

OTR

JUNE 2024 • NO. 81

Kidz
klubhouse



Emily, Katy, Elizabeth
and Christy from
Kidz Klubhouse

 Stouffville

CONTENTS

3 COUNCIL CORNERS	12 AROUND TOWN
4 SPORTS	15 SUMMER EVENTS GUIDE
6 WHAT'S ON	20 ARTS & CULTURE
7 BUSINESS NEWS	26 COLUMNS
10 FEATURE	30 COMMUNITY NEWS

Photograph on cover, pg 10, 11 by Dennis Hristovski. Photo below by Audra Bradbury.

LAST MONTH IN STOUFFVILLE:

Stouffville Market opens downtown.



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

FROM THE EDITOR

Summer is settling in over Stouffville. The weather is getting warm, BBQs are lighting up, and, unfortunately, bugs are coming out. But that shouldn't stop you from checking out our four-page pullout section on page 15, which is full of fun things to do with the family this summer season.

Also, this issue has a fitting farewell to MOTUS O, the dance troupe that started in Stouffville over 30 years ago. Cynthia, James and Jack can finally rest their sore feet! Kidz Klubhouse is opening on Mostar (pg. 10), and Stouffville's Tyler Black made his Major League debut a few weeks ago (page 4).

The usual columnists are back, bringing their unique perspectives and insights. Plus we have a special announcement on page 7. Stay tuned and happy June, everyone!

Glenn Jackson, Editor in Chief
Corporate Communications Manager
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Cam Fella Development Getting Closer

Short-term rental by-law tightened; Official Plan approved in principle

by Glenn Jackson

This is a monthly column summarizing recent Whitchurch-Stouffville Council decisions. Subscribe to our eNewsletter for more detailed information: eepurl.com/cKPNg9

Cam Fella Development

At the May 15 meeting, Council approved applications for zoning by-law amendments, draft plans of condominiums, and draft plans of subdivision, which could pave the way for new developments on Cam Fella Boulevard in east Stouffville.

The development consists of two separate applications, one on the east side of Mohawk Gate and one on the west. The proposal on the east side includes 16 detached dwellings and 73 townhouse units. The western portion comprises eight detached dwelling units and forty-four townhouse dwelling units.

The developer still needs a Site Plan Agreement to be approved before building permits can be issued.

Short-term Rentals

At the May 1 meeting, Council was asked to amend the Business Licensing By-law, which oversees, amongst other items, Short-term rentals (STRs). An STR is a dwelling unit or part of a dwelling unit for temporary overnight guest accommodation for not more than 28 consecutive days. The most common STRs are *Airbnbs*.

As the report highlighted, the STR industry, while growing, has also brought to the forefront a range of concerns. These include neighbourhood impacts such as noise, garbage, property standards, appropriate zoning/use, and visitor conduct. On a broader scale, the industry has sparked "significant concerns over exacerbating challenges with the lack of rental housing and decreasing housing affordability."

Council approved a series of changes to the by-law, including:

1. Restricting the number of occupants at a short-term rental to a maximum of two persons per guest room.
2. Implementing a limit of up to ten guests at any period.
3. Implementing a restriction of one



ABOVE: Council approved applications for zoning by-law amendments, draft plans of condominiums, and draft plans of subdivision, at the May 15 meeting for a development on Cam Fella Blvd. in east Stouffville.

short-term rental dwelling per owner within the Town.
4. Implementing a restriction of one short-term rental per lot.

Changes have taken effect; further details are available at townofws.ca/STRs

Official Plan

After four years of dedicated work by staff, the Town's new Official Plan went to Council for adoption in principle on May 1.

The Plan outlines the Town's vision for its built and natural environments, as well as its economic and social goals. It ensures coordinated growth with infrastructure and services, and guides land-use planning decisions. It is updated every five years as mandated by the province's Planning Act.

Key changes in the new Official Plan include the implementation of York Region growth forecasts to 2051, which predict an increase in Stouffville's population from 51,400 in 2021 to 103,500 in 2051 and employment growth from 17,000 jobs in 2021 to 28,400 jobs in 2051.

The Plan focuses growth within settlement areas while protecting agricultural and natural heritage systems, aligns growth with infrastructure planning, and emphasizes active transportation for healthier, sustainable transport modes. All of the Schedules have been updated and modernized and new schedules have been created to align with the Town's Transportation and Active

Transportation Plans.

