

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Independent Community Owned Newspaper

Stouffville Free Press

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UP AND COMING

The Stouffville Free Press welcomes community event listings from non-profit groups and organizations. Please send a brief synopsis of upcoming events by email to stouffvillefreepress@rogers.com

Free Opinion - Working together

Whoever said, "You can please all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot please all the people all the time," may well have worked on a town council.

Although blaming politicians for everything that goes wrong is something of an international sport, collaboration between community groups and local government is often more productive than polarization. One example of this is the case of Latham Hall and the Stouffville Lions Club.

Last summer, council voted to move the Silver Jubilee 55 Plus Club to the hall as an interim measure, a decision that came as a bolt from the blue to the Lions, who had been operating and using the facility as its base through a lease agreement since 1998. However, the club worked with the town to come

up with a compromise that allows the Lions to continue using the hall for meetings and storage. Renovations are now complete and the facility is up and running, accommodating the Lions, the 5th Stouffville Brownses and the 55 Plus Club.

At a recent council meeting, Mayor Wayne Emmerson announced that February would be designated Stouffville Lions Club Month in recognition of the organization's 75th anniversary in 2013, a decision that was warmly welcomed by club members.

The high cost of hospital parking is an explosive issue which has galvanized patients and their families across Canada. In late 2011, an episode of CBC Radio's *White Coat, Black Art* on the topic resulted in an avalanche

of emails, phone calls and blog posts protesting the use of parking fees to augment hospital revenues.

A group of York Region residents has formed the Fair Hospital Parking Charges partnership to raise local awareness of the issue (see page 8). The group also pursues a collaborative approach, recognizing the financial difficulties hospitals face as the result of inadequate funding from the provincial government.

Our hospitals are left with no option but to garner revenue from all available sources at their disposal. However, it is harder to sympathize with the province's unwillingness to come up with a more equitable way of spreading the burden, particularly in light of the ORNGE, e-Health and power plant scandals.

Free Laughs - Bright sparks

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.

Bill Watterson

An intelligent hell would be better than a stupid paradise.

Victor Hugo

We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet.

Stephen Hawking

How can you look at the Texas legislature and still believe in intelligent design?

Kinky Friedman

I'm very intelligent. I'm capable of doing everything put to me. I've launched a perfume and want my own hotel chain. I'm living proof blondes are not stupid.

Pans Hilton

Mad, adj: Affected with a high degree of intellectual independence.

Ambrose Bierce

If the human brain were so simple that we could understand it, we would be so simple that we couldn't.

Emerson M. Fugh

Some problems are so complex that you have to be highly intelligent and well informed just to be undecided about them.

Laurence J. Peter

I won't eat anything that has intelligent life, but I'd gladly eat a network executive or a politician.

Marty Feldman

Before we work on artificial intelligence why don't we do something about natural stupidity?

Steve Polyak

Ignorance is a right! Education is eroding one of the few democratic freedoms remaining to us.

Christopher Andrea

I can't tell you if genius is hereditary, because heaven has granted me no offspring.

James McNeill Whistler

It's innocence when it charms us, ignorance when it doesn't.

Mignon McLaughlin

Two things are infinite, as far as we know - the universe and human stupidity.

Albert Einstein (attrib.)

Every man of genius is considerably helped by being dead.

Robert S. Lynd

If I only had a little humility, I would be perfect.

Ted Turner

We are all worms, but I do believe I am a glowworm.

Winston Churchill

Nobody stands taller than those willing to stand corrected.

