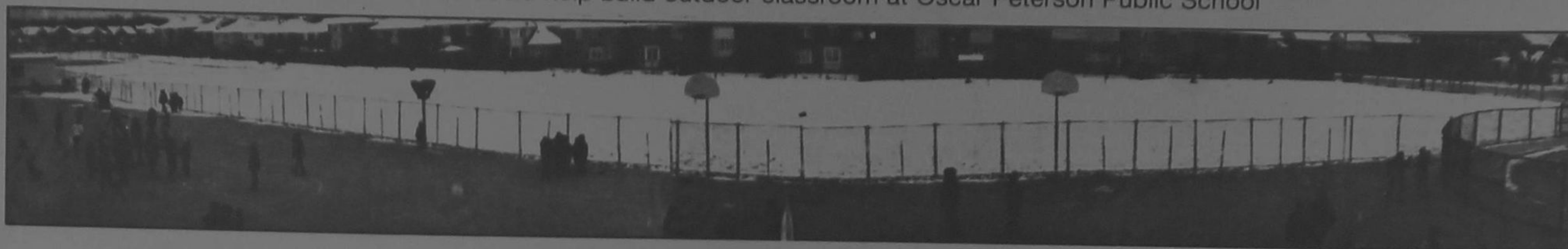


Our Kids Need You!

Online votes could help build outdoor classroom at Oscar Peterson Public School



By Ben Embiricos

Oscar Peterson Public School is growing up to be a good school with an active parent council and the enthusiastic leadership of principal Jane McPherson.

Since opening in 2008 though, the school field has been a perpetual source of disappointment. The grass has frequently been off limits due to poor drainage and

problems with the site preparation. In the school life of a kid, eight years is a long time to have a poor school yard.

Attempts by the parent council to improve the play facilities at their own cost have often been suffocated by slow decision-making by the school board and excessive rules.

This has been hard on the kids and the teaching staff alike.

The school is hoping in part to address the issues with the yard with the installation of a new outdoor classroom. As well as providing an alternative teaching environment, the hard landscaping and more mature trees will provide the children with a more interesting yard at recess. The yard currently has no playground or soccer posts and were it not for its location would be hard to distinguish from a farmer's field in March.

Crucial in the plan is a competition being run by tissue manufacturer Majesta. You can help the school win by going online and voting for Oscar Peterson Public School. The winning school will receive a \$20,000 grant to spend on an outdoor classroom. You may even win \$10,000 yourself. Voting is easy. Go to www.majestatreesofknowledge.ca. The first time you vote you will need to enter your name and address and a few other simple details. On subsequent days you just need to enter the email address and select the school.

You can vote every day between now and May 4. As of the time of writing, Oscar Peterson is fifth overall so we need your help. Please vote and help make Oscar Peterson Public School and Stouffville an even better place!

Ben Embiricos is a Stouffville dad whose three sons attend Oscar Peterson Public School.



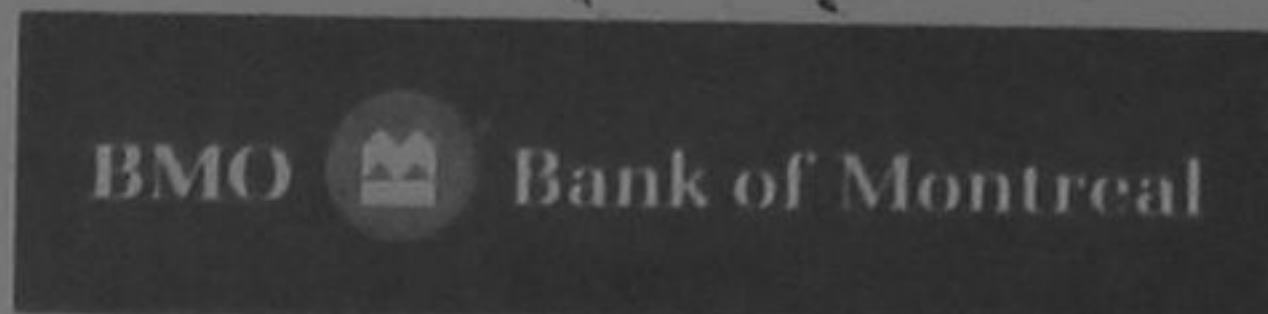
The current school field at Oscar Peterson has no play facilities and is often off limits because of poor drainage.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Art in the Park

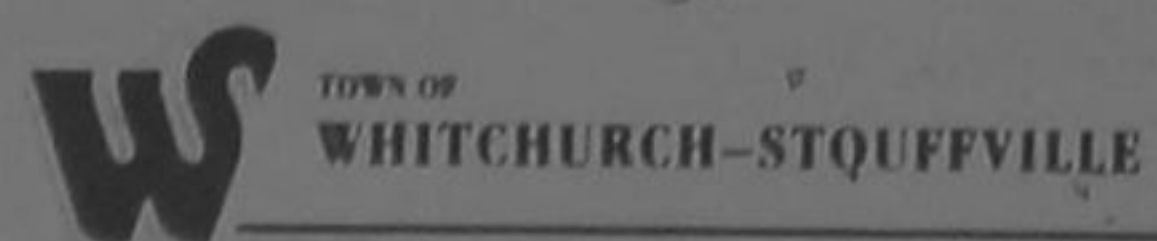
Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for this first annual art show and sale!
Enjoy beverages from Gallucci Winery and King Brewery,
food from Kruizin Kuizine and great music!

Get creative with Drop-in Art Activities
from The Latcham Gallery



Poster artwork: (1st row) Olena Lopatina, Karola Steinbrécher, Dianne Allen, Sarah Nevill,
(2nd row) Beke Design, Pi Ceramic Designs, Eves & Richés



www.townofws.ca/artinthepark



Plans for a new outdoor classroom could help transform the space as these plans show. Stouffville residents can help make them a reality by voting online in a competition for a \$20,000 grant offered by Majesta. Votes can be registered daily until May 4.