

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 - The name game

The Musselman's Lake/Musselman Lake name controversy has surfaced again, and the Musselman's Lake Residents Association (MLRA) is weighing in with an informal survey for residents, along with some fascinating background information.

The Free Press recently received a letter on this contentious issue from Patti Davies-Grand of Cedar, B.C. (see below). In it, she provides a wealth of history about her grandfather, George Davies, who purchased the north shore of the lake from the Musselman family, but retained its original name, Musselman's Lake.

It is a bit of a mystery why anyone would want to change a name that is part of the community's heritage, although we suspect the impetus may come from the angst engendered by apostrophes. You've only got to think of

custom-made cottage signs announcing that you have arrived at the summer residence of, say, The Gilderdale's, or a roadside sign for grocery's, open Sunday's.

We are constantly reminded that change is inevitable and we wouldn't dream of challenging that assertion, but we do draw the line at changing a proper name, particularly one that is part of a long and proud heritage. To register your vote in the MLRA's online survey, visit www.musselmanslake.ca. The deadline for votes is July 2.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Library continues to ride the digital wave by taking its show on the road to Cedar Beach Grill at Musselman's Lake on July 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Staff will present a Library Website Demo which will cover topics such

as borrowing ebooks, creating book lists, finding databases and renewing or reserving books online. The library will offer a similar service at For the Love of Jo Coffee Shop on Main Street on July 12 from 10 a.m. to noon, and is also hosting the Digital Bookmobile on June 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Despite limited resources, our library does an excellent job of keeping up with the times and providing services for a rapidly changing community in the constantly evolving digital age.

As we celebrate Canada Day and the Strawberry Festival, we are reminded that we live in perhaps the best country in the world. We owe a big vote of thanks to all the volunteers that make the festival possible and we wish everyone in Whitchurch-Stouffville a fantastic Canada Day.

Free Laughs - Game plans

To me, boxing is like a ballet, except there's no music, no choreography, and the dancers hit each other.
Jack Handey

I wanted to have a career in sports when I was young, but I had to give it up. I'm only six feet tall, so I couldn't play basketball. I'm only 190 pounds, so I couldn't play football. And I have 20-20 vision, so I couldn't be a referee.
Jay Leno

Professional wrestling's most mysterious hold is on its audience.
Luke Neely, 1953

It is impossible to imagine Goethe or Beethoven being good at billiards or golf.
H.L. Mencken

The more I practise, the luckier I get.
Jerry Barber on golf

If winning isn't everything, why do they keep score?
Vince Lombardi

There's nothing wrong with the Little League World Series that locking out the adults couldn't cure.
Mike Penner, Los Angeles Times

I watched the Indy 500, and I was thinking that if they left earlier they wouldn't have to go so fast.
Steven Wright

I was called "Rembrandt" Hope in my boxing days, because I spent so much time on the canvas.
Bob Hope

Oh God, if there be cricket in heaven, let there also be rain.
Alec Douglas Home

The Glaswegian definition of an atheist: a bloke who goes to a Rangers-Celtic match to watch the football.
Sandy Strang

It's a funny kind of month, October. For the really keen cricket fan it's when you discover that your wife left you in May.
Denis Norden

Why is there only one ball for 22 players? If you gave a ball to each of them, they'd stop fighting for it.
Anon

Teamwork is essential - it allows you to blame someone else.
Anon

The members of Ashton Conker Club, the organizing body for the World Conker Championship, are far from despondent about the men's title going to Germany. The day of the Euroconker is here.
J.A. Hadman

It's not whether you win or lose - but whether I win or lose.
Sandy Lyle

We didn't lose the game; we just ran out of time.
Vince Lombardi

Readers Write

What's in a name? A Piece of Local History

To the Editor:

Re: Proposed name change for Musselman's Lake
 I wanted to give you a bit of history about Musselman's Lake. My father's father, George Davies, who was born in England in the late 1800s, purchased the entire northern shore of the lake from the Musselman family prior to my birth in 1941. History shows the anniversary of the Cedar Beach Park opening was in 1929. My grandfather had made his money building most of the huge stone mansions in Toronto, and invested it in the lands along the north side of Musselman's Lake.

It never crossed his mind to change the name of the lake to Davies' Lake, and although he wouldn't bother with such silliness, I do not think he would agree to change it now either. In fact my father and his two younger brothers, Ross and Vern, earned their way as kids working on the huge venture their dad had undertaken in building the pavilion and creating the beach and retaining wall above it, then selling the cottages he built along the north shore beyond the twig gateway that bordered the park.

My grandmother Venetia Helena Hastings was constantly at the gatehouse entrance to the beach (when there was a charge for beach access and it was not restricted to residents) and my mom worked in the store until my younger sister Joan was born in 1944, and Vern came home from World War Two with his bride Audrey.

My father Edward John Davies, who was born in 1912, earned his University of Toronto tuition renting rowboats, canoes, bathing suits and lockers

in the change rooms in the early 1930s, just as I did in the 1950s until I graduated to the snack bar. Several of my childhood friends served their time on the lifeguards' tower, and worked in the boathouse.

My beloved grandfather was sent to Canada in the orphan ships from England when he was a boy along with his only brother - they were about 7 and 9 years old - after his mother died during childbirth just months after their dad had drowned off the coast of England. Their infant sister survived and was wet-nursed by a neighbour, but the boys were shipped away to work on farms in Kenora, Ontario. My grandfather had a respect for the history of the land he owned and I would like to see that respect continued in his memory.

I am sorry it is confusing to keep calling the place that is so significant in our family history Musselman's Lake, but that has been the name it was always called, and convenience is a sad excuse to change that. So many of our family are now gone and my cousin Janet and her family carry on the legacy of my grandfather.

Patricia Davies-Grand
 Cedar, B.C.

Editor's note: The move to officially change the name Musselman's Lake to Musselman Lake has stirred up considerable controversy. Visit www.musselmanslake.ca to cast your online vote in an informal survey. For more details, scroll down to What's In A Name Anyway?

Free Thoughts

It's Strawberry Festival time again, and as always there will be a great variety of things to do!

