

OTR

OCT 2023
NO 75

75

TH EDITION

 **Stouffville**

On the Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville
is the monthly magazine of the Town



OTR Makes Place, 75th Edition

We launched *On the Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville* (OTR) back in 2016. Back then, we were paying for community news Ads in three local papers. It was expensive and limited. For less money (at the time), we were able to send 12 pages to every resident on a monthly basis. As far as we could tell, the Town had never mailed anything to every resident, ever - tax bills go to property owners, water bills go to those with - municipal water!

My angle for OTR was to recruit volunteers through knowledge sharing; alas, there was no way one-person in Economic Development could support existing business, tourism & events, agriculture, and build a sense of place (facts they pointed out during my interview). As for Glenn in Communications, his goal is to disseminate government news and recount Council meetings.

On the Cover are photos from past editions. What do I see? I see: rural and urban landscapes; service, farm, industrial, retail, restaurant, and non-profit businesses; new families and 'founding' families; a mix of gender, race, and age groups. I see the future and the past. Hence, OTR Makes Place by presenting your place back to you.

SMALL BUSINESS MONTH CANADA



October is Small Business Month in Canada. 97% of the businesses in W-S are small businesses. I would argue that every month in OTR is small business month. However, in the spirit of belonging, Pages 12-13, and 22-24 are dedicated to small business resources, emerging small businesses, and small business clusters.

OTR SURVEY, NEED YOUR HELP

We want to hear your thoughts and opinions on OTR and the way the Town communicates with you. Just a few minutes of your time could help ignite some positive impacts in the community.

By participating, you're playing a crucial role in shaping the future of our community's communication strategies. Whether it's suggestions, concerns, or ideas you have in mind, they all matter to us. Please hop over to Townofws.ca/OTRsurvey so we can ensure that our communication efforts align with your needs and preferences.

David Tuley, Editor & Designer
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Most photographs on Cover, and Pgs.18 by Dennis Hristovski. Others on Cover by Juliana Williams.

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Province sets Stouffville housing target

Council endorses pledge to build 6500 dwellings by 2031; Markham Stouffville Hospital to expand

Glenn Jackson, Contributor

This is a monthly column summarizing recent Whitchurch-Stouffville Council decisions. Subscribe to our eNewsletter for more detailed information: eepurl.com/cKPNgg

Housing target. Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, was introduced by the Province of Ontario to ensure a sufficient supply of housing to meet the needs of Ontario's current and future residents. The Province has set a goal of 1.5 million homes by 2031.

On June 16, 2023, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requested that the Town of Stouffville demonstrate its commitment to accelerate housing supply by identifying a locally appropriate housing target to meet current and future needs to 2031 and to develop a Municipal Housing Pledge.

On August 22, 2023, the Minister indicated that the Town has been assigned a specific housing target of 6,500 new residential dwellings to be built by 2031. The Mayor must confirm the Town's commitment to this target by October 15, 2023.

At the September 13 Council meeting, Development Services Director Dwayne Tapp informed Council that Stouffville is well on its way to building 6500 new residential units regardless of the Pledge.

"Staff have calculated the current number in the Development Services pipeline at approximately 10,929 units. These are both recently approved applications or currently "on the table". Commitment has already been made in these applications to secure lands, provide studies, provide drawings, and application fees," Tapp reported.

Tapp noted that the Town's Growth Management Study, approved by Council in June, had anticipated over 18,000 new units before 2051. "Based on this commitment, it is anticipated that these applications will proceed sooner rather than later," Tapp said.

Council adopted the housing target of 6,500 new dwelling units by 2031 and



ABOVE: The Markham Stouffville Hospital will be investing more than \$65 million dollars in the building of a new ambulatory center which, according to a presentation to Council September 13, will be a "state-of-the-art, four-story facility, spanning 80,000 square feet." It will enable the expansion of outpatient programs and clinics.

endorsed a new Housing Pledge at the meeting (found at bitly/3Zzjtem).

Hospital's future. During the Council meeting held on September 13, representatives from the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation provided an update on the hospital's future vision and introduced a new campaign aimed at enhancing its growth.

Suzette Strong, the Chief Executive Officer of the MSH Foundation, and Elena Pacheco, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Oak Valley Health, shared that in the years 2022 and 2023, the two Oak Valley Hospitals, namely the Markham Stouffville Hospital and the Uxbridge Hospital, collectively served over 468,000 patients. These included more than 173,000 clinic visits, 110,000 emergency visits, and over 65,000 virtual visits. Additionally, they reported that over 21,000 surgeries were conducted, and 1.9 million diagnostic exams and lab tests were carried out.

To support their plans for future growth, they announced a budget of \$65 million allocated for constructing a new ambulatory center at the Markham Stouffville Hospital site. This state-of-the-art, four-story facility,

spanning 80,000 square feet, will enable the expansion of outpatient programs and clinics. According to Strong, this development will create more space within the hospital, allowing for a 40% increase in acute care capacity, raising the number of beds from 354 to 491.

Furthermore, the hospital's future vision includes establishing a "leading Academic Community Health Centre" and promoting patient-centered research to advance clinical knowledge. Strong disclosed that an investment of \$10 million will be dedicated to initiatives aimed at transforming healthcare.

In addition to these commitments, an additional \$75 million will be allocated to procure new state-of-the-art equipment. This funding will support the expansion of diagnostic services and the enhancement of cancer and stroke care. Additionally, plans are underway to create a dedicated child and adolescent mental health center as part of this transformative vision.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Council meetings are either 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. every other Wednesday at Town Hall in Stouffville. Agendas at calendar.townofws.ca/ council. Listen live: townofws.ca/cmlivestream. Live tweets: @ws_townhall

TWO EVENTS FOR HALLOWEEN FUN



Two uniquely different Halloween events will occur on the same day this year, but consider it this way - your child will only have to get into costume once to attend both.

HALLOWEEN IN THE VILLAGE (OCT. 28)

Bring your little ghouls and goblins to our annual spooktacular event at the Community Safety Village at Bruce's Mill. There are two timeslots to choose from. There are two timeslots to choose from and you must register - Slot 1: 11am-1pm (entrance permitted between 10:45am and 12:30pm); and, Slot 2: 2-4pm (entrance permitted between 1:45pm and 3:30pm). Registration is \$10 per vehicle, not per person.

Register here: yrp.ca/halloween2023. Please bring your email confirmation as your ticket for entry. When registering, please select 1 for 1 vehicle, regardless of the number of occupants. If you don't receive your receipt, please check your junk folder first and if it isn't there, email rsvpevents@yrp.ca for a copy.

HALLOWEEN ON MAIN (OCT. 28)

Dress up the whole family and come on down to join the ghoulish gala. Main Street's downtown from O'Brien Avenue to Park Drive will be closed to traffic so you can enjoy the spooky sights and sounds, monstrous music, creative crafts, tricks, treats and so much more from 11am-3pm. Spiders and pirates and candy, oh my! Plenty to see and do including several large-scale attractions to get you in the Halloween spirit. Young and old are invited to dress up and show off your Halloween costumes. There will be plenty of photo spots to take the perfect picture. Pirate Life Toronto is sailing into town with a pirate ship and crew ready to offer face painting and craft balloon swords for all aspiring pirates. For more, see townofws.ca/Halloween.

55TH ANNIVERSARY HOOTENANNY



On Saturday, October 14, 3-8pm, Willowgrove will be celebrating 55 wonderful years with folk music, food, and friends at 11737 McCowan Road. Come early to Pick-Your-Own-Apples in Willowgrove's beautiful orchard (Until 4pm), and then gather in the Indoor Pavilion for live music, stories, BBQ, auctions, limited edition memorabilia, arts and crafts activities, and more!

All proceeds go towards supporting our Helping Hand Subsidy Program. This program provides subsidies for kids in need to be able to attend camp and other programs.

\$10 general admission, or \$150 to sponsor a table, kids under 13 are free. Reservable online. For more, willowgrove.ca/events/hootenanny.

JOIN THE STOUFFVILLE CORNHOLE LEAGUE



Come out and try Canada's newest favourite sport! You can now play Cornhole (Bean Bags) in Stouffville. A game for all regardless of age, gender or abilities. Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm practice and registration start time 7 o'clock. Located at the Stouffville Legion at 150 Mostar. \$15 per person guarantees five games. No experience necessary. Everything is provided just bring the fun and family. The Switch holio app generates your different partner each game. So you get to meet and mingle. Everything is provided. Everyone is very supportive and most of all a fun group, with music during the night. For more info reach out to Darrell stouffville@canadiancornholeleague.ca or by phone 647 504 3706.

