

# Our Readers Opinions...

## MPP Klees opposed to changing definition of marriage

To the Editor:  
I have received a number of inquiries regarding the recent Ontario Court of Appeal ruling in favour of same-sex marriages. I want to clarify my personal position as well as the jurisdiction of the federal and provincial governments on this important issue.

Under the constitution, the federal government, and not the provincial government, can make laws about who can marry whom. As such, the federal government was the main responding party in the Ontario case.

The federal government

could have appealed this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. However, on June 17, 2003, the Prime Minister indicated that the federal government would not be appealing the Court of Appeal decision. Instead, it will be drafting new legislation with the intention of recognizing same-sex marriages.

The Government of Ontario is responsible for licensing and registering marriages between all persons who can legally marry. The Ontario Court of Appeal ordered the municipalities to issue marriage licences and the

province to register the marriages of same-sex couples immediately. The Government of Ontario would be in violation of the Charter and in contempt of court if it did not follow this order.

I do not agree with the court's ruling on this issue, and am opposed to any changes to the definition of marriage as "the union of one man and one woman".

I have advised my cabinet and caucus colleagues that I am opposed to Ontario registering same-sex unions as "marriages". I have called upon our government to

apply a separate and distinct term to these registrations, such as "same-sex union" or a similar designation which does not compromise the historical, cultural and religious meaning of the institution of marriage. I will continue to do what I can to defend this position.

The federal government has the exclusive authority to legislate the definition of marriage. I would recommend that anyone concerned about this issue contact their federal and provincial representatives to voice their concerns.

Frank Klees, MPP  
Oak Ridges

## Informed electorate important

Continued from page 6

may wish to consider. One is financial accountability and another is good employment practices. Perhaps council could also have a complaints secretary so that serious concerns of residents could be brought to council's attention, acknowledged and dealt with.

Council may also wish to consider the benefits of good and effective public relations. This might include developing a five-year plan for the town, so that residents know what lies ahead and what the costs will be. A five-year plan should not be confused with a five-year capital budget, which deals with projects and does not cover operating costs, nor with secondary plans, which require skilled interpretation to be understood by the public.

Perhaps the next council may also wish to let the public know that it welcomes public input and will consider the issues which the public has raised.

Margaret L. May  
Stouffville

## High School seeks past and present students

To the Editor:

To all past and present students who attended Stouffville District Secondary School (formerly Stouffville High School) from 1954 to 2003:

As you may be aware, SDSS (SHS) will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary and Reunion on July 2 and 3, 2004. We are looking for people to help co-ordinate in finding their classmates. In the meantime, we are asking for your help. We need to get addresses for any past or present students, who may or may not be living in the Stouffville area. This will help us to invite everyone to the celebration.

Please forward the following information: surname, first name, maiden name (if applicable), address and postal code, the years you attended SDSS (SHS) and your e-mail address, to SDSS 50th Anniversary and Reunion, Registration Committee, P.O. Box 1328, 6379 Main Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 8A3, or to our e-mail address: sdss50th@hotmail.com.

We are presently working on setting up a website to keep everyone up to date. Registration and other details will follow.

The Registration Committee  
SDSS 50th Anniversary and Reunion

# MEET SUE SHERBAN



## Candidate for Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville

COME AND MEET SUE:

September 4th 5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Willow Springs Winery  
5572 Bethesda Rd., Stouffville

For more information call 905-642-0830 Email; sueformayor@sympatico.ca

This is an open invitation to visit with Sue, enjoy refreshments and discuss community issues.

*Working for a better community...*

Paid for by the Campaign Committee to elect Sue Sherban for Mayor



### Menu

Espresso - Cappuccinos - Lattes - Chai Tea - Gourmet Brews

Dufflets Pastries

Fresh Fruits Gourmet Cheeses and veggies for Sandwiches and Rollups

Natural Juices and Fresh Fruit Smoothies

More Great Things Coming This Fall

Let us custom make something for you!

We are Located in the lobby of  
The Lebovic Leisure Centre  
The library pool and fitness complex

30 Burkholder Street Stouffville

See You Soon!  
Greg and Vicki Puccetti Tynkaluk

