

Character from page 7

we may or not have, or by the funds spent to promote or maintain the arts. It is not graded by how many arenas we have, or how big the library, museum, or community centres are and which programs they provide.

It is not determined by how close the nearest park is to where we live; by how often our waste is picked up; or what colour the box is that it gets picked up in. It is also not created by how quickly our potholes get filled, our roads get plowed, or even if we even have curbs, street lights or pavement at all.

None of those things have anything to do with small town character. And all the griping, and arguing we seem to enjoy sure as heck doesn't either. I think we all know what small town character is about, and what is required to maintain it. Its preservation is up to us. I'm wondering if we are doing such a good job.

If we are so concerned about ourselves and our own needs that no one can even be bothered to slow down for a couple a seconds to allow a cold and wet young person to get out of the rain and be safe at home, maybe we don't deserve to live in such a "small town" as Stouffville once was.

It is not only conceivable that we are losing our small town character, we may possibly be driving it away.

Hugo T. Kroon • Bethesda

**Former Maple Leaf
guest speaker at
May 17 breakfast**



Rev. Rocky Dundas, a former Toronto Maple Leaf, will be the guest speaker at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Prayer Breakfast on May 17 at Station Creek Golf and Country Club. Rev. Dundas is an international speaker and lead pastor of Summit Community Church in Richmond Hill. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Candlelight and Memories or by calling Sue Sherban at 905-640-4584.

**Sacred Music Night
welcomes special guests**



The famous Mudde family singers, (pronounced Mew-da) will highlight the 37th annual Sacred Music Night, at 7 p.m. May 6 at St. James Presbyterian Church, Main Street.

Dennis and Nancy Mudde and their six children, all of whom are home schooled, have sung at several Whitchurch-Stouffville churches including Heise Hill and Gormley. They also participated in a 200th anniversary celebration at the Gormley farm of John and June Doner last fall.

Others taking part will include the Stouffville Christian School ensemble, The St. James 'Believers' chorus, and vocal soloists Susan Brown and Jennifer Thunem. Offering is free-will. Refreshments will be served.

Several years ago, Dennis and Nancy Mudde began teaching their children harmonies to some traditional hymns. At the same time, the family developed an appreciation for Southern Gospel music.

"Performing as a family is something we never planned to do, but God has given us the opportunity to sing for Him outside our own living room," said Dr. Dennis Mudde. "Most appearances have been for shut-ins as well as churches and community events," added his wife Nancy, "but recently, God has opened the doors for us to minister in Michigan, Indiana and Tennessee."

They have recorded several CDs. The other family members are Dennis Jr., (D.J.), 19; Ben, 17; Joseph, 16; Emily, 14; Sarah, 12 and Timothy, 10. "We're grateful to God that He has entrusted us with this ministry," concluded Dr. Mudde, "it's been a growing experience for us as a family as well as individually."

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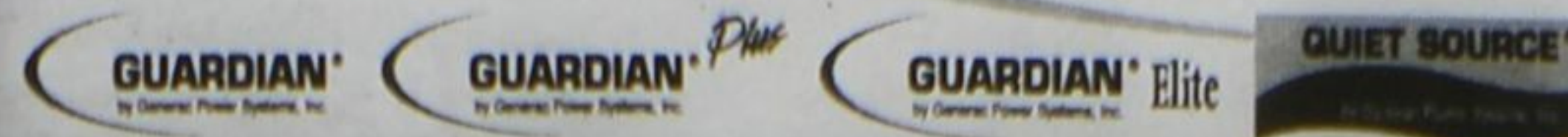
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