

2024

 Stouffville

# Year in Review



## A Great Place to Work

Town staff and their community contributions

## Mayor and Council

End of the year messages from the Mayor and Council

## The Year's Highlights

Good news, events, and initiatives in Stouffville

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**ON THE COVER:**

This year's cover showcases a magical moment from Stouffville's first *Symphony Under the Stars*—read more about it on page 17!

**YEAR IN REVIEW 2024 TEAM:**

**Town of Stouffville Corporate Communications**

Glenn Jackson, Cassandra Papas, Brandi Pickering, Julia Jackson, Michaela Ray, Kira Hassard, Katrina Robert, Ruby Vasanthan

**Photography by** John-Paul Perri, Katrina Robert, Dennis Hristovski, Valeria Mitsubata, Cassandra Papas



### Message from Stouffville CAO Sunny Bains

As we near the close of another successful year, it's a time to reflect on the journey we've shared as a community. This year, we have gained important insights and achieved significant milestones. As Chief Administrative Officer, I'm privileged to work alongside a team of dedicated staff who are steadfast in their commitment to serving our town. While we take pride in our achievements, we remain committed to progress, constantly working to refine, improve and introduce programs, services, and experiences for our residents, businesses, and visitors.

A few highlights from 2024 include the completion and endorsement of the Official Plan, Development Charge Background Study and By-law, and the Information Technology (IT) Strategic Plan; the completion of overhead utility relocations and implementation of traffic calming features through the reconstruction of Edward Street; the Administrative Money Penalty System (AMPS) Program was implemented; the update of various by-law reviews to ensure efficiency, including the Procurement By-law update and Procedural By-law; the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library was rebranded to Stouffville Library with a new logo; the assessment and exploration of Council Meeting software to enhance the resident experience; corporate-wide Customer Service standards were developed to ensure accountability and consistency to our community, as part of the implementation of the Customer Service Framework; and the Memorial Park Multi-purpose Trail was completed.

For a more comprehensive view of major initiatives, I encourage everyone to explore our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan to see our goals, objectives, and actions required over this Term of Council.

The year ahead is sure to bring exciting projects, new partnerships, and fresh challenges. I am confident that, together, we will make 2025 another outstanding year for Stouffville.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and festive holiday season!

**Sunny Bains,**  
Chief Administrative Officer



# Home Safe Home

## A Community Effort for Home Fire Safety

Summer in Stouffville saw more than the usual buzz of kids playing and backyard barbecues—it brought firefighters walking through neighbourhoods, knocking on doors, and building connections. The Home Safe Home summer initiative wasn't just about fire safety; it was about

cultivating a sense of community, with boots on the ground—literally.

For months, Stouffville's fire crews visited over 1,400 homes, offering free safety assessments that tested smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, mapped out escape routes, and equipped families with life-saving knowledge. But the visits often became something more. Firefighters shared stories, listened to residents' concerns, and strengthened the bond between the fire department and the community they serve.

"Our firefighters weren't just checking alarms—they were connecting with people, building trust," says Fire Chief Bill Snowball. "Safety is personal, and one of the best ways to make an impact is face-to-face."

One key takeaway from the visits? Many homes still had outdated alarms, putting families at risk.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms need to be replaced every 10 years, a small but critical step in fire prevention.

Those who missed the door-to-door visits can still participate. Residents can schedule a free home fire safety assessment anytime. Visit [townofws.ca/homesafehome](http://townofws.ca/homesafehome) or call 905-640-9595 to connect with the program.

Because in Stouffville, safety isn't just a service—it's a shared commitment.



1,400+ homes visited in 2024



304 total alarms installed



# Message from the Mayor

Mayor Iain Lovatt reflects on Stouffville's 2024 accomplishments

As we approach the end of 2024, we've reached the halfway point of this council term, and I'm proud to reflect on our many accomplishments over the past two years. One of our most significant achievements was completing the Town's first new Official Plan in 20 years, a project that Council approved earlier this year. This important document, now awaiting final approval from the province, will guide our town's growth and development for the next decade. We also introduced CityView software, which moves our permitting and planning

application processes online, making it easier and more efficient for both residents and developers alike.

In terms of community amenities, we're excited about the soon-to-open Multi-purpose Trail in Memorial Park, a fantastic new recreational asset for our town. Additionally, we've begun construction on Baker Hill Park, which will feature accessible play structures and four new pickleball courts. The Library launched the Lendery Adventure Zone, providing fair access to recreational equipment for all residents. Despite a few

unexpected delays, I'm also pleased to report that construction has started on the Ballantrae Multi-Sport Complex.


I'm particularly proud of our staff's implementation of the Automated Municipal Penalty System (AMPS), which reduces the delays in our by-law enforcement process. Council also supported the introduction of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE), with plans to install speed cameras in community safety zones in town soon. The safety of our streets remains a top priority, and

I sincerely hope this program proves unsuccessful—because that would mean people are driving safely!

One of the best parts of being Mayor is seeing our community come together at town events. This year, our team delivered fantastic events, including our first-ever Symphony Under the Stars in Memorial Park, featuring a full-sized orchestra on a beautiful summer evening. When I proposed the idea last year, I wasn't sure it would be possible, but our incredible team made it happen. The event was a celebration of our community's love for the arts, and I look forward to seeing it return in the summer of 2025. This past summer also saw another record crowd on Ribfest weekend, with more than 45,000 attendees and musical performances by Maestro Fresh Wes and country artist Tebey.

Looking ahead into 2025, I'm excited for the official opening of our Multi-purpose Trail in Memorial Park for walking and cycling, and, weather permitting, skating this winter. In January, we will be hosting our first-ever Mayor and Council's New Year's Levee and Skate at the trail on January 10th from 6 PM–8 PM.

In closing, I want to thank all the contributors and staff who made this Year in Review possible. And to you, the residents of Stouffville—thank you for being an incredible community. It's an honour to serve as your Mayor, and I look forward to a great second half of the term!

Be well, 



## In the Loop with Lovatt

Stay connected with Mayor Lovatt for the latest updates, community news, and initiatives—follow @iainlovattws on social and subscribe to the Mayor's Monthly newsletter at [lovatt.ca](http://lovatt.ca)!





# A Great Place to Work

The Town of Stouffville has been recognized as one of the best places to work in 2024 by Human Resources Director Canada (HRD). This prestigious recognition reflects the Town’s dedication to creating a supportive, inclusive, and balanced work environment. Stouffville stood out for its strong employee engagement, low turnover, and commitment to work-life balance, mental health, and professional development.

To be considered for the list, the Town submitted a detailed overview of its achievements, followed by a staff survey to gauge satisfaction.

Stouffville surpassed the required 75% satisfaction rating, achieving an impressive 84%.

This award highlights Stouffville’s ongoing focus on employee well-being and development, ensuring the Town remains a thriving and rewarding place to work. The recognition speaks to the collaborative culture and dedication of its staff.

