



TOWN OF  
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

2008 Annual Report



5,383

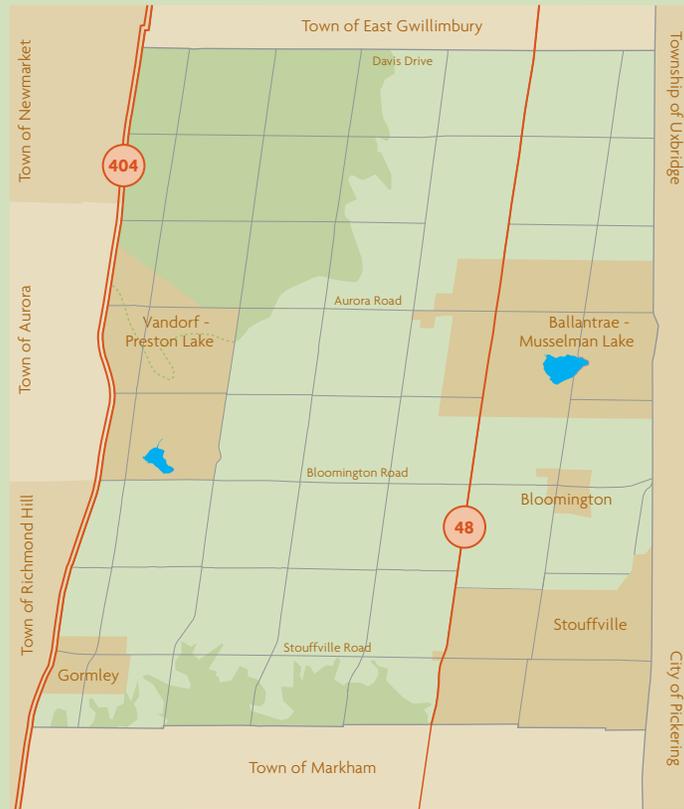
Museum Annual Visitation

1,157

Building Permits Issued

9,404

Number of Jobs



61km<sup>2</sup>

York Region Forest

26

Number of Parks

Greenbelt Area    Oak Ridges Moraine Area

10,272

Number of Households

171,198

Library Annual Circulation

32,000

Population



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Mayor Wayne Emmerson

## Mayor's Welcome

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to present the 2008 Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Annual Report. Whitchurch-Stouffville is a community with a rich history and a progressive future.

The 2008 Annual Report presents an overview of the achievements of the past year. Town Council is proud of the direction of the municipality and the opportunities available to our residents and businesses.



Councillor Ken Ferdinands – Ward 1



Councillor Phil Bannon – Ward 2



Councillor Clyde Smith – Ward 3



As the Town grows in population, providing opportunities that promote the outstanding urban and rural lifestyle of our community is important. 2008 saw the culmination of many years of planning for sustainable growth. Highlights included starting construction on the new twin-pad arena and fire hall complex, Arts and Entertainment Centre and a community park on Bethesda Road.

A stewardship plan for Musselman's Lake got underway, as well as further planning for the expansion of the Town's Museum/Community Centre in Vandorf.

To all who enjoy the Whitchurch-Stouffville lifestyle as residents, businesses or visitors, I encourage you to be inspired by this report and continue to be involved in your community.

Yours truly,

Wayne Emmerson, Mayor

## A summary of

# Our Blueprint for the Future

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has a corporate strategic plan that presents Council's vision, defines the mission and provides focus and direction for the administration.

## Vision

"Whitchurch-Stouffville is diverse, vibrant and balances respect for the past with enthusiasm for the future!

Our Town is a safe, caring and welcoming community that residents and businesses are proud to call home!"

## Mission

"Whitchurch-Stouffville Council, staff and volunteers are a dedicated and responsive team committed to providing a range of quality services, in partnership with our community in a progressive, fiscally responsible, sustainable and professional manner."



Councillor Susanne Hilton – Ward 4

Councillor Richard J. Bartley – Ward 5

Councillor Rob Hargrave – Ward 6

In following the strategic plan, Council and staff will:

**Maintain a balance** between growth, which is desirable, and the special character of our small town rural-urban community which provides such a high quality of life.