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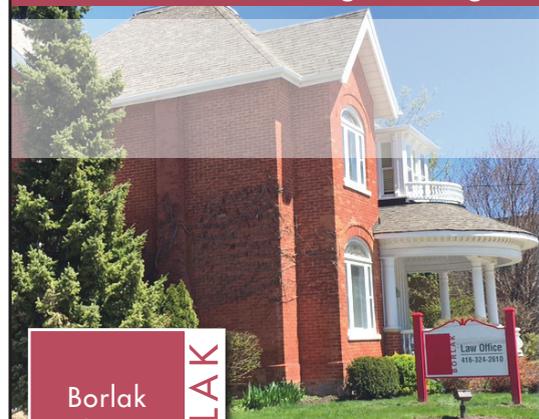
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STAGE FRIGHT

A Distant Memory for Award-Winning Kendall Lily

By Jim Mason

Kendall Lily has come a long way from her first solo performance. “My vocal teacher was really big on getting us to perform wherever we could,” she told OTR.

“She took us to a coffee house in Markham. I was about 11 at the time and got up to sing and had such crippling stage fright that I ran for the door and escaped without singing.”

“Once I got in the car, I was so disappointed with myself that I hadn’t even tried. And after that, I always tried, even when I was scared.”

Now 16, the Grade 11 student at Stouffville District Secondary School has had zero problems getting up on stages across Ontario this year. Highlights included being named “Stouffville’s Next Star” in the annual local youth talent competition in April and performing at Stouffville’s Wintersong festival in January.

A semi-finalist at the 2023 CNE Rising Star Competition, she also performed in Toronto at the Youth Day Global festival at Yonge-Dundas Square. There were other gigs in Collingwood, Owen Sound, Creemore, Newmarket, and Richmond Hill.

You may have seen her perform locally at Springvale Church, Ribfest, the Sacred Music Night or singing the national anthem at Stouffville Spirit hockey games. All money collected while busking at The

Stouffville Market was donated to the ALS Society of Canada in memory of Kendall’s grandfather, John Doner.

After taking piano and vocal lessons, Kendall used downtime during the pandemic to jump into online guitar classes. “Music has always been an outlet for me, and my guitar was a great escape from the isolation we all felt over the past few years,” she said. “Now with the return of live music and performances, I love being able to share the songs I write as well as the cover songs I love to entertain audiences with. Music is a way to connect us all, through song and experience and I love being a part of an artistic community that continues to challenge and support me.”

Her setlists include a mix of cover songs and original material. Kendall will record one of her songs with Michael Hanson, a founding member of the Juno Award-winning band Glass Tiger, this fall. She won the session during a competition in East Gwillimbury. Look for a single release on streaming platforms by the end of the year and an EP in 2024.

“Long term I would really like to pursue music as my career,” she said. “Obviously, music is a hard industry to get into but I love writing music, playing music, and especially performing live.”



Stouffville’s Next Star Kendall Lily

“I would love to hear my music on the radio some day, and be able to share it with the world. Hopefully, if people can relate to my songs, it lets them know they’re not alone – in a catchy way.”

Follow her on social media: [@kendall.lily](https://www.instagram.com/kendall.lily)

WE’RE GROWING

WHITCHURCH STOUFFVILLE FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

The Whitchurch Stouffville Food Bank (WSFB) is raising funds to renovate and expand. WSFB reports that demand is growing – as much as 70% more people over last year, and alarmingly, almost 40% of their clients are children in school. Renovations include – Adding a new, safe client space (no more parking lot interviews), adding warehouse space, upgrading plumbing and electrical, and improving food handling and storage efficiency.

WSFB is an independent food bank, proudly serving the Whitchurch Stouffville community since 1990, providing food, without judgment to those in need. Our funds are donated by businesses, community organizations, schools, places of worship, and the kind caring citizens of WS. WSFB is 100% run and managed by volunteers. They have an amazing and dedicated crew of 40+ volunteers.

WSFB asks you to give what you can to

help build a better Food Bank and support families in need. Their fundraising goal is \$50,000.

Making a donation is easy. Go to canadahelps.org and click the Dontae Now tab. Use this shortened URL to get there: <https://rb.gy/28sto>

or use the longer version here:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/were-growing-ws-food-bank-renovations/>

‘A SPECIAL YEAR’

U14 YANKEES CAPTURE ONTARIO TITLE IN FINAL SEASON TOGETHER

By Jim Mason



The Stouffville Yankees were congratulated on winning an Ontario baseball championship during a town council meeting on Sept. 13.

When it comes to MLB support, this is obviously Blue Jays country,

But it’s Stouffville Yankees territory when we’re talking youth baseball. Ten of those pinstriped squads from the local association qualified for the Ontario championships played over the Labour Day weekend.

One returned to Stouffville from those tournaments with the coveted championship banner.

That U14 AAA squad won all six games it played at their 12-team provincials in Etobicoke.

It’s the second Ontario title in Yankees history and the first in an age group where live pitching – not a batting machine – is used.

“It was a special year for the kids,” Head Coach Paul Koert told OTR. “I’ve been with the core six of them since they were eight. I really enjoyed coaching them and bringing them up through the game. It’s just the overall passion for the game.”

His team won 40 games and lost 19 this season, they captured their third straight York Simcoe championship, made the finals of five of the six tournaments they entered, and won three. One of those

championship game appearances was at the Cal Ripken Duel on the Diamond in Aberdeen, Maryland.

“The Duel on the Diamond was very cool, and we got our national anthem played in the opening ceremonies for the final game,” said manager Melanie Burnett. Mayor Lovatt invited the team to a town council meeting on Sept. 13 where they received formal recognition for their sparkling season from town council and posed for photographs with municipal officials.

“That was really special for the kids. It was exciting to get this done in our last year together,” Koert said. “It was just great.” The Yankees program doesn’t field teams older than U14, meaning the champs will disperse and play for other centres.

Meanwhile, Koert will coach one of his two younger sons on the U9 Yankees in 2024. Gabe, his eldest, was a member of this year’s title team. The name Paul Koert will be familiar to longtime Stouffville sports fans. Now 44 years old, he was a hard-throwing left-handed pitcher on some powerhouse Stouffville youth softball teams – before the Yankees were founded. He was so good that he played in multiple national

BORN IN A SMALL TOWN

The Stouffville Yankees organization wears the underdog role proudly, calling themselves “the little town that could.” In the Yankees’ geographical grouping, only Orangeville has a smaller population. The loop includes Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, and Barrie. The Yankees fielded 16 rep teams made up of 192 players this season. Their winning percentage was an impressive .566. Stouffville teams won six tournaments in 2023.

U14 YANKEES

TEAM MEMBERS

Chase Houghton	Julian O’Brien
Cole Burnett	Lucian Benedict
Danny Mallinos	Marcus O’teau
Evan Giannone	Tristan Sjahli-Lay
Gabe Koert	Will Teskey
Jack Johnson	William Fitzgerald

STAFF MEMBERS

Paul Koert, Head Coach	Matt O’teau, Trainer
Terry Fitzgerald, Asst. Coach	Melanie Burnett, Manager
Dave Houghton, Asst. Coach	

championships and represented Canada and the United States in international play.

He’s now a baseball guy. “It took a bit of time to transition but it was relatively easy,” he said. “The biggest differences are in pitching, and I would bring a pitching coach in to help us with that. The facets of the game and the strategy are really very similar. There’s some different structure but it’s similar in a multitude of ways.”

“And we’ve leaned on the right people over the years to make sure we’re doing the right things.”

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PASSING THE TORCH... ERR... PRESCRIPTION...? a tribute to rob croxall's career

By Susan Tucker

Rob Croxall has been the Pharmacist /Owner at Stouffville IDA (formerly Aikens IDA) since 1986, and in 2006 took over Houston's Pharmacy which was located at Main & Church St. The IDA store, in some form has been a staple on Main St. for over 100 years, has employed hundreds of staff over the years, has always supported Main St. events, donated to many fundraisers for all kinds of organizations, and most of all provided exceptional health care advice and service to its many customers.

The Croxalls have a strong tie to area with Rob and Karen's children being the 8th generation to call Uxbridge home. Rob's uncle Eldred King was Mayor of Stouffville in the 1980s and went on to serve as York Region Chair.

Kathy Croxall (Rob's sister) has been the General Manager of the store for approximately 20 years and don't forget their parents... Ted and Corinne - they threw their hearts and hands in when things needed doing. When you walk in, you can feel the atmosphere of the store as being a real family-run operation with customer service being the number one priority - the small-town shopping experience we can all hope for and expect from any store.

The focus has always been the relationship with the many valued customers and providing the best customer service experience possible. Rob's knowledge, warmth and kind demeanor have always been evident and much appreciated by customers. He made sure to take the time to get to know their needs, and explain any medications and terminologies to ensure they were participating in their own health care. He knew everyone by name and always

had a friendly greeting, chat and a few laughs if time allowed.

