

Taking Care OF BUSINESS

By Bruce Stapley
Stouffville Free Press

And the Wiener Is....

If you're heading off to the new Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex you'd better come hungry. Fast Eddie's Diner, the Coppins Corner breakfast and lunch restaurant known for its down-home cooking and extra large portions, has been awarded the concession rights for the twin ice pad facility on Weldon Rd.

Mary Stampolidis, who owns Fast Eddie's along with her husband Billy, expects to recognize many of the faces lining up for the delicious burgers, peameal on a bun, home-made soup, salads, wraps and everything else being offered at the arena eatery.

"Fifty per cent of my business at Fast Eddie's is from Stouffville," she said. "Some of them come every day."

The successful Stampolidis bid was chosen from among numerous applications, said Mary. She said it was her reputation, acquired over the past three years at Fast Eddie's, that led to her being given the contract by Town Council. "They told me my references were exceptional. I even had the Mayor of Uxbridge (Bob Shepherd) as a reference. A customer told me that (Whitchurch-Stouffville councillor) Phil Bannon was here for a burger one day and that he loved it."

For Mary, who lives with her family in Goodwood, serving food to the public is all about looking after the customers' best interests. "We use trans fat free oil, and all our meats come from Leadbetter's in Orillia. Every time they make a delivery, I make the driver sit down and have lunch while I go through the entire order. If there is any fat it goes back."

She also believes in befriending those she feeds. "It's not enough just to create and serve good food. It's equally important to create great customer relationships."

Mary hopes to attract not only the arena-goers, but people who live in the area of the complex. "I hope to draw customers from the neighbouring subdivisions, and the kids from the high school after school. The parking is there."

Mary plans to hire local students, while manning the eatery herself at times.

Having won the concession rights at the new arena, she intends to leave it up to her customers to name the eatery. "I'm

inviting people to come up with a name. Anything goes. I was thinking of naming it 'And the Wiener Is'. I want a catchy name. I'm told there may eventually be a pool and a fitness centre so maybe not a name that relates only to hockey."

The winning entry will be awarded a \$100 voucher at the concession. Entries should be emailed to: fasteddiesdiner@hotmail.com.

The concession should be operational on or before April 23. Off season hours (April through August) will be weekdays from 5 till 11 p.m.; Weekends 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. Hours will be expanded during the regular season months.

Stouffville Martial Arts Academy Student Wins Debut

Scott Oughton, an 18-year-old student at the Stouffville Martial Arts Academy, came up big in his first MMA fight in Michigan March 27. According to Academy owner Craig Hroncok, Scott, a member of the Canadian military, fought a 28-year-old ex-marine wrestler who was bigger and stronger than he was.

"Scott is a Stouffville resident who has been training for just over two years," said Craig. "He trains five or six days per week for three to four hours a day, combining cardio, Gracie jiu-jitsu, muay tai, boxing and weight training."

All in Fun

And then there were three.

That's the number of Stouffville businesses vying for the 'Stouffville Old Boys' award. In last month's Free Press, Schell Lumber head honcho Ron Schell countered his lifelong friend Dr. Bob Boadway when Dr. Bob used a less than flattering picture of Ron in his ad series entitled '10 Things You Should Know About Dr. Bob', under the heading 'Even Dr. Bob's Lifelong Friends Trust Him as their Dentist.'

Ron's at it again in this month's edition of the Free Press. But this time he has company. Jack Wilkinson of Century Mill Lumber has joined the fray, putting in his always humorous two cents worth. (see page 9) All in fun of course, as Jack makes perfectly clear in the ad.

Can you say 'Uncle' Dr. Bob?

Free Self-defence Course For Kids

A free self-defence course for children aged 6 to 12, conducted by Master Craig Hroncok, will be held at Stouffville Martial Arts Academy on Saturday, May 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The course will focus on awareness, emergency protocol and self-defence techniques that incorporate Karate, Gracie Jiu-Jitsu, Defendo and Aikido, and will also address bullying. A question and answer period will follow at the end of the course. Master Craig has over 38 years of martial arts training, and is a sergeant with the

OPP auxiliary. He is also a certified first aid/CPR instructor and currently instructs police and civilians in self-defence and first aid/CPR.

The course will be held at the Stouffville Martial Arts Academy, 61 Ringwood Dr., Unit 3, Stouffville. Master Craig can be contacted at the school at 905-640-7474 or by email at craig@teamsmaa.com. Children should wear comfortable gym type clothing and no shoes will be needed, as the area is matted.

April Pools' Day

On April 24 and 25 the Lifesaving Society and the town's aquatic staff invite the public to visit the Lebovic Leisure Centre to brush up on water safety.

The event runs from 2:05 to 4 p.m. on both days and includes information on water safety skills practice, lifejacket education,

boat safety and a recreational swim. Bring family and friends and enjoy a fun and informative afternoon. Donations are being accepted at the front desk, and will be used to support the Lifesaving Society's drowning prevention campaign.

A Big Hit

Recycled, brand-name golf balls are on sale at just five dollars a dozen at the Stouffville IDA for the second year in a row.

Organizer Harry Weston has raised more than \$1,900 for Uxbridge Cottage Hospital by selling golf balls through area pharmacies, including the local IDA. "Thousands of golf balls have been donated to the program," said Harry. "Each and every ball is thoroughly cleaned and checked."

With no overheads, the hospital receives a hundred per cent of the funds raised,

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