

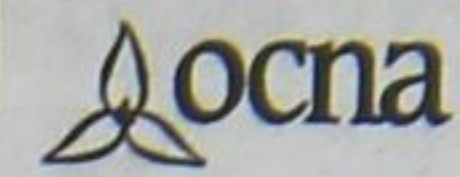
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH**

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Local News Views Happenings  
**Whitchurch Stouffville this month**

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The proliferation of traffic lights in town has some drivers on edge...



# Opinion

## Taking A Walk On The Wild Side

Has anyone tried walking to the new drive-through bank? If you insist on using the south side of Main St., where the bank plaza is located, you take your life in your hands. This is because the sidewalk ends abruptly just west of Canadian Tire, and from there to the lights, it's the lowly pedestrian versus trucks and cars turning into the parking lot.

No doubt we are expected to cross to the north side of Main St., where a sidewalk is generously provided, and cross back again at the lights. We wouldn't expect drivers to use only one side of the street, of course, but pedestrians must move with the times, which means hopping into their own car (if they own one) and adding to the growing problems of gridlock and exhaust fumes on Main Street.

Walking to the store used to be part of the pleasure of small town life, now it's becoming a health hazard. As we have often said before, what this community needs is a revitalized downtown. And judging from the crowds who attend the Strawberry Festival and special events organized by the BIA every year, there are many residents who would flock to the centre of Stouffville if more retail businesses were encouraged to locate there.

When the BIA hosts Moonlight and Music Madness on Aug. 14, the downtown will come alive again with sidewalk sales, live music, karaoke and neighbourhood fun. And on Sept. 13, local artists will display their works in the second annual Autumn Art on Main Street.

While walking in the west end is a less than delightful experience, a stroll through Memorial Park en route to the pool and library complex is a pleasure. We have an attractive, historic downtown. Let's make the most of it.

Once again, the mayor's annual golf tournament proved a smashing success, with \$16,000 raised towards local programs for children and youth. In nine years, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and his helpers have raised an astonishing \$130,000 for the town's youth. The money has been used for everything from sports and drama groups to the mayor's annual New Year's Eve party.

It's a legacy that the outgoing mayor can take great pride in, and an example of what can be achieved by hard work and commitment. In the words of those who participated in the tournament, 'Way to go, Wayne.'

# Letters

## Reader adds more spices to 'Luke Soup' broth

To the Editor:

Many people have written *Stouffville this Month* to express their enjoyment of Luke Anderson's column, Luke Soup. I want to include my voice in this group and add my own spices to the broth.

Luke Soup is column writing at its best for many reasons. First of all, he is personal. He draws us into his world and shares it with us. He

writes to his audience as though we are his friends. Secondly, he's insightful.

He offers a small piece of wisdom each time, something that makes us readers sit up and say, "Now ain't that the truth?"

This insight is never delivered in a dogmatic manner, but rather humbly as he explains how he came to this understanding.

Thirdly, he's funny. He has a great sense of humour. Lastly, his writing style is excellent; it's smooth, easy to read, and very descriptive.

Thanks for putting Luke's column at the front of the paper. It saves me from flipping through the pages to look for it.

Teresa Veltman  
 Stouffville

# Sounding Off

Do you hike or participate in any other outdoor activities in the area?



**CARRIE WITTRED**

We're a family of five. We live on a farm and enjoy the outdoors. We do four-wheeling, dirt-biking and snowmobiling, as well as bonfires and camping. We choose to live here so our lifestyle can be back to nature.



**DOUG HUME**

I'm lucky to live here, 20 minutes from work. I mountain bike, hike and kayak within minutes of my house in Musselman's Lake. The lake is handy and we're at the York Regional Forest often for walks with my family and dog.



**PAIGE GOUDIS**

I like to hike and walk through the trails. They are great to cross-country ski in the winter. The trails are great to live by and use daily for biking, walking the dog and seeing the wildlife.



**KORRY HOME**

I'm out a lot to walk the dog in the hills near my house and sometimes up at the forest on Hwy. 48 south of Vivian Road. But golf is my thing. I go to a lot of different courses all over York Region. I work outdoors too.



**TINA FOLZ**

I bike ride, including mountain biking. I swim and walk a lot because I do dog walks for K-9 in Kahoots. I went snowboarding here this past winter and snowmobiling too.