The Plan promotes diverse housing types, including affordable and rental housing, to cater to various demographics. It introduces policies for additional residential units and sets affordable housing targets informed by the Town's Housing Strategy.

It also establishes a Town-wide Natural Heritage System, protecting key natural and hydrologic features with minimum vegetation protection zones. Broader land-use permissions for agriculture-related activities and on-farm diversified uses provide greater flexibility to agricultural properties. The strategic growth areas now permit a broader range of uses, greater intensification and refined building height limits, ensuring balanced development.

The Plan was adopted by Council at the meeting and has been forwarded "to the Approval Authority for final approval." Council passed a by-law at the May 15 meeting to enact the Official Plan.

More information about the Official Plan can be found at townofws.ca/op

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

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

Please note: Council will take a brief recess for summer after June 19, returning September 4.

STOUFFVILLE'S TYLER BLACK A BIG HIT IN MLB DEBUT

'Mexico to Milwaukee, it could be a musical': Parents' odyssey to catch son's first game

by Jim Mason



ABOVE: Tyler Black (second from right) and family at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Stouffville's Rod and Nancy Black received more than 1,000 calls and texts within a couple of days.

The former TSN and CTV broadcaster and his wife were still returning messages a week later.

Such is life when your son makes national headlines for all the right reasons.

Tyler Black, 23, of the Milwaukee Brewers doubled in his first Major League Baseball at-bat on April 30.

He singled in his next trip to the plate. His dad, who was being interviewed in the stands, called the second hit on live TV: "There is a base hit to right field for my boy, Tyler Black, there you go, oh, there you go," Rod said during the Brewers' local broadcast.

The Blacks were on a "working vacation", on the beach in Cancun less than 24 hours earlier when Tyler phoned to tell them he'd been called up from AAA Nashville. Following an 8 a.m. flight out of Mexico, they were in the stands in Milwaukee just before the first pitch was thrown, not expecting Tyler to get an at-bat.

"Mexico to Milwaukee, it could be a musical," Rod said with a laugh. "It was a whirlwind – planes, trains and automobiles. But all of us would do anything to see our kids when they got something special going on."

Tyler gave the ball from his first hit to his

mom, who was celebrating her birthday.

"Memorable, unforgettable...and unexpected," Rod said of the big week. "It was very storybook."

The Blacks followed Tyler and the Brewers to nearby Chicago for a weekend series with the Cubs at storied Wrigley Field. The entourage grew to include Tyler's girlfriend, his sister, Sienna, one brother, Jesse, some of Tyler's former coaches and several friends from York Region.

The other brother, Brody, plays baseball at Coppin State University in Baltimore and was unable to attend.

"Pride," said Nancy, summing up the events of the week. "We've been proud of all our kids who've worked hard towards something over the years."

"You pretty much say he deserves this. People can actually work hard and sacrifice a lot and get there. We're very proud."

"I look back and don't know how we did it. They all played triple-A hockey, the two oldest played rep baseball and then I had a husband whose job was to work weekends and nights."

Not unexpectedly, Tyler was returned to Nashville a week after being called up when former National League MVP Christian Yelich was reinstated from the injured list.

"It's a numbers' game," Rod said. "Even though he's my son, I've seen the work and

dedication that he puts in. I'm around great athletes all the time and I've never seen anyone work harder for something. It will pay off. He's going to get up there and stay up there."

Tyler, who was featured in OTR after being drafted by the Brewers in 2021, played youth baseball in Markham and Stouffville.

The "Lemonville Farmer"

Not far from Tyler Black's family home lies Earl Cook Drive.

The bucolic cul-de-sac is named for another Major League Baseball player from Stouffville.

Also known as "The Lemonville Farmer", Mr. Cook pitched briefly for the Detroit Tigers during the 1941 season. His minor league career was highlighted by pitching shutouts in both ends of a AAA double-header for Buffalo.



ABOVE: Tyler Black with parents Nancy and Rod in Milwaukee the night of his MLB debut.

Other Sports News

Stouffville resident Angelica Hing is off to the Pan Am Games in Rhythmic Gymnastics. A gofundme has been set up to get her there: bit.ly/RGymSupport. More to come in July!

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FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ballantrae Gates' Community Appreciation

Get ready to feel the community spirit at Ballantrae Gates' Community Appreciation Bash!

On June 8th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Ballantrae Gates Plaza will transform into a hub of excitement and gratitude. This event celebrates the vibrant hamlet of Ballantrae and shows appreciation to all of Stouffville's fantastic residents.

