

Ballantrae Lions Club raffle a hot ticket

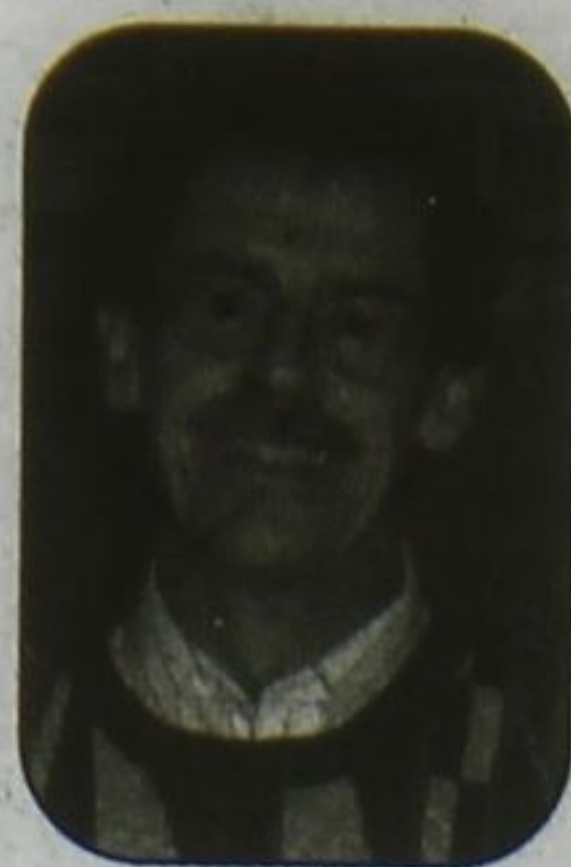
A luxurious six-person Infiniti hot tub from Betz Pools is the top prize in the Ballantrae and District Lions Club draw, which takes place Oct. 9 at the Ballantrae Community Centre.



The second prize is a Napoleon Gas Barbecue and the third prize is a DVD player from Card's Appliances. Proceeds from the draw will be used to fund local Lions Club projects including

assistance for families facing financial difficulties, the seniors' Christmas dinner, community centre projects and relief for disasters or emergencies that occur in the community.

Tickets are available now from Lions Club members or by calling club vice-president Brad Evans at 905-642-9585. Only 1,200 tickets have been printed and the cost is \$10 or three for \$25.



Stumbling through Stouffville

with Bruce Stapley

Somewhere Over The Rainbow

If it had been Joe Bowen sitting in the announcer's booth at the main diamond on a recent Wednesday night, he would have probably bellowed out that "the ghost of Hoke Miller is with us tonight!"

But it was me at the microphone, flanked by a support staff consisting of my two young sons, so I just signed off by summing up how Scott Eyre's game-ending three-run home run, hit just moments earlier in the bottom of the seventh and final inning, had given the Stouffville Menos a 4-3 victory over the Bradford Sox in the Oshawa City and District Men's Fastball League match up.

Big Scott's monumental wallop that sailed way up into the night and over the centre field fence brought to mind a quip Hoke had laid on me a decade and a half ago. It came during an interview for a story I wrote about him in the local paper on the occasion of

his retirement from a local sand and gravel company.

It seems ol' Hoke was a feared slugger back in his younger days when he played for the Stouffville Red Sox men's baseball team that was a serious contender for several provincial championships back in the 1940's. He went on to enjoy a successful minor league baseball career, just like his Red Sox teammate Earl Cook, who was known as "The Lemonville Farmer" during his Triple A heyday.

When I asked Hoke about his hitting prowess with the local nine, he played right along. "There are still balls I hit out there that haven't come down yet!" he drawled, putting on that famous Hoke Miller grin.

Back when Hoke was the talk of the local diamond, Stouffville was a self-sufficient rural entity, a phone

call to Toronto was long distance, and a trip into the big city was a special occasion. And the town was unified by such things as baseball.

Today, with the countless distractions that come with being part of the all-encompassing GTA, few care to come down to Memorial Park to watch the local team any more. But for those who do the rewards can be rich. Just ask my 7-year-old son Griffin, who spied Scott Eyre's home run ball lying in the outfield grass after it was heaved back into the park by a passer-by.

"Go get it Griff," I said. "Maybe Scott will autograph it for you." Griffin looked up at me with that uncertain look kids get when they think they might be crossing the line of what's allowed. But he ran out and got the ball, brought it back in, then

stood in front of Scott and drummed up the courage to ask him to sign it.

"Sure!" responded Scott, adding that it was probably the first time he'd ever been asked for an autograph. Griffin has a new hero. He's added the home run ball to his collection of prized sports memorabilia.

If you listen real carefully while walking past the main diamond late on a warm summer night, you may just hear a ghostly whistling up on high. Don't be alarmed. It's likely one of Hoke Miller's long home runs finally coming back down to earth.

New Espresso Café opens at leisure centre

If you want to relax after an invigorating swim, or just enjoy a delicious cup of coffee with your latest library book, drop by Tinks Espresso Cafe, which recently opened at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

"You can now get fresh coffee in a variety of flavours, fresh espresso, fresh fruit, breads and pastry at the leisure centre," said program/aquatic supervisor Micole Ongman. The cafe is located in the lobby, near the entrance to the library.

New To Your Community?

Be sure to call



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