**Provide sound financial management and farsighted planning** so that all of the Town's resources achieve the greatest possible long term benefits for our community.

**Support the community** with municipal services that are based on best practices, productive partnerships and practical innovation.

**Meet the customer service needs of the community** with excellence, efficiency and thorough ongoing communication.

**Guard the health and safety of residents** with the best possible services, offered in collaboration with those who can strengthen our efforts.

# Great and Getting Better

The residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville have long known that the Town is one of the jewels of York Region and indeed of the entire GTA.

## A Sustainable Future

Improving the quality of life for all residents is the primary focus of those directing development. New roads, sport and cultural facilities, services and businesses are combining to position Whitchurch-Stouffville as one of the most desirable communities in the country. Council's strong commitment to the environment will ensure that the Town retains its natural pristine beauty.

A network of more than 100 hectares of parks (26) and green spaces has already been designed for the community. This is in addition to the fact that the Town sits astride the Oak Ridges Moraine and has more than 61 sq. km. of protected forest.

## Strategy in Place

In December 2008, Council adopted a five year strategic plan for economic growth. The Town will actively pursue investment and economic development that will have a positive, long term impact on the quality of life in the community.

## Enhancing Knowledge Industry Clusters

Whitchurch-Stouffville is attractive to knowledge-based companies. These businesses and the professionals they employ are increasingly choosing to live and work here – *and they are critical to achieving a prosperous future.*

Teva Novopharm, the international generic pharmaceutical manufacturer is one example. Over the past few years, they have expanded their Stouffville manufacturing capacity dramatically, making it one of the largest facilities in North America. Strategic Information Technology or SIT is another successful local company on the leading edge of the “knowledge” economy. SIT develops software solutions for the finance industry.

The result of more “knowledge” workers coming here will be the creation of clusters of high tech companies. Clusters are well known to be beneficial to both the companies themselves and the community. The Town is building a foundation for industry clusters that range from information technology to engineering.



## Service and Performance

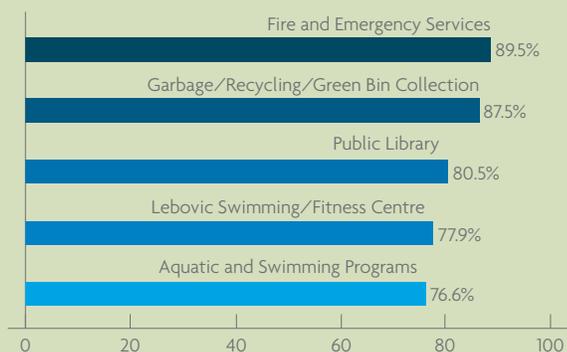
### The Survey Says

Over 94% of local residents are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

In 2008, a survey was conducted that addressed the Town's image and perceived quality of life; top-of-mind resident issues; their satisfaction with Town services; and the effectiveness of the Town's website and print communication.

DPRA, an independent research firm commissioned by the Town, conducted telephone interviews with a sample of residents who were chosen at random and representative of the Town population by age, gender and ward. Mail-back and online surveys were available to other residents who wished to provide input.

Top five Town services (all rated satisfactory or very satisfactory)



There is always room for improvement, and participants commented on such areas as road maintenance, traffic control and protection of our environment. Action plans for improvement have been developed and a follow-up survey will be conducted in two years.

Also in 2008, the Town website was given a more user-friendly layout and the administration of the Stouffville Cemetery was centralized. There is now one point of contact for all cemetery services instead of three.

For more information, please see the Customer Service Excellence section at [www.townofws.com](http://www.townofws.com)

## Volunteers

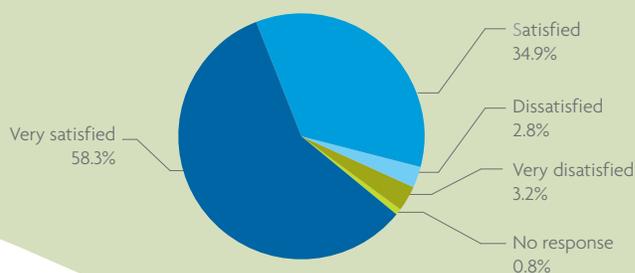
The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is fortunate to have an extensive network of volunteers who support this community in many important areas.

