

OPPS Seeks Local Votes For Outdoor Classroom

School council enters proposal for \$20,000 grant

By Michelle Lindsey

Once again the national spotlight will be on the Town of Stouffville, in particular Oscar Peterson Public School (OPPS), and we need everyone's help.

OPPS was established in 2008. Located on the southeast corner of Hoover Park Drive and Sandiford Drive, it has become a thoroughfare for our community. To the east, there is a park which includes a splash pad, playground, basketball court - which doubles as a skating rink - and baseball diamond. To the west, a reservoir pond and nature trails wind their way through the neighbourhood, to the dog park, the Smart Centre plaza, and north to Main Street.

There is a large parcel of land at the back of the school which has never been

developed. Although it has served the community well for activities such as kite flying, firework displays, Frisbee etc., it has left a lot to be desired for the students at our school. The barren landscape, which in the past has often been off limits due to improper drainage, leaves our students with little to do and insufficient shade and wind barriers.

Our school council has spent years working against seemingly endless obstacles to achieve the goal of giving students a place to enjoy their outdoor time, whether in play or learning. This year, we are finally on our way to achieving that goal and putting in an outdoor classroom and seating area.

To date, the school council has raised a total of \$13,000 in cash and material

landscape donations, taking us from conceptual design to the rocks and mature trees that have been generously donated by local businesses. OPPS is very grateful for donations provided by Taylor Fifield of landcon.ca, Farmer Jack's and Earthbound Trees, just to name a few. In conjunction with these donations and fundraising efforts, the school council has applied for several grants, including a grant request to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

One of these proposals was submitted to Majesta, an all-Canadian, environmentally-friendly, family-owned company whose paper products are all made by Irving Consumer Products. Each year, the company offers a \$20,000 grant towards the implementation of an outdoor classroom at a deserving school. We submitted an application and are thrilled to announce our submission was chosen and we made it into the final top ten!

Just like the Benjamin Moore Main Street Matters Contest that took place two years

ago, OPPS needs the help of everyone in the community to vote.

Visit www.majestatreesofknowledge.ca to register (one email address per household). Individuals over 18 can vote daily; and with each vote, your name will be entered into a draw to win a personal prize of \$10,000, so be sure to tell all your friends and family.

The voting period takes place between 12 p.m. (ET) on April 7, 2015 and 11:59:59 a.m. (ET) on May 4, 2015.

The students, staff and school council at OPPS thank you very much for your time and support of our exciting endeavour. If you have any questions, comments, or wish to make a donation, please contact the OPPS School Council at oppsoutdoorclassroom@gmail.com.

Michelle Lindsey is on the school council at OPPS

Get Me To The Church On Time

Stouffville United Church is hosting a luncheon and vintage bridal show on Sunday, April 19 at noon in the church auditorium. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the church or by calling 905-642-0275.



Education Seminars Offered At Parkview Village

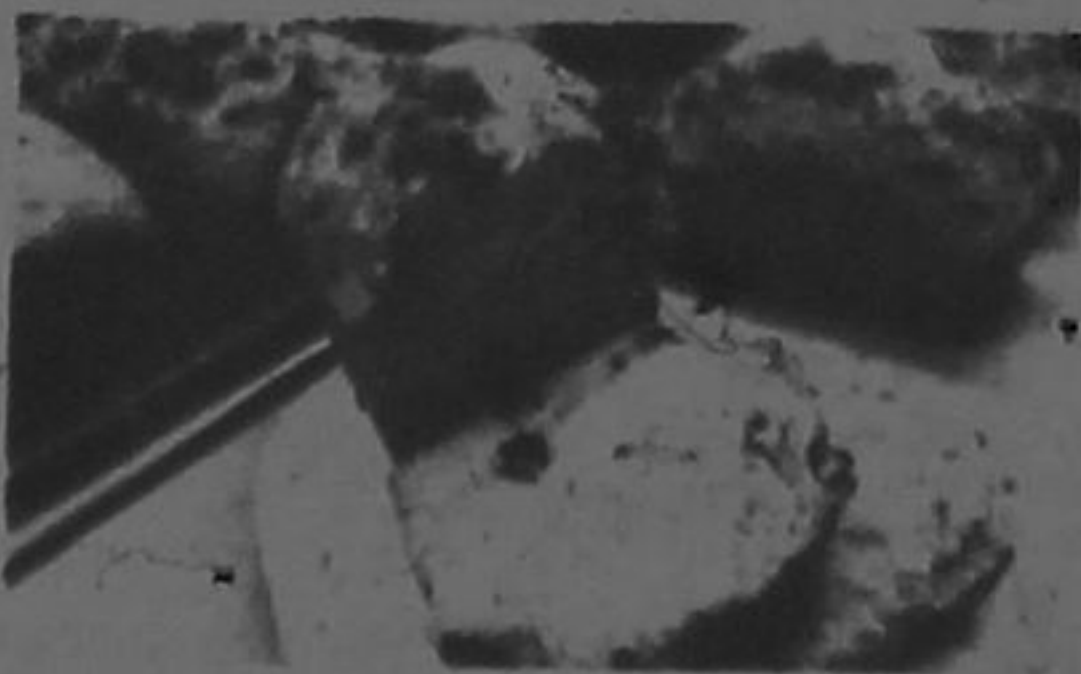
On Monday April 20, Parkview Home Family Council will host an education day in conjunction with the Parkinson and Alzheimer societies.