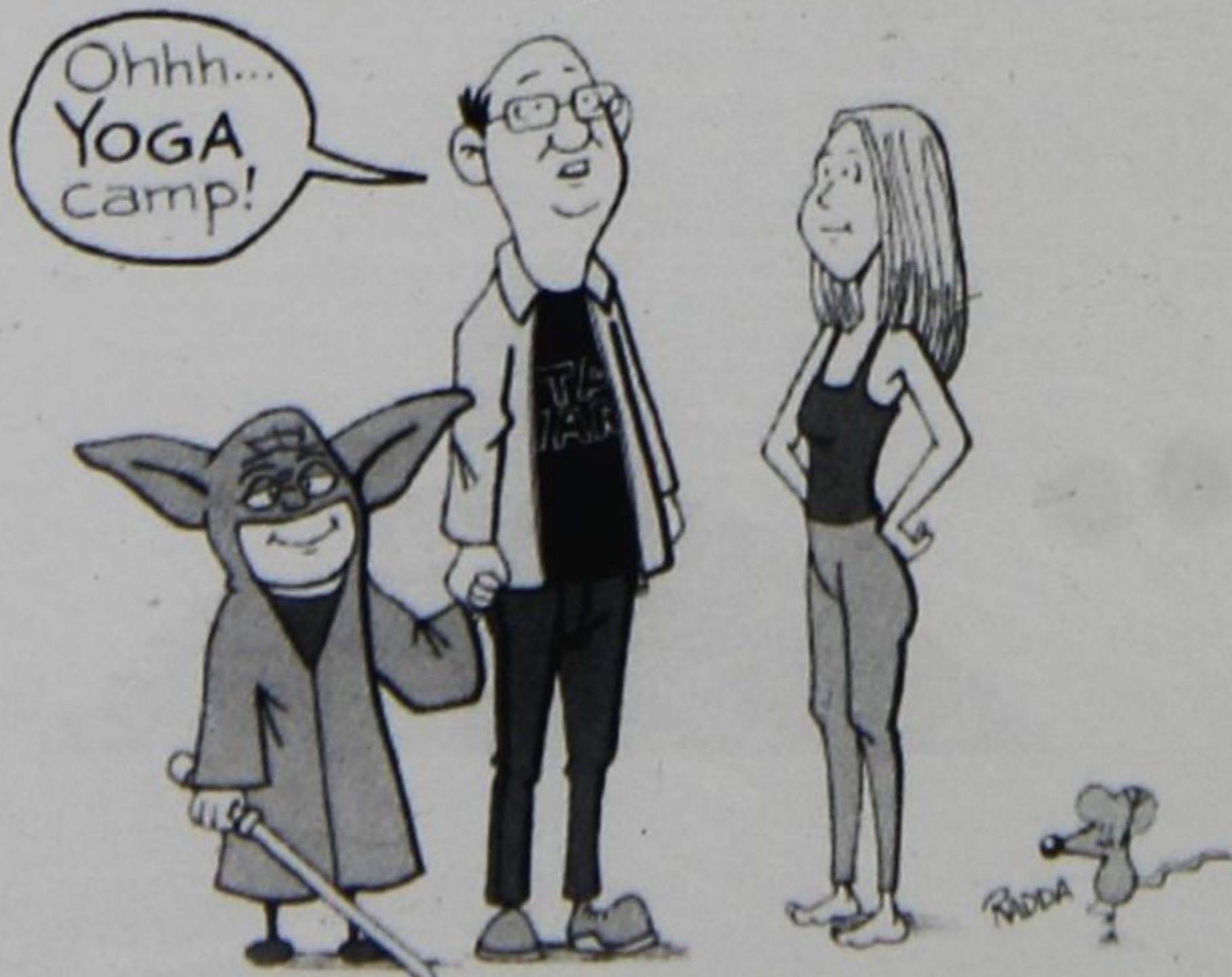
William Safire

Even though I am fantastic looking, I am still quite intelligent.

Shahrukh Khan

Free Thoughts

This March Break parents in Stouffville have a galaxy of activity options available for the kids, including Hockey Camp, Sports Camp, Art Camp and...



Ten Things I Wish You Knew

An open letter to friends, family, educators and people we've yet to meet

By Niki Huxtable

It has been almost two years since my son Brody was diagnosed with autism. He has made incredible progress in this time, and he continues to amaze me on a daily basis. Raising a child with autism has its own set of rewards and challenges. I could not have made it through all of the difficult times without the enormous amount of support and encouragement I have received from family and friends.

There are times though, when I have found that despite people's best intentions, I am often upset and frustrated by their comments or reactions. I look away, stunned into silence, fighting back tears. These are the things that I wish you knew in those moments.

1. Don't be "sorry" or ask if my daughter is "OK" (meaning does she have autism too?) when I tell you that Brody has autism. Whether you mean to or not, that offends me. It hurts me so deeply that I can feel a heaviness in my chest that winds me for a moment, and I never think of you in the same way again.

2. Having seen the movie *Rain Man* or read anything by Jenny McCarthy does not qualify

you to say you know about autism. Autism affects each person differently. It is not a one size fits all diagnosis.

3. I am not looking for a cure for autism. I am looking for the right combination of therapies/treatments that will help Brody succeed in life with autism.

4. Stop asking me if Brody is ever going to talk. I don't know. What I do know is that if people stopped and watched Brody they would see that even if he doesn't use words, he does communicate.

5. Sometimes I envy you. You never have to think about if you will ever hear your child say "mom", or if they will be able to tell you if their tummy hurts. You are not preparing to re-mortgage your home to pay for private therapy (which, by the way is worth every penny).

6. Sometimes you should envy me. I have never had to listen to Brody ask me "Are we there yet?" on a long drive. Or ask "Why?" about everything.

7. I do not claim to be an expert on autism, but I am an expert on Brody. Be wary of questioning this, regardless of your job title or qualifications. I have spent over four years decoding one Brody mystery after another. I have my masters in Brody. See *Ten Things* Page 12