

**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH**

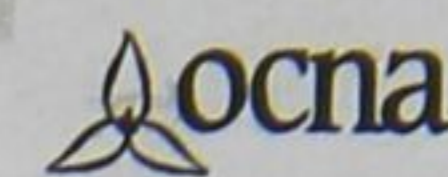
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**whitchurch Stouffville this Month**

LOCAL NEWS VIEWS HAPPENINGS

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A bear was recently spotted roaming the streets of Stouffville...



**Opinion**

**Trains a no-GO after fire closes line**

For a few days, an eerie calm descended on downtown Stouffville during the evening rush hour after a fire temporarily halted GO Train service on June 5.

Because shuttle buses were not available for Stouffville residents, local commuters had to make their own way to Mount Joy Station in Markham, or try to find space on the regular Uxbridge to Markham buses. And while it must have been extremely frustrating for all those affected, there was a certain retro pleasure to be had when strolling down Main Street at around 6 o'clock on a sunny Friday evening.

Instead of the usual string of stationary cars, their engines idling as they waited for the train to draw into the station, traffic moved with relative ease. The train's warning whistle, which has been known to serve as a morning alarm for some in-town residents, was silenced and Main St. east of Ninth Line was, for a short time, country close to the city once more. Nostalgia notwithstanding, we strongly believe that public transit is an essential component of a viable, healthy community and hope that a more extensive service will convince more people to take advantage of it and leave their cars at home.

Now that York Region Transit is planning a bus route linking Stouffville to neighbouring centres, we trust that in future, residents will be offered alternative means of transportation in an emergency. After all, the cost of public transit accounts for a major portion of the taxes we all pay to the region, whether we live in Stouffville, Markham or Newmarket.

Meanwhile, we are pleased to note that a long-overdue cleanup of the Shoeless Joe's construction site at the Giant Tiger plaza is underway, following a meeting between the town and the restaurant owner. The construction delay was attributed to changes in the interior layout by the owner, but perhaps it would have been wiser not to start building until plans were finalized.

Now, is it too much to hope that the giant inflatable coffee mug perched on top of Country Style Donuts is just a temporary promotional gimmick? While no one is suggesting that the west-end of town should be awarded a prize for esthetics or fine design, we do feel it would be considerably improved by the removal of this unlovely appendage.

**Letters**

**Bringing pressure to bear on hairy interlopers**

To the Editor:

Re: Bear sighted in Stouffville.

Well, well, now that Stouffville has been visited by yet another unwelcome hairy guest, (the bear) I can hardly wait for the reaction courtesy of the usual suspects.

Former Councillor Mark Carroll will immediately lead a delegation before Council to demand that the town

preserve part of our fast-dwindling natural areas for a bear hibernaculum, complete with picnic baskets and free of Ranger Smith. Much to everyone's surprise, Councillor Bannon will agree with the petition. As long as it is not put anywhere in Ward 2, or at least not near anyone who voted for him.

Council, for its part, will call an emergency meeting to

swiftly deal with the situation. It will produce a new by-law that will either ban bears in Stouffville, or license them. Either way the town's crack team of by-law enforcement officers will be less than pleased. As it is, they can hardly keep up with all the infractions they see every day of the current by-laws. At least those infractions they can see

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**Sounding Off**

**How do you feel about the Ontario Government's de-listing of eye examinations from OHIP coverage?**



**DAPHNE GOLDMAN**  
 I am concerned about those people who do not have financial resources and they will be deprived of a quality of life associated with these services.



**JACK TRAYLING**  
 The government wants to cut back on services and they are creating a two-tiered medical system.



**JOHN SCOTT**  
 This can cause people to neglect their eyes and in doing so can increase the need for consultation at the hospitals. Eyes are extremely important part of our bodies and must not be neglected. The de-listing is ridiculous.



**RUSS HOLDER**  
 I'm a senior so I won't be as affected, but my children and grandchildren will now have to pay for eye exams and in that respect it is not a great decision.



**VICTOR GOLDMAN**  
 I'm most opposed to the new legislation. It destroys the universality concept of our health care system which was one of the best in the world..