

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

A division of Star Marketing / 1460912 Ontario Inc.
Also Publishers of the Port Perry Star and Uxbridge Star
Distributed Free by Canada Post
to every home in the following communities:
STOUFFVILLE - GOODWOOD - GORMLEY
BALLANTRAE - MUSSELMAN'S LAKE AND VANDORF

Local News Views Happenings
whitchurch Stouffville this month

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Stouffville District Secondary School is celebrating its 50th anniversary!



RADDA

Opinion

Clear-cutting policy drives us out of our tree

"I think that I shall never see/A billboard lovely as a tree/In fact, unless the billboards fall/I'll never see a tree at all."

Ogden Nash's simple but eloquent requiem for nature has a particular resonance for Stouffville residents these days. Many of the magnificent old trees on the east side of Ninth Line south of Main Street have been chopped down to make way for York Region's 'Big Pipe', which will vastly increase sewage and water capacity to our community and pave (pun intended) the way for future development.

In this month's issue we include some powerful photographs, kindly supplied by a reader, of the visual devastation the wholesale removal of trees has wrought on the surrounding landscape. Sadly, once the project had been given the go-ahead, the region had no option but to cut the trees down, since Ninth Line is designated as an emergency route for ambulances and fire trucks and, as a result, the pipe had to be installed well back from the road to avoid lane closures.

As part of the agreement with the town, the region has committed to planting trees that will, many years from now, replace something of what has been lost. Although there may have been no alternative in this case, however, the general tendency to create a moonscape out of any piece of land which is acquired to build a subdivision is not so much a matter of progress as a massacre of natural resources.

It may cost more money to incorporate existing trees into a development proposal, but the cost to our environment and heritage of simply mowing everything down is surely greater. We've all seen those billboards erected in areas of natural beauty, trumpeting the imminent arrival of 'an enclave of exclusive new homes inspired by nature', which rejoice in names like 'Willow Glen' and 'Forest Retreat'.

Six months later, the landscape has been flattened into submission, with the grand titles -- doubtless cooked up in a Toronto office tower by a group of hotshot marketers -- providing the only remaining indication of what they once contained.

Since Ogden Nash started us off on this train of thought, we thought he should have the last word as well. "Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on far too long."

Letters

No justification for abusive behaviour

To the Editor:

This is an open letter to the 'gentleman' -- and I use that term loosely -- who verbally abused an elderly woman in the parking lot of Sobey's in Stouffville Dec. 5. Your harsh comments included 'People like you disgust me', in reference to her parking in a handicapped reserved spot. Had you not been so quick to attack

rather than look, you might have noticed the handicapped card in the window of her car. Not satisfied with showing your ignorance only once, you continued to be rude enough to comment that she seemed to be walking fine and question why she would need a card. In true bully fashion you were cowardly, indifferent and did not have the decency to apolo-

gize to her after you realized your error. Thank goodness the woman did not dignify your rudeness by trying to explain herself. Why would you even think that it is any of your business? I'm sure you would not appreciate anyone speaking to a member of your family the way you spoke to my mother.

Please turn to page 9

Sounding Off

What are some of your plans and goals for 2004?



DAWN MOSSOP

I'm going to the Dominican Republic for New Year's. I also hope to finish my first year of University with honours. My big goal is to get into concurrent education at York University.



JOANNA REESOR McDOWELL

I am looking forward to the ground-breaking ceremonies for building the new Parkview Home for Seniors here in Stouffville sometime in mid-2004.



MIKE HERRINGTON

I plan to train one of my malamute husky dogs to become a therapy dog visiting hospitals and senior citizens' homes.



JUDY WILSON

I am going to Las Vegas. I am also planning to get healthy by turning the basement into a gym and to quit smoking.



TEGAN BENNETT

I plan on graduating in May and going to Australia for a year to play on a woman's fast-pitch softball team and also get some teaching experience.