

New exhibition opens at Latcham Gallery

By Ola Wlusek

At some point most of us have questioned the purpose of our existence.

Deborah Colvin and Frank Smith explore this questioning through their art. This fall, the Latcham Gallery is presenting To Be, an exhibition of mixed media artworks by the two Mount Albert artists.

Frank Smith exhibits found objects to articulate his view of life. Hand-made replicas of crosses, old newspaper clippings, collages, documents of outdated bulletin board postings, and photographs of forests visited by the artist produce a mental collage of recollections about the spiritual transformed into the mass-produced.

Frank poses subtle yet important questions about the human instinct to surround ourselves with material possessions, and our tendency to try and leave a fragment of ourselves in the world. By exploring the physical elements of existence, he tries to address what it means "to be" from a Buddhist perspective. His works are forms of meditation on impermanence, the dualistic self, and the illusory nature of our lives.

Deborah Colvin, who uses the figure to illustrate our entwined relationship with nature, explores the physical as well as the spiritual self in her mixed media works. Her large landscape paintings show her preoccupation with the natural world. She uses hand-made paper, stitched onto canvas,

to unite her human subjects with the background.

It is often difficult to tell where land and figures begin and end. Deborah's works also incorporate text to add the human element of intellect into the raw quality of nature. Her work comes from spiritual reflection rather than a religious perspective. She invites viewers to interpret her work, posing an open-ended question about life's fabric.

The artists will be present at the exhibition's opening reception, which takes place Oct. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m. They will also host a talk and tour at the gallery on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend both events.

Ola Wlusek is curator of the Latcham Gallery



Debra Colvin



Frank Smith



The Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council and Chamber of Commerce invite you to attend the

2nd Annual Gala Fundraising Dinner and Auction

in support of



Stouffville Igoma Partnership (SIP)

Friday, October 20, 2006

EastRidge Church Complex
10th Line, Stouffville

Join us for a fun night with superb entertainment everyone is sure to enjoy!

Silent Auction Opens at 5:30 p.m.
Punch at 6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets, please contact the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce at 905-642-4227, or EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church at 905-640-3911 ext. 42.

Tickets \$50

For the latest information about SIP, please visit



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Readers Write

Trees enhance quality of life

To the Editor:

In my 30 years in town, I have admired the lane of maple trees reaching east from highway 48, just north of Stouffville Rd., respecting the foresight of a farmer 40 or 50 years ago who was thinking of an enriched future.

On Sept. 13, I was horrified to find these trees brutally cut down, for no apparent reason, with the town's approval. I am told that the trees, although thriving, were not indigenous species and were not deemed important enough by the town's and developer's consultants to plan around and keep. Not important to whom?

Our town seems to suffer from flaws in assessment criteria and decision processes in addressing the destruction of trees. We know of the bylaw flaw that led to the destruction of all trees on the property at Woodbine Ave. and Stouffville Road. Professional advisors approved the felling of the Hooper/Harper Lane trees even though they were in better shape than many trees in the old part of town. They could certainly have stood while younger stock grew to replace them.

Now future residents will not have the pleasure of their presence - watching for years as spindly growth replaces what we have wantonly destroyed in an afternoon, where there is any replacement at all. New businesses where these trees were cut will not have a welcoming treed avenue on Millard. Are there resi-