The point of this column? Rob has retired! The store has been sold and a new Pharmacist/Owner Shiela Sombolin is in the house! Rob will stay on for a few weeks until Shiela gets her feet wet, and then he's off to enjoy traveling, playing hockey, his volunteer work, and all the other things one gets to partake in now that he's living the easy life! Most of the store staff is still in place and will continue to provide you with the excellent care you have become accustomed to.

In conversation with Rob for this column, he wanted to express what a privilege it has been to serve the community for so long. He talks about the changes over the years, the advancement in medications and new ways to deliver them (specifically compliance packs) to allow people to stay in their homes longer as they age. Lots of positive changes, some... not so much, but they blend in and everything tends to work out somehow.

He has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know customers and appreciates the loyalty offered by so many, the relationships have become very meaningful, and he wants to send out his sincere thank you to all, for the privilege of serving the many customers and friends and seeing everyone through their health care journey.

Thank you Rob for the years of dedicated service, your kindness and genuine caring and concern for your customers. Congratulations on your retirement, you've earned it. Jimmy says so too!



By David Tuley

REVIEW BIGGY'S GRILL Flavours of Africa

Biggy's is owned by Salim Fidahoussen and Raza Dato. Both are of Tanzanian heritage, but Raza was mostly raised in Toronto, and Salim in Paris, France where he studied the culinary arts. Add Sadiq (Salim's brother-in-law and Raza's schoolmate) and there was a trio that led scout troops and would cook big barbecues for 500 to 1000 people at their church (Mosque) in Richmond Hill. Sadiq, also known as Biggy's, had always wanted to own a restaurant. Together, they started a catering business, but when COVID came along, the demand for catering disappeared.

Eventually, the trio found an available restaurant space in Stouffville. They named it Biggy's after Sidiq. You can see a caricature of Sadiq on the menu. Most unfortunately, Sadiq died unexpectedly before they opened the restaurant. Salim now manages the kitchen, while Raza looks after the front of house.

Biggy's is a small restaurant with a warm atmosphere in the corner of a plaza at 18 Ringwood Drive. It is open every day except Mondays. They can accommodate take-out and in-restaurant events, plus offer popular catering options.

On our visit to Biggy's, my dining partner and I decided to share different plates to taste as much as possible. We started with the Mogo Plate (Yuca Fries) and Beef Samosa,

then ordered Nyama Mixed Grill, which is 3/4 of a pound of grilled Beef Mishkaki Skewers, Chicken Mishkaki Skewers, and Short Ribs. These items were the most recommended on various internet sites. Here are more details.

The Mogo Plate are Yuca fries, also known as Cassava. Cassava grows in tropical areas of the world. You have probably seen it in the grocery store but didn't know what to do with it. Cassava and potatoes are starchy foods, and you can use them similarly. They can be boiled, baked, grilled, fried, made into chips, and just sprinkled with salt. Biggy's serves their Mugo dusted with a tasty red spice.

Beef Samosas at Biggy's are crisp and spiced, but not too spicy or too bland. These are served with a tamarind sauce and a super spicy sauce; I avoided the spicy sauce but used the tangy tamarind on everything.

As mentioned, we ordered Nyama Mixed Grill in order to try a variety of meats. Most online reviews recommend the Beef Mishkaki - cubed pieces of beef that are marinated, skewered, and then roasted on a grill. The result is succulent, moist, and delicious barbecued meat morsels. However, I thought the Chicken Mishkaki was even better - literally happiness on a stick.

I washed dinner down with Barbican, a non-alcoholic, carbonated malt beverage

produced and bottled in the United Arab Emirates. Barbican comes in a variety of flavours - I had the Pomegranate. It was refreshing. I intended to sample the Kahawa, which is a traditional African espresso, but I was fully satisfied by then.

There are many other unique treats on the menu, such as Tanzanian Poutine, Chicken Poussin (deep fried and covered in a flavourful spicy sauce), and Beef Short Ribs.

My dining partner mentioned that the beef and chicken burger options are important to her, as it is sometimes difficult to find burgers that are Halal. For meat to be Halal, the entire process of raising, slaughtering, and processing animals is held to a strict standard, and generally, the smaller batch production of meat is far fresher than store-bought products. An added bonus is that the Burgers served at Biggy's are fresh pressed in-house with a blend of spices.

Biggy's offers vegetarian options, such as Veg Pilau (Basmati Rice and vegetables cooked with spices), African Mango Kachumber Salad, Veg Spring Rolls, and Yuca Fries. For picky kids, don't worry, they will find chicken strips, hot dogs, and pasta.

I will be visiting Biggy's again. For more, see biggy grill.com.



BETWEEN THE BOOKS

FREE BUSINESS SEMINAR SERIES

OCTOBER 27

How to Make AI Your Unfair Business Advantage

10am-12pm, 2 Park Drive, All Invited

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About the Sean Stephens

As the CEO of Treefrog Inc. (www.treefrog.ca), a renowned

multi-faceted digital transformation agency, Sean gets to regularly work with companies all over the world. In addition to helping companies grow, get efficient and pursue radical innovations, Treefrog also runs a business Accelerator (www.treefrog.biz) which puts ~200 businesses a year through a pressure-cooker course to get them growing faster quickly.

About the Series

York Small Business Enterprise Centre (YSBEC), Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, and the Town of Stouffville have partnered to present a free business seminar series. The Fall series will include a date in October and November.

AWARDS



CELEBRATE STOUFFVILLE'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

On Thursday, September 21 the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Business Awards Reception.

This year the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce acknowledges two distinctly different individuals with Special Recognition Awards; **Eric Tappenden** (Chapel Ridge Funeral Home) & **Kevin Ker** (Epidemic Music Group). While both of these individuals are extremely different in personality and vocation, they both have a common passion and commitment to the Stouffville Community and giving back in their own unique ways. The Stouffville Chamber of Commerce is honoured to recognize both of these individuals for the many years of positive contributions that they have each made.

The volunteer judging panel had their work cut out for them with a record number of applicants. Every submission was reviewed and scored by each judge with follow-up interviews being conducted with each of the finalists. Award categories included Health/Wellness & Fitness, People & Professionals, Charity, Retail/Sales & Service, Food/Beverage & Entertainment and New Business.

The Stouffville Chamber of Commerce is delighted to recognize and present awards to this year's winners: **Faceology Spa** (Health/Wellness & Fitness), **Data Gives Back** (People & Professionals), **Card's TV & Appliances** (Retail/Sales & Service), **Epidemic Music Group** (Food/Beverage & Entertainment), and **For Little Monkeys** (Charity and New Business).

"Never before have we received so many nominations for the Business Awards," said Stouffville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Karen Wootton. "We are so fortunate to have so many fantastic businesses here in Stouffville. We congratulate this year's winners and thank each and every business in Stouffville for their contributions to our community."

NEWS FLASH



Ocean Ambassadors Canada launches **free** Zero Waste Coaching for food service businesses in York Region. This program supports business to prepare for the current and upcoming government regulations. Zero Waste Coaching provides businesses with a 30-45 minute, informal audit of their current practices, makes suggestions to help decrease their volumes of single-use items, increases recycling and food scraps diversion, and moves towards zero waste. Participating businesses will receive window decals and digital and paper resources acknowledging their efforts (and kudos in OTR). To sign up: rb.gy/vw3qz.



JOB SKILLS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

Providing Services to Job Seekers and Employers

Open the door to your next opportunity. Whether you are looking for a job, starting your own business, or an employer in need of new talent, this can be the start of a successful journey. Job Skills' mission is to elevate the economic and social contributions of individuals and organizations to enrich the vitality of our community.

For Job Seekers, they can help with the daunting task of searching, especially when faced with the challenges of competition, limited opportunities, and unclear job descriptions. Job Skills' customized employment solutions are available to every job seeker, including youth,

newcomers, persons with disabilities, women, and anybody else who may be searching for a job.

For Employers, their motto is: *Grow your business your way*. Job Skills has 35 years of business experience, and their staff is able to support hiring needs and help you stay informed and connected to up-to-date resources, tools, financial incentives, and relevant business information.

Job Skills' Stouffville Employment Office is located at 70 Innovator Ave, Unit 5, and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5pm. For more, phone 905-640-3909 or see www.jobskills.org.

NEW

SUNRISE CAFÉ & BISTRO

Sophia Allora Abbondi launched Sunrise Café & Bistro this summer. This quick bite café is focused on homemade fare. The café is lauded by patrons for its Chicken Curry Wrap, Chicken Caesar Salad, and Cream of Mushroom Soup (but don't miss the Italian Wedding Soup). Sophia serves up "Hot Specials" on Tuesdays and Thursdays featuring items such as Lasagna or Chicken & Bean Tostada. On most days, you will find light and healthy choices, like the Tomato Bocconcini Salad.

