

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 withwrinkles@hotmail.com or drop off at 6111 Main Street.

Free Opinion - A Fresh Perspective

Our newest contributor, Kinjal Dagli-Shah, has received a wonderful welcome from *Free Press* readers.

As Whitchurch-Stouffville becomes more diverse, Kinjal will talk to other newcomers and find out what brought them to Stouffville and what they enjoy about their new home. She is also interested in hearing from people who have lived here all their lives, and how they perceive the changing face of what was once a small town and rural farming community, but is now becoming increasingly urban.

The advantages of growth are many: more stores and services, better public transit, a new theatre and arena, more restaurants offering greater variety, less need to go elsewhere for entertainment and shopping. A larger tax base also provides funding for new schools and

walking and biking trails, and those who took part in this year's Terry Fox Run had a wonderful opportunity to explore part of our scenic trail system.

Among the inevitable downsides of increased urbanization are more traffic and greater pressure for programs and space on existing facilities such as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library. Whether you're new to town or have been here all your life, the *Free Press* welcomes your thoughts on what you love about our community and the things you would like to see changed or improved.

The tragic clash between a cyclist and a motorist in Toronto brings to mind the need to emphasize road safety in our own community. With more cars on the road and a scarcity of bike

lanes, more cyclists are taking to the sidewalks, some of which are barely wide enough to accommodate two pedestrians walking side by side.

While we understand why people are reluctant to ride on a busy road, every bicycle should be equipped with a warning bell and lights, and cyclists should keep in mind that sidewalks are primarily designed for pedestrians.

While we're on the topic of walking, we are still at a loss to understand the rationale behind the new traffic signals which often show green for cars, but red for pedestrians going in the same direction. If you push the crosswalk button, you must wait through an entire cycle before the light turns in your favour. Despite the rhetoric about the importance of daily exercise, it seems cars still rule the world.

Free Laughs - The Truth About Cats and Dogs

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance and to turn round three times before lying down.
Robert Benchley

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself.
Josh Billings

A door is what a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of.
Ogden Nash

They say the dog is man's best friend. I don't believe that. How many of your friends have you neutered?
Larry Reeb

I have a dog that's half pit bull, half poodle. Not much of a guard dog, but a vicious gossip.
Craig Shoemaker

I wouldn't really call it a cushion, Pekingese is a more common name for them. No, well never mind, he was very old.
Stephen Fry

I think animal testing is a terrible idea; they get all nervous and give the wrong answers.
Anon

No animal should ever jump up on the dining room furniture unless absolutely certain that he can hold his own in the conversation.
Fran Lebowitz

The black dog was the only intelligent member of the family. He died a few years later. He was poisoned, and no one will convince me it wasn't suicide.
Hugh Leonard

A man loses his dog so he puts an ad in the paper. And the ad says, 'Here, boy!'
Spike Milligan

Cats sit in laps because it's warm there. They don't care if it's you or the radiator.
Henry Morgan

We've got a cat called Ben Hur. We called it Ben till it had kittens.
Sally Poplin

