



Luke Soup

by Luke Anderson

She likes a slow pace, loves adventures, is soft-spoken, a non-smoker and doesn't drink much but can entertain a party of five without a problem. She has a shiny complexion, stands about 6 1/2 feet tall, has black shoes and will never say no to cranking up a good tune. "Wilda" for short but only on the days that she is behaving, "Wilda-beast" on the days that she is not.

Ladies and gentlemen... boys and girls... let me introduce to you my new van.

Wilda came from a small-town in eastern Québec and was delivered to me here in Toronto by a not so typical car salesman named Mike and his sidekick Frank roughly one month ago. Mike is also quadriplegic but has slightly more mobility in his wrists and arms which allows him to drive using fairly basic control adaptations.

With Mike driving his own van and Frank driving mine they pulled into my driveway like a couple of speedy delivery couriers. They swiftly pulled into the visitors' lot and enthusiastically started presenting the ins and outs of Wilda. After a signature session and some deal-sealing handshakes the flying Frenchmen were back on the road.

Unlike some of the other vans that I have tried my van has a very functional folding ramp made out of aluminum, a much sturdier and user-friendly system than the old stack of scrap wood. The ramp can be folded down automatically once the passenger's side sliding door has been opened. As a luxury feature the ramp can be made less steep by hydraulically lowering the rear suspension.

My contortionist career is over because the floor of the van has been dropped 12 inches which creates all kinds of headroom. Once inside the van I make a tight right turn and park myself where a passenger seat would normally be.

A plate mounted on the bottom of the van floor grabs a bolt that is fixed to the bottom of my chair and automatically locks me in place. No broken photocopiers or piles of crusty old coffee cups, this van is clean. The last ingredient to an enjoyable outing is a buddy, preferably licensed, insured and sober, to perform the piloting duties.

Apparently Wilda could be outfitted with all of the electronics necessary for me to be able to drive her. For a mere \$80,000, special adaptations such as electronic steering, brake and throttle control as well as voice recognition features for wipers, lights and temperature controls could be installed.

Being the French lady that she is I am guessing an extra translator feature would also have to be included! For the time being it looks like adventures will be had with at least a threesome (including Wilda) and maybe in a few years time and a couple of French courses I will be piloting a van all by myself.

It is so amazing to have some spontaneity back in my life. I still try to use the transit system as much as I can and on warm sunny days you would be surprised how far my chair can go, especially in fourth gear and on a soy protein diet! However there is little that beats being able to call up a friend on a whim and hit the road out of the city.

Musical evening will kick-off Stouffville's Strawberry Festival

A musical evening, set for Wednesday, June 30 at Stouffville United Church, will open the 2004 Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival.

The concert, scheduled for 8 p.m., will include the Men of Note, a 35-voice choir; the Men of Note quartet; soloist Susan Brown and a ladies' trio comprising Wanda Stride, Sharon Baxter and Kathi Phillips. Also featured will be the presentation of the annual Music Town, Ontario, award to this year's winner, Wayne Hill, founder and president of the York-Durham Academy for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Hill, former music department head at Milliken Mills and Markville High Schools, retired from teaching two years ago and moved to Stouffville. YDAPÁ productions have included

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, *Oliver*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Chorus Line*, *Charlie Brown* and *Peter Pan*.

Wanda Stride, last year's award recipient, will make the presentation. Those who have been similarly honoured are Lorne Boadway and Jim Rehill, 1991; Clarion Baker and Jean Hammond, 1992;

Alma Oldham and The Wright Family, 1993; Berta Stouffer and Julia Topping, 1994; David Boyd, 1995; Lawnie Wall-ace, 1996; Jean Thomas, 1997; Kathi Phillips, 1998; Doris Harvey, 1999; Ann Gage, 2000; Gary Burke and Vince Parry, 2001; David and Sharon Baxter, 2002.

The evening's free-will offering will go to the Music Scholarship Fund. Donations will also be received for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.



Wine Wine Wine

Introductory Special to...

Wine Maker Wannabes

CANPARDAY



REWARD SPECIAL FOR LOYAL CUSTOMERS



WEDDINGS • SHOWERS • BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES
Main St. at the tracks (905) 640-5221

"IDEAL STARTER HOME"
88 Market Street
Stouffville \$279,900

*Charming 3 bdrm & 2 bathrm raised bung *Located only steps to town pool, shopping and GO Train *Finished bsmt w/separate entrance to garage *Huge 100' x 102' mature lot next to park *Potential to sever into two lots *Lot available next door *Won't last!

"ATTENTION BUILDERS"
35 Berkholder Street
Stouffville \$199,900

*Here is your chance at a great opportunity for a rare in-town building lot 48.56' x 92.32' lot *Walking distance to schools, shopping, town pool and GO Train *Build you dream home here.

"SUMMER'S HERE"
19 O'Brien Avenue
Stouffville \$419,900

*Rare 4 bedroom + 2 bathroom Victorian style home *5 appliances incl. *Inground pool *60'x116' private yard *Great location, walk to everything *New pool pump, heater & filter in 2001.

"BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM"
23 Manitoba Street
Stouffville \$289,900

*Beautiful 3 bdrm perfect for first time buyers or empty nesters. Completely updated w/oak kitchen cupboards. Bsmt has potential for inlaw apt w/sep entrance. Beautiful premium lot 50'x126' within walking distance to the Shops of Stouffville & the GO Train.

"WELCOME TO CAM FELLA ESTATES!"
394 Cam Fella Boulevard
Stouffville \$579,900

*Here is a spacious 4 bdrm 4 bathrm 2 storey fam home located on a lge premium pie-shaped lot (approx. 750 ac) w/full W/O bsmt *Approx. 3600 sq.ft. on 2 levels + a full fin bsmt *This home features a main flr office or library, a sunken living rm & a huge sep formal dining rm.

SOLD

105 Church Street
Stouffville \$525,000

SOLD

16745 Warden Avenue
Stouffville \$329,900

SOLD

12221 Tenth Line
Stouffville \$239,900

SOLD

10 Balson Boulevard
Musselman Lake \$184,900

URGENT!!

Listings Needed!! Market Extremely Hot!!

Call today for a
FREE PROPERTY EVALUATION.

Kirk B. Nice
Sales Representative

Call Kirk

Today for a private & confidential viewing.

905 640-0888

www.kirkbnice.com

905 640-0888

sutton group-
town and country realty ltd.