

10 A RETURN TO BALLANTRAE   14 POTS OF COFFEE AND RURAL INTERNET   20 SEASONS: TIME TO CELEBRATE MAPLE SYRUP



## LOCAL DEVELOPERS OF AN ELITE CLASS

### From the Editor

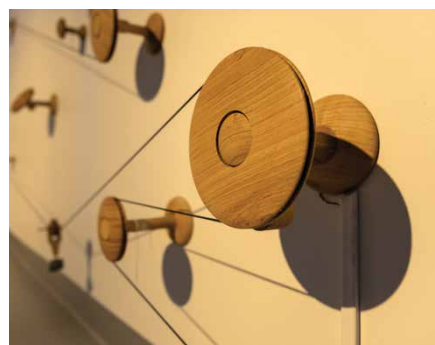
On the Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville (OTR) is the Monthly magazine of the Town. The purpose is to communicate with residents, promote local businesses, support agriculture, develop tourism and, most importantly, **build community**. This edition brings awareness to 26 businesses, 20 special events, and 18 matters of community importance. And, most of this is classified as Tourism. For OTR advertising, contact Bruce Stapley [bstapley@sympatico.ca](mailto:bstapley@sympatico.ca). For any other questions or concerns, contact me:

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last month in Stouffville



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Photographs on Cover, and Pgs 2, 6, 8 & 9 by Dennis Hristovski.

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# The changing face of Ninth and Main

## Council receives application for 18-storey, 200-unit residential complex

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](http://eepurl.com/cKPNgg)

**Ninth & Main.** The Town of Stouffville recently received two planning amendment applications that would pave the way for an 18-storey residential development on the northwest corner of Ninth Line and Main Street.

A report was brought to the February 15 meeting to introduce Council to the applications and request that they approve a Statutory Public Meeting. This public meeting would allow the public to comment to Council before any decisions are made.

The location, formally Giles Chevrolet car dealership, fronts Main Street with the north portion officially on Fairview Avenue.

M. Behar Planning and Design Ltd. submitted the two applications on behalf of Hyson Properties Inc. in December 2022. According to the Council report, the Official Plan Amendment asks the Town to allow the development to be 18 storeys, eight storeys taller than is currently permitted at the site. It also asks for the maximum number of residential units to increase from 120 units per hectare to 494 units (200 units are being proposed).

The Zoning By-law amendment application asks the Town to increase the maximum allowable height of the development to rise to 60 metres; increase yard setbacks; reduce the number of parking spaces for apartments and commercial units; and allow apartments, retail stores and service offices.

The applicant is being encouraged to host a Public Information Session inviting nearby property owners, and other members of the public, to participate. This session would introduce the proposal, seek feedback and answer questions. The statutory public meeting, in accordance with the Ontario *Planning Act*, will be scheduled at a future date.



ABOVE: The Town has received development applications proposing a new residential complex at the northwest corner of Ninth Line and Main Street, at the former site of Giles Chevrolet. The owner is asking for changes to both the town's Zoning By-law and the Official Plan which would permit 18-storeys and 200 units. A public meeting soliciting public comments will be held in the coming months.

According to the *Act*, Council must decide on the applications by May 18, 2023.

Council approved the statutory public meeting. When chosen, the date will be posted on the Town's website at [townofws.ca](http://townofws.ca). The public is welcome in-person, or comments may be submitted via email to planner Kathryn Jones at [kathryn.jones@townofws.ca](mailto:kathryn.jones@townofws.ca).

**Train Whistles.** In 2017, Council supported the idea of stopping train whistles from blowing at the Reeves Way, Hoover Park and Main Street rail crossings in Stouffville. In 2018 Council approved a Public Railway Grade Crossings Safety Assessment, a legal requirement to implement whistle cessation. Various improvements were recognized within this assessment.

Of the improvements, road advance warning sign installations, improved pavement markings and warning system improvements have been completed at the three crossings.

At the meeting on February 1, Council was asked to include further design options in the upcoming 2023 capital budget. These include sidewalk improvements, pedestrian barrier improvements, pavement marking improvements, and signage installation. The total cost is projected to be \$250,000.

As of this writing, the capital project has yet to be approved. The budget meeting is/was on March 1 and 2. For more details see [townofws.ca/budgets](http://townofws.ca/budgets).

In addition to the whistle cessation improvement, Council also approved adding the building of a Main Street crosswalk between Freel Lane and Lloyd Street to the capital budget. The anticipated cost is \$125,400.

### 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](http://calendar.townofws.ca/council). Listen live: [townofws.ca/cm/ivestream](http://townofws.ca/cm/ivestream). Live tweets: [@ws\\_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall)

### New W-S Historical Society to be Formed

A new Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Society is in the formative stages of development. The effort is being led by Thomas Winters and others, with nearly 30 people interested in joining so far. It is hoped that the society will be launched this Spring. The official name of the group is yet to be determined.

In theory, the group will divide into sub-committee areas of interest with the purpose of collecting, sharing, and preserving historical knowledge. "There should be a subject matter of interest suitable for everyone," says Thomas. If interested to learn more about the new society or to join it, please phone or text Thomas Winters at **647-515-1262**.

### Mayor for the Day Contest

The Mayor for the Day contest returns! Stouffville students in grades 5-7 have an opportunity to be Mayor for an afternoon and kick off a Council Meeting on the dais. Submit an essay or video with your ideas on making Stouffville an even better place to live. Deadline is Wednesday, April 5. Visit [townofws.ca/mayor4theday](http://townofws.ca/mayor4theday) for details.

### Seminar: Pondering the Next Golden Steps

On March 11, the Stouffville Legion presents two speakers. Linda Tittel will speak about living transitions, while Sandeep Prince will deliver a speech on effective estate planning. a question-and-answer period will follow each session.

Doors open at 10am, seminar starts at 10:30, light lunch served at 12pm. \$15 per ticket. For more info, contact Rochelle at [rochellestouffvillelegion@rogers.com](mailto:rochellestouffvillelegion@rogers.com).

### Voice Alive! Join the Women's Choir

Join the vibrant and inclusive women's choir, Voices Alive! No auditions, experience, or reading of music required. Dynamic variety of songs. Weekly practices are Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm at St. James, 6432 Main Street. For more info, visit [www.voicesalive.ca](http://www.voicesalive.ca) or contact Mary at [voicesalivechoir@gmail.com](mailto:voicesalivechoir@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome to come out with no obligation.

## ON THE WIRE

### Jason Wilson releases first single and video from upcoming album

Stouffville's own Scottish-Canadian, two-time Juno Award nominee, Canadian Reggae Award winner and best-selling author Jason Wilson fronts a new group called *Ashara* and announces their debut self-titled album – set for a September 29 release.

In January, they launched the lead single and video, which was filmed in Lemonville. *My Love Sings Like a Lintie* expresses a joyful blend of Scottish folk, global roots and reggae, released just in time for *Ashara's* premiere concert tour in Scotland.

Wilson states, "Ashara means '10' in Arabic, and while this may be the debut for the new band, it is also my 10th album



release! It also means 'tree' and nature, and trees in particular feature prominently throughout the album.

To listen to new releases or check tour dates, go to [jasonwilsonmusic.com](http://jasonwilsonmusic.com).

### New Facebook site attracts the Best Local Food

Stouffville Eats is a new, local, social media site has cropped up with much deserved activity. The mission behind Stouffville Eats: "Let's learn from and share with each other all the wonderful things there are to know about cooking around the world. WS has such a diverse community, we have lots of expertise to offer ideas."

"This is not meant to take away from restaurants, they're the pros, but for those of us that want to learn and share, this is the place."

In early development, Indu Bains powered off her own *Infamous Butter Chicken* recipe. Her husband Sunny countered with *Mint Chutney*. The delicious posts move on, to name a few - Matthew McKinlay's *Artisanal Style Loaves*, Taran Gill's *Malaysian Coconut Curry*, and Jason Nicevski's *Homemade Ramen Noodle*. To join, contribute, or learn, go to:

[facebook.com/groups/stouffvilleeats](https://facebook.com/groups/stouffvilleeats)



## The Impacts of Climate Change on Business

by Jennifer Taves, Partners in Project Green

The relatively stable climate of the past few thousand years is changing and becoming more variable as temperatures rise due to GHG emissions from human activity. Understanding climate change impacts can help businesses identify risks, as well as prioritize actions to reduce those risks. The following sections describe climate change impacts related to human health, buildings and infrastructure, and supply chain.

### Human Health and Wellbeing

Climate change has significant implications for human health and the productivity of businesses that depend on a healthy workforce. Businesses may see:

- Lost workdays due to heat related illness, especially for organizations with exposure to the outdoors or unconditioned interior spaces.
- Increased air conditioning needs and the resulting costs, which may be affected by rising energy prices.
- Lost workdays and the need to increase employee supports due to mental health stressors caused by the impacts of climate change.
- The need to increase staffing to accommodate climate change related workforce capacity requirements.
- Policy and regulation updates to health and safety protocols.