To learn more about our incredible staff and their contributions to our community and beyond, explore their stories shared over the following few pages.



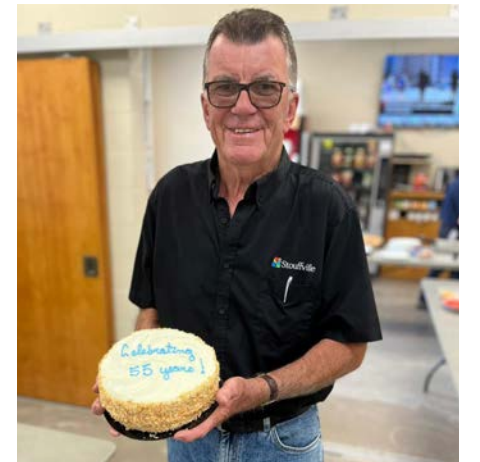
## Stouffville Proud: Celebrating Pride Month with Community and Inclusivity

The Town of Stouffville proudly supported Pride Month in 2024 with several exciting, inclusive initiatives. The festivities began with a Pride kick-off event with staff at Town Hall, followed by a flag raising at the Leisure Centre Community Flagpole. On June 15th, Town staff marched in the York Pride Parade under the theme “Stouffville Proud.” Additionally, the Stouffville Fire Department held a Pride t-shirt fundraiser, raising funds for future Pride initiatives. The *Stouffville Proud* truck remains branded as part of our Municipal Law Enforcement fleet of vehicles—look for it around town! Together, these efforts demonstrated the Town’s dedication to celebrating and uplifting the 2SLGBTQ+ community and creating a welcoming workplace for all.

## Five Decades of Dedication

Peter Alcorn, Roads Supervisor within the Engineering & Public Works Commission, celebrated an incredible 55 years of service to the Town of Stouffville this year. Since 1969, Peter has been a dedicated and integral part of the Stouffville team, overseeing the maintenance and safety of the Town’s roads. His decades of expertise and commitment to excellence have ensured that residents and visitors alike travel on well-maintained roads in every season.

Peter’s work ethic, leadership, and friendly demeanor have earned him respect and admiration from his colleagues and the broader community. His contributions over the years have helped shape Stouffville’s infrastructure, making it a better place to live and work. We thank Peter for his remarkable service and dedication to the Town.



## Stouffville Library Unveils New Brand Identity



Stouffville Library, formerly Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, has unveiled a vibrant new logo and name. The design reflects its mission and values, featuring an eye for discovery, a keyhole unlocking potential, and confetti celebrating diversity and community spirit—a vision of creativity, learning, and engagement.



# Crafting the Holiday Magic

## Staff build cozy wooden huts for Stouffville’s annual Holiday Market

In preparation for Stouffville’s 4th annual Holiday Market, maintenance technicians Dave Price and Dayle Lewis from the Town’s Facilities Team took the lead on an impressive project: building 25 custom wooden huts. Handcrafted in the Town’s warehouse, these huts hosted vendors at the popular artisanal market, creating a festive and charming atmosphere for visitors and showcasing local talent and products.

Dave and Dayle’s expertise in carpentry and craftsmanship were put to the test as they designed and constructed each hut to be both functional and visually appealing. The huts, which lined the 6240 Main Street parking lot and Civic Square for the Holiday Market in November, are a perfect blend of sturdy construction and rustic holiday charm, adding a unique aesthetic to the market experience.

The project took several months to complete in between additional responsibilities, with both technicians working tirelessly to ensure every detail was perfect. Each hut was built with vendors’ needs in mind, providing ample space and easy setup for their displays. The team’s creativity and commitment to the project resulted in structures that will not only stand the test of time but also become a staple of Stouffville’s holiday festivities for years to come.



Thanks to Dave, Dayle and their team’s hard work, the Holiday Market was made even more enchanting, bringing together residents and visitors alike to celebrate the season. Their contribution exemplifies the dedication, excellence, and behind-the-scenes efforts of the Town’s staff to enhance and create memorable experiences for everyone to enjoy.



# Supporting Ukraine from the Frontlines

## Curtis Roach’s Story of Growth and Resilience



Stouffville Sr. Project Manager, Curtis Roach proudly served in Poland as part of Operation UNIFIER

Curtis Roach, a reservist with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Senior Project Manager with the Town of Stouffville, recently returned from a deployment to Rzeszów, Poland, as part of Operation UNIFIER—Canada’s mission to support Ukraine. From January to August 2024, while on a sabbatical from the Town, Curtis worked as the Canadian representative to the Materiel Assistance Contribution Coordination Centre (MAC2C), liaising with military, government, and industry partners to coordinate donations of military equipment for the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). His role was vital, ensuring that Canada’s contributions, including weapons and vehicles, were verified and delivered to the AFU.

Curtis’s military journey began at a young age. Fascinated by military history, he joined Army Cadets at 12 and later attended the Regular Officer Training Program (ROTP) with the Navy. Since then, he has served as a field artillery officer in the Army Reserve, participating in four operations, from Arctic

Sovereignty in 2007 to the CAF’s pandemic response in 2020.

His role in Operation UNIFIER, however, took him beyond his artillery expertise. “This mission required me to be part diplomat, part logistics officer,” Curtis recalls. “I had a steep learning curve, but my incredible team helped me navigate the challenges.”

The most rewarding part of the mission was seeing the immediate impact of their work. “Being able to hand off equipment to the Ukrainians, knowing it would be put to use right away, was incredibly satisfying and humbling,” he says.

Reflecting on lessons from his time overseas, Curtis emphasizes the importance of strong relationships, a principle he brings back to his work in Stouffville. “When systems fail, it’s the relationships that help you overcome challenges,” he notes.

Curtis’s service, both abroad and at home, continues to inspire everyone around him—especially Team Stouffville.

# Staff and First Responders Awarded for Saving a Life

On the morning of May 9th, a patron at the Leisure Centre experienced a medical emergency that required immediate resuscitation and the use of the facility’s automated external defibrillator (AED) unit. Thanks to the quick response of staff members from both the Community Services Commission and Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services, the patron’s life was saved. These individuals acted with exceptional professionalism and composure during a critical situation, applying their training and life-saving skills to prevent a tragic outcome.

In recognition of their efforts, the team was awarded the prestigious Lightning Bolt Award from the Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services Prehospital Care Program, honouring individuals who demonstrate excellence in emergency response. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to staff members Andrew Arseneau, Ona McDonald, Daniel Johnson, and Travis Wilson. Your dedication, commitment to learning, and willingness to act in an emergency is truly commendable.



From left: Staff were honoured for their lifesaving efforts of resident Peter You at a council meeting earlier this year.

# Centennial Celebrations



Stouffville recognizes two centennial anniversaries celebrating nature and community: the York Regional Forest's conservation legacy and the Horticultural Society's beautification efforts. These milestones honour tradition, inspire stewardship, and showcase connection through nature.