If cats could talk, they wouldn't.
Nan Porter

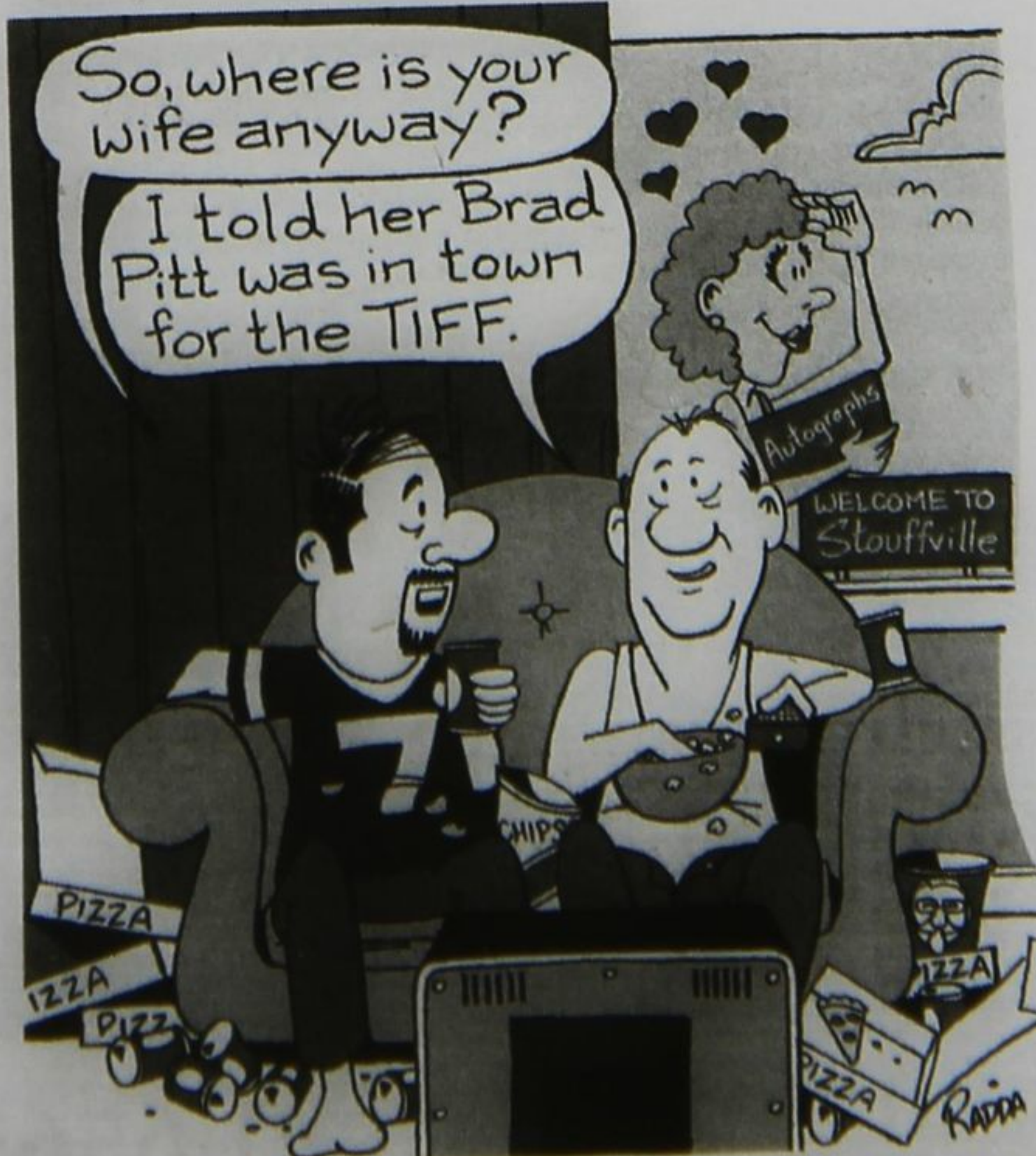
A catless writer is almost inconceivable. It's a perverse taste, really, since it would be easier to write with a herd of buffalo in the room than even one cat; they make nests in the notes and bite the end of the pen and walk on the typewriter keys.
Barbara Holland

Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later.
Mary Bly

Some people say that cats are sneaky, evil, and cruel. True, and they have many other fine qualities as well.
Missy Dizick

Everything I know I learned from my cat: When you're hungry, eat. When you're tired, nap in a sunbeam. When you go to the vet's, pee on your owner.
Gary Smith

Free Thoughts



Readers Write

Welcome To The Neighbourhood

To Kinjal Dagli-Shah:
I loved your article in the Stouffville Free Press. It was such a positive, feel good story and I look forward to reading many more.

I am so pleased that new residents are taking advantage of the Main Street shops and hope that the growing and changing of Stouffville will bring new business opportunities and a revitalization of our Main Street that will represent us all. Stouffville is a wonderful, caring community that sometimes makes it seem like we have stepped back in time.

As I am sure you know, having started writing for such a great little paper, you have to jump in and join what is happening around you to be part of a community.

Welcome to the neighbourhood.
Lynne Streick
Stouffville

To Kinjal Dagli-Shah:
I just read your first article in the Stouffville Free Press and I wanted to say welcome to Stouffville.

I spent six months travelling through India when I was 25 and I can imagine you must be having an interesting time settling into Stouffville. The markets and shops of India are so amazing and colourful. As for Stouffville's, well let's just say they still need some work! My family moved here 11 years ago from Montreal and Stouffville has done nothing but grow for the better. My children's classrooms went from all Caucasian children to a wonderful mix of colour and culture.

Have you been here through the winter yet? There is nothing like walking through the York Regional Forests after a first snow - it really is beautiful.

Natalie Wood
Stouffville