

OTR

MAY 2024 • NO. 80

THE WINDOW'S FINAL GLOW

Pat Montgomery reflects on 22 years of business in her community – pg. 10

DOORS OPEN 2024

Your guide to this year's 20 locations – pg. 15

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Photograph on cover & pg 3, 10, 11, 20 by Dennis Hristovski.

LAST MONTH IN STOUFFVILLE:

ABBA Revisited at 19 on the Park



Do you have a photo taken in Stouffville within the last month that you would like to see here? Submit it to OTR@townofws.ca!

FROM THE EDITOR

This 80th edition of "On The Road" signifies a transition for our great magazine. It's my first issue stepping up from contributor to Editor. To say this is an exciting time, is an understatement!

OTR remains a cherished publication for showcasing the richness of Stouffville to all, and that won't change. In this issue, you'll encounter fresh voices—Cassandra, Julia, Michaela, Brandi, Tom—alongside familiar ones, including the town's renowned journalists Bruce Stapley and Jim Mason. Together, we're committed to keeping OTR as informative, insightful, and engaging as ever!

In this edition, connect with stories about Pat Montgomery's retirement (on page 10), explore the Doors Open 2024 pullout (on page 15), and discover new local businesses.

I hope you enjoy...

Glenn Jackson, Editor in Chief
Corporate Communications Manager
Town of Stouffville
glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

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Various Parking Fines Set To Increase

Town water quality almost perfect; Council meeting procedures updated

by Glenn Jackson

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

Parking Fines

At the April 24 meeting, Council was asked to implement the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (or AMPS) as an alternative parking enforcement structure. It includes an efficient dispute process and replaces the traditional Provincial Offences Act system.

The meeting was held after the publication deadline of this edition of OTR; however, in preparation for that report, staff reviewed the Town's parking fines and requested Council to make amendments for the anticipated AMPS implementation in May.

In their review, staff found that "some fines may not be sufficient to function as deterrents to parking offenders, especially for those offences which can impact traffic and/or life-safety (sic)." As a result, at the April 3 meeting, Council increased various fines, including 'no stopping' offences, 'fire routes', and 'fire hydrant' offences.

Six stopping offences saw their fines increase from \$40 to \$60. These include stopping within a school bus loading zone, within an intersection, within 9 metres of a pedestrian crossover, on a sidewalk, in a No Stopping area, and in a prohibited area.

The fine for parking in a fire route increased from \$125 to \$250, and parking within 3 metres of a fire hydrant rose from \$75 to \$100.

A complete list of municipal parking fines can be found at townofws.ca/parkingfines

Water Quality Reports

At the March 20 meeting, Council received the 2023 Drinking Water Summary and Annual Reports for both the Stouffville and the Ballantrae/Musselman's Lake distribution systems.

The Ballantrae/Musselman's Lake system received an Inspection Rating



ABOVE: Stouffville Council recently approved increases to various parking fines, including those for 'no stopping', 'fire routes' and 'fire hydrant' offences.

of 100% and a Risk Rating of 0%. The Stouffville system received an Inspection Rating of 94.12% and a Risk Rating of 5.88%. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) conducted its annual inspection from December 22, 2023, to January 29, 2024.

Both reports can be read at townofws.ca/live/water-and-utilities/water-quality

Council Meeting Procedures

At the April 3 meeting, Council approved a series of updates to the Town's Procedural By-law, which governs the "calling, place and proceedings of (Council) Meetings."

Included in the changes were updates to the 'Definitions' section with key additions focusing on Strong Mayor Powers. Regular Council Meeting dates were identified (typically the first and third Wednesdays of each month), and rules for the notification of Special Council Meetings were clarified.

Public Planning Meetings were identified as to be held "at 7 p.m. generally following regular scheduled Council meetings... solely for the purpose of providing the public an opportunity to provide input to Council regarding decisions to be made by Council at a future meeting."

Notifications of meeting agendas to Council Members and to the public were relatively unchanged. Agendas are made available to the public the Thursday before a Wednesday meeting via the Town's

website. A summarized version of the agenda, known as the *Council Fact Sheet*, is also posted to the Town's website and on various social media accounts proceeding the meeting. An updated version (if needed) is available at the meeting. *Fact Sheets* are not produced for Public Planning Meetings.

Clarification to amending agendas was also approved by Council. In the interest of transparency, late or separate circulations and revised or amended agendas should be avoided wherever possible. However, where necessary, "revised/addendum agendas will be circulated to Members by electronic mail and posted on the Town's website as soon as possible and not later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Meeting."

Other updates to the By-law focus on presentations, deputations, members' Motions, speaking times, closed meetings, and meeting decorum.

Information about the Town's accountability and transparency, including the Procedural By-law, can be found at townofws.ca/proceduralbylaw

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Council meetings are generally 1 p.m. every other Wednesday at Town Hall in Stouffville. Agendas at calendar.townofws.ca/council
Listen live: townofws.ca/cm livestream
Live tweets: [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall)

RISING BEYOND THE DOUGH: COBS BREAD OPENS IN STOUFFVILLE

by Michaela Ray

Leaving behind a corporate career to pursue a passion for baking might seem like a leap of faith, but for Chloe, it was a journey she was destined for. With twelve years in the mining industry under her belt, Chloe took a bold step into the world of franchising, guided by her love for baking and a desire to share it with others.

Opening COBS Bread Stouffville marked a new chapter—one filled with anticipation and nervous excitement. Yet, as Chloe embarked on this adventure, she found herself surrounded by a team of dedicated individuals, ready to conquer any challenge that came their way.

The warm embrace of the Stouffville community exceeded Chloe's wildest dreams. From day one, locals poured in, eager to sample the freshly baked delights and extend a heartfelt welcome

to the newest addition to their town. It was a moment of validation for Chloe—a reminder that taking that leap of faith was worth every ounce of uncertainty.

But Chloe's journey isn't just about baking bread—it's about giving back. Through COBS Bread End of Day Giving program, Chloe and her team ensure that no loaf goes to waste. Instead, they nourish the community by donating surplus baked goods to local charities at the end of each day, embodying the spirit of generosity that defines their bakery.

As for Stouffville customer favourites, anything sourdough and blueberry custard Danish fly off the shelves, but Chloe's personal indulgence is the Cape seed bread, especially toasted with peanut butter and sliced bananas.

Visit COBS at 1076 Hoover Park Drive.



ABOVE: Franchise owner Chloe Marche-Allen stands proudly at the new Stouffville location of COBS Bread on Hoover Park Drive. Photo by Katrina Robert.

MUDDY YORK BREWING CO. CRAFTS NEW ROOTS ON INNOVATOR AVE.

by Cassandra Papas



ABOVE: Muddy York offers a wide selection of deliciously crafted brews, available now at their new storefront or through their online webstore. Photo by Dennis Hristovski.

Muddy York Brewing Co., a beloved fixture in the Toronto craft beer scene since 2013, is branching out with an exciting new venture in Stouffville. It's not where you think, this soon-to-be local watering hole is now at 50 Innovator Ave. Muddy York is poised to bring its unique blend of traditional brews and innovative flavors to a new audience this summer.

Currently thirsty patrons can already purchase their favourite beers on-site, with the promise of a cozy seating area to be unveiled in the coming weeks. This expansion marks a significant milestone for the brewery, known for its diverse beer lineup that caters to a wide range of palates. From classic ales and bold IPAs to tart sours, and sophisticated barrel-aged specialties, Muddy York insists that quality and craftsmanship can be found locally.

Not sure where to start? Look out for Muddy York's flagship, the *Gaslight Helles Lager*, celebrated across the province for its impeccable taste. Additionally, the *Haberdasher Hefeweizen* continues to garner acclaim, available on draft at discerning beer bars throughout Ontario.

As Muddy York Brewing Co. prepares to open its doors in Stouffville, it remains committed to serving up exceptional beers that resonate with adventurers, connoisseurs, and anyone who appreciates good local beer made really well.

Visit muddyorkbrewing.com to browse their sudsy selections or place an online order.

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STOUFFVILLE CELEBRATES SPRING: EXCITING EVENTS ON THE HORIZON!



MAY 17, 2024
Victoria Day
Fireworks

Join us in Memorial Park on Friday, May 17th to kick off the long weekend with an enchanting firework show! Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets to settle in for an evening of free live musical entertainment on stage at the bandshell featuring the Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band: Fleetwood Max! The festivities will begin at 8 p.m. with the evening ending in a breathtaking fireworks display. Be sure to arrive early to secure your preferred viewing spot. The fireworks show will commence at 9:30 p.m.