## Stouffville Gardeners Mark a Century of Growth

This year, the Stouffville Horticultural Society celebrates 100 years of growing a love for gardening and beautifying the Stouffville community. Established in 1924, the Society began as a small group of plant lovers meeting in each other's homes before moving to the United Church. Meetings became lively gatherings filled with music and tradition, formerly opening with a special horticultural song sung to

the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne.' This heartfelt ritual reflected their shared purpose: "to beautify homes and grounds and make everybody glad."

The Society quickly became a fixture in the community, organizing popular events that drew residents together. Annual flower shows became legendary, with one event filling an entire arena with colourful floral displays from local gardeners. Their

success reached new heights in 1928, when they won a silver medal at the Canadian National Exhibition floral parade, as seen below. This achievement was a proud moment for Stouffville, symbolizing the town's dedication to horticulture and inspiring future generations.



The Society's membership soared throughout the years, reaching over 500 members in 1955, as it took on projects that transformed the local landscape. The creation of public flower beds, a community fountain, and, more recently, the Canada 150 Garden in Memorial Park, are just a few examples of the Society's contributions. However, with the passage of time, the Society has faced new challenges, including declining membership, which now sits around 50, as people find more gardening information online.

Despite these challenges, the Society remains resilient, with its volunteers maintaining gardens and inviting educational speakers to benefit the community. They hope to attract new members and inspire a love for gardening in younger residents,

ensuring that their legacy continues to flourish. By inviting fresh ideas while honouring their rich traditions, they look forward to another hundred years of enhancing Stouffville's natural beauty and fostering a sense of community.

Now meeting at St. James Presbyterian Church, the Stouffville Horticultural Society reflects on a century of growth, friendship, and stewardship. May their legacy of blooms and bonds continue to enrich the community and inspire new generations to connect with nature and each other. Happy 100th Anniversary, Stouffville Horticultural Society!

## A Century of Conservation and Community

The York Regional Forest marks its 100th anniversary this year, celebrating a century of conservation, natural beauty, and community. This milestone has been commemorated through a range of free activities, exhibits, and events that honour the forest's history and environmental impact. Some of the centennial events were in collaboration with Indigenous partners, to highlight the cultural heritage, language, and traditional knowledge tied to the land.

A key feature of the celebration was *The York Regional Forest: A Growing Legacy* exhibit at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre. This exhibit offered visitors an engaging journey through the forest's evolution since its founding

in 1924, featuring historical displays, photography, and interactive experiences.

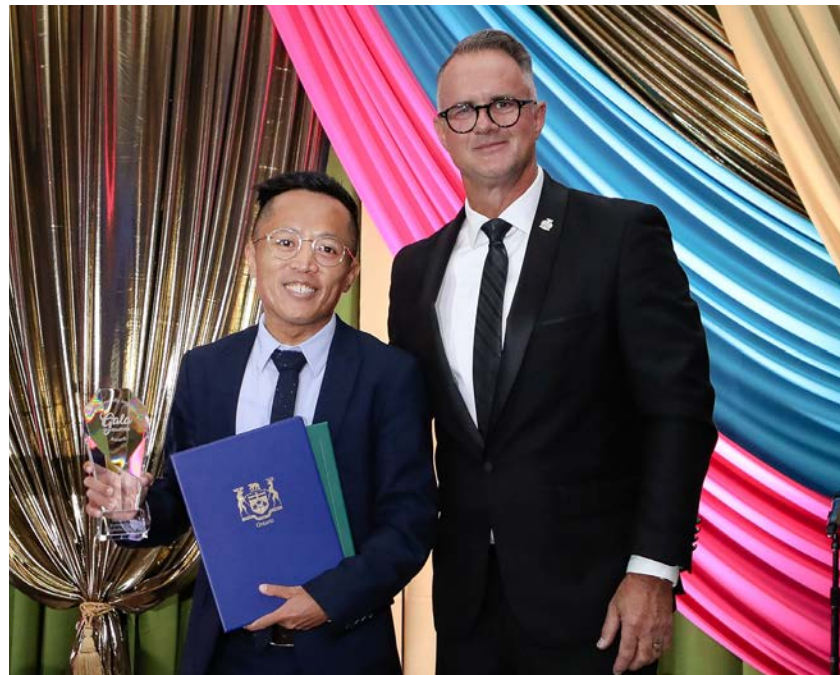
Throughout the year, visitors have been invited to take part in various activities such as monthly guided forest walks, a forest-themed photo contest, and community tree planting events. The forest, with over 150 kilometers of scenic trails across 24 tracts—more than half of which are in Stouffville—offers spaces for hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, and simply enjoying nature.

The York Regional Forest remains a cherished sanctuary, open year-round, and free for everyone to explore and connect with nature. Learn more about anniversary events at [york.ca/Forest100](http://york.ca/Forest100)



York County Council members during the annual tour and inspection of the Vivian Forest, Whitchurch Township, 1968.

# Impacting the Community



Top: This September, six awards were handed out at the Mayor's annual #ForStouffville Gala to those who went above and beyond for Stouffville. Bottom: Andrew Tsang was awarded the Healthy Stouffville Award for his work with the Stouffville Run Crew.

The 2024 Community Impact Awards celebrated the incredible contributions of Stouffville residents and business owners who have gone above and beyond to strengthen Stouffville. Awards were presented at the annual #ForStouffville Gala held in support of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Legacy Fund in September at Willow Springs Winery.

Andrew Tsang received the **Healthy Stouffville Award** for his work with the Stouffville Run Crew, promoting fitness and mental wellness. Micole Rubinoff earned the **Sustainable Stouffville Award** for her efforts with the Butterflyway Project, encouraging pollinator-friendly habitats. The **Connected Stouffville Award** was presented to Susan Smith and Cathy Robinson of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank for their tireless work supporting families in need. Ray McNiece's long-standing involvement in the local arts scene earned him the **Creative Stouffville Award**. Krista Beatty's leadership of the Stouffville Skating Club garnered her the **Generational Stouffville Award**, and Alison Jackson of Redefined Finds was honoured with the **Prosperous Stouffville Award** for her support of small businesses on Main Street.

These awards highlighted the dedication, passion, and shared purpose that make Stouffville a thriving and connected place to live.

## Stouffville Buzzes as a Bee City

Stouffville is buzzing with pride as the 80th designated Bee City in Canada, working alongside local community groups to support a sustainable environment for pollinators. Through collaborative initiatives like native plant gardens and educational programs, the Town and its partners actively promote the health and conservation of bees and other pollinators. Together, we're fostering biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, and a beautiful local environment that future generations can enjoy.



800+ species of native bees in Canada



Stouffville is the 80th Bee City



## Telling the Stories of Seniors

The *Stouffville Stories: Connecting Cultures* initiative, funded by the New Horizons for Seniors Program, brought together immigrant seniors and youth in a collaborative effort to share powerful personal stories of immigration. This joint program, presented by the Stouffville Library and the Stouffville 55+ Club, aimed to empower seniors through workshops while nurturing intergenerational relationships.

