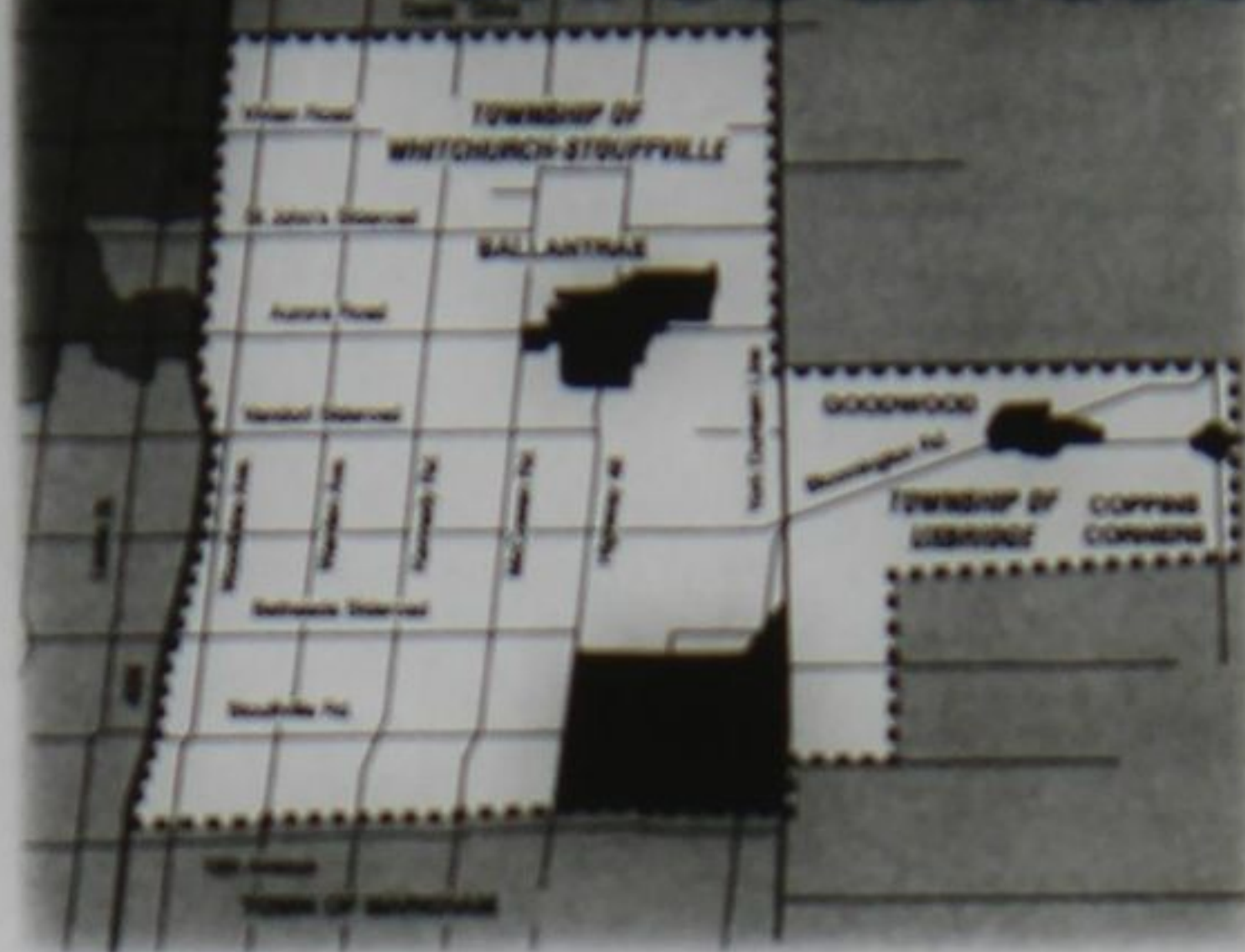


Whitchurch-Stouffville's Independent Community Owned Newspaper

Stouffville Free Press



The Stouffville Free Press is published monthly by the **Stouffville FREE PRESS Inc.** and delivered by Canada Post to each house in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Goodwood. The press run is 11,200

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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 withwrinkles@hotmail.com or drop off at 6111 Main Street. The deadline for the June issue is May 23.

Free Opinion

The April 11 official groundbreaking ceremony for Nineteen on the Park! represents a big step forward for the revitalization of Stouffville's downtown.

Congratulations to council and town staff for their efforts in obtaining an impressive provincial grant towards the project in the amount of \$930,000, which was officially presented to Mayor Wayne Emerson by Oak Ridges MPP Helena Jaczek during the ceremony. Kudos also goes to former mayor Sue Sherban who, with the support of local cultural groups, raised awareness of the vital importance of the arts to any well-rounded community, and who fought long and hard to try and establish a theatre and arts facility in Stouffville.