### Buildings and Infrastructure

The impacts of climate change on buildings, infrastructure, and transportation have important implications for the businesses that rely on them. As the occurrence and intensity of extreme weather events increase over this century, businesses across the GTA must understand their exposure and vulnerability to flooding, severe storms, power outages, and extreme temperatures.

- Buildings and roads located along with in flood plains will have higher risks of flooding due to increased exposure.
- Urban areas will see significant flood

risk during extreme precipitation events due to high concentrations of paved surfaces and stormwater runoff. This can result in large volumes of water exceeding storm system capacities, disrupting local transportation, and damaging underground infrastructure.

• Extreme weather can result in widespread damage to power generation and distribution infrastructure, that can be long and disruptive. For power-sensitive businesses, such as plastics and food and beverage manufacturers, outages are incredibly expensive as they result in the loss of product and productivity.

### Supply Chain Impacts

The risks to supply chains caused by climate change are significant, and without concerted collective action from all levels of government, the private sector, and the global community, Canadian companies will continue to see increasing challenges in this area of their business. Some actions businesses can take to prepare for disruptions are:

- Engage with stakeholders across your entire supply chain to understand your unique risks.
- Adjust business models to include products that are more suitable to new climate conditions.
- Diversify suppliers to mitigate risk of regional disruptions.
- Support economic policies that build capacity for more localized supply chains.
- In areas that are prone to transportation disruption from floods and fires, prepare emergency plans with alternate routes and encourage local governments to plan for and build infrastructure to withstand known risks.

*This article is part of the Partners in Project Green and the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville series on Building a Climate Resilient Business. Stay tuned for future On the Road issues and learn more at: [partnersinprojectgreen.com](http://partnersinprojectgreen.com).*



## Stouffville Market Returns in 2023

by Susan Tucker, Market Manager

I am thrilled to announce that the Stouffville Market returns this year for 23 weeks of sunshine and artisans! We open May 13 and continue through to October 14, every Saturday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

We'll have vendors of all kinds...food, produce, artisans, services, entertainment, and something for everyone.

Charities and non-profits can book space at no charge, please email us. Entertainers that bring lively, upbeat, family friendly music to the market are welcome to apply. Contact us at [thestouffvillemarket@gmail.com](mailto:thestouffvillemarket@gmail.com), and visit our website at [thestouffvillemarket.ca](http://thestouffvillemarket.ca).

Vendors have been anxiously awaiting the word to apply this season, and we have already approximately 50 confirmed and inquiries are continuing to come in. We want to see this market turn into a go to outdoor shopping location for Stouffville and our location is perfect. Last year we finished the year with 120 vendor applications, what a great response for the first year of operation.

We'll bring back the corn roast from last year, what a great thing for a summer day...a freshly cooked cob of corn!

We look forward to working with various groups to create great programs for families to come and enjoy, if interested, please send us an email.

photos by Beth Smith





# Compassionate Care

Markham Stouffville Hospital's Breast Health Centre demonstrates the importance of patient-centred care.

BY GLYNIS RATCLIFFE

Diana Ip and her husband had been trying to conceive for years when she found a lump in her breast in October of 2021. The discovery came at an especially precarious time: she had one embryo left and was six weeks away from her final fertility treatment.

Like many women, Ip was in the shower when she first felt the small, hard lump in her right breast. It didn't hurt, but she was sure it hadn't been there the day before. Concerned, she called her doctor and booked an ultrasound.

The initial results came back "likely benign," but Ip continued to worry. According to Statistics Canada, one in eight Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, so it was only natural for Ip's anxiety to kick into high gear.

Then, a friend, who is a breast cancer survivor herself, recommended seeing Dr. Crystal Pallister, a general surgeon at the Breast Health Centre at Oak Valley Health's

Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH), to get a second opinion. That's how Ip discovered that the lump was malignant.

## PATIENT-CENTRED CARE

If Ip hadn't been referred to the Breast Health Centre at MSH, she likely would have had to see one doctor, get a mammogram or ultrasound, wait for results, then get a biopsy and wait for those results—all at different clinics. The complicated, weeks-long process is what motivated Dr. Pallister, in 2007, to advocate for patient-centred care at MSH and create a one-stop-shop model for breast cancer care.

The newly relocated Breast Health Centre opened its doors in May 2022 and is a welcoming space meant to help patients remain comfortable and calm. Its construction was made possible by the generosity of MSH's donors, especially the Wright family, and the important work of the MSH Foundation.

Dr. Crystal Pallister (right) meets with her patient, Diana Ip (left), for a follow-up appointment in one of the new exam rooms at the hospital's Breast Health Centre.

"[Patients] can come in and see the surgeon [and] the nurse practitioner and get all the necessary X-rays and a biopsy that same day, and then be seen within a week for results and a surgical plan, if necessary," explains Dr. Pallister.

## LISTENING TO CONCERNS

When Ip first met with Dr. Pallister in January 2022, she relayed her worries about simply monitoring the lump every six months, given her upcoming final fertility treatment.

Dr. Pallister was sympathetic to Ip's fears. She agreed to remove the lump that day and send it for testing. "I was very surprised that it was cancer, but my experience is that you never know," she explains.

Ip received the news that it was stage one invasive ductal breast cancer the day before her 40th birthday, which was just a week after her lumpectomy.

## NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

Once Ip received her diagnosis, the experts at MSH's Breast Health Centre launched into action. Poobica Kumaran, a breast cancer nurse navigator at MSH who is the main point of contact for all patients at the centre, guided her through the hospital journey.

"There are lots of things going on in the patient's mind with a diagnosis of breast cancer," Kumaran explains. "It's nice to have someone say, 'This is tough but we're going to help you through the journey.'"

Kumaran scheduled Ip for a second surgery in February 2022 to confirm the cancer hadn't spread. They were all relieved to find out it hadn't. And after additional consultation, Ip, who is now cancer free, decided to opt out of radiation to boost her chances with her final fertility treatment.

It turned out she didn't need it, as Ip and her husband conceived naturally. "This is a miracle baby," Ip says quietly. "And I do consider Dr. Pallister to be like our angel." ■



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# ELITE CLASS DEVELOPMENTS

MAKING LUXURY YOUR REALITY

Since starting Rhyno Equity 12 years ago, local resident David Elie – who is the founder, President & CEO of Elite Class Developments – has had his toes dipped in the building industry. Rhyno Equity, which David is still a board member and shareholder of, is an investment firm specializing in home improvement manufacturing businesses, which produce luxury kitchens, doors, railings, glass, windows, etc. Naturally, David started building custom homes and taking on unique renovation projects, but the ambition to do something bigger and grander lingered. So, in 2017, David started Elite Class Developments, which is a real estate brokerage and development firm, located off Mostar Street. On the development side of the business, Elite Class Developments, develops, builds, and trades land. Starting Elite Class Developments gave David the ability to control his own ship and the direction

of his real estate vision. Elite Class Developments first project they hope to launch is Stouffville Esquire, which is a proposed development that Town staff is processing, and which is located at 6835 Main Street & 447 Loretta Crescent.

David admits that although the buyers' market has seen a significant cooling period, due to inflation and interest rate hikes, it's really a prime time from a development perspective. Along with their proposed Stouffville development, Elite Class Developments has two projects underway in Oshawa – one in the north which will be a 50-unit townhouse development and one in the south, which will be a 20-unit mid-rise building with two commercial units on the ground floor. They're also finalizing a number of high-rise acquisitions in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), with a couple of them located in Richmond Hill

and another at Bayview and Sheppard, which together will add more than 600 units to the Elite Class Developments pipeline. The interior design of Esquire Stouffville and other upcoming projects by Elite Class Developments are in collaboration with Royal Interior Design, another locally run business. David says that this collaboration "really does lend to the luxury expectation of these projects". On a grander perspective, Elite Class Developments also has options on a couple master planned communities, one north of the GTA and another in Prince Edward County. Although things are busy in Canada, Elite Class Developments is also considering entering the southern US market and has been focusing on exploring opportunities in cities which have a similar environment to Toronto in terms of desirability and diversity.

David has ambitious plans for Elite Class Developments. The goal is to become a major player in the real estate industry in the GTA. With all the development activity that Elite Class Developments has going on, along with being an award winning RE/MAX Team Office, he thinks it won't be long before this vision comes to fruition. To bolster this vision, David plans to bring all brokerage works in house, and transition his Stouffville office into a brokerage. An initiative out of the brokerage, is to specialize with agents who want to become developers. The agents who join his team will joint venture on projects, and learn to take land through all processes, from acquisition to entitlement. Ontario is poised to see higher density developments into the future, due to the opportunities that are available, but also because of the push that is coming from upper levels of government. The initiative out of the brokerage will help Elite Class Developments pivot to what David envisions the future of development will look like in Ontario.



[left] David Elie, President & CEO of Elite Class Developments; [above] Exterior rendering of Esquire Stouffville, a development proposed by Elite Class Developments, located at 6835 Main Street & 447 Loretta Crescent; Elite Class Developments team, from left to right: Nick Gooderham, Ariana S. Hill, Tory Akene, David Elie, Andrew Hall, Shameer Kotadia, and Paisley Smith. Missing: Syed Aziz.



