WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

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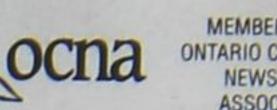
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In the spirit of brevity, Mr. Chucklehead-Fink and Ms. Doohickey - Tumbleweed-Brown have come up with a new name for the proposed riding of Oak Ridges-Whitchurch Stouffuille-Markham...



Traffic takes a toll on Stouffville community life

To the Editor:

Stouffville the Month the question was posed: Is traffic along Main St. a problem and what alternative routes do you use?

Now, as just about everyone in Stouffville agrees, the traffic is ridiculous. I believe the Stouffville Lions may have unwittingly solved the problem with their Toll Day on March 29. Wouldn't it be a great idea if

perhaps we had Toll weekends, of the last and not only reduced traffic but we should look into this before slowed it down on Main Street Rupert St. Maybe we could allow different charities each week to collect tolls. I'm sure there are tons of very deserving charities who could benefit from this kind of thing. and eventually visitors to Stouffville Country Market will learn there are all sorts of alternative routes that won't cause

havoc with the villagers. Maybe someone's child is killed on the very residential Rupert St. by someone trying to beat the traffic on Main St.

Any councillors/leaders paying attention? Do you want to save some lives before the inevitable happens?

> Cat Duly-Lisle Stouffville

Putting Downtown Back In The Spotlight

Whitchurch-Stouffville's newest theatre group, the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts, played to sellout audiences at Vaughan City Playhouse in April.

Talented young actors and singers from that same group will present The Wizard of Oz at the Uxbridge Music Hall between May 8 and 11. Like so many other local artistic organizations, they have no choice but to take their show on the road, to venues where the arts are seen not as an unnecessary frill, but as a vital part of what makes us human, not to mention a huge asset to any well-rounded community.

On Easter weekend, the downtown core was packed with families taking part in the annual Easter Egg hunt, organized by the BIA. It was a rare and wonderful sight to see Main Street come alive as children and their parents visited local merchants, stopped off at the Latcham Gallery for treats or to try their hand at an artistic pursuit, and met and mingled with their neighbours.

Organized events such as this, from May Day to Elvis Fest, provide proof that if you do something to attract people into town they will come. And if you offer permanent attractions, they will come more often, keeping local dollars in the community instead of driving citizens away to towns like Uxbridge or Port Perry, which recognize the importance of a thriving downtown.

One of our readers suggests the idea of a weekend market around the clock tower during the warmer months, which would add immeasurably to our sense of community. In the past couple of years the old town hall has offered a central venue for art shows and sales, and we hope that council, despite its decision to earmark the building for seniors, will allow artists and residents continued access to what is, after all, a public building owned by the taxpayers of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

We have two ice pads, an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, ball diamonds and a skateboarding park. We also have a new and well-equipped library and a public art gallery which does wonders for the town, particularly considering the minute amount of space it has been allocated.

Let's add a theatre to the mix, along with perhaps an outdoor cafe and market in the town square, and we could once more take pride in our heritage and our motto: Country Close to the City.

Sounding

What are some of our favourite community events to attend?



MANDY DAY Halloween is my big one. I love looking at other people's houses and their ideas. The Strawberry Festival is a great day to get out and see everyone you know. There are great deals on things to buy food and other stuff...



KIRSTEN MUIRHEAD & CAILEY DYER

We like the Strawberry Festival and the fireworks. We like the Santa Claus Parade. Santa says Ho-Ho-Ho and gives out candy.



REBECCA STANLEY

The Strawberry Festival is number one for me, especially since I am new to the community and I can see the community spirit and pride in a true small town.



STEPHANIE GERSTUNG

The Strawberry Festival for sure. The Beer Garden, and the food in general, is great. I also go to the library sale every year.



STEVE HUNTER

I like the Strawberry Festival and I like the Festival of Lights at Christmas time. The new Lebovic Leisure Centre is a good addition to the community.