Sunrise Café is located on the ground floor of the Imperial Centre at 37 Sandiford Drive (our largest office building). It is a convenient stop if you are doing business in the Centre, but it is also a casual

destination for a lingering breakfast or lunch with a friend. Cookies, muffins, and croissants are made on-site.

Sophia attended Seneca Polytechnic in business and entrepreneurship. However, while growing up, she was exposed to her mother's catering business – Yum Yum Catering in Toronto. Sophia decided to combine interests with the opening of Sunrise Café.

All manner of catering is available at the café, from business meetings to holiday parties. With affiliation to the family-owned Yum Yum Catering, large wedding services with live cooking stations can be arranged as well. Visit Sunrise Café on weekdays 8am-3pm (2pm on Fridays).

RECENT BUSINESS OPENINGS



CUCINA NAPOLI ITALIAN GROCERY & PIZZERIA

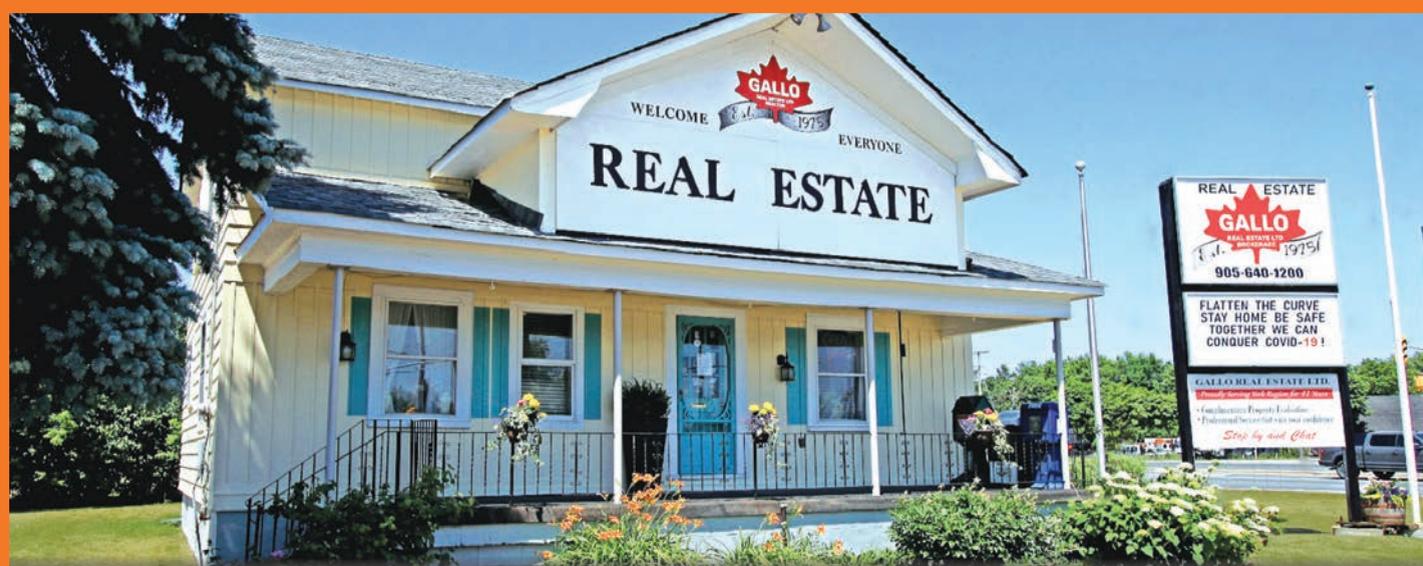
Pizza Napoli has moved Downtown and improved. The addition of a new wood fired pizza oven could be a game changer. As well, the promise of fresh bagels, Amaretti cookies, Bambolinis, and Cannolis made daily is alluring. The move to Downtown will clear up former parking problems. With all new food establishments - give them time to settle in before you take to become a culinary critic, what they need now is support. For more on see pizzanapolistouffville.com and visit them at 6248 Main St.

BBQ RESCUE: ONE CALL CLEANS IT ALL

This is a preview of a future story in OTR, which came from a tip by Diane Mauro: "This is a hugely successful business built from scratch by a local young man, Christian Trianni, who's hockey scholarship and university education were hindered by the pandemic. He started this BBQ cleaning service last year and this summer alone, has surpassed over 1,000 customers halfway thru the summer. It's a great success story for a couple of 19 year olds!"

From their website: "At BBQ Rescue Inc, our mission is to provide Professional BBQ cleaning services while also offering a unique opportunity for university students to earn a median wage that can help minimize their student debt." See bbqrescue.ca for more.





OUR ANNUAL PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY NEWS



This year, due to ongoing road construction at our busy corner location, we regret that we will be unable to give away pumpkins as we usually do.

We look forward to resuming this tradition next year. In the meantime, have a lovely Thanksgiving and Safe Happy Halloween.



MARIA GALLO
Broker of Record**

JOE GALLO*

KIM REESOR*

JENNY REESOR*

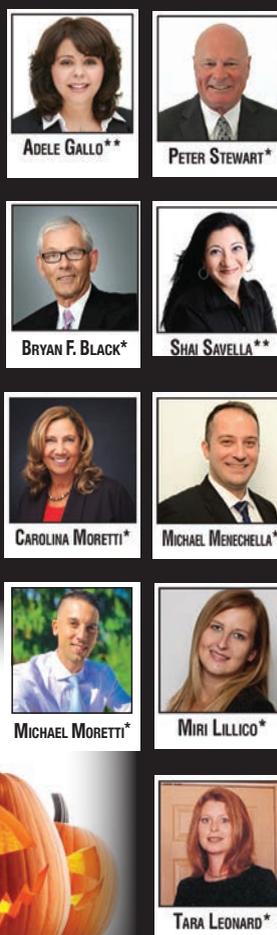
RHONDA BARRESI*

ELAINE KALMBACH*

NORMA CARD*

DAVID MENECHHELLA*

HUE ANH TO
ADMINISTRATOR



ADELE GALLO**

PETER STEWART*

BRYAN F. BLACK*

SHAI SAVELLA**

CAROLINA MORETTI*

MICHAEL MENECHHELLA*

MICHAEL MORETTI*

MIRI LILICO*

TARA LEONARD*



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ANNUAL WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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Saturday, Oct. 14 - Sunday, Oct. 15
10:00am - 5:00pm

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13 Venues, 16 Artists

For more see
wsstudiotour.com



Sandra Cole Burke. Painter, Printmaker
Sandra's inspiration comes from nature. She enjoys the spontaneity of watercolours and mixed media, and at present is returning to wood block printing.



JoAnne Caza. Mix Media
Joanne is an emerging abstract artist. Her intricate paintings and motivational collages are predicated on her love of vibrant colour, asymmetry, fluidity, harmony and a great deal of exhilaration. She has channeled her productive creativity into a sizeable body of work.



David Clubine. Painter
The architecture in Ontario provides a variety of century homes, farm buildings, railway stations, and churches to paint, reflecting the rich heritage of our communities. Over the past 30 years, David has enjoyed capturing the unique local landscapes and heritage buildings through watercolour paintings.



Monica Gennaro. Goldsmith
Monica discovered the true meaning of magic - transforming a piece of silver or gold into wearable art.



Margaret Grandison. Painter
A lot of colour and a touch of whimsy bring Margaret's watercolour and acrylic paintings to life. Travels across Canada and beyond are a constant source or inspiration.



Ed Keith. Potter
Ed has been a clay artist for 50 years, early on learned the specialty of RAKU firing and the thrilling results that come from this technique. As an instructor of adults at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre in Scarborough, he continued presenting and exploring further methods of decoration.



Lauren Lucas. Glass Art, Stained Glass
Lauren creates commissioned stained glass works and other art glass pieces, as well as offering beginner classes at her home studio. When not in the studio, she loves to spend time in her workshop, crafting unique wood decor items, and signs.

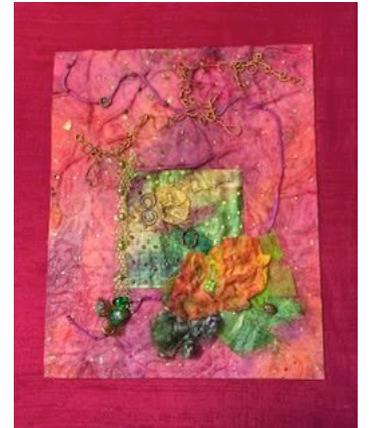
Jane McLellan. Glass Art
Jane channels her creative energies into painting glass. Self taught, Jane finds developing and creating new designs rewarding especially turning ordinary glassware into whimsical home decor.



Ray McNeice. Painter
Ray's clean style in acrylics and watercolours is the product of 45 years in graphic design. Concern for shape, form, spatial relationships and eye movement drive his work.



