

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 - Library belongs downtown

News that the town could consider moving the library away from the downtown core is cause for concern among those who strongly believe, as we do, that the facility belongs at the heart of the community.

At this stage, the town is simply reviewing possibilities, one of which could see the proposed 55+ Wellness Centre, which has been slated to occupy space in the municipal building on Sandiford Drive, situated instead at the site currently occupied by the library. This would mean that the library would then move into the town offices.

To explore its available options, the town has hired a consulting firm to look at the feasibility of expanding the library's present site to accommodate a rapidly growing population, versus relocating it to the business area at the west end of Stouffville.

After years of erosion in the downtown core as council moved out and big box stores siphoned off business from independent retailers, concerted efforts have been made to revitalize the area. Improvements to Main Street and Memorial Park, and a scenic trail system along Duffin's Creek, have helped to create a connection between downtown, the Lebovic Leisure Centre and the many new homes south of town, allowing access by foot, bicycle, skateboard and car.

In its present form, the Lebovic Leisure Centre offers a wide range of cultural and fitness options for all ages. The library itself acts as a vital community hub, offering a wealth of services ranging from books, DVDs and information for newcomers, to internet access, children's and seniors' programs, and language and genealogy resources.

The current location was built just

over a decade ago in 2001, with many residents providing financial support by purchasing commemorative markers and tiles both outside the centre and on the floor of the entrance to the library.

A public meeting on the consultant's interim findings will be held at the town offices on Sandiford Drive at 7 p.m. on May 2, and final recommendations will be presented to council in June. It's vital that residents who want their opinions to count come out to the meeting or contact council to express their viewpoint.

Anyone who is unable to attend the meeting can contact the director of Leisure and Community Services at 905-640-1910 ext. 2290 or send an email to rob.raycroft@townofws.ca.

The library is at the heart of our community. Let's help to keep it there.

Free Laughs - Bicycle Clips

The bicycle is a curious vehicle. Its passenger is its engine
John Howard

The bicycle is the most civilized conveyance known to man. Other forms of transport grow daily more nightmarish. Only the bicycle remains pure in heart.
Iris Murdoch

For instance, the bicycle is the most efficient machine ever created. Converting calories into gas, a bicycle gets the equivalent of three thousand miles per gallon.
Bill Strickland

The bicycle will accomplish more for the women's sensible dress than all the reform movements that have ever been waged.
Dermerest's Magazine, 1895

The bicycle is just as good company as most husbands and, when it gets old and shabby, a woman can dispose of it and get a new one without shocking the entire community.
Ann Strong

Get a bicycle. You will not regret it. If you live.
Mark Twain

The sound of a car door opening in front of you is similar to the sound of a gun being cocked.
Amy Webster

Upscale people are fixated with food simply because they are now able to eat so much of it without getting fat, and the reason they don't get fat is that they maintain a profligate level of caloric expenditure. The very same people whose evenings begin with melted goat's cheese... get up at dawn to run, break for a mid-morning aerobics class, and watch the evening news while racing on a stationary bicycle.
Barbara Ehrenreich

What do you call a cyclist who doesn't wear a helmet? An organ donor.
David Perry

