

Stouffville Free Press

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Independent Community Owned Newspaper

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GOING GREEN

Late this month, residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville will receive a new green bin for organic waste recycling.

To encourage everyone to cut down on garbage and recycle as much waste as possible, regular garbage pickup will be reduced to every other week, while green and blue bins will be collected on a weekly basis. Already the blue box program has made a big difference in reducing trash, and the new initiative, which covers everything from diapers and ice cream boxes to paper cups and meat products, enables municipalities to compost their organic waste instead of sending it to overflowing landfill sites.

In the same spirit of conservation, Goodwood Gardens recently invited their customers to return garden pots and trays for recycling, a program which proved to be an overwhelming success. Once considered a dull topic, the environment is now front and centre of the political agenda, as people slowly start to acknowledge the damage we are doing to our planet and the finite nature of our resources. Let's embrace the green scene.

This year's downtown display of flowers is spectacular, from the colourful barrels along Main St. to the glorious containers by Duffin's Creek and the Care and Share, not to mention efforts by individual merchants to enhance the exterior of their businesses. We salute everyone responsible for creating and maintaining such a beautiful environment and hope residents will show their appreciation by spending more time in town.

Why not take the opportunity to check out what's new downtown at the Business Improvement Area's perennially popular Moonlight Madness, which includes a street sale, music and karaoke? The event takes place the evening of Aug. 23 and everyone is invited to join the fun.

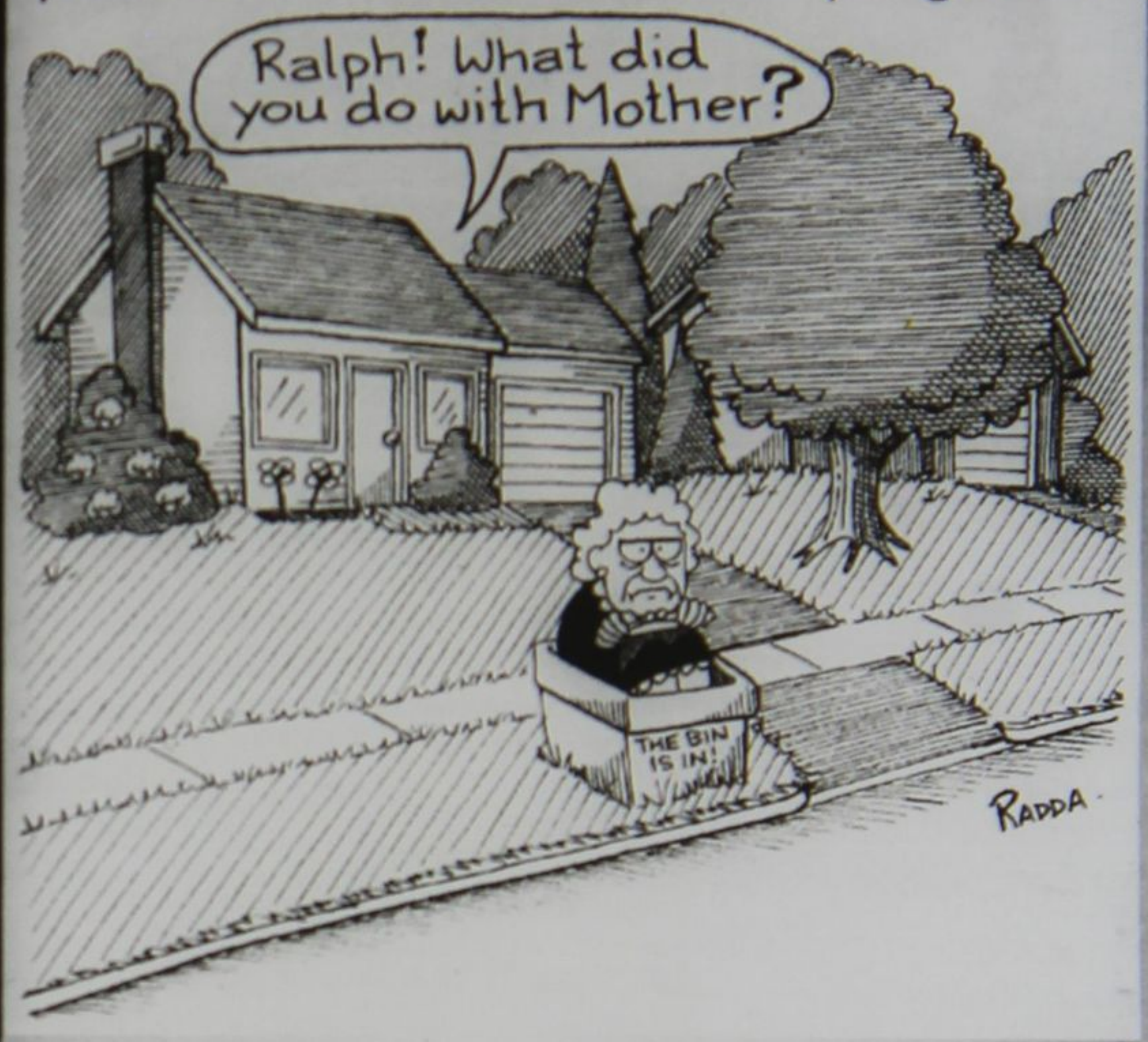
Summertime, and the living is easy, but the telemarketers are becoming increasingly invasive. It may not be a purely local problem, but it is frustrating when the phone rings just as you're sitting down to dinner and the caller is intent on selling you a set of new windows and doors, a magazine subscription or a time share in Sarnia.