The schedule is jam-packed with fun activities suitable for all ages, from fire truck displays to mouthwatering samples and face painting to captivating demos. Balloons will be soaring, and prizes await lucky winners.

Located at 15301 Highway 48, the event promises a lively atmosphere filled with community spirit. No tickets are necessary for this free event. Please save the date and join the businesses of Ballantrae Gates Plaza for a day to remember!

Visit ballantraecommunityevent.eventbrite.ca for more information.

Community Lunch at United Church

Join the Stouffville United Church for a Community Lunch in the Davis Room (34 Church St. N, Stouffville). The lunch will be served at noon on Wednesday, June 12th. Attendees can enjoy warm food, share stories, and laughter, all while fostering a sense of community. All are welcome, and donations are appreciated.

For those in need of transportation to the Community Lunch, kindly reach out to the church office at 905-640-1163.

Open Cupboard Collection

Visit the the Open Cupboard Collection Drive-Thru event on Saturday, June 15th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be stationed at 34 Church Street N., utilizing the south driveway to assist attendees.

Open Cupboard is committed to offering free emergency supplies around the clock to homeless and at-risk individuals in Stouffville. Priority items include drinking boxes, water, pudding cups, applesauce, granola bars, and other snack bars, alongside essentials like deodorant, combs, sunscreen, hats, Band-Aids, and socks.

For further details, visit the website at stouffvilleuc.ca or contact Open Cupboard at 905-640-1163. Your participation will greatly support our community in need!



LIVE AT THE LEGION

Singer-songwriter Gabe Salem

Enjoy live music with Gabe Salem at the Stouffville Legion Branch 459 in the clubroom on Saturday, June 22nd. The show starts at 2 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend free of charge.

Gabe Salem is a seasoned local singer-songwriter whose music is strongly influenced by icons like The Tragically Hip, Blue Rodeo, Crosby Stills Nash & Young, Elton John, Supertramp, and James Taylor. Over his career, Gabe has shared stages with notable acts such as Our Lady Peace, I Mother Earth, Sloan, and Animal Farm, among others. Don't miss this chance to see him perform live!

Country Artist Jamie Warren

On Saturday, June 8th, from 8 to 10 p.m., visit the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459, located at 150 Mostar St., Stouffville, for an unforgettable evening with the most awarded independent country artist in Canadian history!

Step back in time and enjoy an evening of Jamie's greatest hits from the '90s, including classics like "Sunny Day in the Park," "Cried All the Way Home," "The Way Love Goes," "What Goes Around Comes Around," and "Ready to Run," among others.

Tickets are available for purchase in the clubroom, \$30 per person.



Father's Day Literary Competition

Submit your original poems, essays, memoirs, or short stories about Dad! Electronic entries only. Email rochellelegioncompetition@gmail.com for information and rules. Submissions are open from June 1st-30th, with winners announced on July 1st. Plus, stay tuned for the announcement of our Mother's Day competition winner soon!

Shining a Spotlight on our Vibrant Business Community: WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE'S ANNUAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DINNER

by Christian Buhagiar

The Whitchurch-Stouffville business community recently gathered in celebration of The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Annual Chamber Dinner presented by telMAX. The Station Creek Golf Club was abuzz with over 220 attendees from the local business community, a testament to the event's popularity.



The evening began with an inspiring traditional Indigenous welcome ceremony by Kim Wheatley, setting a tone of unity

and respect. This was followed by the beautiful singing of our National Anthem by the talented 17-year-old Julia Middleton, a performance that touched all present.

Mayor Iain Lovatt's keynote speech on our town's current standing and future directions left attendees feeling optimistic. The event was also graced by prominent speakers, including Christian Buhagiar, Executive Director of the Chamber, David Elie, President and Chair of the Chamber Board, and Mike Strople, CEO of telMAX.

The evening was about honouring the past and looking towards the future. Former chamber board chairs, Steve Borlak and Steven Osztertag, were recognised for their contributions. A new Community Contribution Award, in partnership with GFL Environmental Inc., was announced.

The community also learned that the Business Excellence Awards gala is set to return this fall, courtesy of presenting sponsor Hyson Properties. Additionally,

Finance Minister's Visit Highlights the Strength and Potential of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Business Community

by Christian Buhagiar

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a sold-out breakfast event featuring Ontario's Minister of Finance, The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy. With 200 business leaders in attendance, the gathering underscored the pivotal role our local businesses play in the wider Ontario economy.