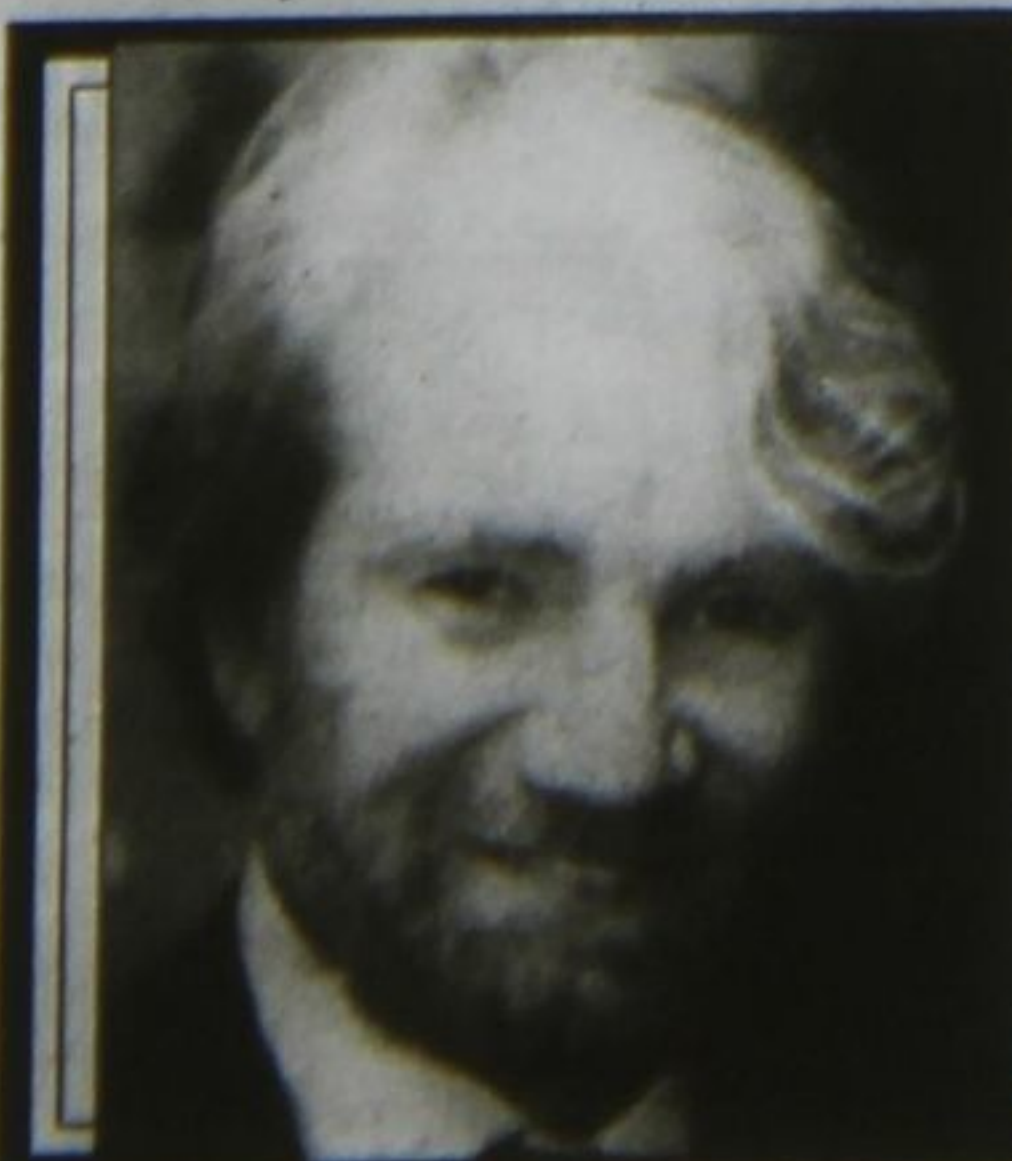
dents who, like me, believe that trees are a pleasure, a resource to be protected, a valuable part of our quality of life?

Some believe that bylaw protection of urban trees from their owners is not a public responsibility. But perhaps the rights of property owners should be tempered by an assessment of public interest. These natural features are our heritage; a heritage we are charged to preserve for the future.

What to do? First, we must insist on clear and strong bylaws to protect our heritage trees. Second, we must have criteria of assessment that include quality of life, and aesthetic and stewardship principles valued by so many residents. Finally, we must have a process that brings claims allowing for the destruction of our natural heritage to council meetings, where developer and staff recommendations can be debated publicly and alternative options can be aired. We need the ability to stop any developer who preemptively moves to destroy our forests, wood lots and hedgerows.

I ask all of you to question your candidates for mayor and council and support only those who will commit to putting strong bylaws in place. These bylaws should be enacted to repair existing criteria in the assessment of tree removals, and to increase citizen input for town decisions about trees and our environment, before the damage is done.

Ian Hilton
Stouffville



*"I HAVE stood Up For You ...
And I WILL stand Up For You"*

RANDY MOLE FOR MAYOR