News that construction of the new fire hall has been delayed is

Breaking New Ground

disappointing and it is hoped that the project will soon be given the green light. In recent weeks, there has been a constant stream of emergency vehicles rushing from the east end of town along Main Street, en route to accidents and fires at the west end. Our firefighters do a magnificent job, but no doubt having a facility at the other end of town will make their lives easier, particularly with the increasing volume of traffic on Main Street and ongoing and planned construction from Hwy. 48 to Ninth Line.

Canada is a country built on immigration and as Whitchurch-Stouffville expands, we are welcoming more new Canadians into our community. Living As Neighbours is an interfaith symposium organized by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth

Association, whose goal is to promote mutual understanding among different cultures and provide an opportunity for Muslims, Christians and Hindus to learn about each other's beliefs.

The event takes place at Christ Church on May 10 and will offer an overview of faith from Hindu, Christian and Islamic perspectives, followed by a question and answer session. Event speakers are the Rev. Rob Shields of Christ Church Anglican, Naseem Mahdi, senior vice president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, who will present the Islamic perspective, and Ramesh Gosyne, a devotee at the Devi Mandir, who will speak on Hinduism.

It's an excellent opportunity to welcome newcomers and find out more about their culture, as well as discussing the common ground we all share.

Free Laughs - Marvellous Mothers

Thou art thy mother's glass and she in thee/Calls back the lovely April of her prime. *William Shakespeare*

The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found. *Calvin Trillin*

My mother won't admit it, but I've always been a disappointment to her. Deep down inside, she'll never forgive herself for giving birth to a daughter who refuses to launder aluminum foil and use it over again. *Erma Bombeck*

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after. *Peter De Vries*

Sweater, n.: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly. *Ambrose Bierce*

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them. *Phyllis Diller*

A mother's love is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking, it never fails or falters, even though the heart is breaking. *Helen Rice*

Mothers are fonder than fathers of their children because they are more certain they are their own. *Aristotle*

There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it. *Chinese Proverb*

My mother loved children. She would have given anything if I had been one. *Groucho Marx*

Any mother could perform the jobs of several air traffic controllers with ease. *Lisa Alther*

Now, as always, the most automated appliance in a household is the mother. *Beverly Jones*

It takes a woman 20 years to make a man of her son, and another woman 20 minutes to make a fool of him. *Helen Rowland*

No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement. *Florida Scott-Maxwell*

The mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother, and to become fully independent. *Erich Fromm*

Mother: Do you love me, Albert?
 Albert: Yes. Mother: Yes - what?
 Albert: Yes please. *Tom Stoppard, Albert's Bridge*

At work, you think of the children you have left at home. At home, you think of the work you've left unfinished. Such a struggle is unleashed within yourself. Your heart is rent. *Golda Meir*

My daughter thinks I'm nosy. At least that's what she says in her diary. *Sally Poplin*

Free Thoughts

Theatre, new arena, combine resources to solve seating conflicts.



Okay, maybe not.

READERS WRITE

Home Is Where The Heart Is

To the Editor:

As many of you may know, the Anderson family is moving at the end of this month. Before we load up the trucks and vans, we want to say a heartfelt goodbye to our many friends, neighbours, and supporters in the town of Stouffville.

We have spent 32 wonderful years on Main Street. When we first took ownership of the house at the corner of Orchard Park and Main, the address was 276 Main Street West. It was next door to Howard and Joy Mills, across the street from the Stronachs and the Betzs and up the street from the Brillingers and Bud and Beryl Sanderson. It later became 6043 Main St. In 1978 we became a family with the birth of our son, Luke. Four years later we welcomed the arrival of our daughter, Logan.

From our front verandah, we watched the Clipper teams' celebration parades with fire engines and pickup trucks. We saw Main Street widened so much as to threaten the magnificent old trees on the north side. We witnessed three generations of Orchard Park students, including our own two, march down Orchard Park Blvd. to the school at the end of our street.

Our house has changed a bit over the years. The three plank fence along Orchard Park that once protected the peony garden has long since been removed. The one-car garage with the basketball net and the three dwarf apple trees at the south end of the property now has the company of a newly constructed garage nearer the house. The prickly bushes in the northeast corner of the front lawn have been replaced and replaced again with a black wrought iron fence.

What we have experienced and what has never changed is the small town sense of caring and support for which we will be forever grateful. From the time we received the devastating news from Vancouver that knocked us down, the people of this town surrounded us, dusted us off and propped us up again. The Bid and Bop for Luke at the Markham Fairgrounds, the construction of a ramp at the house, the Saucy Shindig, the Orchard Park Public School and numerous other fundraisers, as well as the annual Luke Anderson golf tournaments, have demonstrated and continue to prove that this is a community of good will, compassion and generosity.

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