The Chamber's Executive Director, Christian Buhagiar, moderated a fireside chat with the minister. They discussed the 2024 Ontario budget and the government's plans for infrastructure, housing, healthcare, red tape reduction, and affordability. These insights provided attendees with a deeper understanding of the initiatives shaping Ontario's economy and their potential impact on Whitchurch-Stouffville businesses.

The event also featured remarks from

Tim Hudak of the Ontario Real Estate Association, Sonya Torres of Trentadue Torres Real Estate Group RE/MAX, and Minister Paul Calandra. Their contributions, along with those of Mayor Iain Lovatt and several local MPPs and Town Councillors, enriched the morning.

The event was a testament to the connectivity and vibrancy of our local business community. The discussions held and insights gained are sure to fuel future growth and innovation in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The Chamber looks forward to facilitating more of such empowering interactions. Thank you to everyone who participated, and to the sponsors OREA, Trentadue Torres Real Estate Group, Borlak Law Office, York Region, and Hyson Properties, your engagement made this event a success.

a Stouffville Downtown Village small business challenge, a joint initiative with the Mayor's Office, was unveiled.

The event's success was largely due to the generous support of sponsors. Among them were telMAX Inc., Hyson Properties, Green Infrastructure Partners, York University, Vianova Group, Morra Caruso Law, Sunny Properties, Pine Valley Corporation, Willow Springs Winery, Stouffville Honda Canada Inc., Stouffville Toyota, and Chambers Plan Employee Benefits.

In conclusion, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce 2024 Annual Chamber Dinner was a resounding success, a celebration of our collective achievements and the strength and vibrancy of our local business community.

A Message from Jim Thomas



"After 70 years of writing and ten months retirement, I'll soon pick up my age-old quill and rejoin the Fifth Estate. As often said, what goes around, comes around. Beginning next month, I'll bond with the elite of the OTR staff and commence 'Roaming Around - Stouffville' again. The invitation, extended by magazine editor Glenn Jackson, was all the incentive needed. Without waiting, I jumped on the bandwagon. I can only hope you'll like reading it as much as I'll enjoy writing it."

Look for Jim's first column in the July edition of OTR.

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A PLAYGROUND of possibilities

EXPLORING KIDZ KLUBHOUSE AT 200 MOSTAR STREET by Cassandra Papas

Kidz Klubhouse is a place where children learn, parents find a network of support, and communities thrive.

In the heart of Stouffville, a remarkable new venture has emerged, born from the dreams and dedication of four local moms—Christy Yau, Elizabeth Chan, Emily Wu and Katy Tsang. Together, they have established Kidz Klubhouse, a dynamic play and learning center catering to children from infancy through grade 8. The facility is not just a space but a community hub designed to engage children in various activities that stimulate their creativity and intellect.

The idea for Kidz Klubhouse sprouted when the four founders, who have been friends for over a decade, bonded over their shared experiences of motherhood

and the challenges that came with it. The concept of Kidz Klubhouse took shape during many heartfelt conversations about the lack of adequate childcare options. “We were discussing the difficulties of finding daycare. Emily and Christy, who both recently had babies, were facing long waitlists that span over two years,” Elizabeth recalled. This shared frustration ignited their ambition to create a nurturing environment that would serve the needs of their community. Their personal experiences as mothers navigating the childcare system gave them a unique insight into the challenges faced by local families, and this understanding forms the foundation of Kidz Klubhouse.

“We realized that we could make a difference, not just in our lives but in the lives of all the families in our community,” Christy shared. This moment marked the birth of their dream, transforming their frustrations into a proactive solution for local families.

While the initial idea revolved around alleviating the daycare shortage, the founders’ vision evolved as they delved deeper into the community’s needs. “We knew we wanted to be more than a daycare. We envisioned a place where kids could not just come and play but also learn and grow. Where parents felt comfortable, and kids were excited to come each day,” said Katy. This realization expanded their project from a simple daycare to a multifaceted community space that caters to kids of all ages.

Emily shared, “Living in a townhome doesn’t give me enough space to host birthday parties for my three kids, their friends and family. This helped in our decision to create a spacious spot for events and celebrations.” This personal insight directly influenced their decision to include party hosting services at Kidz Klubhouse, ensuring that other parents wouldn’t face the same limitations.