JUNE 8, 2024
Art in the Park

Artist applications for Art in the Park, 2024 are now being accepted! We are seeking submissions from artists of all backgrounds and mediums to showcase their creativity in a picturesque park setting at the 10th annual show and sale.

Art in the Park takes place on Sunday, June 8th from 11 am to 5 pm in Memorial Park, and is a celebration of arts and culture in York Region. Artists offer a variety of mediums, from fine art paintings to jewelry, pottery, textile art, photography and more.

If you are interested in participating as an artist, please submit your application by Friday, May 10th for consideration. Applications can be found at townofws.ca/artinthepark



JUNE 16, 2024
Main Street 5K

The Main Street 5K is back, and early-bird registration is open now until May 5th! Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking for a fun way to stay active while supporting an amazing local cause, this event is perfect for runners and walkers of all levels.

Taking place on Sunday, June 16th, the Main Street 5K will take participants on a scenic route through our historic Downtown. This event also features a 1K Kids Dash providing the perfect opportunity for the entire family to come out and participate together. Register now to benefit from the early-bird rate and support the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation.

Visit townofws.ca/5k to register.

For more information about our summer events, visit townofws.ca/events or email events@townofws.ca

May and June – Summer Reading Club at the Library

TD Summer Reading Club is Canada's biggest, bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, all interests, and all abilities. This free program is co-created and delivered by more than 2,000 public libraries across Canada. It celebrates Canadian authors, illustrators, and stories. It's designed to inspire kids to explore the fun of reading their way – the key to building a lifelong love of reading.

WHY IT'S SPECIAL:

Kids (and their caregivers) can participate anytime, anywhere – at local public libraries across Canada as well as at home, online, on the road, or wherever their summer takes them.

Participants explore recommended reads; track their own reading; connect and share with others across the country; read books online; join in activities; collect

reading incentives; write jokes, stories, and book reviews, and more. There are great resources for kids with print disabilities as well as for pre-readers and their families.

Get ready to *Go to the Stars* as the 2024 theme is all about space! More information can be found on the Library's website. This program runs from Saturday, June 15 – Saturday, August 24, 2024.

The TD Summer Reading Club will have in person reporting, and one-on-one reading sessions with Teen volunteers. Beanstack software will once again be used to track your child's reading progress and award prizes throughout the summer. For more information, and to register for Beanstack, visit wsplibrary.ca

REPORTING HOURS:

Mondays 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM (excluding Mon, Aug 5, 2024)

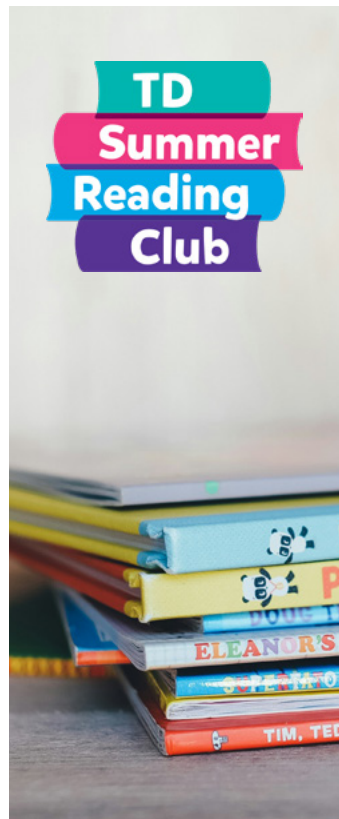
Tuesdays 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM

Wednesdays 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Thursdays 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Saturdays 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Children's Area



University of Waterloo Co-op Students

Looking for Talent? Look no further than the University of Waterloo. The University of Waterloo has thousands of students available for co-op all year round (located throughout Stouffville and York Region).

Students are available to work full-time from January to April, May to August, or September to December. These students come from 120 undergraduate programs. No cost to working with them, the only cost is the hourly pay rate to the student. U of W also has funding options available that may be able to support.

For more information, contact John Mitri, Business Developer, GTA East at john.mitri@uwaterloo.ca. John is a Stouffville resident and is very approachable.

Mar Thoma Church Opens Food Bank

The Canadian Mar Thoma Church Toronto on Sandiford Drive recently unveiled its latest initiative, 5 LOAVES & 2 COATS. Operating as a food bank, the initiative seeks to aid individuals facing challenges by providing necessities such as food and warmth while fostering community and support.

5 LOAVES & 2 COATS is more than just a support service; it is a collaborative community effort. The church is dedicated to working with other organizations in Stouffville, ensuring a coordinated approach to community support. The food bank operates on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, avoiding conflicts with other initiatives, demonstrating respect for the work of other organizations in Stouffville.

The church welcomes community members to participate in this initiative through various means, including donations, volunteering, and spreading awareness. Together, the aim is to positively impact and create a community where everyone can access essential care and support.

Residents can register at marthoma.ca

Annual Chamber Dinner

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce invites you to the "Annual Chamber Dinner Featuring Mayor Iain Lovatt", presented by telMAX on Thursday, May 9th, from 6–9 p.m. at Station Creek Golf Club (12657 Woodbine Ave).

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt will be sharing insights on the current state and future priorities of our town.

For more information, contact Catarina at catarina@stouffvillechamber.ca or via phone at 905-642-4227 ext.2.

51st Annual 'Sacred Music Night'

The 51st annual 'Sacred Music Night' is set to take place on Friday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. in St. James Presbyterian Church.

Participants in this year's event include the '4 Heaven's Sake' male quartet, soloists Kendall Jones, Sydnee Guglietti, Keli Jay, and Susan Ryman, accordionist Frank Frano, guitarist Markas van Berkum, and pianist Craig Gardham.

The free-will offering collected during the event will be split between the Children's Wish foundation and the 'Student Music Scholarship Foundation.'

Attendees can enjoy refreshments served after the concert.

Lemonville Group of Artists Annual Art Show

Join the Lemonville Group of Artists for their 31st Annual Art Show and Sale running Friday, May 3, 2024 from 7 to 9 p.m. and continuing Saturday and Sunday May 4 and 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A wide variety of original works of art by the group members are for sale. Everyone is welcome. Browsing is very welcome!

No admission charge, wheelchair accessible, light refreshments provided. The show is located at the Lemonville Community Centre, 13453 McCowan Rd.

Contact Information:

(905) 985-8209 or LGainfo@gmail.com
LemonvilleGroupofArtists.com

Community Prayer Breakfast

This year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Prayer Breakfast promises an unforgettable lineup of inspiration and music you will want to experience. This year's speaker, Dan Rossi, whose diverse journey includes military service, law enforcement, missionary work, and dedicated outreach to Indigenous communities in northern Alberta, will share stories of faith and service that are sure to leave a lasting impact on your heart.

While enjoying a beautiful, hot breakfast, join us on a musical journey led by the talented Susan Ryman and Susan Stevens. Their heartwarming sing-along of cherished hymns will fill the room with joy and lift your spirits, creating a truly uplifting experience!

Save the date: Thursday, May 16th, at 7 a.m. at the picturesque Oakview Terrace on Leslie, just north of Stouffville Side Road. Surrounded by the tranquil beauty of the valley setting, it's the perfect way to kickstart your day with a sense of peace and community.

Tickets are \$25 each and are in high demand, so secure your spot now. Contact Pat at 905-642-4940 or visit Candlelight and Memories on Main Street to ensure you're part of this inspiring event.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
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905-642-3632

For more information
wsprayerbreakfast.com

SUSAN RYMAN
Attending Vocalist

DANIEL ROSSI
Keynote Speaker

Daniel completed the 2012 Walk of Freedom, walking across Canada. Recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for crime victim support, he's an author, missionary and community activist.



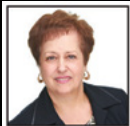




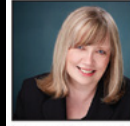



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THE WINDOW'S FINAL GLOW AT CANDLELIGHT & MEMORIES

Celebrating Pat Montgomery's Retirement by Julia Jackson



Pat's warm smile and welcoming shop have been a guiding light in the community since 2001. After twenty-two years of tea pouring, parties, shopping, and so much more, Stouffville is celebrating Pat's retirement as *Candlelight and Memories Fine Gifts & Tea Room* prepares to close its doors.

