

A tip of the 'Red Hat' to Whistle Stop founder

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

When Thelma McDonald heard about the Red Hat Society, she felt an instant kinship with its aims.

Her enthusiasm led her to open a local chapter, which held its inaugural meeting at the McDonald residence on Feb. 17. Naming her newly formed-group the Whistle Stop chapter was a natural progression, as anyone

who has read the views of the formidable Olma Sword and her son, Stephen, in past issues of *Stouffville this Month* will attest.

Whistle, as Mr. Sword suggested, stands in nicely as a short form of Whitchurch-Stouffville (in effect putting it on a diet, to paraphrase one of his letters). The name also provides a splendid reference to the mournful and haunting sound of the train whistle, a regular feature of this community's

daily life. As to the aims of the society itself, the organization's website explains them beautifully.

"The Red Hat Society is often referred to fondly as a 'disorganization,' though we have been forced to impart a degree of order to our operations. It was inadvertently begun by Sue Ellen Cooper of Fullerton, California when she and a few friends took inspiration from a popular poem entitled *Warning* by Jenny Joseph, which begins 'When I am an old

woman...'

"Since the poem mentions wearing a red hat and purple attire, she and her friends formed a group which met on a regular basis for tea in their red hats and purple dresses -- in public, of course.

When Sue Ellen and her friends were featured in *Romantic Homes Magazine* in July of 2000, they began to get inquiries from other interested women who wanted to start their own chapters."



New Chapter Formed

Hats off to Thelma McDonald, seated at right, who inaugurated the Whistle Stop chapter of the Red Hat Society in Stouffville on Feb. 17. Beside her are Sandra Burke and Janette Barry. Standing are Doris Harvey and Bettyanne Pajot.

How do you stop party guests from drinking and driving

- a) serve non-alcoholic beverages to designated drivers
- b) plan ahead
- c) take their keys when they arrive
- d) all of the above

Answer: (d)

Always have a plan to deal with any guest who drinks too much. Before the party, ask someone to help keep things under control.



Please Drink Responsibly

Questions about enjoying alcohol responsibly? Ask an employee at your local LCBO store or call the infoline 1 800 ONT-LCBO (668-5226). In Metro Toronto, call (416) 365-5900.

ALL DAY BREAKFAST SPECIAL



2 Pancakes,
2 Eggs,
2 Bacon Strips,
2 Sausages,
1 Piece Ham,
Homefries
\$3.95+tax

6242 Main St. 905-642-9511



ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to recent expansion, we at Wine Creations are pleased to announce the appointment of Sherry Hulshof as Store Manager and Operating Partner. Sherry has been a long time resident of the area and a wine-maker for several years. We feel very fortunate to acquire the services of an individual like Sherry and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship.

Wine Creations is a Brew on Premises facility producing fine wine and beers for the home consumer. Located at 5402 Main Street in the West end of Stouffville we offer over 60 varieties of beer and wine as well as a gift boutique featuring Colonial Candles. Wine can be bottled in a variety of sizes. We can supply your beer in cans or kegs through our unique at home draft program. Customers can also share a batch of wine or beer by registering at our web site www.winecreations.ca

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