Each founder brings unique skills to

Kidz Klubhouse, making it a beacon of growth and creativity. Christy’s passion for marketing and social media allowed them to tell their story and reach out to the community. Elizabeth applies her human resources and operational expertise to plan the business strategically and ensure smooth operations. Emily’s creative eye allows for innovative purchasing for the ever-changing programming and workshops, and Katy’s knack for financials and organization keeps the daily operations seamless. Their individual strengths and collective effort are the driving force behind Kidz Klubhouse’s success.

“It’s not just a business; it’s about building a community.”

Kidz Klubhouse offers a vibrant array of activities. For instance, they have art workshops that spark creativity, strategic board games that sharpen young minds, and lively air hockey matches for some physical fun. The center ensures that fun and learning go hand in hand, providing a diverse range of activities to cater to different interests and learning styles. Emily notes, “Our children are the reason we started this, and they’re the reason we keep pushing forward. Seeing them play and learn in the space we’ve created is incredibly rewarding.”

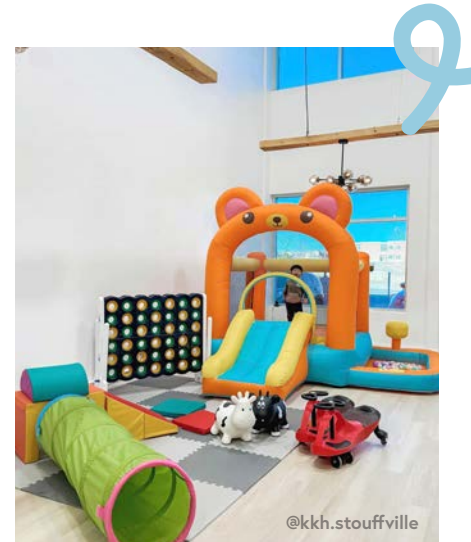
Parents appreciate the thoughtful design of the programs which run from after-school sessions on weekdays to private birthday celebrations on weekends. Kidz Klubhouse also becomes a bustling hub of activity during school breaks, providing themed activities that are both educational and entertaining. This responsiveness to community needs has cemented Kidz Klubhouse as a beloved locale for families seeking a safe and enriching space for their children.

Since opening its doors, Kidz Klubhouse

has quickly become an exciting addition to the Stouffville community. The recent open house event on May 11th drew many families eager to explore the new facility and its offerings. Looking ahead, Christy, Elizabeth, Emily, and Katy are planning to expand their program offerings, including new evening programs that allow parents to enjoy a night out while their children are engaged in fun, supervised activities. This expansion is designed to add even more value to the community and further support local families.

The founders of Kidz Klubhouse hope their journey will inspire other mothers to pursue their passions. “Navigating the challenges of motherhood and business has been tough, but we support each other every step of the way. It’s not just a business; it’s about building a community,” Elizabeth highlighted.

As Kidz Klubhouse continues to grow and evolve, it remains rooted in the principles of inclusivity, education, and community engagement. It stands as a beacon of hope and a model for others, proving that with passion and perseverance, small ideas can transform into impactful community pillars. This initiative has shown that addressing everyday challenges through collaborative and creative thinking can lead to meaningful change, enriching the lives of all involved.



Kidz Klubhouse is more than a childcare center; it is a community meeting place that embodies the spirit of collective progress and mutual support. It is a place where children learn, parents find a network of support, and communities thrive. As it continues to expand and evolve, Kidz Klubhouse remains rooted in the principles of inclusivity, education, and engagement, proving that small ideas can indeed transform into big impacts.

 200 Mostar St., #A115
(Mostar St. & Hoover Park Dr.)



ABOVE: Kidz Klubhouse features an interactive screen among other fun activities to keep children engaged in play.

HEALTH ON MAIN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS IN BUSINESS

by Tom Horsley

On Saturday, April 27, Health on Main proudly celebrated its 10th anniversary. Mayor Lovatt visited to congratulate owner Dawn Forsyth on this significant achievement. For over a decade, Dawn and her staff have been dedicated to helping residents strengthen their lives with high quality vitamins and supplements and personalized consultations with healthcare professionals.

Residents who visited Saturday were greeted personally by Dawn, staff and suppliers. Samples of various products were available to try. It was a beehive of activity. Everyone was busy answering the steady flow of important health-related questions. Dawn and her staff are very passionate about residents' health, and it showed.