Candlelight...

The charming house with the porch and dormers nestled just east of the train tracks had sat dormant for some time on Main Street back in 2001. One night, a single candle was lit in a window. The following week, another candle flickered to life in a second window. This continued for eight weeks until every window cast a warm glow and caught the attention of all who passed by.

There is a long tradition of candles being lit in windows to signify welcome, and travelers on the long and weary road would know they had found a place of sanctuary on their journey. This represents so much of Pat's vision for her new shop and though the lighting of candles caused a buzz in town with her unique idea to countdown the weeks to

opening her doors, it truly represented all that this shop would come to be.

After doing the buying for a small school gift shop, Pat dreamed of having her own business. When 6198 Main Street became available, she initially bought it with a hug and a handshake and on November 9, she turned the closed sign to open. She worried that nobody would come, but the shop was quickly filled with customers, joy, and laughter.

...and Memories

Candlelight and Memories has been the place to go for collectables, stuffed animals, local goods, and more. Working alongside the other downtown merchants, Pat ensured she sold items others didn't so the widest variety was offered to residents and visitors.

The store offers so much more than shopping — it offers experiences that last a lifetime. Ask someone who has been in Stouffville for a while about *Candlelight and Memories*, it is likely they will not only remember shopping there, but have fond memories there as well.

Pat has hosted hundreds of children's birthday parties in the shop. This included dressing up in dresses and feather boas before a grand tea party. Today, visitors to the shop remember having their best birthday parties, thanks to Pat.

The shop was the place to go for high teas, with a wonderful tea selection and delectable scones, people would gather as Pat poured and made all feel welcome. She may not like tea herself, but the shop became known for it.

One of Pat's favourite memories is of

a 4-year-old boy who said to his mom while leaving that he really loved this store because he could feel Jesus in there. While recounting the story, it still brings tears to Pat's eyes because this is such a big part of why this place is so important to her, making people feel that they "could come here when hurting, or lonely," and she could put her arm around them and know they were supported.

She fondly remembers one evening when a young man dressed in all black arrived at her door. He had just moved to Stouffville and wasn't fitting in at his new high school. Pat of course took time to chat with him and got to know him, and knew he just needed someone to talk to. Now, he comes by to visit as a young dad.

When you walk through the front door, a large wooden staircase leads up to a cute loft that overlooks the store below. This loft has become a little haven for many, a place where people can come to find peace and quiet. A pastor has come here often to prepare sermons, and a high school teacher uses the space to write lessons.

Candlelight and Memories even went Hollywood when a Hallmark movie used the storefront as a filming location for the movie *The Russel Girl*, starring Amber Tamblyn.

It has also been home to meetings for the BIA, Prayer Breakfast, and Markham Fair Committee. In fact, the inaugural meeting of investors of the Stouffville Free Press took place at a tea table! With her creative spirit Pat has held many craft workshops, bridal showers, and even sold tickets for the Christmas tour and other local events.

'Mama Pat'

Since coming to Stouffville in 1976, Pat has become a guiding light in the community. She began her career as a teacher, then focused on having a family. In her spare time she met with neighbours to do crafts and flower arranging, which she carried over to her business with her workshops and providing flower arrangements for sale.

One day at her church, the congregation was challenged to get more involved within the community, to help others and meet new people. Pat rose to the challenge and began driving seniors to appointments



ABOVE: Pat welcomes everyone in the community to drop by and share their own memories in her keepsake book.

with CHATS. Eventually, she was asked to help care for them at home and took one of the very first Personal Support Worker courses ever offered. She would support so many throughout the day, but as soon as her kids were home she was sure to be there for them.

A rewarding moment at *Candlelight and Memories* for her was when some of the seniors she supported would visit from Bloomington Cove. It was special to have tea time for those she cared so deeply for, and was in awe that despite dementia and alzheimer's, as soon as she played hymns while serving tea, they would all sing along.

It is no surprise that she has received the Whitchurch-Stouffville Small Business of the Year and the Entrepreneur of the Year Award throughout her career as a business owner. And if you are thinking of taking the leap of owning your own business like she did, her advice is to remember it is not a 9 to 5, Monday to Friday job. Even after long days her lights would stay on as she watered flowers or cleaned the ice cream machine. And it is all worth it "because people are counting on you and you're a part of the community."

As with any business, Pat faced challenges. One of the biggest was Covid-19 and the way it impacted every facet of her shop. She had to close, and even moved to e-commerce as much as possible. Even now, it impacted high tea numbers, and the way that people shop.

Yet, through it all, Pat has always been

of service, caring for others with a genuine heart and open arms. And now, she has come fondly known as Mama Pat.

Saying Goodbye

With the news that Pat will be retiring and *Candlelight and Memories* will close, it has brought many tears. Happy tears for all the great times this place has brought, and sad tears because they will miss Pat and all this shop means to them.

"The people have been the best part of the business," Pat says, "the community has been so supportive, and I love all the people here." She will also miss the building itself. Since the day she peered in the windows imagining all it could become if it was hers, Pat loved how cozy and comforting the place is.

Pat will be spending more time with her family in retirement, as well as enjoying time by the pool reading. While she is soaking up the sunshine and hopefully going on a cruise, she wants her valued customers to always know that "I appreciate your support over the years, and will try to keep in touch as much as I can."

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for the candles in the windows being blown out one at a time each week in countdown to the closing of *Candlelight and Memories* on June 28. Be sure to visit before then, to take advantage of her closing sales, and to share your own memories in a keepsake book that Pat can cherish forever.

TOWN WELCOMES TWO NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

by Brandi Pickering

March 18th was an exciting day for Stouffville students as two new schools opened in the York Catholic District School Board. St. Katharine Drexel Catholic High School and Blessed Chiara Badano Catholic Elementary School both opened their doors to students on Meridian Drive, off Ninth Line, across from Timber Creek Golf.

To ensure everyone's safety, York Regional Police were on hand, assisting with traffic flow and alerting commuters about the increased activity in the area. New crossing guards were stationed at the roundabout on Ninth Line and Baker Hill Boulevard, helping students navigate the busy regional road safely.

In response to the school opening, York Region has implemented a reduced speed limit of 40 km/h during school hours along the Ninth Line near the school premises.



ABOVE: Mayor Lovatt was pleased to attend the welcoming festivities and serve cake to the students to celebrate their first day at St. Katharine Drexel Catholic High School and Blessed Chiara Badano Catholic Elementary School on Ninth Line.

DAWOODI BOHRA COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE START OF NEW MASJID COMPLEX

by Tom Horsley



ABOVE: Richmond Hill Mayor David West (left), Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt (center) and His Highness Shahzada Husain Burhanuddin celebrate the beginning of the new Masjid Complex on Sandiford Drive.

On Wednesday, March 27, the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community of Toronto celebrated a significant milestone at 150 Sandiford Drive, the site of the future 40,000 square foot Masjid complex. His Highness Shahzada Husain Burhanuddin, the esteemed son of the Dawoodi Bohra Faith leader was joined by Mayor Iain Lovatt and other community leaders for a momentous foundation laying ceremony.

"It was an honour to attend the

foundation laying ceremony and to meet His Highness Shahzada Husain Burhanuddin. The Masjid will be a welcome addition to our community and we look forward to welcoming the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community to Whitchurch-Stouffville," says Mayor Lovatt.

Once completed, the new complex will be a centre for community engagement, faith and service. It will support the growing needs of the Dawoodi Bohra community.

A TRANQUIL RETREAT ON MAIN STREET

by Michaela Ray

Step into a world of relaxation and rejuvenation at the grand opening celebration of Corner Spa & Wellness on May 11 from 10 am to 2 pm. Nestled at 6361 Main Street, guests are invited to explore the newly unveiled, enchanting space and reconnect with familiar faces, including owner Janice Patera. Enjoy enticing discounts on a variety of treatments and peruse the gift shop where nearly everything will be on sale. Exciting raffles and surprises will be sprinkled throughout the event. Don't miss out on this chance to indulge in a day of pampering and wellness!



Enroll by May 31st

JULY 08-12	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
JULY 15-19	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
AUGUST 12-16	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
AUGUST 19-23	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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*Does not include abutment & crown

Get involved with MSH



There are plenty of ways for you to support our hospital and be part of our community. Take a look at the listings below for upcoming events that make a difference.