## A RETURN TO BALLANTRAE

Elizabeth Miller was 'born and raised' in Ballantrae. She attended St. Mark Catholic Elementary School and Stouffville High. Growing up, Elizabeth struggled with chronic irritable bowel syndrome for many years, which was inevitably resolved by naturopathic medicine.

"I saw multiple doctors with no solution, as IBS was not well understood at the time. I felt dismissed by my doctors after being told I would just have to live with the symptoms", she recalled. "After being exposed to the immense benefit of naturopathic medicine, I decided to pursue it as a career for myself."

Elizabeth studied Human Health and

Nutrition at University of Guelph for both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. She later lived in Toronto while completing another 4 years of education, including 3,000 hours of classroom training and 1,200 hours of clinical experience, at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine.

Now, as Dr. Miller, she is passionate about teaching holistic health to help women understand their bodies and get to the root cause of their health issues. Her areas of special interest include hormonal health, digestion, and pediatrics. Dr. Miller is the newest addition to PT Movement Wellness Centre at Ballantrae Gates, which offers physiotherapy, chiropractic care, massage

therapy, naturopathic medicine, and Gyrotonic private training.

"My parents are still in Ballantrae. I was excited to return to the close relationships and community-feel," said Dr. Miller.

"Today my goal in working with you is to allow you to feel heard by your doctor, while addressing all aspects of your mind and body in treating your health. I deeply believe that our bodies are built to heal, and with the right tools, you can accomplish this too," concluded Dr. Miller. For more information or to book an appointment, see:

[ptmovement.ca/naturopathic-medicine](http://ptmovement.ca/naturopathic-medicine)

## ANOTHER STOUFFVILLE MOMPREENEUR

Never underestimate the number of moms that have launched businesses in Stouffville. After spending 20 years in the corporate world, Dianne Mann gently waved goodbye to my career to embrace being a mom. "I moved to Stouffville to raise my family, where I have remained for the past 15 years and am proud to be a part of our amazing community," said Dianne.

Dianne is the owner of Tidy Spaces Home Organizing Services. She has been helping people organize their homes, and lives for the past 5 years. As a Home Organizer, she helps clients gain control over spaces and create systems that enable them to keep things running smoothly at work or at home.

Dianne specializes in decluttering, purging, downsizing, packing and unpacking, and donation drop offs. "People always tell me 'I don't know where to start'... Well, I do and would love to help you," she says.

Her style is compassionate, calm, empathetic, and at the same time motivating and energetic. Dianne devises a strategic plan with her clients. She believes in minimal purchasing and maximum simplicity, as the stress and anxieties related to by unorganized environments are entirely unnecessary.

To see examples of Dianne's work check out her social media for videos and contact information at [IG@tidyspaces101](mailto:IG@tidyspaces101) and at [Facebook.com/tidyspaces101](https://www.facebook.com/tidyspaces101).



## A RETURN TO STOUFFVILLE

Jennifer Gowland was 'born and raised' in Stouffville. She attended St. Mark Catholic Elementary School and St. Brother André Catholic High School. Jennifer grew up on Rupert Avenue, in fact, her parents still reside there. Jennifer fondly remembers days spent at Stouffville's outdoor pool in Memorial Park, and for being a 'newspaper celebrity'.

"When I was young, I was featured in the local newspaper for having had the first surgery at the newly built Markham Stouffville Hospital - I had my tonsils removed," she recalled. Ironically, local benefactor Arthur Latham help fund the building of the outdoor pool and donated the land for the MS Hospital, yet Jennifer was too young to know him.

Upon graduation, Jennifer left home to earn a degree in History from the University of Guelph. For a while, she worked in real estate law, and then seven years in real estate sales. Jennifer and family moved closer to home in 2019 and opened a marketing agency in Cornell that was focused on servicing real estate professionals.

However, things changed with the pandemic. The needs of the real estate industry



completely changed - staging and open houses virtually disappeared. She morphed and re-branded the new marketing company to focus on the needs of small business. She also recently moved the agency to Downtown Stouffville at 6391 Main Street, formerly Trilis Hair Studio.

Elite Marketing focuses on graphic design, photography, and social media,

including logos, business cards, letterhead, brochures, and stunning photos of people and products to help a business' brand grow, geared to increase following, engagement, and reach. Jennifer says that they offer a variety of fully customizable packages, based on a business need, large or small. See [elitemarketingagency.ca](http://elitemarketingagency.ca) for more information.



## STOUFFVILLE.COM

The Town's "sister website" continues to grow. It is a website powered by stories, experiences, history, and travel as written in *On the Road* magazine.

The website is divided into two sections: *Live It* and *Do It*. Under *Do It*, there are subcategories, such as Hike, Family Fun, Culture, Cycling, Golf, DIY, and Equestrian. Within *Live It*, there are Shop, Eat, Drink, and Join.

In scrolling down, one will find an interactive map based on Stouffville's new logo. Here, Business Spotlights and Our Stories are divided into six geographical regions: Vandorf, Gormley, Cedar Valley, Vivian, and Stouffville. For more of an experience, see: [stouffville.com](http://stouffville.com).



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[left to right]  
Curt Watson, Lisa McWhirter,  
Maurice Smith, Robert Lawrence,  
and Brian McCullagh

Nearly ten years ago, Vianet sat down with former councillor Ken Ferdinands at a coffee shop at the corner of Woodbine & Aurora Rd. Ferdinands outlined the limited access to high-speed internet available to residents of his ward, their reliance on spotty wireless or expensive cellular data service, and their need for a plan to bring better connectivity throughout rural Whitchurch-Stouffville.

At the time, Vianet was one of the first ISPs building Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) solutions to new areas in Northern Ontario. Hearing about the same rural challenges and need for better service so close to the GTA was surprising. With over 25 years of experience, Vianet knew they could build new infrastructure to the community that was reliable, scalable and would deliver speeds experienced only in larger urban centres.

Ferdinands knew that a local homeowners association was meeting with one of the big telcos about bringing wired high-speed Internet to their neighbourhood and invited Vianet to present a proposal and their expertise to the group as well.

“We started off with a conversation, and we built relationships. We realized that without these relationships’ things were not going to progress,” pointed out Ferdinands. “Whenever there was a problem, whether it

was minor or major, we had a conversation and made sure that a solution was imminent or was in place before we moved forward.”

With no access to government funding for the area at the time, Vianet, Ferdinands, and the homeowners reached a cost-sharing agreement to be able to get the project off the ground.

Vianet committed to making the infrastructure investment into the community combined with a significant one-time cost per interested household. This financing model would allow for the rural Whitchurch-Stouffville subdivision to not just be on a path to better internet, but fibre-optic service right to their door.

Vianet turned up the first customer in the fall of 2015, roughly 15 months after that initial coffee was poured.

Once you begin solving the rural broadband challenge in one neighbourhood, it attracts nearby residents, evokes conversations, and demonstrates how far the connectivity desert stretches throughout an area. With enthusiasm, Vianet committed to extending its network reach to more locations in the township each year with the same successful cost-sharing model between Vianet and homeowners.

Funding was always a big topic of discussion to extend the network faster and at a

lower cost. Vianet submitted proposals to both the provincial and federal levels of government on more than one occasion, seeking funding for the area; however, they were never successful and could not subsidize homeowner upfront costs.

“Throughout the years of building, Vianet has been able to foster a solid working relationship with the Township of Whitchurch-Stouffville, creating an open line of communication between the mayor and council through Ken Ferdinands,” explains Brian McCullagh, Director of Business Development for Vianet, “We appreciate the Townships efforts to work with us as it enabled Vianet to develop a process that provided predictability in terms of both time and costs, allowing us to maximize the work and target areas of greatest need.”

When COVID hit, and people began to work, learn, and keep in touch with loved ones from home, the provincial and federal governments quickly realized the critical need for better internet in those under-served areas in rural Ontario and Canada.

As 2020 became 2021, the provincial government launched a funding program to build rural broadband. “At this point, we had been building FTTH in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville for nearly six years

and were acutely aware that there was still more work to be done,” says McCullagh. “It was a natural fit to submit a proposal to expand our fibre network in the area.” In the summer of 2021, Vianet was awarded its first funded project in the town.

This initiative would see more streets, including the eastern end of Vivian Road, get the reliable internet they desperately needed. Naturally, when homeowners in the area got rumours of the news, they were thrilled. Finally, their internet pains may be about to come to an end.

This forested community nestled just east of Highway 48 and within a short distance of other FTTH projects Vianet had completed in Whitchurch-Stouffville, had been making do with best-effort internet solutions, and as a result, many families relied on two providers in a costly attempt to meet their needs.

The province relies on the federal broadband mapping system that identifies areas that are deemed under-served and, in turn, eligible for funding when reviewing submissions. Prior to the commencement of any construction work, Vianet requires a signed contract with the provincial government. During this contract review process, the province recognized an error in the project. The federal mapping system had deemed the eastern Vivian Rd community served, meaning that the homeowners had access to high-speed internet of at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload.