Anne-Lis Morris. Jewellery, Sculpture
Anne-Lis' love of creating began as a potter and sculptor. Currently, she is creating original finely crafted jewellery, working in porcelain clay, dichroic glass and wire wrapped polished stones.



Kirsty Naray. Sculpture
Kirsty is currently working in five mediums including glass, fibre, metal, watercolour & alcohol ink painting, often combining these mediums to produce unique and interesting pieces.



Sarah Porter. Jewellery, Glass Art
Sarah started her artistic journey in jewellery, and this remains a small but vital part of her portfolio to this day. As a means of adding a dramatic pop of colour to sterling silver designs, Sarah began working with kiln-formed glass in 2010. "Glass is a reflection of me... and I am a reflection of my art."



Deborah Watts. Sculpture, Mix Media
With a passion for multimedia art that steams from her roots in Winnipeg and Thunderbay, Deborah now creates and shows unique, environmentally friendly sculptures that she shows in tours and small art shows. Her work graces many gardens across Ontario and she also offers workshops in order to share her skills with others.



Colin Whitebread. Painter
Colin loves to experiment with mixed media and abstraction. Colour is his signature element.



Sue Whitebread. Sculpture
Sue works with boxes and cardboard to create whimsical 3D sculptures. Paper mache and wood are also incorporated into her colourful works of art!



Karen Wootton. Sculpture, Glass Art
Karen's passion for glass has spanned more than four decades and started with stained glass which later evolved into melting, fusing and forming glass into beautiful, functional pieces of art.



Latcham Art Centre
This will be the last weekend to see the Vanessa Dion Fletcher exhibition. The *Relative Gradient* exhibit includes recent works that expand the possibilities of contemporary quillwork.





UNVEILING STOUFFVILLE'S HERITAGE

The Commemorative Plaque Program

In celebration of local heritage, the Town of Stouffville is officially launching the Commemorative Plaque Program! Property owners may now apply for a plaque online to recognize their home or building for its historic value. This could include the property's age, prominent past residents and builders, or specific architectural features. To obtain a Commemorative Plaque, research is conducted in cooperation between the owner and Town Staff.

The first plaque has now been installed on a historic home known as The Shaffer House, located in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville. This house is now owned by Town of Stouffville Ward 1 Councillor Hugo Kroon.

A number of interesting facts were discovered pertaining to the Shaffer House. Prior to the building of the house, the land was purchased by Joseph Shaffer in 1837. More than 40 years went by before Joseph Shaffer's son Daniel and wife Barbara built the existing home in 1884 where the family would live for generations. In addition to other past residents, it was learned through research that former Whitchurch Reeve, Samuel P. Foote, and his family once lived in the home.

"Preserving our local heritage is a collective responsibility, and the Commemorative Plaque Program empowers property owners to do just that. It's a chance to honor the past while embracing the future," says Councillor Kroon.

There are many historic homes in Whitchurch-Stouffville that have rich histories yet to be shared and discovered. By participating in the Commemorative Plaque Program, you preserve and promote the Town's history while also celebrating a much-loved property. This program is not limited to homes, any historic property is eligible, including commercial buildings.

The Commemorative Plaque Program allows owners to celebrate their building with an official oval-shaped plaque (16 inches by 11 inches) made of exterior grade high-pressure laminate fused with anti-UV plaques and graffiti-resistant materials. This plaque will incorporate the name of the original builder or property owner, construction date, and Town Crest.

The Town of Stouffville, its Council and Staff, the Heritage Advisory Committee, including members from the Town's Planning Department, and Museum, work together to commemorate, celebrate, protect, and preserve the unique history of our Town.

For more information or to apply for the Commemorative Plaque Program, please visit townofws.ca/heritage or email wsmuseum@townofws.ca.



Stouffville Celebrates

The Town of Stouffville's Events Team is busy planning a season of festive events as part of this year's Stouffville Celebrates Holiday Series. The Holiday series, features 5 key events that will take us to the end of the year.

Halloween on Main kicks off the series on October 28. Dress up in your favourite costume and head over to Main Street from 11am-3pm to enjoy entertainment, trick-or-treating and shopping from the local vendor market. This event takes place on Main St. in between O'Brien Avenue and Park Drive. Find out more at townofws.ca/Halloween.

As we head towards the Holidays, save the dates and celebrate with us at the following events.

First up is **Light Up the Village** on Thursday, November 23 from 5-9 pm. This Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will usher in the Holiday spirit with music, vendors, and themed activations in front of the Clock Tower. See the tree and the Village of Stouffville spring to life enjoy Main Street decked out for the holidays.

Next up is the award-winning **Stouffville Holiday Market** which takes place in Memorial Park on November 24-25. Enjoy live music, artisanal and hand-made goods, holiday characters, light displays, horse-drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa, a carousel and more! The Events team is thrilled to partner with Latcham Art Centre's **Beyond Craft** for this event so don't forget to visit 19 on the Park during the Holiday Market to see even more amazing vendors and artists. Beyond Craft runs from November 23-26. For more information on the Holiday Market, head to: townofws.ca/holidaymarket.

After the Holiday Market, the festivities continue with the highly anticipated **Santa Claus Parade**. On the evening of December 2nd, a cavalcade of lights, music, floats, entertainment, and characters, will make their way down Historic Main Street. Join us starting at 6:00 pm at Ninth Line and heading east to Park Drive. To learn more about the parade: townofws.ca/parade.

Lastly, the Town will be sending the year off with a bang with **New Year's Eve Fireworks**. On December 31 from 6-7pm, Memorial Park will be host to entertainment, food and, of course, a spectacular fireworks finale!

The Stouffville Celebrates line-up of events share the common goal of showcasing our beautiful town and providing an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to celebrate our community. Please join us this Holiday season to celebrate the joys of the season together as a community.





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Interested in seeing if premium senior living is right for you? Join us for a trial stay and treat yourself to a fall staycation. Take a break and enjoy a relaxing all-inclusive stay at Stouffville Creek Retirement Residence where you'll enjoy access to all the on-site amenities, activities, and services that our residence has to offer.

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*Subject to availability

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AN EMERGING HOME IMPROVEMENT CLUSTER



By David Tuley



200 mostar street

The business park condominium building at 200 Mostar Street was built between 2018-2020. It faces onto both Mostar and Hoover Park Drive. Wolf Advanced Technology, a company that produces video modules for aerospace and defense industries, was the first occupant, taking space on the 2nd floor of 200 Mostar. The ground floor has quickly been occupied by a cluster of home improvement businesses, from interior design to backsplash tile, and specialized lighting to flooring.



jenco canada

Unit 102 • (905) 642-6112 • jencocanada.ca

Michael Rizzo is a licensed electrician. Challenged by carpal tunnel syndrome, Michael left the field almost two years ago and opened an electrical supply store. Jenco carries all kinds of lighting, including recessed, puck lights, pot lights, step lights, security lighting, commercial lighting, and landscape lighting. They have hard-to-find bulbs in stock. Jenco also carries all related hardware and accessories, such as connectors, dimmers, electrical boxes and Klein Tools.

value proposition

The greatest value that Jenco offers is the ability to have a 1 on 1 with a licensed electrician - you won't need to hunt for help or receive vague answers from big-box rookies. Jenco also makes contractor pricing available to the public - the savings is measurable. HOT TIP: Jenco features weekly and monthly specials.



stouffville tile

Unit 101 • (905) 640-0444

Laura Rizzo bought the business when the previous owner retired. She reopened it in June 2023. A Stouffville resident since 2003, Laura has always loved home decor and renovations. She also enjoys helping customers in the decision-making process. With her husband's business next door (Jenco), "this made a lot of sense," she said. They have lunch together on occasion. Stouffville tile carries all manner of tile, including backsplash, flooring, kitchen and bath. They also have quartz countertops and accessories, from grout to leveling spacers.

value proposition

Stouffville Tile carries trending products, such as a 5x5 backsplash with a handmade look, large and small hexagons, subways, and large 12x24s. An in-house contractor is available for installations. HOT TIP: in the rear of the store there is an ample discount area.



casa code home decor

Unit 115 • (647) 500-4731 • casacode.ca

At Casa Code style meets comfort and your living spaces transform into dreams realized. Mythily Praz, brings a wealth of experience from her successful staging business to curate a collection of exquisite home decor and furniture that embodies elegance, functionality, and warmth. Casa Code carries pillows, throw blankets, vases, pots, furniture, artwork, and other items for every room inside the house - and garden rooms outside the house.

value proposition

Need to quickly find a unique housewarming gift? Casa Code has many unique and affordable gift options. HOT TIP: You can visit in person (recommended) or shop fully online with free delivery over \$95. A 10% off code is available on their website.

