



Nancy Hopkins / Stouffville This Month

Three-year-old Adrien Fleming jumped at the chance to turn the heat down by hopping into his unique cooler 'pool' while his family participated in a street garage sale in the community of Musselman's Lake June 12.

## Re-live the era of rail travel this summer

In addition to its regular weekend and holiday schedule, the York-Durham Heritage Railway is featuring a trip to Canada Day celebrations in Unionville on July 1, a Teddy Bear run July 4 and special rides July 3 as part of Strawberry Festival celebrations.

Regular trips take passengers on a 20 km journey along the beautiful Oak Ridges Moraine between Stouffville and Uxbridge. The route is acknowledged as one of the most scenic in Ontario and offers a great opportunity to study native plants and wildlife. This fall YDHR also plans murder mystery evenings, a Halloween train and a ride with Santa.

For more information on schedules and fares call 905-852-3696, e-mail info@ydhr.on.ca or visit the website at www.ydhr.on.ca.

## Letters

### Bringing pressure to bear on interlopers

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out through the front window of some of Stouffville's many coffee shops.

Council watcher Dave Probert will be keeping a close eye on all deliberations by council regarding this issue, to ensure that the meetings do not go past his bedtime. Meanwhile, the town's treasury department will spring into action to decide if the bear can be considered a resident of town. They will then establish whether charging it property taxes is a viable possibility. Or if the bear can be considered an asset of the town, perhaps naming rights can be sold to a deep-pocketed developer who wishes to utilize the bear for a selling point for their next housing development. At very least they may be able to attach to the bear a sewer levy, in case bears

don't actually "do it" in the woods as everyone believes they do.

Mayor Sherban will simply blame the entire situation on the former council. She will of course be quoted saying this as she is on her way to a local medical clinic to be treated for selective amnesia which seems to have afflicted her since some time in early November of last year. Former Mayor and failed Liberal candidate Wayne Emmerson will point out that in his opinion, the bear is a card-carrying member of Team Martin, and due to confusion showed up in town late for the nomination meeting, and as such will demand a re-count.

And finally, in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the town will release information to residents to help protect themselves and their pets from nasty encounters with

wandering bears. First, to reduce the likelihood of startling a bear whilst out and about, residents will be encouraged to attach small bells to their person and their pets to announce their presence to unsuspecting ursine interlopers. Secondly, residents should carry pepper spray to ward off bears that come too close. Thirdly, and most importantly, residents must learn how to identify signs of bear activity in their neighbourhoods, primarily by the paw prints and droppings. The former can be reliably identified only by trained professionals. The latter, however, can be recognized by anyone by simple examination, because bear droppings usually smell of pepper and contain small bells.

Like I said, I can hardly wait.

Hugo T. Kroon  
Bethesda

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