Both Vianet and the residents in the community knew this was not true. To the disappointment and frustration of all, the government could not fund that section, forcing Vianet to drop that portion of the project.

This community was not ready to give up when they had come so close and had so many parties working to solve the problem. Vianet, local community member Robert Lawrence, Councillor Maurice Smith and the Economic Development Officer for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, David Tuley, discussed what could be done to turn this decision around.

The township and the homeowners took it upon themselves to work with CIRA (Canadian Internet Registration Authority), which has been developing its own mapping system. The CIRA system allows a homeowner to log into their site to complete an internet speed test that also logs their GPS location. This system better paints an accurate picture of served areas versus under-served areas.

Councillor Smith, Tuley and Lawrence worked hand-in-hand with neighbours to undertake speed testing over a couple of weeks and at various times of the day. Homeowners dutifully logged their data into CIRA’s mapping system, as they were willing to do anything they could to bring dependable internet to their homes.

“It took a year of persistent follow-up and community action to get the map changed, the information moved from the Federal level to the Provincial level and the contract to be accepted,” remembers Lawrence.

Tuley collected the individual results and compiled a report presenting factual statistics to the government. Once again, the families had hope they would soon see high-speed internet.

“The whole process to bring fibre to our homes took a lot of effort, a lot of time, and it was discouraging,” says Natalia Horscroft, a resident and project activist in the area, “but it was necessary. The children in our neighbourhood couldn’t do schoolwork from their own homes, and it was embarrassing to try to work remotely with an unreliable connection.”

Fast forward to August 2022, a year after the first hint that fibre internet would be coming to their neighbourhood. With government funding finally approved, Vianet was able to reduce the investment from the homeowner to a more reasonable amount and start breaking ground with construction almost immediately.

“It almost did not seem real that it was finally happening,” remembers Horscroft. “I had to read the email multiple times to believe the project was a go. I was excited. I was shocked and ultimately cautiously optimistic that after many frustrating years struggling with slow and inadequate internet, it was going to happen.”

“Seeing neighbours come together is the definition of community,” says McCullagh, “After all their efforts, we knew we couldn’t delay the construction, and with help from the township, we were able to move permits through quickly to begin construction before the end of the year.”

Within a few short weeks of the announcement, customers breathed a genuine sigh of relief as they greeted Vianet construction crews with smiling faces and handshakes. Finally, work had begun to connect their community.

January 12, 2023, was a day of celebration in the community group chat as the first two customers were installed to true high-speed

internet and other services because of their hard work to prove their area was under-served.

“It was a frustrating journey but now that we are at the destination it has been so worthwhile,” says Lawrence. “The change in our Internet speed experience and the excellent service from Vianet has us all smiling.”

This project is an excellent example of how the private sector, Vianet, the public sector, the Township of Whitchurch-Stouffville and homeowners worked together to change the data. To prove that their area was under-served thus enabling the development of a fibre optic broadband network to finally end the anguish they were experiencing with poor broadband connectivity.

Ferdinands confirmed, “Having fibre optics here has been a great equalizer. The people are so satisfied. Even the word satisfied is a true understatement; I think they are delirious about the fact that they’ve got it. They didn’t realize what they were getting until they realized what they have now.”

There have been many more pots of coffee shared in the near decade Vianet has been growing its network in York Region, and surely there are more to come. To date, Vianet has built just over 100 kms of fibre-optic cable that can service more than 1,400 previously under-served homes and businesses in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Vianet continues to have an exceptional relationship with the town and works with Mayor Lovatt to serve and support the region.

It is with this kind of teamwork we will close the digital divide that exists between urban and rural Ontario.

To learn more about Vianet’s initiatives to connect communities visit:

[www.vianet.ca/buildgrowsupport](http://www.vianet.ca/buildgrowsupport)

Ken Ferdinands





# A Place to Call Home



## A safe, secure and affordable housing is essential for everyone

[above] A rendering of York Region's new community housing development in Stouffville. [below left] The construction schedule. [below right] Housing is the foundation of strong and caring communities. Here's some of what went into the foundation of the Stouffville community housing development at 5676 Main Street

In this month's OTR Check Up, we revisit York Region's community housing project being built in Stouffville.

A complete community is one that meets the basic needs of all residents. To accomplish this, communities need a broad range of housing options, including affordable, purpose-built rental housing.

In spring 2022, York Region began site preparations for construction of a new community housing development in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Located at 5676 Main Street the development is close to transit, retail, dining, places of employment and health services.

Building features include: Six-storey apartment building for families, individuals and seniors; 97 market rate and community rentals (one, two and three-bedroom); energy efficient and environmentally sustainable construction; indoor activity spaces; rooftop patio; and, above ground parking.

With a solid foundation in place, over the

coming months the building will begin to take shape as storeys are added one by one.

By this time next year, the new development is expected to be nearing completion and we will be preparing to welcome new neighbours to our community. New residents will bring unique stories and experiences. They will contribute to the economic and social vitality of the community by bringing new ideas and energy.

Together, Whitchurch-Stouffville residents identified how they want others to experience Stouffville – neighbourly, future-focused, celebratory, proud and genuine. We are all neighbours here and neighbours create a community that is welcoming for all by embracing diversity and inclusion for all and supporting families of all types.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is powered by neighbours, and we know that housing matters, because people matter. Together we will foster inclusivity, increase access to diverse housing options,

and address the needs of current and future residents.

If you're interested in contributing to a vibrant, inclusive culture, get involved in preparing to welcome new neighbours by joining the Community Liaison Committee. Email [Stouffville\\_HYI@york.ca](mailto:Stouffville_HYI@york.ca) for more information.

Throughout construction, safety is a priority. If you notice any safety issues in and around the construction site, please contact York Region at [Stouffville\\_HYI@york.ca](mailto:Stouffville_HYI@york.ca). For more information about the project, visit [york.ca/StouffvilleHYI](http://york.ca/StouffvilleHYI).

## CONSTRUCTION in Kilograms

5676 MAIN STREET IN STOUFFVILLE

**Foundation Caissons**  
are drilled holes in the ground that are reinforced and filled with concrete and provide a base for the structure.



**3,000,000+**  
kilograms of concrete poured  
**8,000+**  
kilograms of rebar used

**Foundation Grade Beams**  
are part of the building's foundation and span between caissons.



**595,000+**  
kilograms of concrete poured  
**44,000+**  
kilograms of rebar/steel used

Winter 2023	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Winter 2024	Spring 2024
Ground and second floor structure work on-going, including concrete walls, steel beams and floor slabs.	Adding floors three through six.	Building roof structure.	Window installation.	Completion of mechanical, electrical and interior finishes.	Ready for first residents to move in.

## Lifelong Learning Stouffville Releases Spring Line-Up

For Tickets, [lifelonglearningstouffville.com](http://lifelonglearningstouffville.com)

According to a recent survey, most York Region Lifelong Learning attendees still prefer Zoom over in-person gatherings. So, this upcoming spring series on Zoom only. Consequently, ticket prices will be reduced: early bird tickets are \$35 (by mid-March), and \$42 per guest thereafter. Visit [www.lifelonglearningstouffville.com](http://www.lifelonglearningstouffville.com) to buy tickets.

The series begins April 17 with **Mark Cullen** who will talk about the "Highway of Heroes" Tree campaign and his new project, "Trees for Heroes". As many of you know, Mark, a Member of the Order of Canada, is a well-known garden expert who writes and speaks publicly on gardening and continues his advocacy for trees across Canada.

**Michael Runtz**, a naturalist and photographer with 14 bestselling books to his name, joins us. A dynamic and popular speaker, Michael will dazzle us with the stunning beauty of Algonquin Park through four seasons as captured in his photography. Michael's Carleton University course on natural history is one of the school's most popular programs.

Toronto Star columnist **Ellen Roseman** will share her consumer smarts which she elaborates on in her book - "Fight Back - 81 Ways to help you save money and protect yourself from Corporate Trickery". What could be timelier? Each visitor will surely leave with several money-saving tips!

Local resident, **Edward Nelles** explores the concept of character by drawing on the wisdom of 2000 years of history to answer the question: what is "character" and why it is so important in today's world.

Palestinian doctor and U of T professor, **Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish**, presents "I shall not hate - a Gaza doctor's journey". In 2009, his daughters were killed by Israeli soldiers in a Gaza conflict. Instead of seeking revenge or sinking into hatred, he called for the people in the region to start talking to each other.

**James Lockyer** is a lawyer and a prominent social justice activist in Toronto. He is a founding director of the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (AIDWYC). He has been involved in exposing more than ten wrongful convictions in Canada.



## Annual Juried Exhibition 2023

Exhibition Runs: **Monday, March 13 - Saturday, April 22**

Reception: **Friday, March 17, 7-9 PM**

Jurors Talk: **Friday March 31, 1 PM.**

Latham Art Centre's Annual Juried Exhibition provides an opportunity for Ontario-based artists to have their work on display in a showcase of regional talent. Each year the Gallery receives over two hundred submissions, which are distilled down into a diverse show by a panel of three esteemed jurors.