Buy a Smile Cookie
at a participating Tim Hortons
April 29 - May 5



Shoppers Drug Mart Run for Women Markham
May 26



Stouffville Main Street 5K
June 16



MSH Foundation's Golf Tournament
August 12

For more information about these events and Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation, please visit mshf.on.ca or follow [@supportMSH](https://www.facebook.com/supportMSH) on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!

Building a legacy for lifetimes to come

Legacy giving is a family affair for the Morrises. Inspired by matriarch Nancy's career as a nurse, the Morrises recognize legacy giving as a powerful way to extend their support, while also building their own unique story.

Each Morris family member has made the personal decision to leave Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) as a beneficiary in their wills.

"It's about finding your own capacity to give, which doesn't have to be a lot," says Nancy. "You give what you can."

Leaving a gift in your will to MSH is a powerful act of generosity. You are investing in health care close to home, today, and for generations to come.



Latcham Society

mshf.on.ca/legacy
905-472-7373 ext. 6619



2024 Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville

Saturday, June 1 • 10:00am - 4:00pm

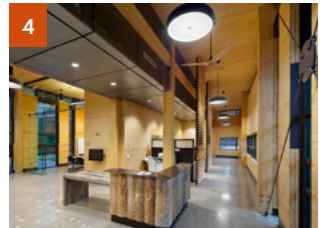
Doors Open is a provincial initiative designed to highlight cultural, architectural, and environmental heritage throughout communities and cities across Ontario. This year's province-wide theme is *Adaptive Reuse* and we're excited to be featuring 20 sites, and a bonus self-guided walking tour, in celebration of Whitchurch-Stouffville's 20th Doors Open event!

Event Locations

♿ : Washrooms Available ♿ : Accessible

1 Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre ♿ ♿
14732 Woodbine Avenue

The Museum has preserved the Town's heritage since 1971. Visit exhibits including The York Regional Forest: A Growing Legacy and Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community. Visit the historic buildings, craft station, and play lawn games!



2 Ontario SPCA York Region Animal Centre ♿ ♿
16586 Woodbine Avenue

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society provides care, comfort, and compassion to animals in need. Tour the Animal Centre, interact with animals, play games, and learn to be Animal Smart.

3 Sweet Acres Pig Sanctuary ♿ ♿
2798 Vivian Road

The sanctuary rescues potbelly pigs giving them protection and a peaceful, safe, and healthy life, often after being removed from terrible circumstances. Tour the sanctuary – animal interactions available.

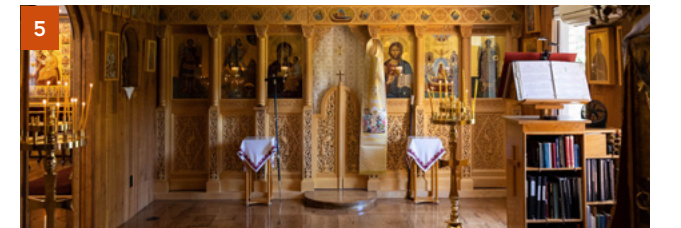


4 Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre ♿ ♿
16389 Highway 48

Celebrate 100 years of the York Regional Forest at this innovative LEED platinum-certified building. Visit the 100th anniversary display and enjoy a guided tour of the facility.

5 Holy Theotokos Convent/Joyous Light Candles ♿ ♿
4369 Faulkner Avenue

Holy Theotokos is a Greek Orthodox convent that manufactures pure beeswax candles. Tour the chapel and the candle factory to see how this property has changed and adapted over time.



6 Richmond Hill Live Steamers ♿ ♿
15922 McCowan Road

Experience miniature railway demonstrations at this outdoor model railway run by hobbyists and engineers. Rides are limited to one ride per person. Entry closes at 2pm.

Event Locations - Continued

7 Lemonville Community Centre

13453 McCowan Road

Constructed in 1923, Lemonville School closed in 1969. Today the building serves as a rental and community space. Explore a pop-up exhibit and chat with volunteers about the building's history.

8 Lemonville United Church

13523 McCowan Road

In 1856, the original church was constructed on the present site. Visit Lemonville United for refreshments, explore the historic graveyard, and speak to members of the congregation about its significance.



9 Bruce's Mill Conservation Area – Nature Centre

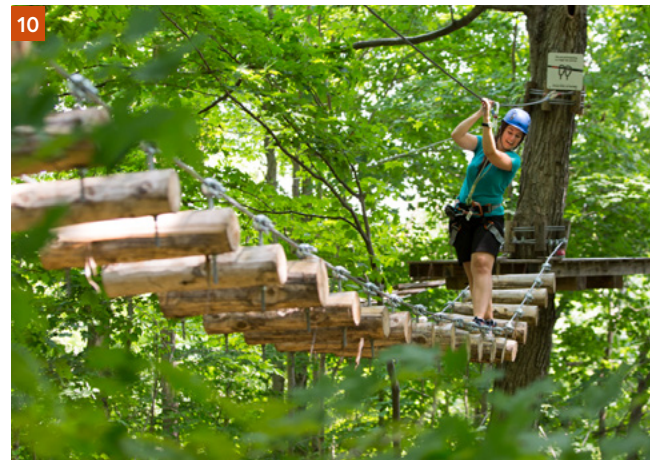
3291 Stouffville Road

Experience nature's gifts at Bruce's Mill Conservation Park. Walk along the forest trails, admire the tree canopy, and visit the Driving Range. Learn about the park and conservation!

10 Treetop Trekking Stouffville

3291 Stouffville Road

Situated in an old sugar shack, Treetop Trekking is located among the forest. Enjoy a guided tour of the Zipline, Aerial Game Trek, Discovery Kid's course, Treewalk Village, and UPLA!



11 York Regional Police Community Safety Village

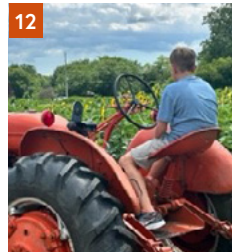
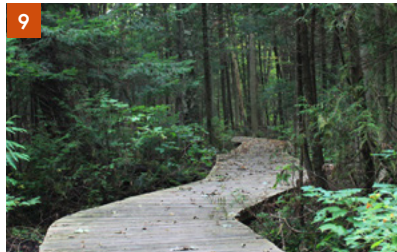
3291 Stouffville Road

The Community Safety Village is an interactive, educational facility where children learn about fire, traffic, and personal safety. Visit the new Human Rights classroom and explore the village.

12 Applewood Farm

12416 McCowan Road

Applewood Farm has been a part of Stouffville's agricultural community for 50 years. Explore the play area, walk the farm, enjoy a wagon ride, and learn about the upcoming crops and pick your own season.



13 Willowgrove Day Camp & Outdoor Education Centre

11737 McCowan Road

Established in 1968, Willowgrove was founded on the historic Groff farm. Try your hand at bouldering in the repurposed barn, enjoy a wagon ride, and partake in hands-on historical experiences.

14 Darul Khair Center

86 Ringwood Drive, Unit 36

The Darul Khair Center was established in 2009 to create a place to pray and unite with the community. Learn about Islamic history and Canadian Muslims, and enjoy snacks.

15 Canadian Mar Thoma Church

159 Sandiford Drive

St. Thomas Christians can trace their origins to the arrival of St. Thomas in Malankara, India. Take a guided tour, browse exhibits, and stop by the food sale.

16 Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex

120 Weldon Road

Take a guided, behind-the-scenes tour of this award-winning facility and learn how indoor ice is made. Don't forget to have your photo taken with the Zamboni!



17 Stouffville Optometry

6085 Main Street

Built in 1905, this historic building became Stouffville's first eye clinic in 1979. Take a guided tour and visit three stations featuring innovative technologies: Optomap, Topography, and the Optical Lab. Tours are every 30 minutes.

18 Nineteen on the Park Theatre

19 Civic Avenue

19 on the Park is one of the oldest buildings along Stouffville's Main Street. Enjoy a guided tour through this beautiful building and take in its unique architecture.



19 Art Gallery, Camps and Library

2 Park Drive

Latcham Art Gallery

Engage in a self-guided tour through the exhibition *Like Heirlooms* at Stouffville's only public art gallery. Create your own masterpiece with a hands-on activity inspired by the exhibition.