Ten seniors participated in the workshops, where some chose to share their stories privately within the group, while others opted to film their experiences for public display. Their stories covered a range of deeply personal topics, including the impact of war, living under oppressive systems, the hope of a brighter future, and even finding love in a new land. Youth volunteers played an essential role in facilitating the workshops and filming process, gaining a deeper appreciation for the courageous and honest seniors.

Stories are currently being edited into short-form videos that will be displayed on kiosks throughout Stouffville. These videos will enable people to engage with the lived experiences of immigrant seniors and develop a greater understanding and empathy for their journeys. By telling these stories, the project aims to highlight our shared humanity in life experiences and strengthen the connections within our diverse community. *Stouffville Stories* is a testament to the power of storytelling in bridging generational and cultural divides.

## WARD ONE

# Message from Councillor Hugo Kroon



For the last 10 years, it has been my honour and pleasure to serve the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville (WS) as Councillor, and I want to thank you for your ongoing support.

Ward 1, comprising over 60% of the land mass of the Town, continues to be the most diverse in terms of uses: rural areas, natural features, agriculture, estate developments, golf courses, hamlets, commercial areas, and soon, the Town's newest master-planned residential community.

It is also home to the Historic Grist Mill at Bruce's Mill Conservation, which was recently designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The same property also houses the YRP Safety Village, the world-class Stouffville BMX, Tree Top Trekking and the Uplå outdoor trampoline park—now lit for evening activities. It's really cool, take the kids and have a blast. And if you're in Vandorf and enjoy live music, swing by the just-opened Harmony Hall on Woodbine. Additionally, the newly renovated Bogartown Schoolhouse across the street at the WS Museum is now open for the public to enjoy.

One of the major concerns for residents continues to be traffic safety. Council has recently approved the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program which will put cameras in many community safety zones in an effort to protect those neighbourhoods, and funds realized will be funneled back into other traffic calming and safety initiatives across town. As well, new traffic lights, signage, and other measures on regional roads around many of the hamlets in the ward are adding additional layers of safety.

The Town is moving forward to protect our future by providing new opportunities for companies wishing to invest in WS. With new builds going on in the Vandorf Business Park happening already, and more planned, we are successfully expanding our much-needed commercial base. Conversely, in many of the rural areas, some properties are being inappropriately used for commercial uses of varying degrees and we are working diligently to reduce or eliminate the impact of these activities on both the neighbours and the environment.

With increased enforcement and the newly implemented Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS), headway is being made against offenders.

It has always been my focus, and that of Council, to protect our rural areas, and we will continue to do so. We are all truly lucky to live in a town like ours, and we should not take that for granted. In that vein, I will recount a recent visit I had with a rural resident. As we were sitting on their back deck in the early morning, enjoying the quiet and a cup of coffee, we looked out over the recently harvested adjoining fields, watching a few wild turkeys grazing as a buck meandered along the fence line. I turned to him and said, "This is why we call our town Country Close to the City." And he said, "No, Councillor, this is why we call it *Paradise* Close to the City," and I think he's exactly right.

In closing, thanks again for your support, and thanks also to our amazing staff who make everything happen. From my family to yours, have a blessed Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

## WARD TWO

# Message from Councillor Maurice Smith



A number of previously announced projects for our Ward are still moving forward. I don't take comments about project delays as a complaint of the process, I take it as an interest from residents as to what is happening in their community. By having others involved it provides assurance that all parties with an interest in a specific project have had their input. A number of those parties, like the Region of York or the Province of Ontario, are interested in seeing the projects completed appropriately and to an approved standard.

The sidewalk installation in Ballantrae has now developed into a much

larger project, with a number of new interested parties involved. The first section along Aurora Rd. is scheduled, weather cooperating this winter. The sidewalk is now expected to continue along Aurora Rd., around the Hwy 48 corner and then north to the entrance of the Ballantrae Golf Club. I have been assured that this project has a 2025 completion date.

The committee on which I have served decided unanimously that it would be prudent to construct a fire station and ambulance facility at a new location in Ballantrae. York Region agreed to participate and include a bay for an ambulance station within the building. Site

preparation and final station design is now underway.

Town staff continue to work closely with the Ballantrae Sports Group to work through delays in the interest of seeing this exciting multi-sport dome project come to completion for the benefit of the Ballantrae community and the Town of Stouffville in general.

The best part of sharing this update is the opportunity to wish you and your family all the very best in the year ahead. Here's to a happy, healthy, and wonderful 2025!



# 2024 Event Highlights

In 2024, the Town hosted a dynamic array of community events that brought residents together and celebrated the spirit of Stouffville. From Stouffville Ribfest to the heartwarming Holiday Market, every event had something special to offer. Families enjoyed outdoor movies, live concerts, heritage events, and cultural festivities that showcased local talent and diverse traditions. Memorial Park was a hub of activity, with music, food, and entertainment filling the air throughout the year. Our events have not only entertained but strengthened the bonds within the town, making 2024 a truly unforgettable year in Stouffville.



**25+**  
annual events



**12,500+**  
attendees at Holiday Market



**45,000+**  
attendees at Ribfest



**1,300+**  
participants in the Main Street 5k



**26+**  
live musical performances



**50**  
artists at Art in the Park



## A Night Filled with Music

The inaugural *Symphony Under the Stars* in Memorial Park in July was a resounding success, drawing a crowd of over 4,000 music lovers. As the sun set and the moon rose, the park transformed into a magical outdoor concert space, adorned with twinkling stars and flickering candles. The Kindred Spirits Orchestra delivered a mesmerizing performance, showcasing a captivating blend of classical and contemporary music from renowned artists like Elton John, Coldplay, and Adele.

melodies that filled the evening air. Highlights included a stunning finale featuring singers performing a scene from *The Phantom of the Opera*, complete with dramatic dry ice effects.

With perfect weather and an engaging program, *Symphony Under the Stars* set a high bar for future events. As attendees left the park, the excitement and joy of a beautiful evening resonated in their hearts, encouraging a deeper appreciation for the rich, cultural spirit of Stouffville.

The atmosphere was electric as attendees spread out their blankets and lawn chairs, revelling in the enchanting



## Learning and Connecting Through Indigenous Workshops

This year, the Town of Stouffville with the Stouffville Library hosted a series of Indigenous Workshops, offering the community an opportunity to engage with and learn about Indigenous cultures, traditions, and history. These workshops, led by Indigenous facilitators and educators, provided an enriching experience for residents of all ages. Participants explored various topics through different mediums, from storytelling and smudging to interactive learning.

Each session fostered a greater understanding of the deep-rooted connection between Indigenous peoples and the land by emphasizing the importance of Indigenous stewardship, reconciliation, and mutual respect. Highlights included a Land Acknowledgement workshop which allowed attendees to personally connect with Indigenous history.

