

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 11,500

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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 Open Doors & Closing Stores

Earlier this year, an innovative décor and gift store opened in Stouffville.

The merchandise was unique, highly original and reasonably priced. Those who visited became instant converts, but the store closed in April, a victim of its location and sign bylaw restrictions which precluded advertising its presence to traffic on Main Street.

It was located at the far end of Ringwood Drive, but its natural home would have been in the downtown core. The owner would have preferred a Main St. location, but the rents were too high and she has since moved to downtown Newmarket. Let's hope something can be done to encourage this type of retail instead of turning it away.

The return of Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville is welcome

news. It's an excellent, and free, way for newcomers to find out more about the community and for longtime residents to re-acquaint themselves with some of the many great facilities around us. From Lionel's Farm, with its amazing collection of wheeled transportation dating back to the early 1800s, to our own wonderful museum, with its beautifully maintained heritage buildings in a lovely rural setting, Whitchurch-Stouffville has much to offer everyone.

Walking the dog? Get together with Lions Club members and friends on June 1 at Latham Hall and give people with visual, hearing, medical or physical disabilities a new lease on life by raising money to provide them with dog guides. Need more exercise? Join the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Wheelchair Challenge on June 8 and

get first-hand experience of navigating around a world designed for the able bodied, while supporting people with spinal cord injuries. You can also participate the Relay For Life on June 13 and walk around the track at Willowgrove to raise funds for cancer research.

As we contemplate our own rapidly expanding community, it is interesting to reflect on the results of unfettered urban sprawl. This topic is brilliantly tackled in a splendid little Canadian film by Gary Burns and Jim Brown called *Radiant City*, which looks at massive subdivision development in the Calgary area. It's both funny and appalling, presenting a relentless vista of garage doors, no trees, few sidewalks and no pedestrians. It should be required viewing for politicians, developers and planners everywhere.

Free Laughs - Daddy Dearest

My father hated radio and he could not wait for television to be invented so he could hate that too.
Peter De Vries

What's all this fuss about fathers being present at the birth of their children? The way things are shaping up, they'll be lucky to be present at their conception.
George H. Davies

I'm so ugly, my father carries around a picture of the kids who came with his wallet.
Rodney Dangerfield

In peace the sons bury their fathers, but in war the fathers bury their sons.
Croesus

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."
Harmon Killebrew

Fatherhood is pretending the present you love most is soap on a rope.
Bill Cosby

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he'd learned in seven years.
Mark Twain

Life was a lot simpler when what we honoured was father and mother rather than all major credit cards.
Robert Orben

Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your kids.
Anon

Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home.
Bill Cosby

I don't think my parents liked me. My bathtub toys were a toaster and a blender.
Rodney Dangerfield

Father to son: Don't forget, I fought at El Alamein so you could be free to worry about the collapse of the ecosystem.
Hector Breeze cartoon

Children aren't happy with nothing to ignore
 And that's what parents were created for.
Ogden Nash

I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it.
Harry S. Truman

Parents are sometimes a bit of a disappointment to their children. They don't fulfil the promise of their early years.
Anthony Powell

My father only hit me once - but he used a Volvo.
Bob Monkhouse

A father carries pictures where his money used to be.
Anon

Free Thoughts

This year's Strawberry Festival will again feature fireworks and parachutists!



READERS WRITE Whose Oil Is It, Anyway?

To the Editor:

We have a free trade agreement with the United States and we are the largest oil suppliers to the United States.

A gallon of gas (four litres) in the U.S. costs \$3.25. In Canada, the price for four litres is \$5.20; therefore if we have more oil and we can afford to sell it, why aren't the prices the same? Oil companies tell us that the price per litre is not the same, and it is not controlled. If that's the case, why is every gas station selling it at \$1.30/litre or more, almost throughout the Province of Ontario? Is there a hotline between gas station operators and the oil companies?

Most oil companies are American-owned; why do they set the prices at the pumps throughout our province? The Canadian Government should not allow the oil companies to regulate the price; that is not what the market is meant to do. That is not free trade. It is not democratic; it is outright dictatorship by the oil companies.

I can see how governments can be dictatorial, but why are they allowing foreign oil companies to dictate to them? If the Liberal Party of Canada wants an election issue, why don't they force the government to tell foreign-owned oil companies to let the market to take its course, or else they will deregulate the prices?

Strange as it seems, we are the largest suppliers of oil to the U.S., we sell it cheaper to them, and we let them sell it back to us at a higher price. Do we have a political system? Do we have political parties in Canada? Or are they on the take from the oil companies? It is sad we have to suffer, being democratically and legally robbed day and night by our political parties.

Steve Pliakes
 Whitchurch-Stouffville