 **royal interior design ltd.**

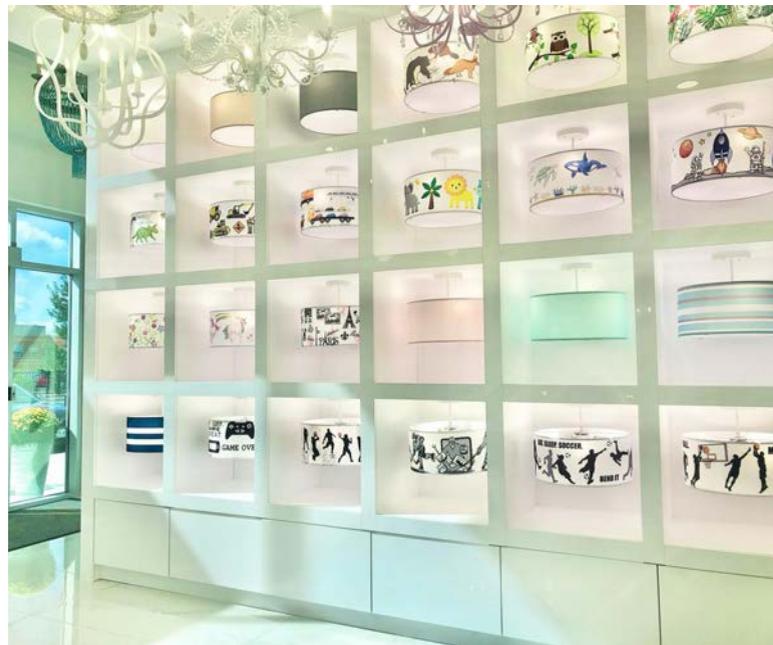
Unit 116-117 • (416) 573-5378 • royalinteriordesign.ca

Catherine-Lucie Horber is the proud founder of Royal Interior Design Ltd. She is dedicated to creating distinctive and personal lifestyle-based interiors that are designed to enhance how you live with an understated yet elegant and affordable luxury. The company specializes in custom interior ideas for both residential and commercial clients as well as offers a staging division for builders and realtors looking to sell their homes. Royal Interior Design can help with key decision-making, from beautiful kitchens, custom cabinetry, millwork, bathrooms, furniture, drapery, blinds, lighting selections, artwork, upholstery, design schemes, to colour consultations, tiling, hardwood, and area rugs.



value proposition

Make an appointment to gain access to Royal Interior's unique two-unit showroom.



 **firefly lighting**

Unit 105 • (905) 883-9900 • fireflykidslighting.com

Shortly after Simona Voinic's children were born she noticed the lack of kid's light fixture options, and was inspired to create a lighting company. Simona takes pride in designing products and working closely with manufacturers to ensure that lighting fixtures are made the way she envisioned them. In 2018, she expanded the product line to include lighting for the rest of the home. Shop in-store or online.

value proposition

Firefly offers free shipping in most cases to Canada and the United States. A 10% off code is available on their website. HOT TIP: Clearance Items can be viewed on Firefly's website (up to 75% off), but picked up in person (not shipped).

 **end of the roll flooring centre**

Unit 110 • (905) 640-7655 • endoftheroll.com

At End of the Roll you will find natural and engineered hardwood, laminate, and luxury vinyl plank in stock along with large rolls of vinyl and carpet. They also stock cork flooring, tile, and area rugs. The difference at End Of The Roll is that you can take your flooring home today and with such a large selection you can always find something that suits your needs, and your budget.



value proposition

The End of the Roll website makes the selection process very easy, as you can search by installation, finish (tile), species (wood flooring), and size (area rugs). HOT TIP: On their website you can access the "Visualizer", an online tool that allows you to upload a photo of your room or space and experiment with various flooring choices.



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 **THE STOUFFVILLE MARKET**

Thank you to everyone that participated in, came to, drove by, sponsored, performed at, and thought about the market this season.

We've had a great year, and look forward to seeing you again in May 2024!

Until then, please visit www.thestouffvillemarket.ca

9AM - 2PM 6240 MAIN ST.



MAY 13 - OCTOBER 14, 2023

Susan's TIP-OFF

with SUSAN TUCKER

CONTACT Susan Tucker, otrtipoff@outlook.com



GOODWASH SOAPS

Goodwash Soaps is hitting the shelves in and around wherever you are! Susana Farrell is the mastermind behind the development of this new Canadian-made brand and is hoping that others share her passion for eco-friendly products.

Susana worked in the corporate world for years specializing in creating positive customer experiences, researching and understanding the purchasing habits of customers. As with so many, she was downsized and realized this was the time to follow her dream. With her degree in Environmental Studies and her MBA in Business, she set about to combine the two forces... create a product that people needed and use often, and do it in an environmentally friendly way. She worked with a York Region manufacturer to create the proprietary scents, of which 3 are now available: Strawberry Fields, Beach Breeze, and Meadow Walk. They developed a biodegradable formula for the soap using plant-based ingredients, free from parabens, sulfates, and phthalates.

She chose to provide the soap itself in recyclable aluminum containers because of just how recyclable they are. Did you know that aluminum can be recycled indefinitely? An aluminum can become another can without losing anything in the process, whereas most food-grade plastics are 'downcycled', meaning their quality degrades each time the plastic is recycled.

Recycled aluminum has been taking over in other areas as well, including the beverage industry and electronics. Three-quarters of aluminum that has ever been produced is still in use today, it is one of the most widely recycled materials in the world and is one of the easiest to recycle. That pop or beer can you've got in your fridge has most likely lived a previous life as someone else's can! Add to that all the other items we have that are made from aluminum, and you've got a lot of past lives in your home. That's what Susana's goal is, to create and use products that are not harmful to the planet.

The soaps come in 2 sizes of aluminum containers, a 50 ml size which is good for creating 1 bottle of foaming hand soap, and a refill that measures 250 ml so you won't run out anytime soon. You simply add the required amount of soap to the glass bottle, fill it with water, and mix very gently. This creates a nice foaming soap (it is not meant for a traditional pump dispenser). She chose glass bottles with stainless steel pumps as her preferred foaming soap dispenser, due to the recyclability and it provides the perfect amount of soap each time. Why not plastic like so many other products? Well, because glass is much easier and better than plastic to recycle. All in all, you get a nice neat package with cans of soap concentrate and a beautiful glass dispensing bottle (with an anti-slip bottom), and you can mix and match as you please.

A fun added bonus, the labels on the glass bottles are removeable and reusable. No more traditional paper labels that get icky after getting wet a few times.

Susana is currently seeking opportunities to sell and market her soaps, they are now in a few small stores and she has been attending markets in the area (shameless plug for The Stouffville Market where she has had a booth twice) bringing samples and allowing you to try the product for yourself. In keeping with her giving and supportive philosophy, she has committed to donating 5% of all sales to environmental charities, or as she says on her website:

We are doing good for the soul by giving back to the community and supporting

local conservation efforts in Canada. We're proud to donate 5% of sales from all our soap products to Canadian charities that work towards promoting social and environmental good. We're excited to share more about the positive impact we're making together!

You can view the products on the website at www.goodwashsoap.ca, make your choices, and order them right online and they will be shipped to your door. It doesn't get much easier than that! If you have any questions, you can contact Susana right from the website. If you prefer to view the items in person, ask her which stores near you are carrying them. Enjoy your new fresh soaps!

[below]
Soaps made locally in recyclable aluminum containers



PASTA BY THE GRILL

tales from
the **Q**
with DAVE MILLS

Cooking outdoors can be a great adventure that takes you away from the confines of a kitchen and immerses you in the beauty of nature. Whether you're camping, picnicking, or simply enjoying a sunny day in your backyard, preparing a delicious meal outside can elevate the experience. In this article, we'll explore the joy of cooking pasta alfresco and adding a tantalizing twist with BBQ chicken, fresh garden peppers, cherry tomatoes, garlic and onions with a creamy twist on an Alfredo sauce. Get ready to savour the flavours of the great outdoors! Now prepare yourself... I use a lot of butter in this recipe. Who doesn't love butter?

The Setting

Before you dive into the cooking process, consider your outdoor setting. Whether you're using a portable camping stove, a grill, or even an open fire, make sure you have all the necessary equipment, utensils, and ingredients at hand. A well-organized setup will make your outdoor cooking experience much smoother. I am using my BBQ and a propane camp stove to boil the water for the pasta.

Here's what you'll need

- 3 Chicken breasts (boneless and skinless)
- Pasta (penne, fusilli, or any shape you prefer)
- 3-4 Mini sweet yellow and red peppers
- 1 small onion
- 3 - 4 cooked slices of bacon
- Lots of butter
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh basil

Let's get started!