Stouffville Leisure Centre – Camps

Get a sneak peek into the exciting summer ahead and secure your child's spot for a memorable season of learning and laughter. Enjoy games and meet our fantastic counsellors!

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library was established in 1877, becoming a free public library in 1899. Play a variety of boardgames, enjoy a tour of the library's Makerspace, and make a button!

20 Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site

Parking at 99 Reeves Way Boulevard

The Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site was home to a remarkable late-16th-century ancestral Wendat community. Explore and learn about this amazing archaeological site with self-guided tours (stouffville.com/jbl-educational-signage) and a staffed interpretation table.

Don't Miss Out on These Extras!

Historic Walking Tour: Stouffville Then and Now

Meet at 19 on the Park (19 Civic Avenue)

Stroll Main Street as you learn about the use and reuse of Main Street's historic buildings on this guided walking tour. Leaves promptly at 11:00am.

Stouffville Reeves & Mayors: A Brief History

Town Hall – 111 Sandiford Drive

Whitchurch-Stouffville has a deeply rooted political history. Visit Town Hall during Doors Open and be among the first to see this new micro-exhibit focusing on the political leaders who helped shape our community.

2024 **Doors Open**
Whitchurch-Stouffville

INFORMATION HUB
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum
Please note: Map not to scale



2024 Doors Open Sites

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 W-S Museum and Community Centre | 5 Holy Theotokos Convent/Joyous Light Candles | 9 Bruce's Mill Conservation Area | 13 Willowgrove Day Camp & Outdoor EC | 17 Stouffville Optometry |
| 2 Ontario SPCA York Region Animal Centre | 6 Richmond Hill Live Steamers | 10 Treetop Trekking Stouffville | 14 Darul Khair Center | 18 Nineteen on the Park Theatre |
| 3 Sweet Acres Pig Sanctuary | 7 Lemonville Community Centre | 11 York Regional Police Community Safety Village | 15 Canadian Mar Thoma Church | 19 Art Gallery, Camps and Library |
| 4 Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship & EC | 8 Lemonville United Church | 12 Applewood Farm | 16 Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex | 20 Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site |

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COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: COURTNEY BRITTON
GUEST SOLOIST: SUSAN RYMAN

PRESENTS

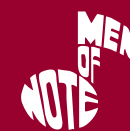
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Mosaic House Nears Completion, Paving the Way for Affordable Housing in Stouffville

by Cassandra Papas

As the spring of 2024 unfolds, the Town of Stouffville witnesses significant progress in the construction of Mosaic House, located at 5676 Main Street. This development, steered by Housing York Inc. and supported by York Region housing investments and community collaboration, is a collective effort in addressing the critical need for affordable housing in the region. The project, named Mosaic House to reflect the diversity and unity of its future residents, is on track to provide 97 homes for seniors, families, couples, and individuals by Fall 2024.

The journey of Mosaic House has seen the completion of crucial construction milestones, including site servicing and structural work. The project team is now focused on the installation of exterior insulation, wall panels, and interior finishes, ensuring that the building is not only structurally sound but also welcoming and comfortable for its inhabitants.

Understanding the potential disruptions construction activities can cause, York Region and its partners have implemented measures to minimize impact on the local community. This includes adhering to work schedules that aim to conclude by 5 p.m. daily, extending only when necessary to meet project timelines while complying with local noise by-laws. Additionally, the project places a high priority on safety, encouraging residents to report any construction-related



ABOVE: Progress shown of the northwest elevation of Mosaic House. Photo provided by York Region.

safety concerns. Throughout construction, if you notice any safety issues related to the construction, please email stouffville_HYI@york.ca.

Communication remains a cornerstone of this project, with ongoing updates and information made available to the public. The initiative represents more than just the construction of a building; it signifies a step forward in creating a more inclusive and supportive community through affordable housing solutions.

As Mosaic House moves closer to welcoming its first residents, it embodies the hope for a future where affordable housing is accessible to all who need it in the York Region and the Town of Stouffville.

Visit york.ca/StouffvilleHYI for project updates and answers to frequently asked questions.

Celebrating Our Architectural Legacy: THE WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE HERITAGE AWARDS



Nominations for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards will be open from May 15th to June 15th. Introduced in 2022, the awards aim to honour the dedication of property owners who have significantly contributed to the conservation, restoration, or adaptive reuse of heritage properties.

We invite you to participate by nominating heritage properties that you feel fit the criteria. The award recipients will be selected

based on the architectural significance of the property, its historical context and value, and how well it has been maintained over the years. Both residential and commercial properties are eligible and a recipient is selected from each category.

These awards showcase the story of our Town's history through built heritage. Past winners have included 233 Second Street, 72 Church Street, 6162 Main Street, Stouffville Junction and 13453 McCowan Road, Lemonville Community Centre.

To nominate a property, please visit townofws.ca/heritageawards to learn more about the criteria and to complete a simple online nomination form.

In addition to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards, the Town also offers residents the opportunity to participate in the Commemorative Plaque Program. This program is open for application throughout the year and celebrates the historic properties within the Town. Those interested can complete an application, which can be accessed online at townofws.ca/plaqueform

For more information on both the Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards and the Commemorative Plaque Program please visit, townofws.ca/heritageinitiatives

TOWN OF STOUFFVILLE PARTNERS WITH WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

by Cassandra Papas

Stouffville is taking a significant step in environmental conservation by partnering with Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge. This collaboration focuses on providing care and rehabilitation for the town's wildlife, highlighting a commitment to preserving the local ecosystem.

Shades of Hope, a well-regarded local charity, is recognized for its effective approach to wildlife rehabilitation, promising the best care for Stouffville's native animals. The partnership aims to treat and return animals to their natural habitats, aligning with Stouffville's vision for a sustainable environment.

Gail Lenters, the founder of Shades

of Hope, shared her thoughts on the partnership: "We are so very pleased to welcome Whitchurch-Stouffville into the family of Wildlife Responsible municipalities. As York Region continues to build and grow its urban communities, having a game plan for displaced and injured wildlife is a serious environmental responsibility. We look forward to working with Stouffville residents and the Animal Services team!"

To support this cause, Stouffville will contribute \$8,000 annually and provide additional staff resources and materials. This investment is expected to bring environmental benefits while keeping the

financial burden on taxpayers low.

Mayor Iain Lovatt commented on the initiative: "This initiative represents a strong leap forward in Stouffville's wildlife conservation efforts. By working with Shades of Hope, we are ensuring that our community remains a safe and nurturing place for everyone who calls Stouffville home, both human and animal."

This partnership not only underscores Stouffville's commitment to its natural heritage but also establishes the town as a model for environmental responsibility. For more information on Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge and how to support their efforts, visit shadesofhope.ca



ABOVE (from left to right): Stouffville Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Taylor Unwin holding an injured osprey, Officer Kathryn Robertson holding an orphaned great horned owl, and Officer Connor Shulist holding a muskrat after releasing it from a wire fence.

MEN OF NOTE MALE VOICE CHOIR HEADS OUT EAST

The Men of Note Male Voice Choir, based in Stouffville, came together in 1999 with just 17 original members of which more than half are still singing in the choir. They now have over 30 members.

As they've grown in size so has the Men of Note family. Most members' partners actively support the Choir, attending all their concerts and also traveling overseas with them. They are a closely-knit group, one of which it's fun to be part.

The Choir is built on a foundation of fellowship, community service and a mutual quest for musical excellence. They

strive to provide entertainment, in the form of a wide variety of music, to enrich the community and to reach out to develop musical connections with other choirs, both across Canada and abroad.

As such the group has assembled a pleasing balance of tenor, baritone and rich, resonant bass voices that together create an almost perfect blend of sweet, harmonious sound.

They believe that their selection of music appeals to most everyone; a mix of favourite and familiar melodies for spirituals, sacred anthems, folk and

traditional songs, tunes from the musical stage and sometimes, a love ballad from the hit parade.

Over the years, the Choir has enjoyed touring Germany, Ireland, Venice, Scotland and more. This summer a 20-member contingent of the Choir, along with significant others and friends, will be embarking on a 12-day tour of Newfoundland starting July 20th.

The tour starts in Corner Brook, ends in St. John's and includes performances in at least four venues along the way. We wish them a safe and enjoyable tour of The Rock.

York Region Transit is Seeking Public Feedback

The following Stouffville services looking to be enhanced

On-Request Stouffville

Anyone can book an On-Request ride, within a certain boundary, to one of five destinations in the Stouffville community (with one more location proposed to be added in 2025). There is no registration required for this service.