Council and the community benefit significantly from the input of residents and business owners who serve on advisory committees or boards. These include the: Accessibility Advisory Committee, Ballantrae Community Centre Committee, Cemetery Reference Group, Downtown Stouffville Working Group, Heritage Advisory Committee, Lemonville Community Centre Committee, Museum Advisory Committee (Museum Board), Preston Lake North Shore Roads Committee, Street and Watercourse Naming Committee, Vandorf Community Centre Committee and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Board.

Council also embraces the contribution of the volunteers who coordinate special events within the Town. These highly successful events include the annual Strawberry Festival, Doors Open, the Annual Antique & Classic Car Show, Mayor's Annual New Years Eve Celebration and the Victorian Tea.

The municipal staff and Council also swing into action by participating in charity events such as the York Region United Way Dragon Boat Race, Heart & Stroke Big Bike Ride, and Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Levels of satisfaction with overall service delivered by the Town (exceed those of the municipal benchmark group)



**Council appreciates the contribution of the volunteers who work hard to enhance this community**

## Main Street

**The Main Street Improvement Project** will significantly improve traffic flow along this major east west corridor in the Community of Stouffville. The main focus of the project is to widen the road to four lanes between Highway 48 and the Ninth Line. Beautification, another mainstay of the project, will be undertaken in 2009 with the planting of trees, shrubs in the boulevards and raised medians. Decorative 'dark sky' lighting fixtures will be installed along the roadway improving illumination for aesthetics and for community safety. Designer treatments will be used to delineate crosswalks at major intersections, and sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of the new roadway in combination with a bike lane on the north side which will link with the Town's developing bicycle network.

The three-phase project will improve traffic operations and pedestrian safety thus providing better access to local businesses. Realignment of the intersection of Mostar Road and Palmwood Gate will eliminate the existing offset and improve traffic and pedestrian flow. This traffic flow will be further improved along Main Street through the installation of traffic signalization at all intersections. Enhancements to the Main Street storm water management system are included in the project.

In conjunction with the Town's capital improvement project, York Region will undertake road widening work along Stouffville Road between Highway 48 and McCowan Road, eventually extending westerly to Highway 404.

Accompanying the Main Street Improvement Project, a new gateway feature will be installed at the intersection of Stouffville Road and Highway 48 creating a welcoming entrance to the Community of Stouffville.

## Pastimes

### **TWO INDOOR STATE-OF-THE-ART ICE SURFACES ARE COMING SOON**

In April 2008, Town staff sought Council's approval of the concept plans for the new twin-pad arena complex. To be built on land owned by the Town, the arena will feature two ice surfaces within a 75,000 square foot facility. Sure to be fervently welcomed by local players (there is seating for fans and family members too), the facility is scheduled for occupancy in early 2010.

2008 welcomed the first full season's use of the new splash pads. In addition, two new neighbourhood parks and a parkette were opened providing local residents with hours of outdoor fun right in their own backyard.

