about the politics behind all of this. All I know is that I'm working really hard trying to keep up. And I'm searching for the edge I'll need to come out ahead of the game, ahead of the rest.

Police Centre's new program

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Community Policing Centre, which is located in the train station, has initiated a new program called Call Back, said Ward 6 councillor Sue Sherban.

"The administrative team are calling all businesses, community groups and service clubs, introducing themselves and explaining what the centre does. At the same time they are taking information about concerns that people may have in the community." Policing and bylaw issues, as well as concerns relating to town services, are among the topics that could be addressed, she noted.

Centre representatives will take the opportunity to identify key problem areas, and the information they receive will be passed on to the appropriate authority for follow-up. A web site will be set up in the spring, to allow people to report problems online. For more information call 905-640-4248.

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library & Stouffville Neighbourhood Employment Resource Centre JAN. - FEB. Calendar

- January 23rd 7:00-9:00 Team Building
- January 30th 7:15-8:15 The Art of Interviewing
- February 13th 7:00-9:00 Assertive Training
- February 27th 7:00-9:30 Starting Small Business Seminar
- March 7th 7:00-9:00 Write a winning cover letter and Resume

UPCOMING - In February, look for a Neighbourhood Employment Resource Center Workshop in partnership with the Economic Development Department and the Small Business Self-Help Office.

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Mike Monette
Investment Representative
34 Civic Ave., Unit 101
Stouffville
Bus 905-640-9559
Fax 905-640-9916
www.edwardjones.com
Member CIPF

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