This year, the jurors include curator and writer, Katie Lawson; artist and Assistant Professor of Studio Art at the University of Toronto Scarborough, Emmanuel Osahor; and artist, zinester and Project Coordinator, Digital Collections, at the

Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Heather Riley.

Over \$1000 in awards will be presented during the course of the exhibition, including a People's Choice Award. Visitors to the show can cast their ballots, and the winner will be announced at the end of the exhibition. Juror Heather Riley will also return to Latham Art Centre on Friday, March 31 to speak about their experience selecting work.

For more information on this year's jurors, the exhibition, and juror's talk, please visit [lathamartcentre.ca/exhibitions](http://lathamartcentre.ca/exhibitions).

## Let's Paint with Brittany Lauren

Date: **Thursday, March 23**

Location: **Cornerhouse Restaurant**

Join Brittany Lauren at the Cornerhouse Restaurant and create this tiny sky! You'll learn to create a diptych painting on two miniature 4-inch canvases, as well as scumbling, blending and mixing colours. The project is guided and beginner friendly.

Visit [www.brittanylauraen.ca/letsaint](http://www.brittanylauraen.ca/letsaint) for details and registration.



## Birding in the York Regional Forest

Date: **Saturday, April 22**

Location: **Hollidge Tract, 16389 Highway 48**

Birding 101: Birding in the York Regional Forest is offered in two sessions on April 22. Learn how to use sight and sound to discover birds; binoculars are provided. Registration

opens March 22 and fills fast. The program is free. Google "YRF Forest Events" to find details and registration page.

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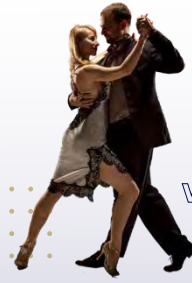
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## Experience Canadian tradition first-hand through a maple syrup tour at Willowgrove!

Kick off the beginning of spring by celebrating a long-standing Canadian tradition at Willowgrove! They have been offering their family-friendly maple syrup program for over fifty years, but have recently opened it up to the general public for a limited time this year.

From March 11th to the 18th, celebrate the end of winter while learning about what goes into making a batch of maple syrup. Through a hands-on tour provided by their experienced education staff, you will learn about the entire maple syrup production process and leave with the knowledge to tap your own maple trees at home!

Learn the history of maple syrup production, how to identify and tap a maple tree, and get the opportunity to taste the sap in its pure and most natural state. After

harvesting the sap, witness the refining process of a small batch of the fresh maple syrup we all know and love! Included in the maple syrup educational experience is Bobby the Tree and Pearl the Squirrel puppet show, is one you won't want to miss!

Smaller tour groups allow for more tailored experiences for participants, which results in more active participation and a much more personable learning environment.

Photographers will find many opportunities to capture the beautiful Willowgrove property, as well as friends and family engaging in the syrup production process.

At the end of the tour, you will return to the main area to participate in a self-guided scavenger hunt and browse the pop-up Market Shop, where you can purchase fresh

items such as Willowgrove's own honey and fresh pressed apple cider. Other market items include mugs and maple candies, where proceeds are directly supporting their fundraiser.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at [Willowgrove.ca](http://Willowgrove.ca), but availability is limited so plan ahead!



## Finding Gold at Bruce's Mill Conservation Park

Liquid gold. A name often used for one of Canada's most iconic products: maple syrup. Though not as rare as 100% solid gold, it is limited as it's only in the spring and in primarily Eastern Canada that sap for pure Canadian maple syrup is collected. Bruce's Mill Conservation Park (3291 Stouffville Road) is located right in the great Maple Belt, making it a key spot to get in on the action. And with March upon us, you don't want to hesitate because maple syrup season won't last long.

Occupying over 250 acres of rich land owned and maintained by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Bruce's Mill certainly has a few maple trees. For over 50 years, it has been a premiere destination for Stouffville residents, and hosting one of the Greater Toronto Area's largest and longest-running maple syrup festivals, it is well established to guide guests into the world of maple syrup.

The popular Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival returns to Bruce's Mill from Saturday, March 4 to Saturday, April 1. This family-favourite event is open to visitors on weekends and throughout the March Break from 9:30am to 5:00pm. Tickets are available online at [maplesyrupfest.com](http://maplesyrupfest.com) and

must be purchased in advance. Buy them early to avoid disappointment, as they sell out!

So, what happens during maple syrup season? Maple trees are tapped for their sap typically at the end of February to the beginning of April in Ontario. Maple syrup producers take great care to ensure the health and sustainability of their maple trees, only taking less than a tenth of their sap for production. Once collected, the sap is boiled down to a syrup, from which delicious maple goods are made for local and international sale.

Living in Stouffville puts you uniquely at the source and in an exclusive position to visit Bruce's Mill for a live, immersive experience of producing world-famous Canadian maple syrup. Here, you will get tours of the sugar bush, demonstrations of modern methods for maple syrup production, maple syrup tasting, and a variety of maple treats from the retail store on offer. If you are looking for outdoor fun, join activities like disc golf, basketball, soccer, hay bale climbing, or take a ride on a traditional horse-drawn carriage. Satisfy the appetite you are sure to work up with a pancake breakfast, poutine, burgers, and more from a variety of

food trucks. On March 4, guests will also be treated to the grand opening of The Nature Centre at Bruce's Mill, a vibrant facility that will offer programming year-round. This festival is certain to be a gold mine that can't be missed!





## VISITING THE VILLAGE

by Stouffville Chamber of Commerce

Whether it be exciting events, unique shopping, services, food and drink, or a scenic stroll, The Village has plenty to offer.

Shopping and supporting local just makes sense! Local business owners are your neighbours and friends and when you support them, they support the community too - by hiring more, purchasing more from local businesses and giving more to local charities and teams. Shopping local means less travel, less crowds and a more personalized shopping experience.

We hope to see you in The Village of Stouffville soon!

*The Village of Stouffville looks forward to welcoming you this year!*



## Find Local Things To See & Do - Tourism.DiscoverStouffville.ca



Just in time for March break, the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce has launched a new online Stouffville tourism directory that features:

- Things See & Do
- Unique Places to Shop
- Where to Eat & Drink

This is a great resource for visitors or residents that are looking for something new to do that is close to home!

Check it out online at:  
Tourism.DiscoverStouffville.ca

The Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival starts March 4th!



# Stouffville Celebrates

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## Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards

This month we are highlighting Stouffville Celebrates Heritage with the 2nd Annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards. The online nomination period is now open and will run until March 13th. Community members and heritage enthusiasts alike are invited to recognize individuals, corporations and other public or private organizations who have made an extraordinary effort towards the conservation, restoration, or adaptive reuse of a built heritage property in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Two awards will be granted, one for a commercial property and one for a private residence. The Heritage Awards will be presented at an awards celebration on June 3rd during Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville, an annual Stouffville Celebrates event. More information, eligibility criteria and submission guidelines can be found online at [cometogetherws.ca/heritageawards](http://cometogetherws.ca/heritageawards).



In 2022, the Town of Stouffville launched the inaugural Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards. Two properties were selected.

[above left] Impressive sympathetic additions and seamless modern extensions at 233 Second Street have kept this 1887 property reflecting the home's original style.

[above right] At 6162 Main Street, the Stouffville Junction set a new standard for heritage restoration, from its impeccably researched copper roofing to its phenomenally preserved brickwork.

## Sponsorship Opportunities are many with 2023 Event Season



With springtime approaching, the Heritage, Events and Theatre Operations (HETO) team is ramping up for a new season of the Stouffville Celebrates series with events hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, 19 on the Park and the Events Team. The Stouffville Celebrates Series attracts more than 50,000 visitors each year across 15+ events featuring performers, vendors, food trucks, local and regional businesses. Programming for families and other groups ranges from food and music festivals, movie screenings, educational events, artistic exhibitions, and seasonal gatherings.

Generous sponsor contributions support enhancements to programming, workshops and entertainment while sustaining the events that thousands of Stouffville residents and visitors have come to love. Sponsorship opportunities are now available for the 2023 Summer Series which runs from May to September. We are happy to work with you to identify sponsorship opportunities and levels that best suit your vision. For more information or to request a Stouffville Celebrates Sponsorship Package, please contact [events@townofws.ca](mailto:events@townofws.ca).

This year's summer series will kick off with Victoria Day Fireworks on May 19th featuring food trucks, entertainers, and a spectacular firework show. Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville takes place on June 3rd with a variety of engaging sites across town providing unique family-friendly activities. Cinema in the Square, a new 19+ event this year, will show your favourite movies on July 13th and August 3rd outdoors at 19 on the Park.

Ribfest, Stouffville's largest festival, will be back August 11th-13th featuring award-winning ribs, beer, live musical performances, a kid's zone, merchandise vendors, and more. The 50th Annual Antique and Classic Car Show at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on August 13th is sure to be a hit as the family-favourite features hundreds of cars, food trucks, tours of historic buildings, music and much more. There are many other events in the summer program, so make sure to keep an eye on the Town's social media to stay in the know about upcoming events!



