

# ATTIC TREASURES... by Rob Reid

Summer is finally here! I welcome inquiries about any objects that you may have and look forward to seeing and perhaps writing about them. Please forward a photo and a description to me through *Whitchurch Stouffville this Month*, drop it off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via e-mail at robert.reid5@sympatico.ca.

With strawberry season now upon us it is nice to see this lovely set of spoons. The set consists of a serving spoon and six smaller spoons, all in a shell pattern. They are silver-plated as opposed to sterling, and would have been used for fruit or perhaps even trifle.

Used for desserts, they are typically referred to as a berry set. These sets were fairly common in many households of the 1920s up until the late 1960s. While not from the same source,

this shell formed bowl makes a lovely complement. It has scrolled feet formed in the shape of small fish and fern-like edging at one end.

Marine motifs have long been a popular design influence in decorative arts and in particular for food service. Frequently, as in the case of this set, the subject matter has no bearing on the type of food to be served. Shell motif items are often confined to serving pieces, as the irregular shape of the spoon's bowl can make eating awkward, as is the case with this set.

This grouping makes an attractive serving set and could be counted among a hostess's prized possessions for entertaining. During the Victorian era, household silver services swelled to include specialty utensils and serving pieces customized for every purpose -- from asparagus tongs to corn cob



holders -- all produced in silver. The berry set is perhaps the most enduring of these items and remained popular well into the 20th century.

The spoons are marked EPNS (electroplated nickel silver), indicating they are likely made for the British export market. The serving bowl has 'imaginary' hallmarks topped by a series of small engraved numbers -- these are a jeweller's serial number that was applied to the piece prior to re-silvering for inventory purposes. Estimated values on the current market, based on condition, would be \$75-\$100 for the spoons and a similar sum for the bowl.

I hope you enjoy the Stouffville Strawberry Festival and all the fresh fruits and vegetables the season has to offer. Rob Reid is the owner of Reid's Antiques and Consignment on Stouffville's Main St.

## LETTER: School Board ignores needs of local high school

To the Editor:

Re: Proposed year-round sports high school set in York Region (Toronto Star, May 28, 2003)

The purpose of this letter is to address not only my concerns as a parent but also as a local council representative with the numerous calls and comments that I have received due to the above article by David Grossman in regards to a new sport school in Markham.

I recently met with York Region Board of Education Chair of trustees Mr. Bill Crothers regarding the deplorable condition of our high school. He informed me of the enormous budget and capital upgrade pressures facing him and his fellow trustees, focusing in on the current growth demands that the School Board was dealing with. At the end of the meeting, I supplied him with pictures showing

the unacceptable conditions at Stouffville District Secondary School. He seemed very taken aback by these pictures and said he would have to meet with the principal and find out why some of these repairs aren't being done. That was the last I heard, and it is quite obvious that nothing has changed.

When it comes to our children's education, the status quo is no longer an option. There is nothing wrong with elite sport schools being built, though there is something wrong when children in Ontario are provided with a lower standard of educational facilities than surrounding areas. Mr. Crothers and the trustees at the York Board of Education are treating our children as second-class citizens.

I can't believe that the Board of Education has initiated or set aside \$30,000,000 for this elite sport school;

\$6,000,000 to purchase Unionville Golf Course just two years ago and fundraise an additional \$20,000,000 for this special sport facility. In the meantime, our children are supposed to face the antiquated class conditions on a day-to-day basis at SDSS.

As taxpayers of York Region whose children have not been afforded the same elite facilities as other schools in the region, we demand that the Board of Education bring up the standards of this educational facility to match other areas of York Region for 2003. I feel it is time that our school council stand up for what is rightly ours. Desks, chairs, lockers, computer labs, running track repairs and sports equipment, etc. should be the Board's first priority for equality among schools for a better education.

We are tired of being ignored while other areas receive all the upgrades. It is

time our school officials became accountable to the hard-working taxpayers of Whitchurch-Stouffville. We are tired of caretakers at our school turning a blind eye while the school falls to pieces. We need a higher standard of facilities for a better education in Stouffville.

We are not prepared to accept a band-aid solution. We want full major improvements to our school. I would ask parents to stand up and tell our School Board Chair Bill Crothers and Director Bill Hogarth, enough, we are tired of all the elite, special and upgraded schools going to the south of us. It is time to make your voice heard, or it will be your children in public school now, that will be welcomed in the same antiquated facility five to 10 years from now.

Sue Sherban  
Stouffville

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