The service is available weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.–7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Regular YRT fares apply. All YRT fare media will be accepted including PRESTO, the YRT Pay App, Transit App, debit and credit cards, and exact change. Trips may occur anytime during service hours. Request the next available trip or pre-book a pick-up or drop-off anywhere from 45 minutes to one day in advance. For pre-bookings, your trip will be scheduled with a 15-minute pick-up window. Rides may be shared with other travellers.

You can book a ride through the YRT On-Request App or by calling 1-844-667-5327. Trips are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. To use this service, you must live in the Stouffville community, Ballantrae, Churchill, Musselman's Lake or Bloomington areas – York-Durham Line to Highway 48 (McCowan Road as the western boundary in Ballantrae), and St. John's Sideroad to 19th Avenue – and be headed to/from one of the following five locations in the community of Stouffville: Walmart, Michael's No Frills, Downtown Stouffville GO Station, Public Library and Leisure Centre, or East End Corners Plaza. In 2025, YRT is proposing to add Old Elm GO Station to this list. Service would be provided from 6 a.m.–11 p.m. on weekdays to both the Stouffville and Old Elm GO Stations only. With this change, residents will have access to all day connections with GO bus and train service at the GO Stations. In addition, customers can travel for free on YRT to and from the GO Station if they have proof of GO Transit fare, by using PRESTO, credit or debit.

On-Request (MOR) 65+

YRT offers an On-Request transit service for seniors 65 years and older. The service is offered throughout York Region for seniors who want to try taking public transit using a smaller vehicle that picks you up at your home. To book a ride during service hours,

call 1-866-744-1119. Wait for the date and time to be spoken, press '4' then '5' to speak with a Trip Reservationist. The service is available 7 a.m.–2:45 p.m. on weekdays. Senior fare is \$2.40 with PRESTO, YRT Pay App, or Transit App. Cash, debit or credit card fare is \$4.25 (exact change only). You can use this service from anywhere in York Region and trips must be within 5 km of your starting point (e.g. home). You can carry up to four grocery bags.

Mobility On-Request Paratransit

YRT offers door-to-door, shared ride, accessible public transit service for people with disabilities. To use this service, you must meet specific eligibility criteria. Learn more at yrt.ca/en/schedules-and-maps/registration-and-eligibility.aspx

Regular Service

Route 9 – Ninth Line is YRT's regular service in the community of Stouffville. This year, the route will be restructured to provide two-way service and improve frequency. The changes will include new service along Reeves Way Boulevard, Millard Street and Baker Hill Boulevard, but will eliminate service to a section of Hoover Park Drive, near the GO Train rail crossing. Transit frequency will improve to a range of 32 to 42 minutes between trips, and the two-way service will make local cross-town trips more convenient. Current service operates from approximately 6 a.m.–9 p.m. on weekdays.

School Specials

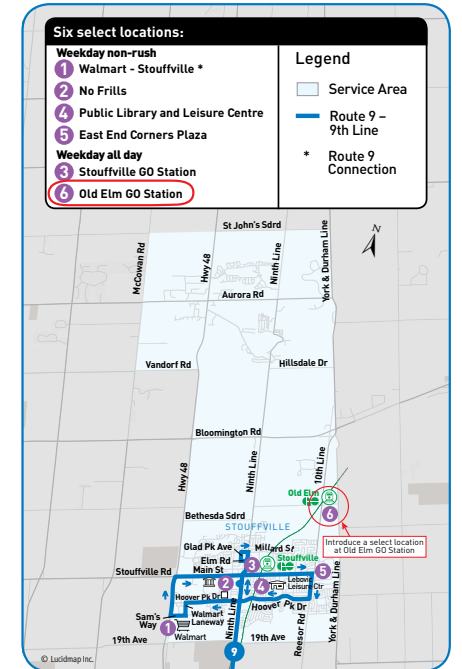
YRT provides three School Special routes in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville – Routes 414 (St. Katharine Drexel), 415 (Stouffville District) and 417 (Bill Hogarth). These provide students with direct travel to and from their high school to meet the bell times.

On-Request Vandorf

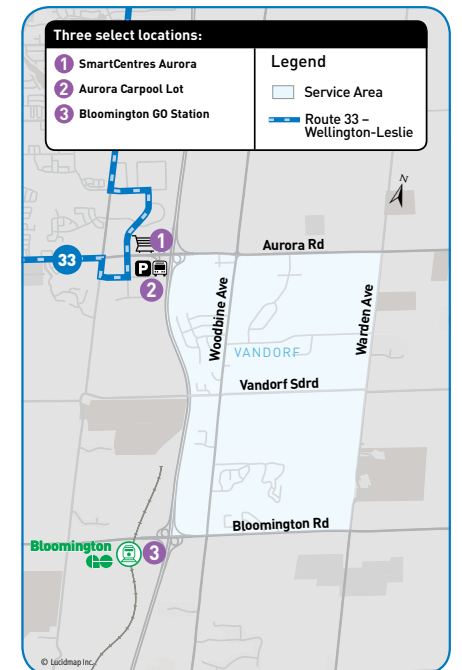
YRT is proposing a new On-Request service to connect the Vandorf employment area and community of Preston Lake to Bloomington GO Station and Aurora during weekday rush hours starting in January 2025.

Voice your opinion May 5 to June 8:
yrt.ca/TransitPlan

On-Request Stouffville



On-Request Vandorf



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FROM DOLORES, SONYA & EVERYONE AT TTG

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Contact Susan Tucker, otrtipoff@outlook.com



steering for STEER FRIENDS

The long wait is over...The Steer Friends Automotive Festival is coming to Markham Fairgrounds on Saturday, 22 June, 2024 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm...prepare to be amazed at the incredible cars on display!

"Steer Friends is proudly located in Stouffville and provides day program support to individuals with disabilities and complex care needs across York Region and the GTA. Our goal is to empower and enrich lives through stimulation activities including art exploration, skills acquisition, community involvement and therapies. We focus on the needs of each individual to support their personal growth and well-being. We are committed to going that extra mile to deliver daytime care and support that goes beyond the needs of our special friends. We serve a diverse group of individuals including those living with cerebral palsy, autism, genetic and seizure disorders." These clients, once they leave the educational system, are left with no support, the kids have 'aged out' of the system. It is very difficult for the families to find programming that can help their children thrive and learn. Steer Friends provides these services and helps families with their everyday responsibilities.

Rev up for a cause at the 2024 Steering for Steer Friends Automotive Festival! This incredible event is a key fundraiser and will kick start Steer Friends on their way to getting their own building. They have

outgrown their current space, the demand for their services is high and they just can't keep up with their waiting list of clients needing their program and services. Let's help them reach their goal!

Vehicle owners, registration is open for you to join in on the action. For \$25 (tax receipt available) you can register your vehicle to display at the show. Spectators (\$10 for adults, children are free) anticipate an array of stunning vehicles and a day filled with community spirit. This isn't just a celebration of automotive beauty; it's a key fundraiser to empower individuals with disabilities.

A few things you can expect to see at this exciting event:

- Vehicles of all kinds...antique, retro, vintage, rebuilds, modern, future, you name it!
- NCRS Judging Event (National Corvette Restoration Society)
- Live Music & Entertainment
- Food Trucks
- Family-Friendly Activities
- Charity Auction & Raffle
- Industry Vendors
- Educational Seminars (car lifts with The Lift Superstore), vintage car restoration, hobby and future vehicles)
- The exciting new Sarit demo vehicles on site, have a seat and feel the future
- Brand new Ford Bronco DR (offroad desert racing machine) proudly built in Markham by Multimatic Inc.

There are several opportunities to win great prizes with the raffles and draw prizes, including a Quattro 7 Standard lift for your special vehicle. You can be that house in the neighbourhood with a garage lift!

Inspire. Empower. Enrich. The powerful and meaningful mission statement of Steer Friends.

Steer Friends envisions a future in which people with developmental and physical disabilities are recognized and accepted as valued members of the community. We work towards a future where our friends are seen for their abilities and not their disabilities.

