

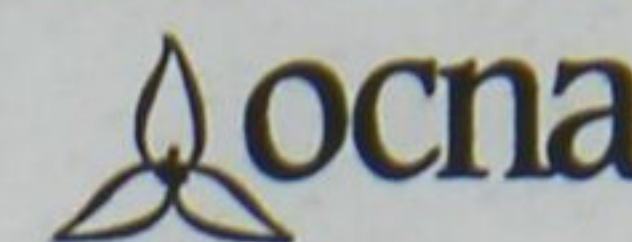
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

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Local News Views Happenings
Whitchurch-Stouffville this month

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Opinion

Now We Are One

It's hard to believe that *Stouffville This Month* is celebrating its first birthday.

The past 12 months have flown by and the enthusiasm from readers and advertisers has been incredible. We are well aware how tough it is for small, local businesses to find advertising dollars, especially with so many media vehicles competing for a share, and we are grateful to the many people who have supported our efforts to provide a truly local perspective. We would not be here today without you.

During this newspaper's first year, the town has undergone some dramatic changes, with explosive commercial growth in the west end and the prospect of unprecedented future housing development, thanks to the extension of the big pipe. But while our proximity to Toronto makes growth inevitable, careful planning is essential if we are to retain our small town charm and unique sense of community. And it is up to the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville to make their feelings on development and growth known to our elected representatives.

Also essential to our quality of life is the preservation of our heritage and a genuine commitment to revitalizing our downtown core. We must continue to do all we can to ensure that the town retains ownership of the former municipal offices, and we will also continue to vigorously support the concept of using the building as a centre for arts and culture, which will complement the Latcham Gallery and offer greater incentive for visitors and residents to gather downtown.

Our beautiful new pool and library complex, which opened officially last September, has been a welcome addition to Whitchurch-Stouffville. It offers programs for all ages and ability levels, and the staff is helpful and knowledgeable.

We believe this town would benefit from a live theatre to provide a fitting venue for dance recitals, musical performances and other local events. We would also love to see the establishment of a movie theatre, a facility that tops the wish list of many young people in Whitchurch-Stouffville who do not have access to out-of-town transportation.

As our town grows and changes, we hope you will continue to use *Stouffville This Month* to express your views, tell us about upcoming events, suggest story ideas and find out what's happening in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Letters

Newspaper the success story of year

To the Editor:

I am naturally skeptical of anything new, especially something as risky as another newspaper in a small town even though, deep down I was of the opinion that this type of publication was needed.

I must confess that I was proved wrong. This venture into the promotion of Stouffville is indeed the success story of the year.

I am extremely pleased with the support and publicity given to the residents and businesses of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The paper certainly

concentrates on all the news and events that a small town wants to hear about. I know that the majority of the residents will agree with me.

Why wasn't it named 'Business of the Year?'

Harry Bowes
 Stouffville

Sounding Off

What do you think of the mayor's proposal to use the main floor of the old town hall offices as an arts and cultural centre?



Nancy Hopkins
 I think it's a good idea. It was the town hall and you want to keep that history as part of the community. An arts and culture centre seems a very appropriate use for this building.



Brenda Threndyle
 I totally support the idea of a cultural centre. I'm a member of the Roadside Painters, so I'm in there quite a lot, and I think we should retain it because it's a heritage building and it's in a good location.



Cathy Tubbs
 I like it myself, I think it's a great idea and I would like to see more programs in town with an arts focus. It's a nice central location so I think it would be a very good place for this type of facility.



Rachel Peters
 I would like to see more places in Stouffville where kids could go and do stuff and get interested in the arts. I'm interested in music, so I would like to have more places for that.



Virginia Stiles
 My opinion is I don't want the building sold. It's part of our history and I back Sue Sherban up all the way on the idea of a cultural centre. I also welcome anything that brings people into town.