### **Rupert Park Improvements**

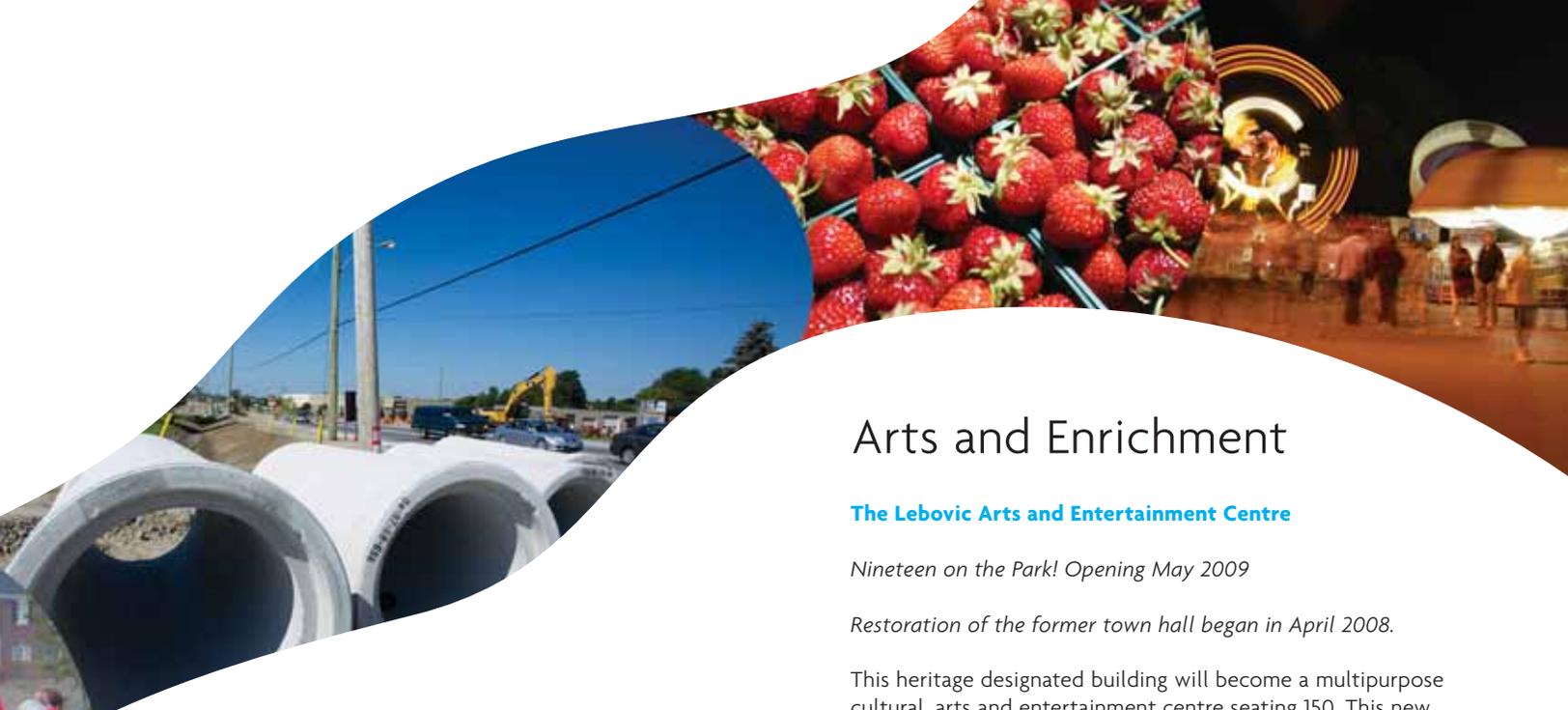
A multipurpose court will be added to this much used park in addition to new plantings, seating areas, entrance features, improvements to the toboggan hill, ball diamond and play area.

On June 3, 2008 Council recognized the contributions of Mr. Mickey Hunt by naming the toboggan hill in Rupert Park, *Hunt's Hill*. Mr. Hunt was instrumental in the creation of the toboggan hill and was an avid supporter of winter activities in the park.

### **Bethesda Community Park**

The first phase got underway with site preparation for two senior softball/slow pitch fields, one senior soccer field and mini soccer fields. Some of these fields will replace existing fields and provide new facilities.





## Our Environment

### Recommendations made for Musselman's Lake

*An implementation plan is the next step*

In December 2008, a Status Report on the Musselman's Lake Subwatershed Report and Stewardship Plan Project (SRSP) was brought before Council. The report, based on extensive public and community consultations, identified areas for environmental improvement, including water quality, recreation, natural areas and safety. The Technical Working Group, overseeing the process, was guided by strong collaborative partnerships between the community and municipality.

The SRSP includes a background of Musselman's Lake, the development of the SRSP, community input, the state of the subwatershed, resource targets, management policies, recommendations, and a section on implementation. Comments received by community members will be incorporated into the final document to be presented to Town Council and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Board of Directors for approval and adoption in the spring of 2009. A final Community Meeting will be held once the SRSP has been completed.

The implementation portion of the SRSP will ensure that all stakeholders—residents, the Town, LSRCA, and other agencies—are responsible for carrying out the recommendations of the SRSP that will promote and ensure a healthy subwatershed for present and future generations.

### Building Sustainable Infrastructure

The Town's Arena/Fire Hall complex, a \$24 million (barrier-free) project, has been designed to operate with a high level of energy efficiency throughout its lifetime.

