

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

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Local News Views Happenings
Whitchurch-Stouffville this month

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The York-Durham Academy of the Performing Arts' production of "Oliver!" is missing just one thing...



Opinion

Keeping people on the move

Our local MPP, Frank Klees, was appointed Minister of Transportation in the recent Ontario government shuffle.

His daily commute from Aurora to Queen's Park has given him first-hand experience of the rapidly-growing problems of gridlock on major routes into the city. As guest speaker at the Stouffville Lions dinner meeting March 15, Mr. Klees stressed the importance of long-term planning and investment in public transit to provide the infrastructure for maintaining our quality of life in the community.

Last year GO Transit substantially increased bus and train service between Stouffville and Toronto, a move we welcomed. And it's not only commuters who benefit. Teenagers can take in a movie, visit their favourite store and enjoy a taste of city life. Adults who hate driving on busy city streets can have a relaxing day or evening out and still have time to catch the 11:40 p.m. bus from Union Station.

Persuading people to take public transit is an enormous challenge, but once they give it a try, they are often surprised to discover how pleasant it is to have someone else in the driver's seat. And the more of us who use it, the more likely it is that the service will continue and expand.

Meanwhile, Stouffville's own gridlock headache continues to grow. As two readers point out in a letter in this month's paper, several residential streets are facing a major increase in traffic volume as a result of recently-installed lights at two more intersections on Main Street. Rupert St., in particular, has become the bypass of choice for many vehicles, creating a hazardous situation for pedestrians and homeowners alike.

With the proliferation of big box retailers and drive-through restaurants at the west end of town, not to mention the unlovely vista of concrete and plastic signs this type of development tends to create, the most avid walker would think twice about a stroll along Main St. west of Ninth Line. And unless a viable east-west bypass is constructed, our residential streets will become more and more congested and our quality of life will continue to decline, even without the planned residential growth.

Mr. Klees has pinpointed the need to reduce our reliance on automobile use between the community and the city. Let's take a leaf out of his book and make it easier and more pleasant for people to hang up their car keys and let their legs do the walking.

Letters

Reader helps to uncross our telephone wires

To the editor:

Re: Turning Back the Clock - March

Thank you for a very enjoyable publication. In the interest of accuracy, the wires shown in the historic photo are telephone lines, not power.

I worked as a telephone cable repairman in Stouffville in the early 60's when Bell took over the system from the

municipality. A lot of the lines and cables were still there from the era shown in the photo. It was a challenge to keep the telephone system running until more modern facilities were installed.

I was privileged to meet a lot of good people in and around Stouffville during that time. The sales barn, when it really was a sales barn, was the

best place for lunch. For two or three dollars you could get a delicious full-course meal. The meal also included all the best local news and gossip.

There are a lot of tales that could be told about my adventures here. It was an interesting time for a poor city boy like me.

Terry Hutchins
Stouffville

Sounding Off

Is traffic, particularly along Main Street, a problem for you and if so, what alternative routes do you use?



CATHY GREGG

Yes it's an issue and I get around it by using alternate routes - mainly Rupert St. and Bethesda Rd. If I were to live on Rupert Street I might have a real problem with it.



Christopher Raucamp

Traffic on Main Street, particularly on Saturdays, is awful and summer is even worse. I take the back streets: Rupert, Millard and North. Perhaps traffic to the (Stouffville Country) Market could be redirected in the summer.



DIANE KENNEDY

Yes it is. You sit for a long time at the lights in this town. I come across Rupert to bypass town. Another east/west route is needed so people coming from the city could bypass Main Street.



STEW PASSMORE

Sure there's a lot of lights, but it's not a great issue compared to Toronto traffic. I don't think the merchants of Whitchurch-Stouffville would like it if they built a bypass. A bigger issue is opportunities for seniors for recreation and other activities.



SUSAN JONES

They need to have the traffic lights synchronized across Main Street. Also they need another east/west major route so that people get off the side streets.