At 10 a.m. there will be a presentation entitled Parkinson's Disease 101, which will provide an overview of signs, symptoms and medications for the condition. At 2 p.m. the Alzheimer Society will present Heads

Up For A Healthier Brain, with information on aspects and signs of the disease.

The free seminars, which will include a question and answer period, will be held at Parkview Village Auditorium, 12184 9th Line, just south of Main Street. Parking is free. No registration is required and light refreshments will be served following the afternoon session.

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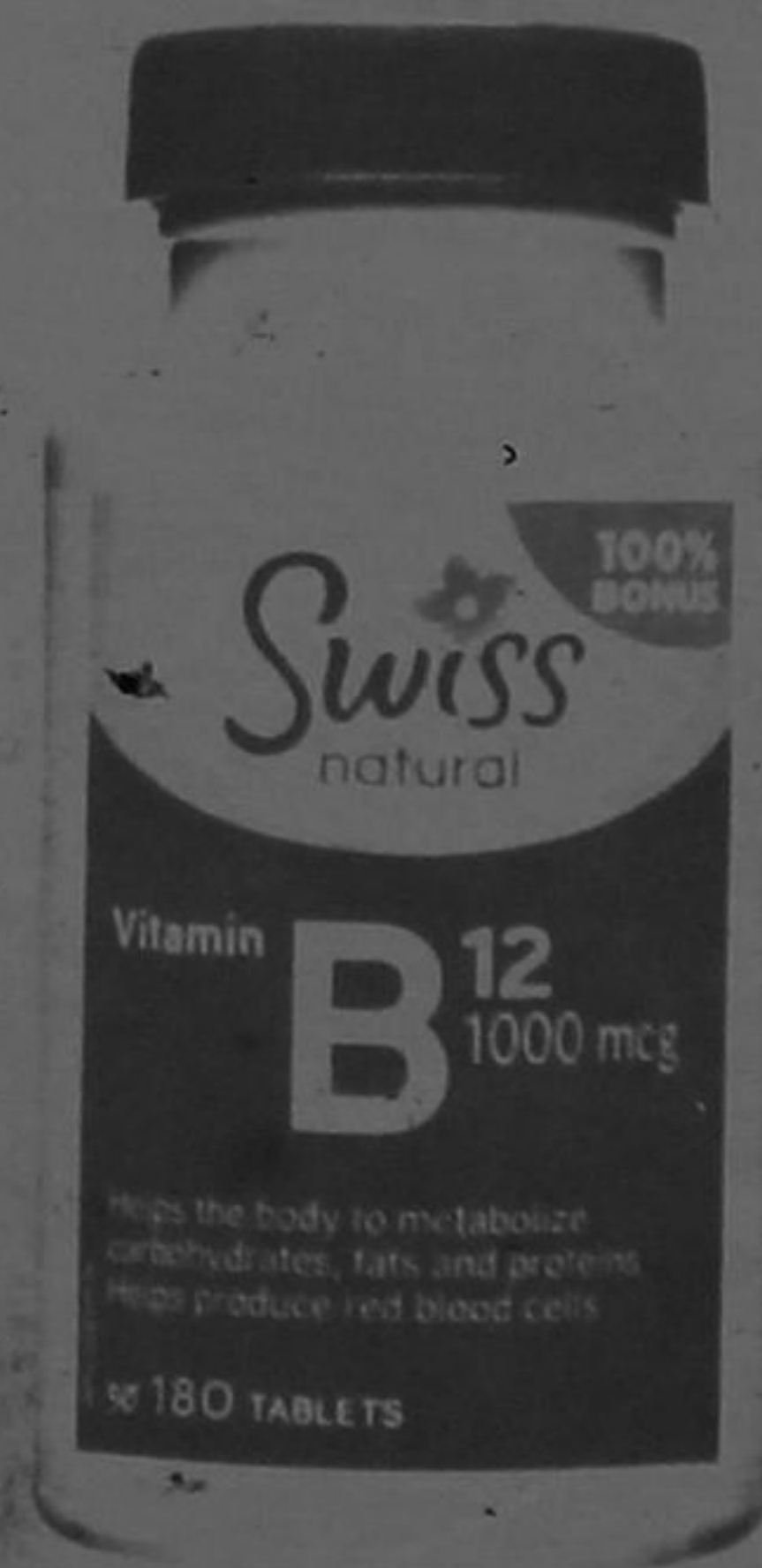
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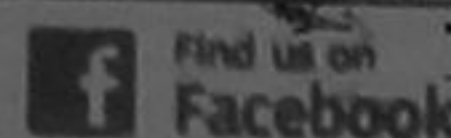
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