To learn more about the Town of Stouffville's upcoming events for 2025, visit [townofws.ca/events](https://townofws.ca/events)





# Reimagining Recreation

Enhancing community spaces to support active, outdoor lifestyles

The projects outlined in this section focus on enhancing recreation and creating spaces that invite Stouffville residents to connect, play, and thrive.

A new park opening soon on Baker Hill Blvd., west of Ninth Line, will bring fresh energy to town, offering play structures, sport courts, and shaded seating areas. Thank you to

residents who participated in a public meeting and survey to shape the park's design and amenities.

The Aspen Crescent Parkette will see a revitalization, adding a playground, outdoor seating, open green spaces, and pathways. New playground equipment is scheduled for installation in the spring of 2025.

The Ballantrae Multi-sport Complex, developed in partnership with the Ballantrae Sports Group, will feature an advanced dome tailored for multi-sport use. Currently under construction, this state-of-the-art facility is set to become a lively, year-round sports hub for athletes of all levels.



## Year-Round Fun on the Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Trail

The much-anticipated Memorial Park Multi-purpose Trail was opened and enjoyed by residents this year. This impressive 275-metre pathway is designed for year-round enjoyment, offering a fantastic space for walking, scootering, and rollerblading during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. As winter arrives, the refrigerated trail will transform into a family-friendly skating destination, providing endless fun for residents of all ages. The accompanying building is complete with washrooms, changerooms, and equipment storage. Stay tuned for more updates as we celebrate this wonderful addition to our community!



## New Disc Golf Course Opens

Disc golf is a popular outdoor sport that combines elements of traditional golf with frisbee throwing. Players aim to complete a course by throwing a disc into a series of elevated metal baskets, with the objective being to use the fewest throws possible. Disc golf is attractive to people of all ages and skill levels, making it a fun, budget-friendly activity that promotes physical fitness, outdoor enjoyment, and social interaction within the town.

Stouffville's newest disc golf course officially opened at Greenwood Park in August of this year with a lively crowd of residents and enthusiasts eager to play and learn. The event included instructional clinics and disc giveaways. With two putting stations and five holes, this new accessible recreational amenity is designed for all ages and abilities to enjoy.

## A Playground for Everyone

On September 9th, Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt, along with members of Council, accepted a generous \$40,000 donation from the Stouffville Lions Club. This significant contribution will be used

to purchase accessible playground equipment for the new park located at 401 Baker Hill Blvd., ensuring inclusive play opportunities for children of all abilities in the neighbourhood and beyond.



## WARD THREE

# Message from Councillor Keith Acton

As the Ward 3 Town Councillor and someone who loves being active outside, I want to highlight the many benefits of cycling as both a form of exercise and transportation here in Stouffville. Cycling is not only a great way to stay active, but it's also a sustainable and efficient mode of transportation.

Personally, I cycle all over town, and I find it to be a convenient way to get around. Stouffville's streets are becoming increasingly bike-friendly as the Town works to improve infrastructure to ensure safer and more enjoyable rides. Whether you're heading to a park, downtown, or exploring your neighbourhood,

cycling is a great option to consider.

Stouffville also boasts a variety of scenic trails that are perfect for cyclists of all levels. From the Eldred King Tract to the Vandorf Park Trail and the breathtaking Rouge National Urban Park, there are many opportunities to connect with nature. These trails provide peaceful environments for solo rides, family outings, or adventures with friends. If you don't have a bike, the Stouffville Library's Bicycle Lending Program has you covered.

In addition to promoting cycling, the Town is focused on improving overall transportation. The 2024

Transportation Master Plan (TMP) aims to address long-term road and infrastructure needs as the Town grows toward 2051. A key part of this plan is the Active Transportation Servicing Plan (ATSP), which is designed to enhance walking and cycling opportunities. With input from residents and experts, the ATSP will create a safer, more accessible network for pedestrians and cyclists, encouraging active transportation throughout the community.

Thank you for your support of Council. Wishing you, your family, and friends a very merry Christmas, happy holiday season, and all the best in the coming year!



## WARD FOUR

# Message from Councillor Rick Upton

I have had the pleasure of serving Ward 4 as a Councillor for 10 years now and still regularly meet residents who aren't aware of the location of Town Hall or the types of services available to them there. With that, I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you more about what is available to you at the municipal office beyond the Council Chambers.

Located at 111 Sandiford Dr., the Town Office serves as the central hub for many essential services that keep our community running smoothly. Easily accessible to residents, the office is more than just a building—it's a place where citizens can engage with their local government and access the services they need.

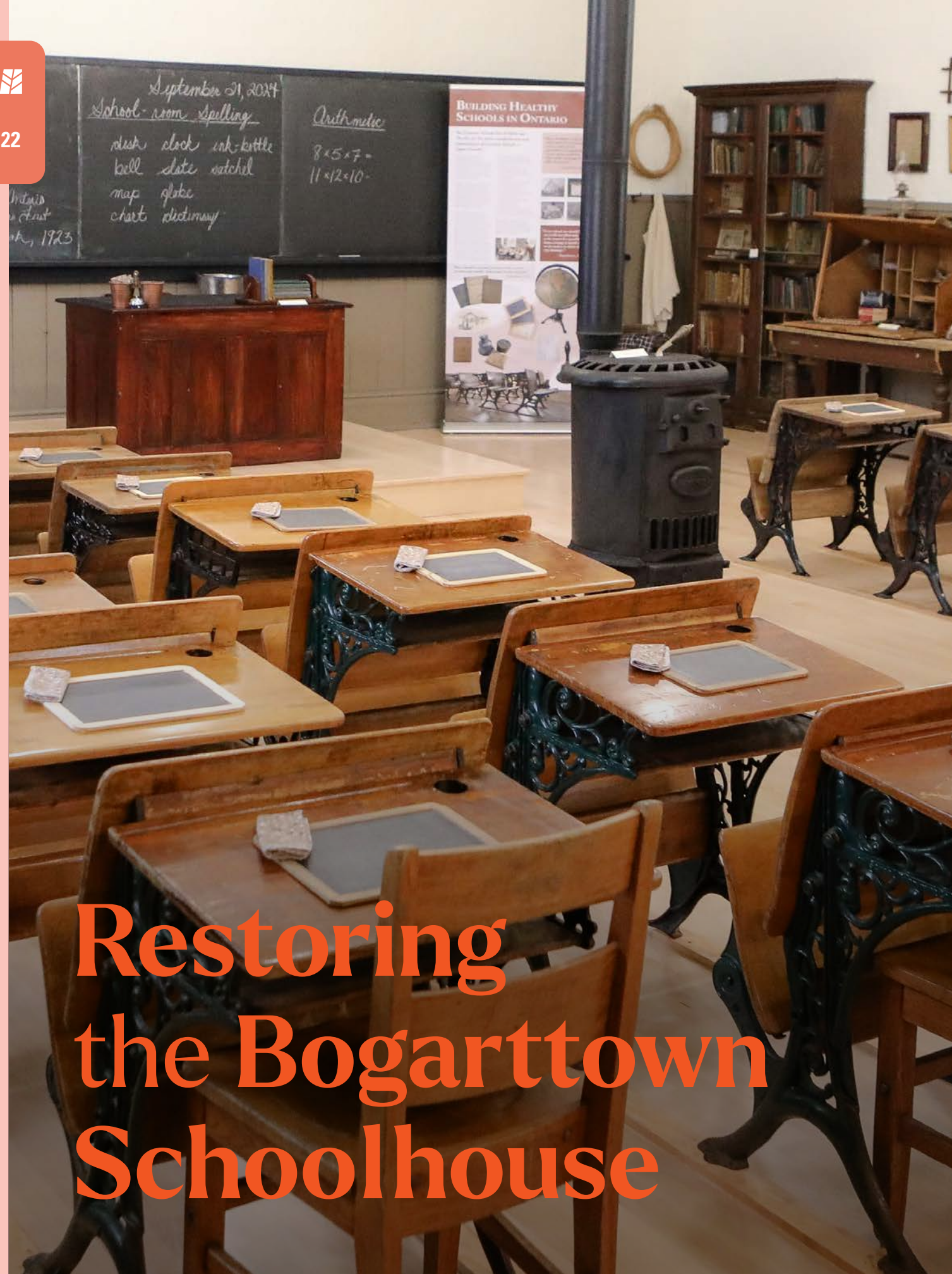
Whether you want to renew your dog license, pay your property taxes or water bill, or check zoning details for a property, the municipal office has you covered. Need a new recycling or green bin? You can request one here.