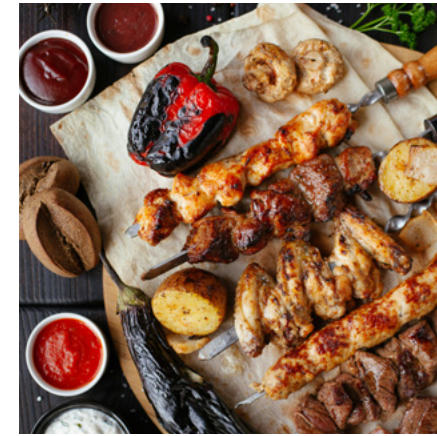
Join us on June 22, 2024 for an event that combines passion for cars with compassion for the community.

For more information about the great programs and services provide by Steer Friends, and to get more information about this automotive festival (it's so much more than a car show!), please visit www.steerfriends.org

Thank you to sponsors: Canadian Tire, Smart Centres, Multimatic Inc., Stronach International. Your support means so much and allows Steer Friends to do what they do best...provide amazing programming to their wonderful clients.

GET FIRED UP: PREPARING YOUR GARDEN AND GRILL FOR BBQ SEASON

As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter, it's time to dust off the grill and embrace the BBQ season. There's something magical about cooking outdoors, surrounded by the aroma of sizzling meats and vegetables. But before you start it is essential to prepare both your garden and your grill for the months ahead.



1. Plan Your BBQ-Friendly Garden:

The key to a great BBQ feast is fresh, flavourful ingredients. What better way to ensure the quality of your produce than by growing your own. Whether you have acres of land or a balcony, there's always room for some herbs and veggies.

Assess Your Space: Take a look at your outdoor area and identify suitable spots for planting. Choose a location that receives plenty of sunlight and has easy access to water.

Select Your Plants: Opt for veggies and herbs that thrive in the warm months and complement BBQ dishes. I grow tomatoes, peppers and zucchini which are excellent choices for grilling, while herbs like basil, rosemary, and thyme add depth to marinades and rubs. I also like to grown beans and broccoli which are protein rich foods.

Prepare the Soil: Before planting, ensure that the soil is nutrient-rich and well-draining. Incorporate compost or organic matter to improve soil structure

and fertility. I start around the end of April depending on the weather.

Start Planting: Whether you're sowing seeds or transplanting seedlings, follow the instructions on the packet or plant tags for spacing and depth and maintenance.

2. Deep Clean Your Grill:

A clean grill is essential for those perfect sear marks and preventing flare-ups that can ruin your BBQ experience. Before firing up the grill for the first time this season, give it a thorough deep clean:

Gather Your Supplies: You'll need a wire brush, grill cleaner or soapy water, sponge or cloth, and a bucket for rinsing.

Remove Grates and Drip Trays: Take out the cooking grates and any removable drip trays or flavourizer bars. Scrub them with a wire brush to remove built-up grease and debris.

Clean the Interior: Use a grill cleaner or soapy water and a sponge to clean the interior surfaces of the grill, including the burner tubes. Wipe away any residue with a damp cloth.

Check the Burners: Inspect the burner tubes for clogs or damage. Clear any obstructions with a wire brush or pipe cleaner, and replace any worn-out or rusted burners.

Reassemble and Season: Once everything is clean and dry, reassemble the grill and season the grates with a light coating of oil to prevent sticking.

3. Stock Up on Essentials:

No BBQ season would be complete without a well-stocked arsenal of essentials to elevate your outdoor cooking experience. Here's a checklist to ensure you have everything you need:

Quality Charcoal or Propane: Whether you prefer the smoky flavour of charcoal or the convenience of propane, make sure you have an ample supply to last through the season.

BBQ Tools: Invest in high-quality BBQ



Contact Dave Mills: david@stouffville.com

tools such as tongs, spatula, grill brush, and meat thermometer to make cooking and flipping a breeze.

Marinades and Rubs: Experiment with different marinades, rubs, and sauces to infuse your BBQ creations with irresistible flavour.

Side Dishes and Condiments: Don't forget to stock up on essentials like buns, salads, and condiments to accompany your grilled delights. But this is also a great time to add some nutrient packed sides to your meals. Like we talked about in the last article, increase your protein intake by adding legumes, beans, broccoli, potato, quinoa to your side dish options.

Refreshments: Keep your guests cool and refreshed with a selection of beverages, from ice-cold beer to homemade lemonade.

With fresh produce in your garden, a sparkling grill and your pantry stocked with essentials, you're ready to kick off another fantastic BBQ season. As the sun sets and the evening sky turns orange and pink, the sound of laughter and the smell of grilled food create a magical atmosphere. BBQs bring together friends and family in a timeless tradition of good food and camaraderie. Here's to another great BBQ season filled with laughter, love, and delicious food!



LDB Business Services
CRAFTING TAX RETURNS
ON RINGWOOD DRIVE

One could be forgiven for thinking they had come to the wrong place upon walking into the office housing LDB Business Services, income tax files clutched under their arm, only to find themselves surrounded by country crafts, stitcheries and primitives mounted on the walls, along with an array of vintage model airplanes hanging from the ceiling. Not to mention the presence of a rather precocious umbrella cockatoo named Georgie perched on the shoulder of proprietor Lynn Broughton!

But once they spend a few minutes talking with Lynn and her staff they soon realize they have come to the right place to have their tax return processed.

It's been an upward trajectory ever since Lynn first opened the door of her Ringwood Drive enterprise in 1999 after working six years with H & R Block. "I started out with 57 clients," said Lynn. "Today I have over 2,000 including a few corporate accounts. Many come from Toronto and some as far away as British Columbia and Alberta. I have a lot of clients I've never met in person." Through the years she has taken on three regular part time employees, who work mainly during the income tax season. They include her daughter Corry Paterson and area residents Debbie Collins and Dianne Petch.

And then of course there's Georgie." She pretty well runs the place, she's the office mascot," Lynn says with a wry grin. "People will call and ask, 'Is this the place with the bird?' She's always leaving her divots on the files – she has to have her time outs!"

While the tax season sees the office going at full speed, there is work to be done for the corporate clients at other times. "The rest of the year is busy with payroll accounts, accounting and GST. And there are always tax returns that come in late."

How busy is it in tax return prime time? "It gets very hectic," said Lynn.

I come into the office at 6 a.m. and leave at 7 p.m. You learn how to take everything one thing at a time. You could go nuts if you let it bother you." To rest up for the annual deluge of income tax files, Lynn heads off to the Dominican Republic for three weeks every January.

Does she take the job to bed with her at night? "If I have a problem {with a tax return} during the day, normally I'll dream about it at night and I'll find the answer when I get up in the morning. But I sleep better during the tax season because I'm so tired when I get home at night."

With her business having grown in leaps and bounds, Lynn has had to relegate her other passion – making and selling hand crafts – to the status of hobby. For

several years her craft making operation, Gimberts Primitives, co-habited the office with the tax preparation service. While she still offers for sale in the office what remains of the fruits of her creative labours, along with the model airplanes created by her father, she has had to say good bye to the craft shows she used to regularly take part in. "I've always loved crafting. I used to display at eight to ten shows a year including the One of a Kind Show in Toronto. It was a stress reliever. I was a novelty at the craft shows, everybody laughed at me and told me I was using the left and right side of my brain."

Lynn eventually limited herself to the One of a Kind Show but had to pull out of that commitment as well. "The show attracted 140,000 people. It took me six months to make enough stock to do it."

While dealing with the pressures of preparing 2,000 tax returns in the span of a handful of months each year presents its share of stress and long days at the office, Lynn says she derives great satisfaction from her profession. "I like this job, I like people. For instance we have a client who is constantly bringing in baked goods, and others who bring us back wine they think we would enjoy when they travel. You meet so many interesting people here."



ABOVE: Lynn Broughton (second from right), with office mascot Georgie in tow, stands behind a desk loaded with files waiting to be processed into income tax returns by herself and employees (left to right) Debbie Collins, Corry Paterson and Dianne Petch.

HOCKEY NEWS

'LAST DANCE' FOR HIGH SCHOOL COACH WAS ANOTHER BANNER SEASON

Jamie Hewitt had a flashback of the positive variety during this spring's Ontario high school boys' hockey championships in Whitby.

Coach Hewitt was at his fourth Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations tournament with his Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans.

The Spartans made Stouffville history on that Whitby rink in 2007, winning their first of back-to-back Ontario championships.

Some wet-behind-the-ears Grade 9 kid by the name of Sam Carrick would score with 1:01 left in the third period of the gold medal game to send it to overtime. He also played on the title team the next season.

