How do we bring our generations together?

ow does a community bridge the gap between the young and the old; the novice and the aged; the adolescent and the

Whitchurch-Stouffville would like to know and so would YOU 177. A meeting to discuss this issue, chaired by legacy project director Brian Puppa and researcher/editor Susan Bozak, was held at the public library last week.

"It's our desire to bring generations together," said Puppa, "to build a stronger community for all."

To inspire this task, MPP Dr. Helena Jaczek presented the organization with a cheque for \$35,000. This donation is in addition to a \$75,000 Trillium grant awarded in 2014.

"It's all about engaging everyone," Dr. Jaczek said. "This project will help make your town healthier and stronger."

But how? Such was the question on the minds of many in the audience, including university graduate Derek Alton.

"What's about to happen when all of you leave here tonight?" he asked.

Replied Ms Bozak: "It's an expe-



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

rience of life in an independent, richly complex community that, more than anything, teaches us how to be human."

Outstanding in field

Congratulations to Whitchurch-Stouffville's Ken Wells, recipient of the 2015 York Region Soil and Crop Improvement Association award. The presentation was made by committee director Rod King at a meeting held on the farm of Ed Warriner in Valentine, Ont. The engraved plaque, donated by Jonathan Lemon in memory of his father, the late Eugene Lemon, dates back to 1994.

Other area recipients include: Harvey Brown, Paul Hulshof, Howie Burkholder, Denis and Terry O'Connor and Rod King.

"Ken represents everything for which Eugene stood," said King. "He's been a great ambassador for agriculture."

Bring back the hill

One could almost hear the cheers from hundreds of Stouffville children with the announcement by Mayor Justin Altmann in last week's Sun-Tribune that, with council's approval, the once-popular toboggan slide will be restored at a site close to Stouffville's Memorial Park. Its removal, three years ago, was later described as "a mistake" by then mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Double celebration

Congratulations to Stouffville's Ruth Herbert on the occasion of her upcoming 90th birthday Sept. 2. The occasion will be celebrated during a family picnic at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, Stouffville Road and Warden Avenue Sept. 12. On the same date, son David, an attorney in Dallas, Texas, will celebrate his 60th birthday. Mrs. Herbert is a highly respected former teacher on the staffs of Stouffville High School and Stouffville Christian School.

Record attention

Ballantrae's Lawnie Wallace launched her second album *The Lost Years* before a large invitationonly audience in Toronto's Liberty Village last week. Making the occasion extra special was the timely receipt of a plaque and letter from Mayor Justin Altmann.

Flowers can't talk

It's oft been said that gardeners talk to flowers. In Stouffville, however, the flowers don't talk back. If they did, the entire town would know the names of recipients of 2015 Garden Club awards, said to be 50 in total. It's a thing called "privacy", a government act that apparently forbids this practice.

As stupid as this sanction may seem, the judges' lips are sealed. Adding insult to injury, the judges can't be identified, either. As a last resort we all must resort to being nosey neighbours and enquire wherever we see happy-face signs.

Missing and missed

On the subject of flowers, whatever happened to the once attractive Prayer Garden located on the north side of Stouffville's United Church? This beauty spot had been the subject of complimentary conversations for several seasons. Now, it's no more.

In memory of Melissa

Melissa Stronach, muchloved senior personnel officer at Stouffville's ScotiaBank, died suddenly July 15, 2015. A visible on-site tribute including a photo, flowers and cards has prompted much favourable comment. The accompanying acknowledgement reads simply: "In memory of our beloved friend and colleague". The well-attended service of celebration was, in itself, evidence of the affection held for her within the community.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.



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