The office is also a place for personalized support. Residents can request a meeting with their Ward Councillor to discuss any concerns specific to their community or get guidance on how to navigate Town processes. Town staff also work diligently here to ensure residents are informed about programs, upcoming events, and the many services offered.

At the Stouffville Municipal Offices, the focus is on supporting the community, making sure services are accessible, and ensuring that residents have a voice in shaping the future of our Town. If you have a question for the Town but are unable to stop in, call our incredible Customer Service team at 905-640-1900 or email [customer.service@townofws.ca](mailto:customer.service@townofws.ca) and they will be happy to help you with any of your concerns.

Stouffville, thank you for your continued support of our Council, staff and senior leadership—it is an honour to serve the residents of Ward 4 and all of Stouffville. On behalf of myself and my family, Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2025!





# Restoring the Bogarttown Schoolhouse

## A reminder that history lives on in the stories we tell and the spaces we preserve.

As the doors of the Bogarttown Schoolhouse re-open, artifacts, historic slate boards, and desks transport visitors back in time. This one-room brick schoolhouse is now fully restored, ready for visitors to experience history firsthand, connecting them with the past in a tangible way.

The restoration of the schoolhouse has been a dream years in the making. Funded in part by the Rural Economic Development Program of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and thanks to the dedication of the Museum's Working Group, numerous volunteers, and staff, the schoolhouse re-opened on September 21st. "The schoolhouse was restored in order to further preserve the Town's history," explains Councillor Hugo T. Kroon, Ward 1. "It's a visual reminder of the past that we can still connect with today."

### Preserving Heritage Through Restoration

Steeped in history, S.S. No. 3 Bogarttown was built in 1857 and served as a schoolhouse for 112 years. This "ideal little red schoolhouse" is more than just a building—it's a living testament to the

story of rural schools in 19th Century Whitchurch-Stouffville. In 1970, the Township of Whitchurch purchased the schoolhouse for one dollar and following the amalgamation of Whitchurch-Stouffville in 1971, the schoolhouse was re-opened at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

The goal for the restoration was to focus on key original details while also creating an immersive classroom experience and an exhibition featuring historic photos, first-hand stories, and a history of rural schools.



In the exhibit, "Fun Facts" allow visitors to learn specific stories tied to the schools, including information about William Brown, a teacher at S.S. No. 2 Vandorf who in 1879 earned a salary of \$345 per year; and how student Elmer Starr was caught carving his name into the brick exterior of the Bogarttown Schoolhouse. There are also several artifacts original to the schoolhouse that have been returned to their rightful places, including the desk of the first teacher, Francis Starr.

Restoring the schoolhouse was a careful process aimed at preserving its original character. The pressed-tin

ceiling, once hidden by a drop ceiling, was unveiled and restored, and heritage paint colors were selected to best match the original. Light fixtures were chosen based on a 1957 photograph of the classroom, a teacher's platform was added, and the cast-iron stove was placed in the centre of the room.

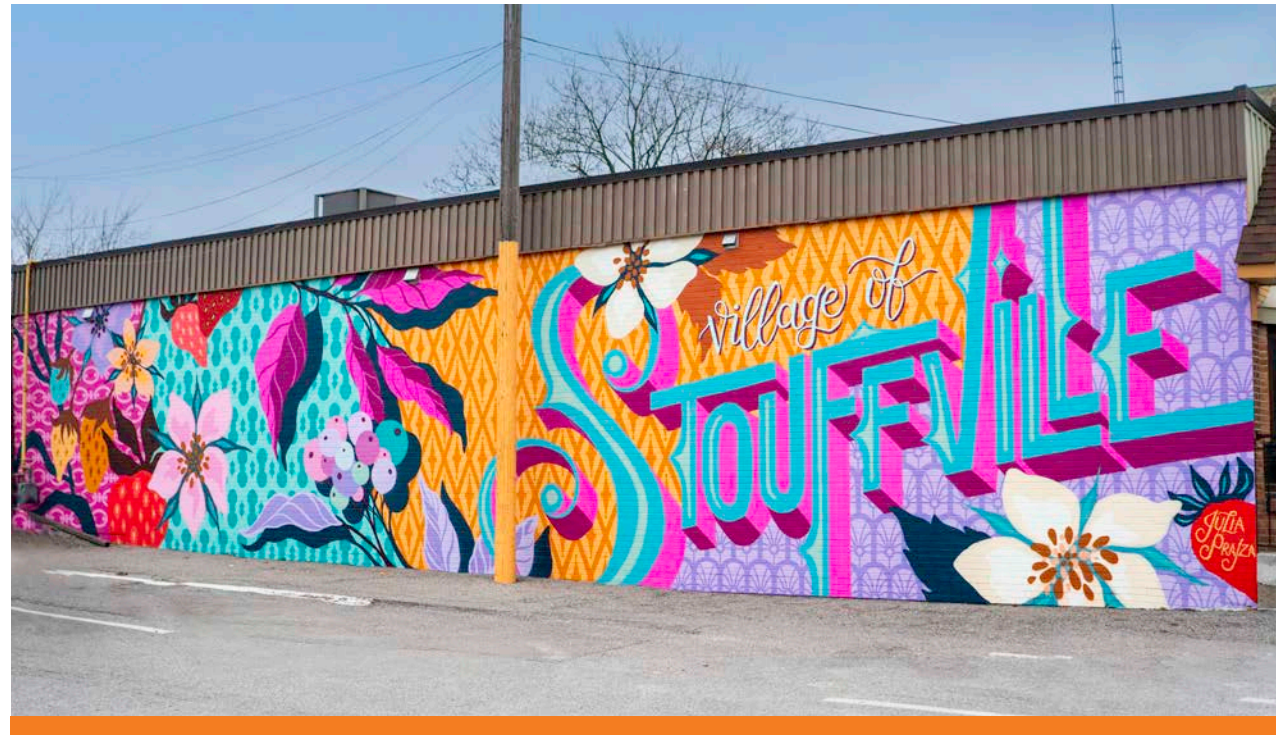
### Embracing the Future While Honouring the Past

The Bogarttown Schoolhouse is open for general tours, field trips, programs, and more. Visitors can sit at the historic desks, explore stories of the past, and even contribute their own memories. From field trips to events, it will buzz with the same energy and excitement that once filled the room.

