

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

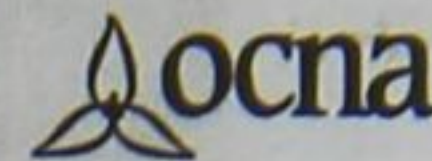
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Whitchurch Stouffville this Month

LOCAL NEWS VIEWS HAPPENINGS

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The GO's plan to demolish part of the Stouffville grain elevator complex has been complicated by the large number of cute kitties living within...



Opinion

A little peace and quiet

Is there any calmer, more peaceful place than a rural cemetery in the fall? In working on the stories and photos for this issue, we spent some blessed minutes in graveyards. As Remembrance Day approaches, you can almost feel the ghosts of Whitchurch-Stouffville's departed World War veterans rustling through the fallen leaves of the cemetery near the Tenth Line. The rows of white crosses commemorating those who took part bring to mind similar crosses in John McCrae's haunting poem, "In Flanders Fields", and as you stand and remember the sacrifices that these men and women made for all of us, you can almost hear the call of a bugle as the wind whistles through the maples.

A few miles directly east, along the Uxbridge-Pickering Town Line in the crossroads hamlet of Altona, lies the Mennonite Cemetery in which Abraham Stouffer, his family and friends have their last resting place. As befits the simplicity which typifies the Mennonite culture, the chapel at the Altona cemetery is a very unpretentious building, as are the graves themselves, no monument rising more than a couple of feet. These pioneers of our part of the world, including the man who gave his name to our "capital city", are indeed at peace here. Even the neighbourhood boys, running home in the fading light down the Altona Road, seem to lower their voices as they pass.

The calm of the Altona graveyard was all the more appreciated because in the process of driving there from another photo shoot at the west end of Stouffville, we experienced the noise and bustle of the town's daily super-time rush hour. Exacerbated by the needless numbers of traffic signals along Main Street, it took us fully 15 minutes to get through the crawl from McDonald's to the East Gate. It would have been quicker on horseback, or in a Mennonite buggy.

As you think back to the days when Abraham Stouffer first walked these forests, or even to when men like flyer Wilf McWhinnie (see page one) grew up here in the 1930's and 40's, you can't help but long for a simpler time. And as you look at the faces of our Town Councillors every second Tuesday in their tower on Sandiford Road, struggling with the very difficult issues that development, "progress" and population explosion bring, you know that they must wish sometimes that they oversaw the affairs of a simpler place, a country town not quite so close to the city.

Of course, if we were back in the 30's, we very probably wouldn't have had a lady mayor. That would have been a little progressive for a community like ours. And that's too bad, because although Sue Sherban can obviously handle present-day problems, in many ways she would make a perfect 19th-century reeve, too. A woman for all time.

If you peruse the stories in this issue of WSTM, you'll find that a lot of them are about simplicity: the Victorian Tea at the museum, the Family Forum at the Lebovic Centre, Bruce Stapley's sister's birthday, even the story of the Murby family who have become business tycoons by raising the simple white domestic duck. Simplicity is all around us, but in all the bustle of the 21st century, sometimes you have to watch or listen close to discover it.

So if you're craving a little calm, let us recommend a remedy. Take a trip to Claremont, and on your way, share a moment with old Abe in Altona. Or on Remembrance Day, visit the crosses on the Tenth Line, and say a little prayer for peace. For everybody.

Letters

Thanks for the 'buzz'

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the members of the Stouffville Studio Tour, I want to thank you very much

for the interviews and article that you did for the October paper.

It looks great and is causing quite a buzz around town.

Thank you for your efforts at promoting our event.

Ray McNeice
 Stouffville Studio Tour

Sounding Off

Our question this month, asked at the Lebovic Leisure Centre:

"What was your favourite Hallowe'en costume ever?"



Jacklyn Humphries:
 "In Grade 5 I went trick-or-treating as a paint bucket, with my hair dyed all different colours. My costume was so wide I couldn't fit through any veranda doors."



Ashley Mountford:
 "I was seven and I dressed up as a Christmas present, with a bow in my hair, pink stockings, and my face painted with polka-dots."



Kristen Miller:
 "I was Pippi Longstocking back in Grade 5. I dyed my hair a bright orange and made the pigtails stick way out and wore striped legwarmers. I looked funny."



Kitty Sudworth:
 "We made pretty simple costumes when I was young. I specialized in witches, but I was also a great Indian princess, with stockings for braids and a burlap sack for a skirt."



Marianne O'Donoghue:
 "I went as a geisha to one party, with my husband as a samurai. I had a kimono my grandmother brought back from Japan, and a cut-off mop as a wig with cherry blossoms."