

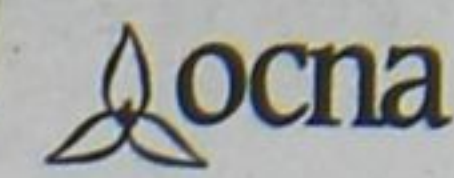
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

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Local News Views Happenings
Whitchurch Stouffville this month

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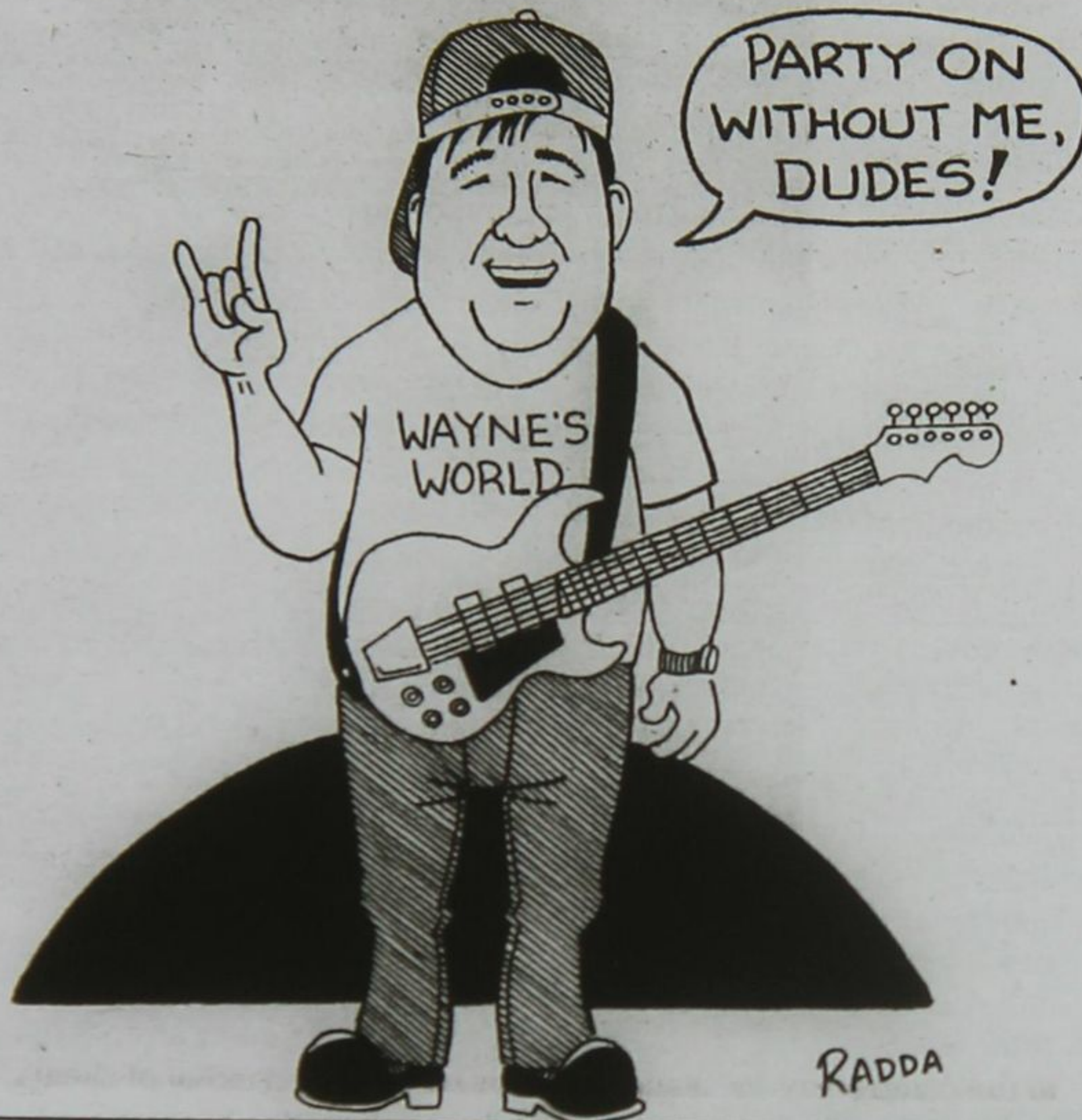


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Mayor Emmerson is set to retire after fifteen years of public service...



