



Stumbling *through* Stouffville with Bruce Stapley

The Battlefield Of Dreams

As I recall, it was a pleasant night back in May of 1982 that I marched my troupe of eager, and some not so eager, six and seven-year-olds onto the diamond for the opening game of the T-Ball Novice season at Stouffville's Franklin Park.

As a rookie Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association coach, I was as green as the grass we would play on. I had been told by the convener that it was all about having fun, that winning was almost irrelevant. Obviously, someone forgot to tell that to the opposition from Vandorf, which burst my naïve bubble with a romp over my less than stellar bunch that was accomplished with a military precision which would have made Tommy Franks beam with approval!

I would soon learn that softball, even at the neophyte T-Ball level, was played for keeps by the players and coaches from Vandorf and Goodwood. House league be damned, this was war.

While Stouffville teams consisted mostly of pint sized sand castlers and outfield idlers, these oversized invaders had a single-mindedness of purpose that was downright intimidating. Their coaches expected victory every time out, and would read the riot act to their young hot shots on those rare occasions when they found themselves behind in a game.

I continued to coach my son Shane's co-ed teams for four years, before bowing out by piloting my daughter Marissa's less than stellar squirt girls' squad to a mere two wins in 14 games in the summer of 1987 in what would be her only year in softball.

Sixteen years and a second family later, I'm dusting off the old clipboard and heading back to the diamond. Having got my feet wet by serving as third base coach for son Drew's Mite Boys house league crew last season, I've signed on to head up six-year-old Griffin's Five Pitch Advanced unit this year.

As it will be Griff's first year playing ball, I've been taking him and his brother over to the park since April to get him ready. And the little guy looks like he might just turn out to be a gamer, showing some serviceable form fielding grounders at second base. He's even caught a few pop ups - although he tends to play first base with his face at times!

Meanwhile, experience has taught me to utilize all my resources as a coach - in other words, delegate. Drew offered to do the initial phone around to tell the players when we were to start up, and my wife Sue has been roped in to serve as team scorekeeper. The first thing I planned for our initial practice was to commandeer a few base coaches and a bench coach to keep the batting order straight, along with a few extra assistants for when we go on holidays.

As for Griffin, he's falling into line just fine. The day after being told I would be running his team, he bid me a "Good night, Coach," before going to bed.

But from what I hear, Goodwood is still taking no prisoners on the house league circuit so it looks like we'll be taking our lumps once again.

I wonder if Tommy Franks has a website where I could pick up some tips.

Dog Obedience & Agility

NEW
4000 sq. ft.
AIR CONDITIONED
FACILITY

Life's Ruff

416-568-3222
(Markham and Surrounding Areas)

BUTTON, ARMSTRONG & NESS

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Expert Legal Service Since 1896

- Real Estate
- Wills & Estates
- Litigations
- Corporate
- Family Law

Eric R. Button, B.A., L.L.B.
Gordon C. Ness, Q.C.
and Associate
Kenneth C. Goodbrand B. Comm. L.L.B.

905-986-0941 905-640-3530
Port Perry 6361 Main St., Stouffville

Historical Society surveys public...

We invite you to submit answers to the following questions. There will be a prize drawn from the responses which can come either by mail or e-mail. The deadline is June 15.

1. Did you know that there is a historical society in Whitchurch-Stouffville?

Answer _____

2. Do you feel that it is necessary for a community to have people interested in the past who meet together on a regular basis?

Answer _____

3. Are you interested in learning more about the history of Whitchurch-Stouffville?

Yes No

4. By what means would you be most likely to do this:

Attending meetings that talk about things of the past?
 Reading articles in a newspaper such as this?
 Visiting displays of historic items in a location in Stouffville?

Digging deeper into the history of local families at the library, if someone were there to guide you?
 Taking part in fun event days with a historical theme?
 Using a website?
 Other _____

If you could advise the Historical Society on how to become a better organization, what would you tell them?

Your name and phone number so we can enter you in the draw:

Send this questionnaire to sanders.stouff@rogers.com or mail your answers to W-S Historical Society, P.O. Box 95006, Stouffville, Ont. L4A 1J1.

FULL SERVICE AUTO WASH

Complete Auto Detailing

Get Dad a Spring Clean Up for Father's Day

Interior shampoo, wash, wax, engine degreased **\$150.**

Most cars

- Professional Interior & Exterior Cleaning
- Shampoo & Fabric Guard
- High speed polishing & scratch removal

- Paint Protection
- Dealers Welcome
- Unbeatable Prices
- Free Estimates
- New Car Feeling

David Clubine
640-WASH (9274)
 64 Sandiford Dr., Unit #13, Stouffville, Ont. L4A 7X5

Reid's Antiques
Stouffville

6397 Main St., Stouffville
905-642-9864
e.robert.reid5@sympatico.ca

Unwanted Treasures?

Old toys in the closet? China in the attic? Furniture in the basement? We can help you dispose of unwanted furniture, housewares, jewellery and antiques

2 Floors of Antiques & Collectables

THE NUTTY CHOCOLATIER
CO. LTD.
ICE CREAM STORE

Usual business hours:
Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6pm
Sunday by chance