Step 1: Prepare the Chicken. For this, I went really simple, filet each chicken breast a couple times. Rub the chicken in fresh black pepper, sea salt and a little onion powder. Let the chicken soak in the flavours for at least 30 minutes

Step 2: Preheat your BBQ to med-high and start to boil your water. Prepare the peppers and onions by cutting them into bite-sized pieces. In a cast iron pan on the BBQ add 4 tbsp spoons of butter, garlic and onions and sauté for a few minutes. Add the peppers and stir well, I always add a few basil leaves at this point. Now let them cook.

Step 3: Drop your Pasta in the boiled water

and cook until al Dante. At the same time cook your bacon, I cooked mine on a cast iron skillet on the grill.

Step 4: Start the Sauce, Cook the Chicken and stir the Peppers. Because the chicken is cut into thin filets, they will cook quickly. I suggested you start the chicken while preparing the sauce. Once your BBQ is preheated, make sure you oil your grill so the chicken does not stick. Also, remember to stir your peppers and onions.

Ok, More butter here; add 5 tbsp of butter and 1 1/2 cups of milk in a medium saucepan. Heat on your side burner until butter is melted and mixed well... but do not boil. Get the chicken on the grill while the butter is melting.

Once the sauce is heated, add 1 cup fresh parmesan and 1/2 cup mozzarella and stir continually until melted and mixed to a smooth consistency. Only use fresh Parmesan; the other stuff doesn't work, and you can add more mozzarella if you wish.

Now it's time to flip your chicken, stir the peppers again, and add the tomatoes. You want to time the cooking of the tomatoes so that they only cook for about 10 minutes...

Now, if your sauce is a little watery, don't worry. Just mix a tbsp of flour and a little milk into a paste and add it to your heated sauce a little at a time until just right.

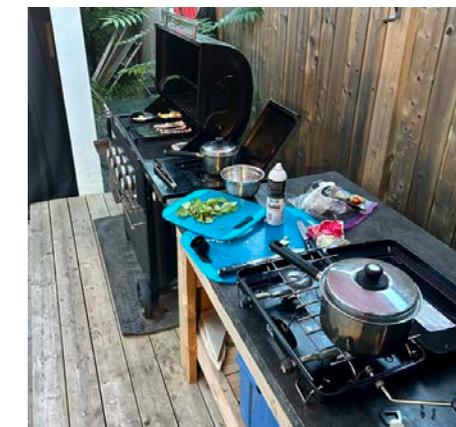
Now your chicken should be done, the sauce just right, and the peppers and onions cooked to perfection.

Step 5: Put it all together. Drain your pasta and save a little pasta water, Add the pasta back to the pot and pour the creamy sauce over the pasta. Add the bacon and mix together. If it is too thick, add a little pasta water. Serve the pasta in bowls and top with the BBQ chicken. On top of that, add a heaping amount of the peppers, tomatoes, onions and garlic. Add some fresh basil, a little black pepper, and salt to taste, and prepare to enjoy this mouthwatering meal.

Now, of course, you can make this meal inside but there is nothing like cooking outside and enjoying an amazing outdoor dining experience... So, the next time you find yourself amidst nature, don't forget to try this mouthwatering recipe and savour the taste of the great outdoors!



CONTACT Dave Mills, david@stouffville.com



From WHERE I LIVE

with BRUCE STAPLEY



ADVOCATING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT • Harry French Stands Behind Sustainable Stouffville

Environmental awareness has always been a way of life for Harry French, serving as an impetus for his studies, his career path and his lifestyle.

This year as President of the Strawberry Festival, he introduced the Sustainable Stouffville Zone to the Canada Day Weekend event. “It’s time for our community to take proactive action on addressing the climate crisis,” he stated in his President’s Message. “Sustainable Stouffville will introduce you to actions you can take to make a difference, and will connect community champions to work together for a more sustainable Stouffville.”

Harry’s dedication to the Festival, along with his leadership in creating the Whitchurch-Stouffville Community (renewable) Energy Co-operative several years ago, were two of the initiatives that led to him receiving a Platinum Jubilee Community Award for volunteer work and community involvement this year.

A Stouffville resident since 2006, Harry has made an impression on the national and provincial scenes through the decades for his work on behalf of this country’s green spaces. Upon earning an undergrad degree in Forestry at the University of Toronto in the 1960s, he went to work helping plan and develop national and provincial parks for National Parks Canada, which earned him a two-year scholarship towards a degree in

Environmental Planning at the University of Guelph.

He worked for Marshall Macklin Monaghan planning community-based tourism in Canada’s Arctic for several years before serving as Ontario’s assistant Deputy Minister of Tourism for four years in the 1990s. That was followed by a 10-year stint with the Conference Board of Canada where he headed up the Canadian Tourism Research Institute. While with the Conference Board, he also played a role in setting up a business called Facilitating Dialogue, getting groups to solve difficult problems by collaborating together.

Along the way, Harry also found time to earn a degree in Organizational Development which enabled him to add people skills to his environmental background. “When I turned 65 I tried to bring the two aspects of my life together, the people part and the environmental part,” said Harry, now 75 years of age. “Working in groups and being involved in the community was always something that was important to me. Back when we lived in Markham I was very involved in the early days of the Markham Village Festival.”

Harry spent five years with the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association facilitating the development of renewable energy co-operatives in communities before taking up his present job working four days a week with the Windfall Ecology Centre in Aurora in 2017. He currently heads up that not-for-profit organization’s Climate Wise Business Network, part of the Green Economy Canada national network. “I work with businesses and institutions in York Region helping them reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their operations. They also do energy audits on homes to help people access the Greener Homes programs offered by the Federal Government.”

It was through his current employment that Harry came to see that Stouffville was somewhat lacking in a cohesive, from-the-ground up approach to caring for the environment. “I work quite closely with other municipalities in York Region and while I’m sure some individuals are doing things in

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Stouffville, there’s really no collective action in the community that is either sponsored by the municipal government, or more importantly, driven by the community.”

So, Harry and fellow Strawberry Festival Board member Catherine McCowan decided to introduce the Sustainable Stouffville concept at this year’s festival, with assistance from the Legacy Fund for the Environment. “It was an opportunity to bring people together who had a like-minded interest in sustainability, and to ask community residents for their thoughts.”

With climate change and the ever-increasing threats to the environment including forest fires and the smoke they produce, Harry said it’s important for people to keep their focus on what they can do in their particular area. “We know that things aren’t going well, but what’s happening is going to happen,” he said. “So, we need to build some resilience in our community, and I believe that starts with people knowing each other and working together. That’s why I do the community work I do with Strawberry Festival. Our focus on the Festival follows that same vision, but at this particular time, it’s focused on the environmental side of things. So whether it’s plastic, greenhouse gasses, or invasive species we need to have the structure so we can see each other on the street and build that kind of incentive.”



Harry French, seen here in front of his backyard garden, has spent his career and much of his personal life working to enhance and preserve the environment.

JR. A HOCKEY TEAM PROUD OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT Stouffville Spirit off to strong start to 2023-24 season

The Stouffville Spirit got off to a solid start in their Ontario Junior Hockey League season. Just as important to Spirit management is the team’s work in the Stouffville community.

The Jr. A Spirit won its first two games and lost the third in overtime, good for five of a possible six points. With a solid core of veterans returning and an excellent off-season of recruiting, players, coaches, managers, and scouts are hoping for a big season. So far, so good.

Away from the rink, the team is involved in several community projects. An annual commitment to the Stouffville Terry Fox Run saw Spirit players put up more than 100 posters in local businesses ahead of the run before manning the water stations at the event on Sept. 17.

“This town has been so supportive of our

franchise,” said Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows, a lifetime Stouffville resident. “It’s important that our players get involved in the community. And there are so many good causes out there.”

The Spirit is partnering on initiatives with other organizations this season, including the Lions Club of Stouffville, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, Royal Canadian Legion, Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, Kids First Fund, Trillium Gift of Life Network and OSPCA.

Look for Spirit players distributing poppies, collecting winter clothes, reading to children and assisting with skating lessons this fall and winter. Local non-profit groups can apply to use the Spirit Community Table in the Stouffville Arena lobby during home games.



[left] Stouffville Spirit players celebrate a goal during their opening night win over the Aurora Tigers Sept. 8. [Photo by Tim Bates of OJHL Images]

[below] Spirit players Tayjon Street, Alex Whitney and Dominic Battaglia greet competitors in the Stouffville Terry Fox Run Sept. 17.



SportsTown

with JIM MASON



CONTACT Jim Mason, jimmason905@gmail.com

On the ice, captain Odaro Ewere leads the team. Other third-year players include alternate captains Nathan Twohey and Peter Kioussis. The Spirit received an early-season boost after the season began when two key players from last year’s team returned. Riley Pope was at training camp with the Sudbury Wolves, the Spirit’s affiliate team in the Ontario Hockey League. Pope and Twohey were picked up by Sudbury during last spring’s OHL playoffs.