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**LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES**

**STOUFFVILLE SENIOR OF THE MONTH**

**ELIZABETH FRASER**

- 1. What is your age?** Elizabeth is 76 years old.
- 2. How long have you lived in Stouffville?** Elizabeth was married in 1969. She and her late husband Gary made their first home in Stouffville and have lived here ever since.
- 3. Tell us about your family:** Elizabeth has two children: a son Eilert, who lives with his wife and two children in Uxbridge; and a daughter Kirsten, who lives with her husband and two children in Newmarket.
- 4. Tell us about your career:** She has been in real estate sales for 36 years. During that time, she has met so many wonderful people and witnessed the amazing growth of Stouffville from a country village to today's bustling town.
- 5. What are the highlights of your life?** For many years she was involved in Music Mania, a musical revue put on by the townsfolk every April in the High School. She was the Director of the productions in 1982 and 1983. In 1998 Elizabeth began her 25 years of involvement with the Strawberry Festival, including being its Chair in 2003.
- 6. "What's life all about Grandma?"** Always be polite: remember to say 'please' and 'thank you'. Always be kind to others. And always, always work hard.
- 7. What do you like best about life in Stouffville?** It's the strong sense of community that encompasses the Town. Even with all the new residents coming here they are getting actively involved in the community. Stouffville has so much to offer: the Town facilities and the walking trails just to name two attractions. Stouffville is special.
- 8. What would make Stouffville even better?** Elizabeth says there is always room for improvement, but she loves the Town just the way it is.



IF YOU KNOW A SENIOR THAT IS WORTHY OF SENIOR OF THE MONTH GIVE US AN E-MAIL AT [FARMERJACKS@ROGERS.COM](mailto:FARMERJACKS@ROGERS.COM)

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## Susan's TIP-OFF

with SUSAN TUCKER

CONTACT Susan Tucker, [otrtipoff@outlook.com](mailto:otrtipoff@outlook.com)



### on the ice with JEAN BARCLAY

Here we are in the midst of what should be outdoor skating season, so what better time to shine the light on a local skating superstar? If you skated in the 1960s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and even into the early 2000s, in Stouffville, Uxbridge, Port Perry, Whitby, and other surrounding towns, you probably shared the ice with or were taught by Jean Barclay and would have learned a lot of great skills from her. Jean (nee Winterstein) was born in 1944 at the Brier Bush Hospital right here in Stouffville. At a very young age, she found herself on the ice with her mom learning to skate. She not only learned, she excelled and went on to make a career of it!

Growing up, Jean was on the ice at any time when she wasn't in school or dealing with other commitments. She skated...and skated...and skated...all the way to earning Gold Medal status with the Canadian Figure Skating Association (what is now called Skate Canada). She auditioned for and was accepted into the Ice Follies, which has also changed names and is now known by the various "...On Ice" titles, like "Disney on Ice" etc. But alas, school was beckoning and she chose to finish her schooling first. Fresh out of school she started working at Bell Canada, but those skates were right beside her. The pros were calling, she accepted the call and so began her coaching career.

For 40 years, Jean coached skaters how to skate and perfect their skills, and she also taught coaches how to coach for the Can Skate programs. To say she is a valuable

asset to the skating community would be an understatement, she certainly led the way. She has boxes full of memorabilia... awards, certificates, pictures, medals, programs, etc., earned from so many years spent on the ice. She worked with, became friends with, and can name-drop some of the most famous skaters of the day. "Oh, that's Don Jackson and me at a competition," she says as we flip through photos, yes...THAT Don Jackson, and there are others such as Debbie Wilkes, the Jelineks, the list goes on, she was in very good company.

If skating wasn't enough to keep her busy, she got married, raised 2 children, remained coaching, and then what the heck, why not go into the wedding gown business? This gave her the chance to wear something other than long johns and sweaters all day! The Wedding Room opened its doors to provide brides, bridesmaids, and mothers of the brides with their formal wedding attire. Located in a renovated house where the Pace Building now stands, right on the corner of Main and Lloyd Streets, it kept her very busy. Business was brisk, keeping the sales staff and the seamstress going all day, every day.

Throughout our time together, Jean was so very humble and kept maneuvering the focus away from her and onto the incredible skaters she taught, the wonderful coaches she worked with and the amazing staff she worked with at the store. Nothing but praise for all of them, she just could not say enough good things about everyone. Each story brought up names of students, co-workers, partners, employees and every time, the story would end with her saying how incredible everyone was. Her students were obviously very attentive to her teachings, some going on to compete and coach at the national level thanks to the valuable skills and support they received from Jean. And more name-dropping... she knows everyone, and of course, she should, she's lived here all her life! Her network is vast and spread-out all-over town and includes many names of friends, family, distant family, and a grandfather that was a town Reeve with a street named after him off of Reeve's Way. (That's another story I did in

this magazine a couple of years ago).

I learned more town history in our conversation (I love speaking to so many interesting people!). I knew there was an old arena in Memorial Park that was torn down in the 1980's, but I also learned there was an old, old arena in another area of the same park. If you know where the outdoor pool used to be, now you know where that arena was from 1926 -1949. Jean started skating on outdoor ponds, and in that now long-gone arena, then moving over to the old arena (1949 - 1985), and finally into the Ninth Line arena. And because seasonal skating wasn't enough, she also spent summers in skating school in Niagara Falls. The Stouffville Skating Club was formed in 1951, any guesses as to who was right there ready to join in? That was the beginning of a long association between Jean and the club, she rose through the ranks of being a student, to a competitor, and onto coaching.

Jean and husband Laurie have lived in 6 different homes in town, they are now enjoying a well-deserved retirement after both having valuable and fulfilling careers. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with Jean and with all my columns, there's so much more to write, just not enough space!



## WAITING FOR BBQ SEASON

### Penne Alla Vodka with Bacon, prepared indoors

Hello everyone and happy March. I am sure you would all agree with me when I say spring couldn't come soon enough. I can't wait for the warmer weather when we can get outside and get back to BBQ'ing. Now I do BBQ in the winter but definitely not as much this winter and let's face it it is just not the same as standing around a BBQ in the nice weather.

This year I am really looking forward to cooking more over an open fire. There are so many great things you can do cooking over a fire and I plan on exploring more this summer. This is the time of year when we should be getting prepared for the nicer weather. Planning is very important and for many years I really didn't put much thought into planning but let me tell you it is worth it. Once the season gets here everyone runs out to get their supplies and many times, I find that the selection is limited by the time I get there. So as soon as you see the seasonal products on the shelves, get what you need so you are prepared.

One of my favourite recipes to do over the winter when I am not standing around the BBQ is Penne Alla Vodka. It is an easy recipe but so good. My recipe has a bit of a twist. One day when I was craving Penne Alla Vodka I didn't have any prosciutto or pancetta so I improvised and thought, "what if I used bacon"? Well, I did and in my opinion, it turned out amazing.

#### Ingredients

- 1 pack of Penne pasta
- 1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil,
- 1 can finely crushed tomatoes or 1 Jar of Passata sauce
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 cup minced yellow onion
- 1/2 pack of bacon dices or prosciutto / pancetta
- 1/2 of a cup of Vodka
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 Tbsp minced garlic
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Red pepper flakes to taste
- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil

#### Instructions

Bring a pot of water to a boil to cook pasta. I always add a tsp of salt to the water. Heat butter and oil in a large pan or pot over medium heat. Cook the onion until the onions are translucent, 3 - 4 minutes. Add the garlic in the last minute of cooking the onions and mix well. Once cooked remove the onions from the pan and set aside. Now add the diced bacon to the pan. Cook the bacon until done but not to crispy. 5 - 6 minutes,

Remove the bacon from the pan and set aside. Take the pan off the heat and add tomatoes / Passata and heat to a gentle boil. Now add back in the bacon and onions to the pan. Add in the red pepper flakes and bring the temperature back to a gentle boil and slowly add the vodka. Bring to a simmer let it cook until the alcohol has cooked off, usually about 10-15 minutes stirring consistently.

While that simmers, you can now cook the pasta. I like to use fresh pasta but you can use whatever you are used to, just follow the package instructions and cook until al Dante. Drain the pasta, tip...I always keep about 1 cup of pasta water just in case you need to add it to the sauce once you mix the



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pasta in. Now you can add cream to the sauce and heat for a minute or two. Add your basil and mix in the parmesan. Season with fresh cracked black pepper and you are good to go.

Add pasta to the sauce and mix well so the sauce coats all the pasta. If you need to thin the sauce, you can add a bit of the pasta water as you mix. Add a Caesar salad as a side and dig in!

There you have it, my version of Penne Alla Vodka. Enjoy!



# From WHERE I LIVE

with BRUCE STAPLEY



## CONSUMMATE RETAILER

Graydon Card Still Dealing after 55 Yrs.

