

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

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Local News Views Happenings
Whitchurch Stouffville this month

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Increasing traffic congestion on the west side of town is causing the Fire Department some problems...

ODD... I DIDN'T THINK WE'D HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BUGS ON THE GRILL IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY!



RADDA

Letters

In praise of a supportive and caring community

To the Editor:

On the evening of Dec. 28 our family had the honour of attending a "Saucey Shindig", a fundraising event held for our son, Luke. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support shown by those who attended, by those who may have contributed directly to the trust fund, by those who donated items for the auction, by those who worked at tables,

doors and booths and by those who planned and organized the event.

So many people and organizations helped out that it would be impossible to name them all, but we would like to give a special vote of thanks to Reagan Maude, a lifelong friend of Luke's, who came up with the idea and did so much to make it happen.

Luke insisted that he be

there and we were delighted that he was able to see for himself just how much he is supported and cheered for. We never doubted, but now we know for sure, that there is an entire community lending Luke a hand as he confronts this most difficult challenge. We are truly grateful for the town's concern, effort and kindness.

Chris, Bill, Luke and Logan Anderson

Opinion

A Heartfelt Tribute To Our Town

Whitchurch-Stouffville is a community with a big heart.

On Dec. 28, Latham Hall was packed to capacity at a fundraiser for Luké Anderson, who is currently undergoing rehabilitation at Lyndhurst Lodge following a mountain biking accident in British Columbia at the end of October. The evening, originally planned as a get-together for Luke by some of his close friends, ended up raising an astonishing \$15,322 for the young man's trust fund, an amount which included a Stouffville Lions Club donation of \$1,000.

The club donated the use of the hall, free bartending and all proceeds from liquor sales for the evening, while other volunteers and local businesses contributed their time, money, products and services to ensure a successful and wonderful event. And this is just one example of the spirit which typifies this community.

Discussions are afoot to move Stouffville's downtown fire station to a new location, a move that is urgently needed. Years before development mushroomed at the west end of town and traffic signals became more common than rallying cries to arms by George W. Bush, congestion along Main St. made our firefighters' job a major headache.

The town's afternoon rush hour begins around 3:30 p.m., as students are bused or driven home from school, and continues until well into the evening. Improved GO service -- a most welcome development -- results in long lineups when trains arrive at the station, while weekend traffic congestion as cars wend their way to Stouffville Country Market has long been a fact of downtown life. And although it would be wonderful if we could entice more retail businesses to locate in the downtown core, encouraging all those people driving through town to stop and shop, it's hard to know where visitors could park.

Most of the parking spots around the old town hall and off Market St. are now reserved strictly for individual businesses, and spaces which used to be available in front of the Clock Tower building itself have been blocked off. While additional parking is now offered on Church St. South, some seniors visiting the Silver Jubilee Club may find it difficult to walk that far.

The fact is, unless more is done to make our downtown a welcoming and vibrant people place, Whitchurch-Stouffville risks losing its community heart and becoming just another faceless Toronto suburb to be driven through en route to the real country.

Sounding Off

Do you have any special memories of Valentine's Day?



PEGGY CONLIN

We were married close to 70 years. Bill wasn't a Valentine's kind of guy, but he was a wonderful husband and I never did without much.



MAE RAMER

In 1933 I got my engagement ring on Valentine's Day. I got another ring on my 50th wedding anniversary because my other ring had almost worn out. I married a beekeeper -- he was a real honey!



ALFRED COPP

One year I made my wife a card because I couldn't find one good enough for her. Another year I put a poem to her in the Toronto Star. I wrote many poems. We were married 60 years.



ADA GRATTON

I was in Grade 4 -- I'm 77 now -- and a little boy gave me a card that said, 'I'm a pirate bold and bad, Love me or you'll wish you had.' That's always stuck with me. I've told it to my kids and grandkids. It was just a penny card.'



EVELYN WEBBER

A card and a posy every year of our 40 year marriage. It wasn't a big thing, it was just that he thought about it and that was enough for me.