"It's been very exciting to see this project come to life, and I'm honoured to have been a part of it," says Krista Rauchenstein, the Museum's Supervisor and Curator. "Each step of the way, I've experienced something different—connected with those that came before us, proud of the team, and excited to share the space with the community."

As visitors immerse themselves in the space, they can imagine the echoes of laughter, the rustling of pages, and the sense of community that once made this schoolhouse a cherished gathering place, welcomed to become part of the story themselves. The Bogarttown Schoolhouse continues to be a place where learning and life come together, just as they did over a century ago.

Visit the Museum Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM. Admission is free. [townofws.ca/museum](http://townofws.ca/museum)



## Refreshing Downtown

The transformation begins with stunning new public art and crosswalk

Downtown Stouffville is undergoing an exciting transformation to ensure it remains a vibrant hub for residents and visitors alike. Through the Downtown Revitalization initiative, the Town is redesigning this historic area to create a walkable, accessible, and welcoming space that blends history with modern amenities. Led by Accardi Engineering Group Ltd., the project will renew streetscapes, upgrade underground infrastructure, improve accessibility, and incorporate sustainable, green features.

Preliminary work, including surveying and underground investigations, began in Fall 2024, setting the stage for future enhancements.

Community input is a cornerstone of the project's success. Public Information Centres (PICs) held in September 2022 and online surveys have already provided valuable feedback, with more PICs planned for next year to guide this evolving vision. This initiative isn't just about infrastructure—it's about creating a dynamic downtown that reflects Stouffville's spirit and builds connections among residents and visitors.

Adding to the revitalization, Stouffville's Cultural Hub project has received support from the My Main Street Community Activator initiative. This investment brings

stunning holiday lighting, interactive installations like a selfie station and illuminated swing to this year's Holiday Market, plus two new murals in partnership with STEPS Public Art. These creative additions complement the downtown redesign, drawing visitors, supporting local businesses, and growing communal pride for this beautiful town.

Together, these initiatives are just the start of reshaping downtown Stouffville into a dynamic, inclusive space where history, culture, and modern living converge. To stay updated on this exciting transformation, please visit [townofws.ca/downtown](http://townofws.ca/downtown)



## Crossing Main Street with Care

Downtown Stouffville is now even more walkable and welcoming, thanks to the new pedestrian crossover on Main St., conveniently located between Lloyd St. and Freel Ln. This exciting addition has made it easier than ever for locals and visitors alike to explore all the fantastic shops, restaurants, and of course, catch a train at the GO Station. With flashing lights, clear pavement markings, and bright signage, crossing the street is now safer for everyone—whether you're grabbing a coffee, doing some shopping, or heading home after a day out.

This project marks a great start to the Downtown Revitalization initiative, while also enhancing the safety of everyone. Improved pedestrian infrastructure not only encourages walking but also helps reduce accidents, creating a more secure environment for drivers and pedestrians alike. Residents and business owners are already appreciating the benefits of a friendlier, more accessible downtown, and can look forward to the possibility of additional crosswalks as part of the Downtown Revitalization Project. With better pedestrian connectivity, Main St. feels more vibrant than ever. Next time you're strolling through downtown, make sure to take advantage of the new crossing—it's another step toward making Stouffville the best place to live, shop, and explore!



## Our Restored Clock Tower

Downtown Stouffville's iconic Clock Tower has been transformed, blending its storied past with modern technology. Heritage Restoration Inc. replaced over 500 bricks to preserve its charm, ensuring structural soundness. Now, the tower features a digital world clock with automatic daylight savings adjustments and the ability to play bell chime melodies for events. The clock is illuminated to celebrate significant moments, adding a dynamic touch to Town events.

The 1931 bell remains safe inside, connecting generations while the tower's timekeeping now runs effortlessly. This cherished landmark stands as a symbol of resilience, blending history and innovation as it guides Stouffville into the future.



For more history about the Clock Tower, see the July edition of *On The Road*.

## WARD FIVE

# Message from Councillor Richard Bartley

As someone who has lived in Stouffville my entire life, I've had the privilege of watching our town grow and change in remarkable ways. I understand that growth can sometimes feel challenging or even polarizing for residents who have seen Stouffville evolve from a quieter place into a more bustling community. However, with growth comes opportunity—new amenities, enhanced services, and greater inclusivity for everyone who calls our town home. I am sincerely grateful to those who have invested in our community through development. Their contributions have helped our neighbourhoods thrive, creating the foundation for the new parks, facilities, and services that enhance our daily lives and strengthen our town.

In response to this growth, we've introduced new facilities and programs to cater to all residents. From pickleball courts and the Multi-purpose Trail to new and enhanced parks throughout town, these additions make Stouffville more active and full of life. I'm particularly proud of initiatives like the Ballantrae Multi-Sport Dome, the new Disc Golf Course and our expanded community events which are now more inclusive and accessible than ever, ensuring Stouffville is a welcoming place for everyone. A huge shout out to the Town staff who help take these ideas from council minutes to reality, we truly couldn't do it without you.



On a personal note, this Christmas will be especially meaningful for me and my family. My wife Marty and I recently became grandparents for the first time, and we are so excited to celebrate our granddaughter's first Christmas. It's a special reminder of how much we have to be thankful for in life and in our community.

Merry Christmas, Stouffville! I hope you enjoy all the best that this season has to offer with those who mean the most to you.

## WARD SIX

# Message from Councillor Sue Sherban



Heritage, tradition, culture, legacy—however you describe downtown Stouffville Village, it evokes belonging. Ward 6 stretches from Tenth Line to Ninth Line on the south side of Main Street, a place dear to me. I was born at the former Brierbush hospital, bought my first home on Main Street, and I am committed to keeping our downtown vibrant.

As Councillor, I am often asked why some heritage buildings downtown are vacant or in disrepair, and why I haven't acted. I assure you, I have worked diligently with the Mayor and Council to preserve and revitalize our downtown. As a former Councillor and Mayor (1994-2006), I advocated to save

our old Town Hall, now known as 19 on the Park. Today, I still serve as a committee member for 19 on the Park to help keep our village thriving.