For Card's Appliances owner-operator Graydon Card, the road that led to becoming one of the longest-operating retail merchants in Stouffville wound through Toronto, Oakville, Brampton, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

Born in Toronto in 1940, Graydon's family moved to Oakville, then Brampton before he went to work for six years with Imperial Oil in 1962. The company posted him in Winnipeg, then Edmonton before he decided to set out with his father and his brother Neil to buy a hardware store within striking distance of Toronto. They eventually purchased what had been Hendrick's Hardware in Downtown Stouffville. Graydon would take over the reins upon the death of his brother shortly afterward.

"I guess it was kind of in my DNA that I wanted to be independent," said Graydon, pointing to how his contractor father and many of his uncles had worked independently in their chosen professions. "I had always wanted to do something on my own but I wasn't just sure what."

Graydon recalls Stouffville as being a thriving small town when he first set up shop in 1968. "There was no Markville, and Toronto was too far away to do a lot of shopping. At that time there were two hardware stores here, a shoe store, three ladies' wear stores, a couple of men's wear stores, a furniture store and a grocery store in the Town's downtown core. So it was a totally

self-contained vibrant community."

Graydon's business grew in leaps and bounds and when he added appliances to his hardware offerings the store soon outgrew its Downtown facility. "We put three additions on that store, and parking was a big problem." So in 1984, he decided the solution was to build a much bigger store on the west end Stouffville property he had purchased with a partner in the early 1970s. Eventually, that site would include a Shoppers Drug Mart, the current LCBO outlet, and a variety of other retail shops.

Twenty-six years later Graydon discontinued the hardware side of the business, and it was time to downsize. In 2010 he bought the Main Street building that had once housed the Town's fire hall. "The main reason we moved back Downtown was that we had enough parking in the front and in behind, and there's an area where the big trucks could pull up. We no longer had 30-40 customers in the store at once." A moving company was added to the operation in 2016 but was closed down during the pandemic.

Graydon has had an impact on business in Stouffville as well as the Canadian hardware industry in his 55 years as a retail merchant. He sat on the Board of the Canadian Retail Hardware Association for 10 years, serving as its President from 1993-94. He was part of the group that founded the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce in the 1970s, serving three terms as the body's Chair. He was at the helm in the early 1980s when the safety of the Town's drinking water supply came into question due to chemicals that had been disposed of in a dump site to the north of Town. "The water crisis was a real serious problem," Graydon recalled. "That likely put Stouffville back about five or six years because of the innuendo that we had terrible water. Business suffered and the Town kind of stopped for a few years as no one wanted to buy a house here."

Graydon was part of a "crisis" of a different kind around that same time when he was one of a trio of Chamber members who volunteered to cut down a huge blue spruce a resident had offered to the Town for its

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annual Christmas tree in the early 1980s. They would end up mistakenly felling the tree of next-door neighbour Wayne Nugent. "The Chamber had a Wood Chopper's Ball to raise money for landscaping for Wayne and the tickets were all sold out, we even had people from Toronto wanting to come," Graydon recalls with a laugh. "We had a limousine pick up Wayne and he was piped in by bagpipes."

While Graydon's daughter Ainsley has taken over as store manager, Graydon is still very much involved in the running of Card's Appliances. "I enjoy it, I enjoy the people, the customers and that is what makes business fun. I would hope to be able to stay here as long as I am able to contribute and my health is good."

[below]  
Graydon Card has been a mainstay of the retail hardware and appliances scene in Stouffville since he first set up shop in the Downtown core in 1968.



## PITRE BROS. IMPRESSING NHL SCOUTS WHILE ENJOYING LIFE WITH THE FLINT FIREBIRDS

Coulson expected to be an early selection in NHL Draft, Kaden must wait until 2024

There wasn't a rink in the backyard of the Pitre house in east-end Stouffville when little Coulson and Kaden were 'growing up'. But there was a swimming pool and it did double as an outdoor rink. Albeit briefly.

"We got in a lot of trouble for that," Coulson said during an interview at the Stouffville Arena. Kaden sheepishly chimes in with an: "Oh, ya."

Even without the benefit of a home rink, things are going swimmingly for the Stouffville brothers whom both play forward for Michigan's Flint Firebirds in the Ontario Hockey League.

There is only one other brother combo on an OHL team this season – twins Andrew and Jacob LeBlanc from Port Colborne who play for the Niagara IceDogs.

"It's a surreal feeling," admits Coulson. "We always wanted to play together when we were younger but since we're two years apart, it never happened. It's a dream come true."

Coulson, who turned 18 in September, is projected to be selected during the first few rounds of this year's NHL Draft, June 28 and 29 in Nashville. In NHL Central Scouting Midterm Rankings, Coulson was the 41st-rated North American skater.

He was one of 40 players picked to skate in the CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game in Langley, BC in January where he started the game on a line with top-rated phenom Connor Bedard.

"Coulson Pitre got my attention,"

SportsNet analyst and former NHL scout Jason Bukala wrote postgame, "... plays quick and fast and he can be a threat off the rush. His best work, for me, came off pucks he chipped deep in the zone..."

"Coulson plays a fast, hard game and is developing and improving all the time," said Flint Head Coach and General Manager Ted Dent. "He has been a great player for us since we obtained him in training camp last season."

Oh yes, that acquisition by Flint, from the Windsor Spitfires in September 2021. (Windsor picked Coulson from the Richmond Hill Coyotes AAA program in the fourth round of the 2020 OHL draft.)

It was a TSN Turning Point, Coulson admits. His hometown Stouffville Spirit of the Ontario Junior Hockey League – one level below the OHL – had a spot for him if things didn't work out in 'The O'.

But Flint swung the deal for the kid from Stouffville that came up aces. "I don't think (Windsor) thought I could play," said Coulson. Did he use that snub as motivation? "Always," he said.

Coulson was OHL rookie of the month for December 2021. He finished the year with 23 goals, the franchise single-season rookie record, and was third among all OHL rookies in points-per-game (0.85). He finished the 2022 playoffs second among rookies in goals (6) and fifth in points (9).

Kaden was the Firebirds' first-round pick (18th overall) in last year's OHL draft from

# SportsTown

with JIM MASON



CONTACT Jim Mason, [jimmason905@gmail.com](mailto:jimmason905@gmail.com)

the Vaughan Kings U16 team. He also played three games for the Spirit in the 2022 OJHL playoffs.

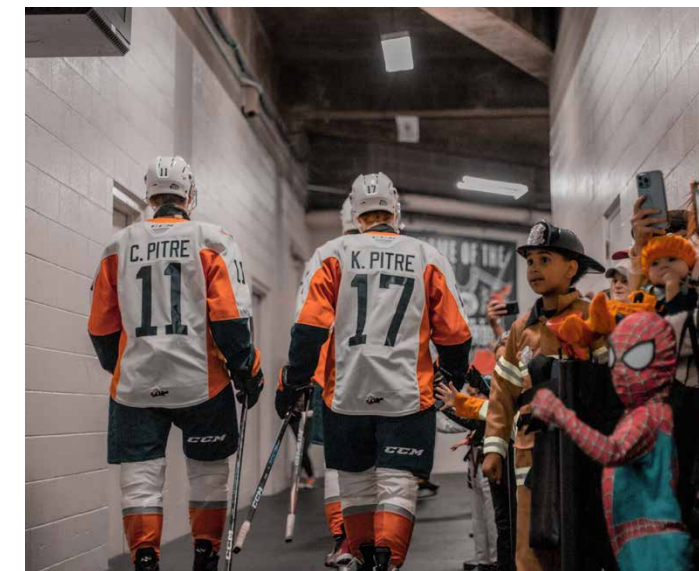
During the offseason, the brothers work out at BodySmith International Sports Performance Training in Gormley.

They play on different lines and are only on the ice together during shift changes or when the coach puts his forward combinations into a blender.

"But no Pitre to Pitre yet," said Kaden who did get his first OHL assist while on the ice with his brother.

Kaden, who turned 17 Feb. 8, will be eligible for the 2024 NHL draft. "I have no doubt that whatever I do, he will surpass me," Coulson says, looking at Kaden. "He's just better than me at this age." Scouts contacted by OTR say big brother may be correct.

The Pitre brothers billet together in Flint, a four-hour drive from Stouffville. Parents Matt and Sally have made the trek a few times but count on seeing their boys at road games.



[far left]  
Stouffville brothers Coulson (left) and Kaden Pitre enter the 4,400-seat Dort Financial Center in Flint, Michigan where they play for the Firebirds of the Ontario Hockey League. (Photos: Flint Firebirds).

[near left]  
"Our fans are great. We play to a full rink most nights" - Kaden Pitre.



# 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:**
- Wed. March 1 - 9 a.m. (Budget)
  - Wed. March 8 - 7 p.m.
  - Wed. March 22 - 9 a.m.

- Upcoming Public Meetings** (if required):
- Wed. March 29 - 7 p.m.
  - Wed. April 26 - 7 p.m.

Residents may watch the meeting live online at [townofws.ca/cmlives-tream](https://townofws.ca/cmlives-tream).