Cycle tracks will abound in Utopia.
H.C. Wells

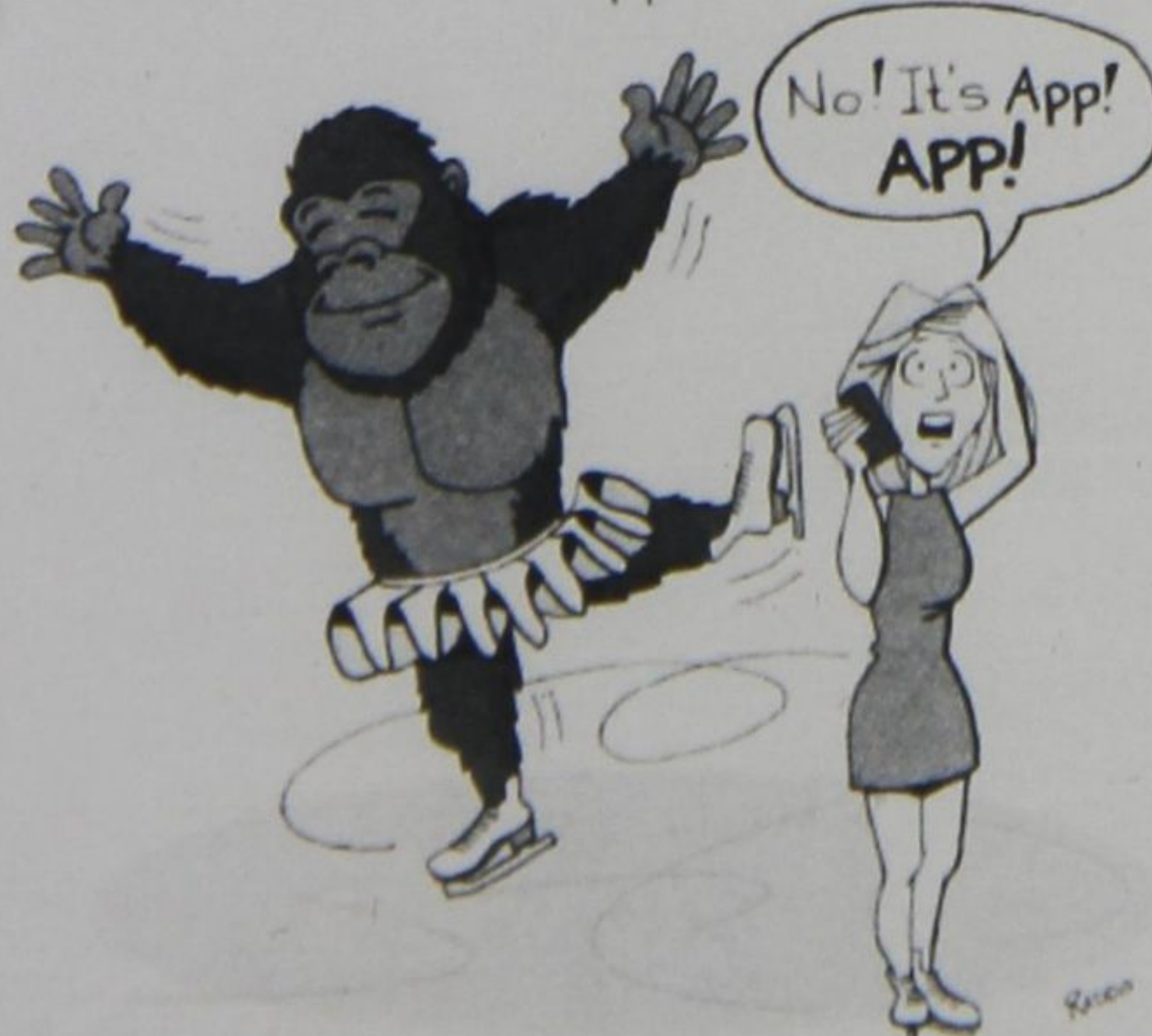
When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realized that the Lord doesn't work that way so I stole one and asked Him to forgive me.
Emo Philips

If you ride you know those moments when you have fed yourself into the traffic, felt the hashed-up asphalt rattle in the handlebars, held a lungful of air in a cloud of exhaust. Up ahead there are two parallel buses. With cat's whiskers, you measure the clearance down a doubtful alley. You swing wide, outflank that flower truck. The cross-street yellow light is turning red. You burst off the green like a surfer on a wave of metal. You have a hundred empty yards of Broadway to yourself.
Chip Brown, A Bike and a Prayer

Tens of thousands who could never afford to own, feed and stable a horse, had by this bright invention enjoyed the swiftness of motion which is perhaps the most fascinating feature of material life.
Frances Willard

Free Thoughts

Stouffville Skating Club is hosting their 46th Ice Show May 11 and 12: iSkate: There's an App for That!



ALL BOOKED UP



Local students and members of the Stouffville Kinsmen (above) were among the many volunteers who helped out at Whitchurch-Stouffville Library's Giant Book Sale which took place March 28 to April 1. The facility's largest annual fundraiser netted an impressive \$14,837 for library programs and events.