Heat produced by the ice plant is used for radiant heating in the seating section, to dehumidify the ice surfaces and to preheat hot water. Energy efficient fluorescent lighting and a low "E" ceiling reduce heat load on the ice surfaces while translucent panels use sunlight to further reduce lighting energy requirements.

## Arts and Enrichment

### The Lebovic Arts and Entertainment Centre

*Nineteen on the Park! Opening May 2009*

*Restoration of the former town hall began in April 2008.*

This heritage designated building will become a multipurpose cultural, arts and entertainment centre seating 150. This new facility will enable the community to showcase their talents, provide a venue for concerts, recitals, theatre productions, art shows, movies and receptions – and serve as a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Stouffville.

The community has demonstrated overwhelming support, especially with fundraising. The Town is committed to securing 50% of costs through fundraising and grants (in 2008, the Town received \$930,000 from the Province of Ontario and \$500,000 from the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Charitable Foundation).

Constructed in 1896, 19 Civic Avenue and the adjacent clock tower, constructed in 1931, are two of the most significant historic buildings.

### Library Even More Popular

Library membership reached 17,000 in 2008 – over 54% of the population. Circulation of materials increased 14.4% to 171,189. Local residents voted the Library third among Town services in the Town's 2008 Customer Satisfaction Survey.

The wide range of programs included early literacy, ESL, free movies, free story times and creative writing. Participants in the Summer Reading Program read over 17,000 books, up 125%.

### Museum Attendance Up

Total museum visits increased by 6.5% to 5,383 for the year with summer visits increasing by 300% over 2007! Museum events ranged from REACH DAY for Girl Guides, Brownies and Sparks to a classic car show and the 28th Annual Victorian Tea (sold out).

Located in the historic hamlet of Vandorf, the museum includes the Bogarttown Schoolhouse (1857), a pioneer log cabin (c. 1850), the Brown House (1857), a barn (c. 1830) and Vandorf Public School (1870).

Approval was received for up to \$170,000 from the Government of Canada for the Museum Visitor/Vandorf Community Centre Project – a potential expansion that will also include the integration of the Vandorf Community Centre.



## Health and Safety

Fire prevention is always a priority. Among the many initiatives of 2008 were downtown fire safety inspections, church inspections, visits to 600 homes, fire extinguisher training in local industries and several safety awareness events.

A major increase in firefighting capability was achieved when three new vehicles were purchased and deployed: a pumper/rescue, a pumper/tanker and a heavy rescue. Updated Ice/Water Rescue equipment included a Rapid Deployment Craft. The Rapid Intervention Team also received new equipment. Rural fire protection was increased with the installation of two water reservoirs.

Construction also started on the new fire station in Stouffville. The facility will be completed in 2009 and will allow the service to expand to 24 hours, seven days a week and continues the partnership with York Region Ambulance.

To boost effectiveness, a fire route by-law was implemented and the traffic pre-emption project on Main Street and Highway 48 was completed. In addition the Town's firefighting team was strengthened with 14 new volunteer firefighters.

## Communication

### The Town Websites were Improved

The main Whitchurch-Stouffville website is now more user friendly and more efficient. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department website was also improved. Residents can now access Town information such as Council agendas, minutes and by-laws utilizing the FilePro (program available on Town website). Viewers have the option of enlarging the text to make reading easier.

The Town strives to be a leader in accessibility and set an example for the community. These enhancements to the Town's website enable residents to retrieve information more easily from their own computers. To learn more about your community, visit [www.townofws.com](http://www.townofws.com). There is something for everyone!

The Town continued to use the local newspaper as a way to keep residents informed. A full page of information is prepared every week and includes Council highlights, official notices, tenders, special events and other matters of interest. The recent resident's survey confirmed that 77% of local people rely on the "Town page" as their preferred source of information.

## Message from CAO and Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team is pleased to have contributed to the many achievements outlined in the 2008 Annual Report, working closely with Town Council, local residents and businesses.