Research undertaken by the *Free Press* reveals that some companies offer an option called anonymous caller rejection which telephone companies do little to promote, but which allows you to reject incoming calls from anyone whose number is blocked on call display.

The call is automatically re-routed to a message explaining that you do not accept blocked calls. Users say this option vastly reduces the number of unsolicited calls they receive.

FREE THOUGHTS

Ralph for one is excited about the potential of the Green Bin program...



Readers Write

Public schools no place for segregation

To the Editor:

Re: The coming provincial election

Your recent issue had an interesting article on the appointment of Phil Bannon as our candidate for the Progressive Conservative party.

I'm disturbed that John Tory, the PC leader, is trying to win the ethnic vote by promising to publicly fund separate schools for Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, etc., children. Of course the present system, which discriminates in favour of Catholic schools, is unfair. Why not address that inequity as the provinces of Newfoundland and Quebec have already done? His proposal will only weaken or destroy the current public school system.

Can anyone other than John Tory, and now I guess PC candidates such as Mr. Bannon, imagine it will be good for Ontario to have all our children segregated into exclusive cliques of Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and other religions for 12 years of schooling? It sounds very much like the system endorsed for years in Yugoslavia, and look what happened there when dictator Tito died.

Some no doubt will insist on their own schools. That's their privilege, but it should be at private schools, privately not publicly funded.

R. Blake Tufford • Stouffville

A monoculture of car fumes and monotony

To the Editor:

We have been trying for the last three years to get some compatibility directives -- as mandated by the Secondary Plan -- in place to control for inappropriate infill housing in our established neighbourhoods.

The planning department has no interest in restricting development in any form and has convinced council they have no part in this debate. Bylaws were put in place to protect our investments, not to be used to undermine the integrity of our older neighbourhoods. This is being done without conscience or accountability.

Unfortunately we have a council of followers, not leaders, run by a bureaucracy that answers not to the people -- the owners of the corporation -- but to an external authority. As a result we are faced with gridlock, loss of grade A farmland, depletion of the aquifer, desertification, people dying from respiratory illnesses, increased crime and tension: all done in the name of good planning. And we end up with a monoculture of car fumes and monotony.

Mayor Emmerson likes to boast about 'his' Secondary Plan. I don't know why. All the wonderful ideas of linking parkettes and wildlife corridors, preservation of our older neighbourhoods, preserved farmhouses and barn structures, treed lanes and hedgerows, are all gone, leaving nothing but concrete and asphalt.

Who is going to stop this destruction and when?

There is no economy without a healthy environment. I guess I should have made a campaign contribution.

Randy Mole • Stouffville

MONTHLY MALAISE

Attend the Car Show, see the antiques
...pregnant pause... and cars too

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