Anyone wishing to submit comments, may write to the Town Clerk at [clerks@townofws.ca](mailto: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](mailto:clerks@townofws.ca) for more information.

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

Join our Council E-Newsletter at [eepurl.com/cKPNg9](http://eepurl.com/cKPNg9) and receive meeting agendas and summary reports straight in your inbox.

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

## MUSEUM EVENTS

**The YR Experience Trail Marker Unveiling**  
Saturday, March 4, 2023 (11 a.m. – noon)  
The YR Experience Trail Marker project is a collaborative interactive project designed to re-connect people on the land presently known as York Region through art and illustrations by Indigenous artist Donald Chretien, Nipissing First Nation, cultural narrative by Ojibwe Elder Shelley Charles, Georgina Island First Nation and commission by York Region Arts Council. Join us for the unveiling of the Blue Jay Trail Marker in Vandorf Community Park, located south of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre.

**All About Ice**  
Saturday, March 4, 2023 (12:30 – 2 p.m.)  
Spend an afternoon at the Museum exploring science through ice! This staff-led program will include ice-themed experiments and a craft. Free adult chaperone required. Ages 3-12, \$10.00 per child. Pre-registration required online at [townofws.ca/active](https://townofws.ca/active) using Barcode 26310.

**2nd Annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards – Nominations**  
CLOSE: Monday, March 13, 2023  
The Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards are back for another year! These awards recognize extraordinary efforts of individuals and businesses for conservation, adaptive reuse of built heritage restoration in Whitchurch-Stouffville. To find out more about the awards and criteria, visit

## MARCH BREAK CAMPS

**March 13-17**

We still have spaces in our Sharp Skills Skating camp for those aged 8 to 12 years who want to lace up this March Break. Campers will work on the basics of skating, and also enjoy off-ice activities for a busy week. For campers who are age 6 to 12 years, we offer our Camp Sampler

[cometogetherws.ca/heritageawards](https://cometogetherws.ca/heritageawards) and nominate your selections between February 13 and March 13, 2023.

**March Break Camp – Time Travelers**  
Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 17, 2023 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily)  
From Ancient Greece and Egypt to Medieval times and back to early Canada, each day will bring campers on a new time-traveling adventure. Ages 6-12, \$235.00 per child. Pre-registration required online at [townofws.ca/active](https://townofws.ca/active) using Barcode 26351.

**Easter Hop-penings**  
Saturday, April 8, 2023 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)  
Hop on by in celebration of Easter. Go on an Easter egg hunt, create a themed craft, play Victorian lawn games, snap a family photo and explore the Museum's heritage buildings. Ages 2-8, \$15.00 per child, required adult chaperone is free. Pre-registration required online at [townofws.ca/active](https://townofws.ca/active) using Barcode 27312.

The Museum is open Wednesday - Saturday, 12 p.m. – 4 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](mailto:wsmuseum@townofws.ca)

**MORE INFO:**  
[townofws.ca/camps](https://townofws.ca/camps)

which includes drama, dance, sports and special theme days. There is a little bit of something for everyone in this busy week. Please note our other camps are full, so register now to reserve your spot in one of these camps before they fill up! To register, please visit [townofws.ca/camps](https://townofws.ca/camps)

## NINETEEN ON THE PARK EVENTS

**Masterclass Series: Stage Combat**  
Sunday, March 5 (barcode 25838)

Learn the fundamentals of stage combat, an art form developed by performers to keep themselves and others safe while acting. In this class, students will be taught how to slap, punch, and use prop weapons safely while performing. Ages 12+  
\$45+HST  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Masterclass Series: Mime**  
Monday March 6 (barcode 25839)

Learn the basics of mime performance, the art of illusion through movement. Students in the class will be taught how to convey a story through body motions, without use of speech. Ages 12+  
\$45+HST  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Trivia Night**  
Thursday March 7 (barcode 25853)

A new full-service, fun Trivia Challenge event played at your fingertips with your smart phone, join us at the Lebovic Centre for Arts & Entertainment at 19 on the Park with your friends to take bragging rights!  
\$5+HST  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m. (doors 7 p.m.) 19+ event.

**Yuk Yuk's on Tour**  
Friday March 31

Three hilarious Yuk Yuk's comics performing right here in Stouffville! Performers to be confirmed closer to show date. Follow [@19onthePark](#) on Facebook for updates. Doors open at 7:30pm, show starts at 8pm. **SOLD OUT SHOW**, to be added to 19 on the Park's waiting list please email [19onthePark@townofws.ca](mailto:19onthePark@townofws.ca) 19+ event.

**DOWNLOAD YOUR PLAY BOOK:**  
[townofws.ca/playbook](https://townofws.ca/playbook)



## OH NO! CORRECTIONS

Unfortunately, the following information was printed in error in the Spring PLAY Book. We apologize for any inconvenience. Corrections are in **bold**.

- The spring registration date for non-residents should read **Tuesday March 7 at 12:00 noon**.
- Spring registration for residents should read February 28 at **12 noon**.
- (Page 6) Parent & Tot 1/2 on Saturdays is barcode **26584**
- (Page 7) Preschool A on Friday's is barcode **26596**
- (Page 7) Preschool B on April 5 is barcode **26642**
- (Page 8) Preschool C on Saturdays is barcode **26651**
- (Page 16) Adult/Teen 2 on Sundays should be **6:30 p.m.**
- (Page 20) Standard First Aid and CPR should be **Sunday, May 7th**

## RECREATION NEWS

**Spring Program & Summer Camp Registration**

Residents:  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 12 noon (online and in-person)

Non-residents:  
Monday, March 7, 2023 at 12 noon (Non-residents are subject to a 20% surcharge to register in Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville programs)

Register at [townofws.ca/active](https://townofws.ca/active). Spring programs begin April 3, 2023

## ART IN THE PARK

Saturday, June 10 at 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Are you interested in exhibiting your artwork at this annual art show and sale? If so, please contact [events@townofws.ca](mailto:events@townofws.ca) to request an application. Visit [townofws.ca/artinthepark](https://townofws.ca/artinthepark) for more information.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

The 2023 Stouffville Celebrates Summer Series sponsorship package is available now. This series attracts more than 50,000 visitors each year across 15+ events featuring programming and events ranging from food and music festivals, movie screenings to educational events and artistic exhibitions.

Generous sponsor contributions enable us to continuously enhance our programming for the events that thousands of Stouffville residents and visitors have come to love.

**SPONSORSHIP INFO:**  
[townofws.ca/sponsorship](https://townofws.ca/sponsorship)  
[events@townofws.ca](mailto:events@townofws.ca)

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# Stouffville Market Update - Jan 2023



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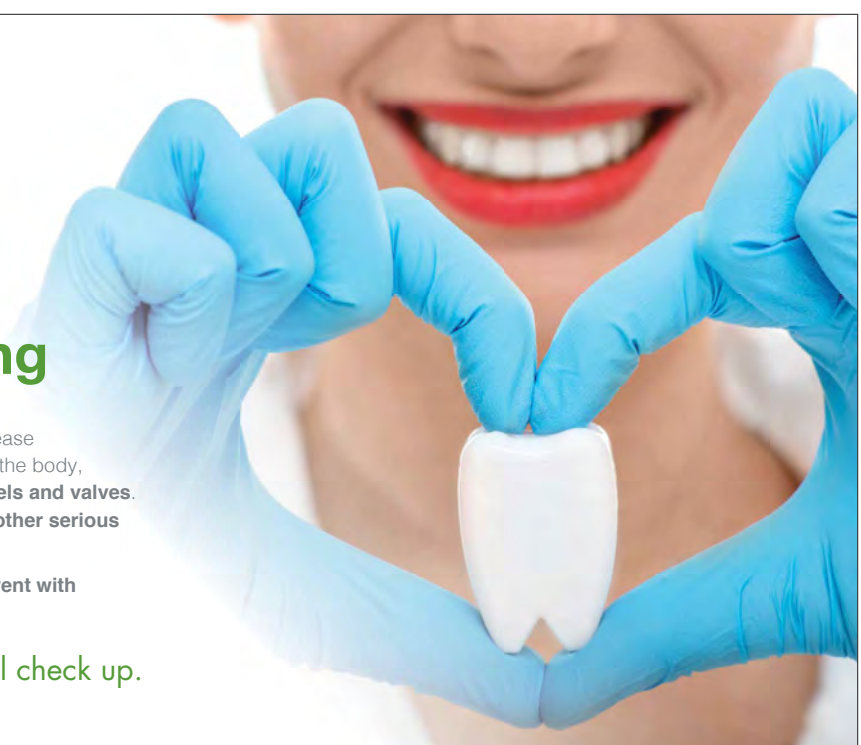


### Your Teeth May Not be the Only Thing Throbbing

Increasing evidence suggests bacteria present in gum disease (also known as periodontal disease), can travel throughout the body, triggering **inflammation and infection in the heart's vessels and valves**. This increases the risk of having a **heart attack, stroke or other serious cardiovascular events**.

Heart disease is just one health issue you can help prevent with regular dental visits.

Contact Perla Dental for your next dental check up.



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