We continue to be guided by the Town's long term Strategic Plan. Town staff strive to provide local residents and businesses with the best services possible. We are very proud of the results of the Community Satisfaction Survey and the positive feedback we have received. These are challenging times for us, as we continue to implement an aggressive capital construction program while maintaining quality services to the community. There are a number of exciting projects under construction in 2008 and we will see the results in 2009-2010.

We extend a warm welcome to the new residents who have moved to our community and look forward to working with all in the community in the future.



David J. Cash,  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Treasurer's Message

On behalf of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council and staff, I am pleased to present the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2008.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with guidelines set by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) and the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB). The condensed version of consolidated financial statements presented here, do not contain all of the disclosures and notes that are included in the complete consolidated financial statements.

Times are changing and financial resources are limited for municipalities. Funding for major capital projects in addition to maintaining the existing infrastructure without compromising the service levels while avoiding sharp tax increases have been a major struggle for all municipalities. In the year 2008, yet again, the Town's assessment growth percentage increase led assessment growth among York Region municipalities. In this challenging environment, Council has identified Fiscal Stewardship to be one of the Town's top priorities in dealing with Balanced Growth and Community Sustainability.

As always, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is committed to maintain its healthy financial status. In order to achieve this goal, the Council and staff explored many financing models including Capital Grants and Long Term Financing to ensure that the Town is financially well positioned in the 2008 fiscal year and the foreseen future. As the Treasurer of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, I am proud to report to the ratepayers that efficient operation has continued and the best value for Town services was maintained in the 2008.

The complete set of Audited Financial Statements prepared by the Town's auditors, Grant Thornton is available at the Town office and online at [www.townofws.com](http://www.townofws.com).



Marc J. Pourvahidi  
Director of Finance, Treasurer



**The Town strives  
to be a leader  
in service excellence**

The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**  
 Year Ended December 31, 2008

	2008	2007
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash (Note 4)*	\$ 57,664,369	\$ 58,670,473
Taxes receivable	3,321,367	3,665,002
Accounts receivable (Note 5)*	2,789,966	1,465,919
	63,775,702	63,801,394
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	9,304,916	5,448,867
Deferred revenue (Note 7)*	19,608,841	25,846,921
Development and security deposits	20,903,800	19,114,521
Employee future amounts payable (Note 8)*	498,910	1,081,553
	50,316,467	51,491,862
<b>Net Financial Assets</b>	13,459,235	12,309,532
<b>Non- Financial Assets</b>		
Prepays	102,859	136,018
	13,562,094	12,445,550
<b>Municipal Position</b>		
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Operating Fund (Note 9)*	20,810	15,501
Reserves and Reserve Funds	13,625,641	12,872,073
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	13,646,451	12,887,574
<b>Amounts to be recovered from future revenues (Note 8)*</b>	(84,357)	(442,024)
<b>Total Municipal Position</b>	\$ 13,562,094	\$ 12,445,550

Contingent Liabilities and Commitments (Note 10)\*

\* The summary of significant accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements and are available at [www.townofws.com/pdfs/Finance/2008FinancialStatements.pdf](http://www.townofws.com/pdfs/Finance/2008FinancialStatements.pdf).

The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
**Schedule of Operating Fund Operations**  
 Year Ended December 31, 2008

	2008 Budget (Unaudited)	2008 Actual	2007 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Residential and farm taxation	\$ 13,310,367	\$ 13,929,677	\$ 12,400,533
Taxation from other governments	93,000	88,422	83,518
<b>Net Taxation</b>	13,403,367	14,018,099	12,484,051
<b>User charges, licences and fines (Note 11)*</b>	8,828,290	9,189,674	8,515,699
<b>Grants</b>			
Government of Canada	100	2,481	2,328
Province of Ontario	792,916	1,921,171	801,703
<b>Other</b>			
Investment income	610,000	1,261,279	1,643,984
Sale of land and capital assets	15,000	7,866	13,222
Penalties and interest on taxes	500,000	593,310	528,339
Developer contributions earned	1,009,500	19,000	12,000
Donations and other	1,909,401	1,894,157	1,475,153
	27,068,574	28,907,037	25,476,479
<b>Expenditures</b>			
General government	3,604,574	3,327,881	3,041,619
Protection to persons and property	3,040,275	2,760,823	2,599,066
Transportation services	2,871,812	2,874,081	2,613,237
Environmental services	4,284,528	4,716,214	4,501,335
Health services	75,305	81,441	68,537
Recreational and cultural services	6,332,663	5,352,901	5,031,888
Planning and development	3,188,337	2,891,330	2,471,985
	23,397,494	22,004,671	20,327,667
<b>Net Revenues</b>	3,671,080	6,902,366	5,148,812
<b>Financing and transfers from (to) other Funds</b>			
Increase (decrease) in employee future amounts	-	(357,667)	15,090
Change in prepaid expenses	-	(33,159)	(57,178)
Reserves and Reserve Funds	(3,648,618)	(6,506,231)	(5,133,827)
	(3,678,618)	(6,897,057)	(5,175,915)
<b>Change in Operating Fund Balance</b>	(7,539)	5,309	(27,103)
<b>Opening Operating Fund Balance</b>	15,501	15,501	42,604
<b>Closing Operating Fund Balance (Note 9)*</b>	\$ 7,962	\$ 20,810	\$ 15,501