I thank the wonderful business owners who maintain their shops and serve our community with pride. It is disheartening that some commercial owners do not share this dedication. I've met with some of these owners, and it's clear they don't see the heritage value many residents cherish—the value that makes Stouffville special.

While I share the community's frustration, please know it is not for lack of effort. If owners pay taxes and ensure pedestrian safety, our

authority is limited. Our Economic Development Officer and I meet regularly, exploring new business opportunities for downtown—but making it work financially for building owners remains a challenge.

I care deeply about our heritage and culture, which give us our identity and sense of community. I will continue to fight for preservation, as it is crucial for maintaining the character that makes us proud to call Stouffville home.

Thank you for your continued support of our local businesses. I wish you all the best for the holidays and a Merry Christmas!

# Making Room



## A Great Place to Live

Stouffville grows with new schools, daycare options, and affordable housing, building strong community connections.

The Town of Stouffville is proud to be recognized as one of Canada's most livable cities. In a ranking by *The Globe and Mail*, Stouffville placed 79th on the list of "most livable cities" in Canada, 18th among Ontario communities, and 3rd in York Region.

"This recognition echoes what we've always known—Stouffville is an amazing place to live, work, and raise a family," said Mayor Iain Lovatt. "We are honoured to be included alongside so many wonderful communities across Canada. I'm grateful for the dedication of our residents, staff, and businesses in making Stouffville such a warm and welcoming town."

The ranking considered 43 variables in 10 categories, including economy, housing, demographics, health care, safety, education, community, amenities, transportation, and climate. These categories were chosen because they "mirror the key factors people prioritize when looking to relocate to a new community." Stouffville was also named the 32nd best place in Canada to retire and the 88th most livable city for newcomers.

"This honour reflects our community's collective effort in making Stouffville an exceptional place to call home," added Lovatt.

## Stouffville Celebrates the Opening of Two New Catholic Schools

On March 18th, Stouffville celebrated the opening of Blessed Chiara Badano Catholic Elementary School and St. Katharine Drexel Catholic High School in the Stouffville Multi-use Facility. Excitement filled Meridian Dr. as students arrived with their families and school buses. Crossing guards were stationed at the Ninth Line and Baker Hill Blvd. roundabout to ensure safe passage for students.

To manage the increased traffic, York Region lowered the speed limit to 40 km/h during school hours on Ninth Line. Crosswalks have also been added to the nearby roundabout. York Region Transit introduced the 414 St. Katharine Drexel School Special to assist with student commutes.

These schools now mark a bright future for Stouffville students, honouring St. Katharine Drexel's legacy as an educator and saint.



## Affordable Housing for Stouffville

York Region is set to enhance affordable housing with the opening of Mosaic House, a six-storey building located at 5676 Main St. The building will offer 97 rental apartments, including 19 accessible units, catering to seniors, families, couples, and individuals.

Residents will benefit from amenities such as indoor spaces, a rooftop patio, and surface parking. Designed to meet LEED Silver standards, the environmentally sustainable building is owned and operated by HousingYork Inc. (HYI).

The building's name, Mosaic House, symbolizes the coming together of diverse residents to form a vibrant living space. The 3.7-acre site is conveniently located near transit, shops, and services, with plans for future development.

Subscribe to the Stouffville HYI e-newsletter for the latest updates and community engagement opportunities at [york.ca/StouffvilleHYI](http://york.ca/StouffvilleHYI)

## New Daycare Brings Families Hope

Stouffville has taken a big step to support families with a new modular daycare facility at the Clippers Sports Complex. Located in the northwest corner of the property, this project will provide much-needed childcare for up to 82 children.

Mayor Iain Lovatt's excitement about this project reflects the collective enthusiasm of the Town. "All of Council is excited about this opportunity, which not only addresses our urgent need for more childcare options but also promises to enhance our town's financial health through sustained revenue." Families will benefit from having reliable, quality care close to home.

What makes this facility even more special is its journey from the City of Mississauga, acquired at no cost. By repurposing an existing structure, the Town shows its commitment to sustainability and resourcefulness. Selecting a third-party operator through a Request for Proposal process ensures quality care, providing a place where Stouffville's children can grow, learn, and flourish.



# The Next Generation of Stouffville

From winning awards of recognition to leading their younger peers at Day Camps, the young people of Stouffville are making an impact

This year, the youth of Stouffville have amazed and inspired us with their exceptional contributions across various fields. From leading initiatives to support student success through mentorship and promoting menstrual health globally to volunteering at food pantries and places of worship, they've made an impact both locally and beyond.

In sports, some have shattered records on the track with Olympic aspirations in sight, while others have earned recognition as ambassadors for human rights and diversity in

their schools and communities. Their dedication to leadership and advocacy continues to shape Stouffville as a dynamic, caring, and inclusive place to live.

These remarkable achievements remind us of the boundless potential of our next generation, leaving us hopeful and proud of the leaders they're becoming.

Throughout the year youth have been spotlighted at council meetings and in several editions of the Town's *On The Road Magazine*.



If you have stories about exceptional youth, please reach out to [communications@townofws.ca](mailto:communications@townofws.ca)

## Summer Fun!

Our 2024 summer camps marked an exciting new chapter, with a fresh approach that sparked even more community engagement. This year, we expanded our offerings, including the ever-popular Mini Campers program for 4-5-year-olds, and launched a brand-new STEAM camp, quickly becoming a favourite among families. The introduction of a Summer Camp Open House in May gave parents the chance to meet staff, ease any first-day jitters, and explore different camp options—a simple yet impactful idea that added a personal touch to the registration process.

Feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive, with parents praising the friendly, energetic staff and the variety of camp activities. From outdoor adventures to sports and creative projects, Stouffville camps gave kids unforgettable memories, making summer 2024 one for the books!

Registration for 2025 summer camps opens on February 4th! Visit [townofws.ca/camps](https://townofws.ca/camps) for more information.



**34**  
Camps offered



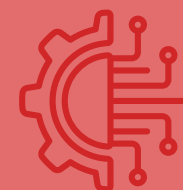
**10**  
camp locations



**60%**  
increase in 2024 camp registrations



**1,935**  
Campers



**99%**  
Fill rate for new STEAM programs

## Empowering Local Youth

This past year, the Town of Stouffville proudly launched the Youth Advisory Working Group (YAWG), marking the beginning of an exciting initiative aimed at empowering local youth. This new program invites students in grades 7 to 12 to collaborate with Town staff, offering fresh perspectives on youth programs and local initiatives. Looking ahead, YAWG is poised to play a key role in shaping youth engagement in events like Youth Week and the Santa Claus Parade, while providing participants with valuable leadership opportunities. With its launch, YAWG is set to make a lasting impact on both its members and the broader community.



 Stouffville 2024

# Year in Review



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Visit our website to learn more about the Town of Stouffville.

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