

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

A division of Star Marketing / 1460912 Ontario Inc.
 Also Publishers of the Port Perry Star and Uxbridge Star
 Distributed Free by Canada Post to every home in the following communities:
 STOUFFVILLE - GOODWOOD - GORMLEY
 BALLANTRAE - MUSSELMAN'S LAKE AND VANDORF

Local News Views Happenings
whitchurch Stouffville this month

6111 Main St., Stouffville, Ontario L4A 3R4 Phone: 905-642-8107 Fax: 905-642-2368 E-mail: withwrinkles@hotmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR . . . KATE GILDERDALE
 GENERAL MANAGER . . . MaryAnn Fleming
 CREATIVE MANAGER . . . B.G. Bell
 SALES REP . . . Bruce Stapley
 OFFICE MANAGER . . . Loretta Addison
 BUSINESS OFFICE . . . Gayle Stapley



MEMBER OF THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



EDITORIAL POLICY: Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of Whitchurch-Stouffville This Month. Letters must be signed and the telephone number (which will not be published) included. Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason to do so. Errors will be corrected if brought to the editor's attention. We reserve the right to edit or refuse publication of any material submitted. ADVERTISING POLICY: The publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher is not liable for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. All claims of error in publication must be made within two weeks of publication, and, if not made, will not be considered. No claim will be allowed for more than one insertion.

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 Stouffville-Markham...



Opinion

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 Latham 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.

Letters

Traffic takes a toll on Stouffville community life

To the Editor:

On page 6 of the last 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, and not only reduced traffic but slowed it down on Main Street and 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 we should look into this before 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

Sounding Off

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.