The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
**Schedule of Capital Fund Operations**  
 Year Ended December 31, 2008

	2008 Budget (Unaudited)	2008 Actual	2007 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Sale of land and capital assets	\$ 215,000	\$ 196,393	\$ 52,399
Developer contributions earned	36,187,568	14,397,364	7,220,667
Donations and other	13,428,523	2,711,732	605,539
	49,831,091	17,305,489	7,878,605
<b>Expenditures</b>			
General government	457,176	265,432	204,262
Protections to persons and property	6,502,079	2,234,952	1,080,695
Transportation services	19,218,476	11,291,582	4,904,940
Environmental services	3,448,338	2,027,241	2,893,103
Health services	4,324	-	3,176
Recreation and cultural services	30,587,360	7,010,131	3,864,644
Planning and development	874,852	313,445	26,054
	61,092,605	23,142,783	12,976,874
<b>Net Revenues (Expenditures)</b>	(11,261,514)	(5,837,294)	(5,098,269)
<b>Financing and transfers from (to) other Funds</b>			
Reserves and Reserve Funds	11,261,514	5,837,294	5,098,269
<b>Change in Capital Fund Balance</b>	-	-	-
<b>Opening Capital Fund Balance</b>	-	-	-
<b>Closing Capital Fund Balance</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

\* The summary of significant accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements and are available at [www.townofws.com/pdfs/Finance/2008FinancialStatements.pdf](http://www.townofws.com/pdfs/Finance/2008FinancialStatements.pdf).

The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
**Schedule of Reserves and Reserve Funds**  
 Year Ended December 31, 2008

	2008 Budget	2008 Actual	2007 Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Interest	\$ -	\$ 84,631	\$ 40,096
<b>Net Transfers from (to) other Funds</b>			
Operating Fund	(3,678,619)	6,506,231	5,133,827
Capital Fund	(11,261,514)	(5,837,294)	(5,098,269)
Total net transfers	(14,940,133)	668,937	35,558
<b>Change in Reserves and Reserve Funds</b>	(14,940,133)	753,568	75,654
<b>Opening Reserves and Reserve Funds</b>	12,872,073	12,872,073	12,796,419
<b>Closing Reserves and Reserve Funds</b>	\$ (2,068,060)	\$ 13,625,641	\$ 12,872,073

	2008	2007
<b>Consists of:</b>		
<b>Reserves set aside by Council</b>		
for general, clerks and treasury	\$ 10,273,502	\$ 8,097,642
for fire protection	20,076	169,243
for public works	788,469	2,154,044
for parks and recreation	784,348	713,749
for museum	109,079	87,468
for library services – Library Board	52,204	62,189
– municipal library reference reserve	10,000	10,000
for development services	28,117	109,711
for water and sewer services	575,838	535,979
for cemetery	102,383	83,292
<b>Total Reserves</b>	12,744,016	12,023,317
<b>Reserve Funds set aside by Council</b>		
for general purpose capital	881,625	848,756
<b>Total Reserve Funds</b>	881,625	848,756
<b>Total Reserves and Reserve Funds</b>	\$ 13,625,641	\$ 12,872,073



TOWN OF  
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

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**Mixed Sources**

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