Letters

Reader wants to clarify question on club move

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:
 Re: Downtown parking and the Silver Jubilee Club (a private club).
 Because the move of the Silver Jubilee Club to the old town office is apparently being handled off council, there is very little opportunity for the public to provide input. One point to remember is that the Silver Jubilee Club is a private

club. It is not a seniors' group in a centre operated by the town.
 One of the important issues involved in the move is parking. Will the Silver Jubilee Club be taking parking spots away from the general public in the downtown core? Here are some questions:
 1. Will there be reserved parking for Silver Jubilee Club members only and, if so,

where, how many places and for what hours?
 2. Will there be reserved handicapped parking for club members only and not for members of the public who are handicapped, i.e. will there be discrimination against handicapped members of the public who are not seniors and not members of the club?
See 'club move' on page 7

Opinion

Hats Off To Local Volunteers

When Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees awarded Queen's Golden Jubilee medals to a dedicated group of individuals from his riding at Queen's Park Jan. 29, Whitchurch-Stouffville was front and centre.

Local recipients included five members of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459, Lion Tom Winters, Chamber of Commerce president Helene Johnson, museum curator Dorie Billich and former MP Bill Attewell. All were recognized for their efforts in making their community and their country a better place, and at the end of the brief but moving ceremony, friends and families in attendance gave them a well-deserved standing ovation.

It was yet another indication of how volunteers are the backbone of this community, whether they are lending a hand at events like the Strawberry Festival and the Santa Claus Parade, raising funds for needy families, promoting our heritage or, through organizations like Evergreen Hospice, providing solace and support for people with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

In today's world, older people are often overlooked, yet without their involvement many volunteer organizations would cease to exist. In February, Legion member John Chalmers received a Certificate of Merit from the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command for collecting the largest single amount for poppy sales in the region during the 2002 campaign.

Another group of local volunteers is working to create a comprehensive list of arts and cultural organizations in Whitchurch-Stouffville with the goal of setting up a single hotline where people can access information on everything from theatre groups to art classes through one central source. We salute these and many others, from teens to seniors, who make this a wonderful place to live.

After nine years in the mayor's chair, Wayne Emmerson has decided not to run for a fourth term. It has been an invigorating, often bumpy ride, particularly with the explosion of development linked to the 'Big Pipe'. Through it all, however, the Mayor has always been accessible to constituents and has never wavered in his commitment to the community he grew up in.

Despite the controversy surrounding the location of the pool/library complex, the facility has been a big hit with residents, as has the second ice pad. Mayor Emmerson has raised thousands of dollars through the Mayor's Youth Fund and hosted some memorable New Year's Eve parties for town families.

His is a tough job; one few people are willing to tackle. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Sounding Off

Is the possibility of war and international terrorism affecting your family or making you reconsider travel plans?



TONY NARDELLI
 To get somewhere we now drive instead of flying. We have put flying vacations on hold for a couple of years until things settle down in the world.



CATHY HUME
 Things that are immediately affecting us are gas and oil prices and the economy in general. We have a baby and we're concerned about the future and specifically individuals losing personal freedoms through the government's attempts to protect us.



TANIA LEHMANN
 I haven't really thought about it but the thought of a world war is terrifying. The affects on our economy - gas prices, etc. - would touch me personally.



GRAHAM SCRIMGEOUR
 We are planning a trip to Italy over the March break and we will be doing our trip. However, there is always heightened anxiety regarding air travel at times like these.



CRAIG LILL
 The possibility of war will really affect gas prices even more than it has - probably over the dollar mark. Otherwise I haven't given it a lot of thought.