Seventeen years later, Carrick, now a husband and father of two, is skating in the NHL. (More on him later.)

There was no miracle-on-ice finish for Hewitt's 2024 Spartans at the provincials.

They did tie the eventual goal medalists, St. Martin of Mississauga, before being eliminated in the quarter-finals by neighbouring Uxbridge who went on to win bronze.

The provincials were also the swan song for Hewitt, who is retiring after 25 starry years of coaching and teaching at SDSS. The #lastdance, as the team's hashtag read.

The 2015 Stouffville Sports Person of the Year founded the hockey program that has won four York Region banners, including this year's.

His rugby teams won 14 regional titles and six OFSAA medals, including two gold.

"When I came here I said I would never stay at a school for more than five years," Hewitt told OTR. "But it was the perfect fit right from the start. It's been one heckuva ride and I wouldn't change a thing."

Sam the Oil man

Stouffville's Facebook groups were on fire when Sam Carrick was traded to the Edmonton Oilers by the Anaheim Ducks March 6.

The kid who grew up in east-end Stouffville played his first games in the

house league of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association – while still in nursery school.

It's been a wild ride ever since for the now 32-year-old.

Drafted by the Maple Leafs in 2010, he didn't become a full-time NHLer until 2021-2022 with the Ducks.

The prolific scorer in junior has transitioned into a defensive specialist who can hit and fight with the best.

Those Stouffville Facebookers are no doubt hoping for an extended Edmonton playoff run this spring.

It's shades of 1988, when Stouffville town councillor/restaurateur Keith Acton won the Stanley Cup with the Oilers following a late-season trade from Minnesota. Buckle up.

Beudoin, Pelowich shine at U.S., Canadian schools

Stouffville's Celeste Beudoin lit it up on the ice and in the classroom during her four years at Union College in Schenectady, NY.

She'll graduate with a double major (French and political science) after being named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference, a consortium of over 300 colleges in the eastern U.S., All-Academic Team in 2022 and 2023 and the recipient of the conference's Medal of Merit in 2023.

Beudoin is tied for sixth in all-time scoring at Union: 90 games, 13 goals, and 27 assists.

Ekaterina Pelowich of Stouffville was named female athlete of the year and MVP of the hockey team at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB. The third-year forward's 24 points (18 goals/six assists) in 28 games placed her amongst the top scorers in the country.

The captain of the Tommies was named national female player of the week in late October.



Contact Jim Mason: jimmason905@gmail.com



ABOVE: The Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans celebrate winning another York Region boys' hockey championship. Photo: SDSS



ABOVE: Stouffville fans are hoping Sam Carrick and his Edmonton Oilers have a lengthy playoff run this spring. Photo: Edmonton Oilers/Andy Devlin



COMMUNITY NEWS

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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:

Wednesday, May 1 – 1 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 15 – 1 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 5 – 1 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 19 – 1 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings

(if required):
 Wednesday, May 1 – 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 15 – 7 p.m.

Residents may watch the meeting live online at 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](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall).

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

MORE INFO:
townofws.ca/council

FINAL DRAFT NEW OFFICIAL PLAN FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION

The Final Draft of the New Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Official Plan will be presented to Council on **May 1, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** for consideration for adoption.

Following Council adoption, the Town's New Official Plan will be submitted to the Region of York for final approval. The 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 Final Draft of the New Official Plan is available on the project webpage for review: cometogetherws.ca/opr The Final Draft New Official Plan released in October 2023, will be presented to Council, in addition to recommended modifications based on additional comments received, which will be outlined in the Staff Report.

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

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF BY-LAW

The Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville passed By-law 2024-028-DS to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV, Section 29.

Mansion House Hotel
 6162 Main Street

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Regional Municipality of York

The Mansion House Hotel has cultural heritage value as a landmark and rare example of a second empire style hotel building in Stouffville which served travelers arriving in the village by train for decades.

Written Notice of Objection

Any person may, within 30 days after the date of this Notice, April 29th 2024, appeal this By-law to the Tribunal by giving the Tribunal and the clerk of the municipality a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee of the Tribunal. Contact: If you have any questions, please reach out at clerks@townofws.ca or (905) 640-1900 ext. 2224

For more information visit townofws.ca/mansionhousehotel

LIBRARY

Jane's Walk is an annual festival of free, community-lead walking conversations inspired by Jane Jacobs, an activist and author whose writings championed a new, communal approach to city building.

On Saturday, May 4, the Library will be partnering with Stouffville Historian Fred Robbins to offer two unique, all-ages walking tours:

Downtown Stouffville: Challenge and Change | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Meeting Point: Stouffville 55+ Club, 6240 Main Street

Reeves Way: Uncovering the Stories Behind Stouffville's Streets | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Meeting Point: Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Drive

For more information or to register, email explore@wsplibrary.ca

RECREATION

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for passionate people ages 14 and up, who want to share their talents, skills and experience with the community. Current volunteer opportunities include sports classes, skating lessons, summer camps and more! Email volunteer@townofws.ca for more information.

National Youth Week: May 1-7

We have FREE activities for youth (ages 12+) each day of the week, including fitness and recreation, library, art centre and museum. Visit townofws.ca/youthweek for more information.

Stouffville's Got Talent

Saturday, May 11 @ 19OTP – 6:00 p.m.
 Celebrate youth with Stouffville's Got Talent! Performers aged 10-17 will be showcasing their unique talents in front of a panel of judges. This event is free with no tickets required. Visit townofws.ca/talent for more information.

Summer Camp Open House

Saturday, May 25
Leisure Centre – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 Designed for parents and campers to connect with our friendly staff, ask questions, and share in the enjoyment of drop-in activities. Get a sneak peek into the exciting summer ahead and secure your child's spot for a season of fun!

Fitness Promotion

The 4-for-3-month student fitness membership special will be available starting April 29th to May 31st.

19 ON THE PARK

Practically Hip

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
 Canada's number one Tragically Hip Tribute for over 20 years!
townofws.ca/events

YORK REGION TRANSIT SEEKING FEEDBACK

York Region Transit (YRT) is receiving public consultation from May 5 to June 8, 2024, regarding current services and proposed changes to services for 2025. Make your voice heard at yrt.ca/TransitPlan

MUSEUM

The Chinese Community in York Region

May 18, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
\$10 per person

In honour of Asian Heritage Month, join Arlene Chan, award-winning author & Chinatown historian, as she shares stories about the development of Toronto's Chinese Community, including local stories from Whitchurch-Stouffville. Also featuring the touring exhibit Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community. townofws.ca/museum

New Exhibit:

Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community

May 18 – July 27 (10:00am – 4:00pm, Wednesday to Saturday)

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act (1923), this exhibition tells the story of resistance, resilience, and the many accomplishments of York Region's residents of Chinese descent.

Museum Open House

May 18, 12:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.
 Celebrate International Museum Day at your local Museum! Fun for all ages. Explore our historic buildings, enjoy crafts, play Victorian lawn games (weather dependent), and learn about local history. Free admission.

Learn more at townofws.ca/museum

YORK REGION TRANSIT CHANGES IN STOUFFVILLE

York Region Transit (YRT) is making service changes that will take effect on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Two Stouffville-related services are affected: the Route 412 Stouffville District School Special and a new Gormley On-Request service.

Travellers will be informed of all service changes through notices posted at bus stops, on-bus, terminal and vivastation announcements, media advisory, the YRT Contact Centre, on yrt.ca and social media.

Service update	
The following YRT services are being revised beginning Sunday, April 28, 2024	
New service	
10	Woodbridge
Revised service	
8	Kennedy
16	16th Avenue
20	Jane
24	Woodbine
33	Wellington
80	Elgin Mills
88	Bathurst
90	Leslie
91/91A	Bayview
91B	Bayview
99	Yonge
300	Business Express
320	Jane Express
360	Vaughan Mills / Wonderland
414	St. Katharine Drexel School Special
415	Stouffville District School Special
462	Maple School Special
On-Request	
Gormley	
Richmond Hill Local	
Woodbridge	

For more information, visit yrt.ca/ServiceChanges or call the YRT Contact Centre at 1-866-668-3978 or via email at transitinfo@york.ca



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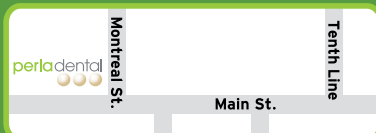
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