

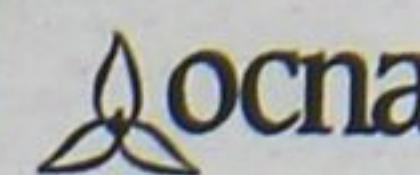
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

A division of Star Marketing / 1460912 Ontario Inc.
 Also Publishers of the Port Perry Star and Uxbridge Star
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 STOUFFVILLE - GOODWOOD - GORMLEY
 BALLANTRAE - MUSSELMAN'S LAKE AND VANDORF

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Stouffville lays claim to the unofficial title of "donut capital of Canada..."



RADDA

Opinion

Method In His Madness

For the first time since the launch of *Stouffville This Month*, we are throwing our weight behind a local candidate seeking a kind of mandate in election year.

This marks a radical departure for a newspaper whose stance has always been firmly apolitical. But we can no longer stand wimpishly on the sidelines now that the Whistler, an early and much-appreciated contributor to these pages, has thrown down the gauntlet by putting himself forward for the esteemed, if non-existent, office of Village Idiot.

We believe that behind his veneer of cheerful lunacy lurks a genuine desire to encourage debate among residents concerned about our community, and open up discussion on how to maintain our small town flavour in an era of rampant growth. Of course, we will always have unstinting admiration for the dedicated individuals who run for municipal office, and who take on the demanding, often thankless, task of trying to please all of the people all of the time.

But we also believe that ordinary citizens, whose talents may lie outside the political spectrum, have an important role to play in the democratic process. And we feel that establishing a continuing dialogue between our elected representatives and constituents makes for a more workable and civilized system.

Criticizing municipal politicians is easy, but the job they do is not. They work long hours, serve on countless committees and are at the beck and call of constituents day and night.

Unlike their federal and provincial counterparts, they earn very modest salaries; most are not in it for the money, but because they want to make a difference in their corner of the world. Often hamstrung by decisions made at higher levels, they find the buck inevitably stops on their doorstep.

One thing we like about the Whistler's campaign is that it focuses on using debate to clarify and educate, rather than as a weapon to bludgeon other opinions. It also gives our representatives a better idea of how people feel on a variety of issues, and can provide valid suggestions for improvement.

We hope that citizens will heed the Whistler's invitation to participate in a series of get-togethers to be held at the Earl of Whitchurch and the Towne Restaurant. As he himself puts it, "The potential for the Idiot campaign to make a positive contribution depends to a large extent on participation and a positive approach."

Letters

Response to SARS emergency a credit to the town

To the Editor:

The recent SARS emergency has taught us all several lessons, not least of which was the vulnerability of the human species, and our need to be more vigilant regarding matters related to infection control. We have also seen that a community can come together in a time of need.

At Parkview Home we would like to extend our

thanks to the home's residents who bore the loneliness of limited visiting opportunities; to families and friends, who readily adopted the SARS screening procedures and who, even before SARS, have protected our residents by having flu shots, and sanitizing their hands on entering and leaving Parkview Home; to our neighbours who tolerated almost 24-hour on-street parking

because all entrances into the home were closed but one; and lastly, but most importantly, a note of respect and appreciation to the Parkview staff and indeed all the workers in all the health care sectors who live and/or work in the Stouffville area. Thank you for your patience, endurance, skill and compassion.

Wally Kribs, Administrator
 Parkview Home, Stouffville

Sounding Off

What are you most excited about doing this summer?



BRUCE PRESTON

I go up to my cottage for about half of the summer. I water ski a lot and I want to compete in the local Muskoka (Bala) water skiing competition. I'm going camping with some of the other students from my school. I'll probably go to Wonderland a couple of times.



JOSH ADAMS

I'm going wake boarding and to a friend's cottage. I'll do a lot of swimming and cliff diving at my friend's cottage. The rest of the time I'll be AT-Ving around home and hanging out with my friends.



JUSTINE DEMELIS

I'm excited about going to our cottage in Bancroft. I go tubing, wake boarding, and cliff jumping, as well as dirt biking and four wheeling. I will also go to Wonderland. I'm going to a new camp this summer with my best friend.



REBECCA BENNETT

I'm going to two different day camps: Bible camp and circus camp where they teach some circus stunts. Our whole family is going to our friends' cottage at Lake Muskoka. We're also going to another cottage that my great grandfather built.



TAYLOR WELLS

I'm excited about going to Wonderland and also going to my Aunt's trailer. I know some of the kids at the trailer and we swim in the lake and go fishing too. We are also moving and our new house has a pool and a trampoline.