Stouffville’s own Ryan Harvey was at camp with a junior team in Odessa, Texas. The 18-year-old was one of six players named to the 24-team OJHL’s First Prospect Team for 2022-23. Nolan Jackson, the youngest player on the roster, took part in Hockey Canada’s U17 meetings, a rarity for Jr. A players. The slick defenseman has signed with Sudbury for next season and is expected to play some games with the Wolves this year.

FIVE HOME GAMES ON OCTOBER SCHEDULE

- The Spirit plays in the East Conference of the OJHL. Area rivals in the 12-team grouping include the Markham Royals, Aurora Tigers and Pickering Panthers.
- Home games this month are scheduled for Oct. 9, 14, 19, 26 and 28.
- Jr. A players are aged 16 to 20.
- Founded in 1995, the Spirit won the OJHL championship in 2012.
- Eight Spirit alumni have played in the NHL: Stouffville residents Trevor Carrick and Will Acton, Darren Archibald, Drake Caggiola, Mike Duco, Isaak Phillips, Michael Carcone and Chris Tanev.

For more on the team see stouffvillespirit.ojhl.ca. Follow the team on Instagram and X (@spiritjra) and on Facebook. To find out how you can support the Spirit and its community initiatives, email: stouffvillespiritoffice@gmail.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

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TOWN HALL

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COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Agendas for Council and Public Meetings will be available for review on our website at 12 p.m. (noon) the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Wed. Oct. 4 - 7 p.m.
Wed. Oct. 18 - 9 a.m.
Wed. Nov. 1 - 7 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings

(if required):
Wed. Oct. 25 - 7 p.m.
Wed. Nov. 22 - 7 p.m.

Residents may watch the meeting live online at [townofws.ca/cmlivestream](https://www.townofws.ca/cmlivestream).

Anyone wishing to submit comments, may write to the Town Clerk at clerks@townofws.ca. Anyone wishing to provide comments may attend the meeting in-person at the Municipal Offices, please contact the Town Clerk at clerks@townofws.ca for more information.

Follow all council meetings on Whitchurch-Stouffville's official council Twitter account [@ws_townhall](#).

Join our Council E-Newsletter at: eeurl.com/ckPng9 and receive meeting agendas and summary reports straight in your inbox.

MORE INFO:
[townofws.ca/council](https://www.townofws.ca/council)

PARKING REMINDERS

There is a year-round on-street parking limit of three hours, with an exception: the three-hour parking restrictions between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. do not apply to Main Street in Downtown Stouffville.

In Stouffville, you have the option to apply for various parking permits, which cover both parking lots and on-street parking spaces.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET INFORMATION SESSION

YorkNet, a York Region corporation is hosting an information session to provide an update on access to high-speed internet in Whitchurch-Stouffville. YorkNet staff will provide an overview of project plans and the Internet Service Provider (ISP) of the project, Galaxy Fibre will share information about internet services coming to underserved areas.

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Ballantrae Community Centre
5592 Aurora Rd, Whitchurch-Stouffville**

If you would like more information about the upcoming Information Session, please contact yorknet@york.ca.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE PROGRAM

Celebrate Stouffville's architectural heritage with a commemorative plaque! Homeowners and businesses can apply for an oval-shaped plaque that showcases the original builder's name, construction date, and the Town Crest. These attractive and durable plaques are available for both residential and commercial properties, with the application process involving completion of the Historic Property Plaque Application Form and assessment by the Heritage Advisory Committee.

[townofws.ca/heritage](https://www.townofws.ca/heritage)



FINAL DRAFT NEW OFFICIAL PLAN FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION

The Town will be presenting its Final Draft of the New Official Plan to Council on **November 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** for consideration for adoption. The Final Draft New Official Plan contains policies that promote the building of healthy, complete and sustainable communities which further the growth and economic development of the community, help protect farmland, and protect environmentally sensitive areas of the Town.

The Council Agenda including the Staff Report outlining the key issues and responses to the Public and Agency Comments will be available here, the Thursday prior to the Council meeting: calendar.townofws.ca/council

Please visit [cometogetherws.ca/opr](https://www.cometogetherws.ca/opr) to sign up for our interested parties list, to receive notification of the upcoming Council meeting, and the release of the Final Draft New Official Plan.

Help Shape the Future of Your Town
[cometogetherws.ca/opr](https://www.cometogetherws.ca/opr)

GET SMART ABOUT WATER USAGE

Water Watch Portal in collaboration with Vertex One and Neptune Technology Group Canada Co. This online tool allows residents to monitor water usage, receive leak alerts, view historical data, and access account information. It's part of the town's Water Meter Replacement Program and aims to enhance water consumption awareness and efficiency.

For details or registration, visit [townofws.ca/waterwatch](https://www.townofws.ca/waterwatch) or contact Customer Service at 905-640-1900 during business hours.

HALLOWEEN ON MAIN

October 28, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Main Street Stouffville (From O'Brien Ave. to Park Dr.)

Join us in The Village as Main Street comes alive with an array of festivities that promise Halloween fun for the whole family. Come dressed up in costume and enjoy trick-or-treating, face painting, glitter tattoos, interactive Drum Shows, a variety of vendors, enchanting characters, and more!

[townofws.ca/halloween](https://www.townofws.ca/halloween)

19 ON THE PARK THEATRE

Concert Series: David Myles
Thursday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.
19 on the Park

Award-winning and critically acclaimed Canadian singer-songwriter David Myles might be an undercover musicologist. Within his eclectic artistic continuum, he's reverentially explored jazz, blues, pop, holiday music, French pop, rockabilly, country, folk, gospel, and even hip-hop. His work has always featured strong song craft and musicianship—no matter what genre, David has never sacrificed substance for style. David has released three records in the last three years - Leave Tonight, Juno award winning That Tall Distance, and 2022's It's Only A Little Loneliness. 2023 will see David roll out more new music from his upcoming album.

For tickets, please visit [Ticketpro.ca](https://www.ticketpro.ca) or call 1-888-655-9090.

Halloween Kids' Movie
Saturday, October 28, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
19 on the Park

Join us for a spooky afternoon with a Halloween film and delicious treats, right in Stouffville's local theatre. Also join in on the fun from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with the Monster Mash Bash taking place at the theatre during Halloween in the Village!

Yuk Yuk's on Tour

Friday, November 10, 8:00 p.m.
19 on the Park

Three hilarious Yuk Yuk's comics performing right here in Stouffville! Performers will be announced closer to the date of the event. For tickets, please visit [Ticketpro.ca](https://www.ticketpro.ca) or call 1-888-655-9090.

MUSEUM

PA Day: Magic Academy

Friday, October 20, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Calling all witches and wizards for this spellbinding program! Campers will spend their time conducting science experiments, playing games and doing crafts to learn about the wonderful world of magic. Pre-registration required at [townofws.ca/active](https://www.townofws.ca/active) using barcode 28923. Ages 6-12, \$70 per child.

Creepy Crafts

Saturday, October 21, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Get into the Halloween spirit with this registered program! Participants will enjoy all things creepy with staff-led crafts and science experiments, including pumpkin painting and mask making. Pre-registration required at [townofws.ca/active](https://www.townofws.ca/active) using barcode 28925. Ages 3-10, \$10 per child, required adult chaperones free.

An Evening With Arlene Chan:

A Wok in Time

Saturday, November 4, 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Spend an evening with Arlene Chan, award-winning author and Chinatown historian, as she shares stories about the development of Toronto's Chinese community, including local stories. Enjoy a catered meal as Arlene discusses the tasty evolution of Chinese food. Also featured, popup exhibit, Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community. \$60 plus HST per ticket. Ages 16+, please call 905-727-8954 or email wsmuseum@townofws.ca for tickets.

MORE INFO:
[townofws.ca/museum](https://www.townofws.ca/museum)

Dianne Brown-Green:

Kinship to Turtle Island

Now-December 9 (during open hours)

Stouffville-based artist Dianne Brown-Green presents a selection of works which include a birchbark basket, hand painted canoe paddle and acrylic paintings. Together, they highlight the relationship between the many creatures of Turtle Island and the water in which we depend on. Drawn from the artist's Cree heritage and experiences with culture and nature this exhibition focuses on the beauty of Turtle Island, and reminds us the importance of caring for her.

**The Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday,
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

We continue to accept bookings for education programs (virtual or in-person), group tours, and all types of rentals (including corporate rentals and weddings).

For more information on these services, contact (905) 727-8954 or wsmuseum@townofws.ca

SAVE THE DATES

Light up the Village

Thursday, November 23
Civic Square, Main Street

Stouffville Holiday Market

Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25
Memorial Park

Stouffville Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, December 2
Along Main Street from Ninth Line to Park Dr.

[@TWSEvents](#)
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MORE INFO:
[townofws.ca/events](https://www.townofws.ca/events)



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