Dawn became involved in holistic nutrition after her daughter and parents had health issues. She returned to school to learn about the role nutrition and therapeutic supplementation have on our health. Dealing with health issues within her own family triggered a career change to become a registered nutritionist and led to the opening of Health of Main.

Today, Health on Main carries over 400 products specifically chosen to meet the needs of Stouffville residents through all stages of their life. Natural supplements are available for digestive health, chronic inflammation, women's health, sports nutrition, men's health, kid's health, senior's health, skin care, pet health and more.

Health on Main offers a suite of individualized services designed to learn more about how your body is performing and



ABOVE: Mayor Iain Lovatt was pleased to present Health on Main owner Dawn Forsyth with a certificate of recognition for 10 years in business.

using this information to identify areas requiring additional support for your optimal health. Services include nutritional consult and bio-scan, osteopathy, follow up bio-scan, follow up consultation, telephone consults, vitamin and supplement overview, meal/food plan and fitness/workout plan.

Dawn is very active in the community. You'll find her discussing the importance of proper nutritional health at events and other sites around town.

Congratulations Dawn!

CELEBRATING INDIAN CULTURE IN STOUFFVILLE

by Tom Horsley



ABOVE: Committee picture members (from right to left) Karpagam, Kaavya, Shwetha, Upasana and Alka.

The diverse culture of India is celebrated here in Stouffville by members of the Indian community under the banner of "Indians in Stouffville". With over 350 members and growing, *Indians in Stouffville* is led by a dedicated and passionate group of core committee members who host family-friendly events to showcase and celebrate India's unity in diversity.

For many in India, the new year is celebrated in spring. On Saturday, April 20th, the *Indians in Stouffville* Community Group and guests joined together at the Anglican Church to celebrate with a Spring Soiree. The culturally themed event offered something exciting and entertaining for everyone. Participants and attendees experienced traditional songs and dances, a cultural fashion show, face painting and an arts corner for kids, Thambola games and lunch.

"In the spirit of harmony, let us continue to stand together as one united community, embracing our diversity and fostering a shared sense of belonging through joyful gatherings and cultural celebrations," said a representative from *Indians in Stouffville*.

Building on the tremendous success of the Spring Soiree and the Diwali Gala last November, the *Indians in Stouffville* committee looks forward to bringing additional events and celebrations to Stouffville.

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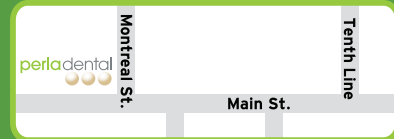
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2024 Summer Events

Stouffville Celebrates

Get ready for another summer of free events and experiences with the Stouffville Celebrates Summer Series, presented by Green Infrastructure Partners (GIP).

The Summer Series kicked off with **Victoria Day Fireworks** on May 17 featuring tribute band Fleetwood Max, and free face painting!

Our 10th Annual **Art in the Park** Show and Sale takes place in Memorial Park on June 8 from 11am to 5pm. Browse the work of over 40 artists while listening to live instrumental music. Take part in a free paper flower workshop from Nancy Lalicon, an origami class from Origami Canada, and a cyanotype print making activity with Latcham Art Centre.

Also included in the Stouffville Celebrates Summer Series is **Symphony Under the Stars**, **Canada Day**, **Movies in the Park**, and **Stouffville Ribfest**.

Plus, don't miss out on the **Stouffville Main Street 5K & 1K Kids Dash** on June 16, supporting the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation. Register now at townofws.ca/5k to secure your spot.

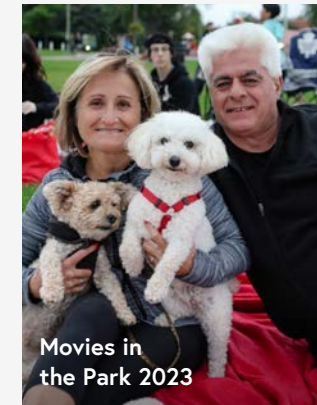
Check out the next few pages for more exciting events. From dazzling fireworks to mouthwatering ribs and everything in between, it's going to be a summer to remember here in Stouffville!

Stouffville Celebrates Summer Series Presenting Sponsor

Events marked with the Stouffville logo are Town-led events.



2023 Ribfest



Movies in the Park 2023



50th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show

MAY 11 - OCT 19

Stouffville Market

Saturdays from 9:00am - 2:00pm
6240 Main Street

The Stouffville Market opened on May 11 at 6240 Main St. for its third successful year. Lots of returning vendors, and many new vendors all brought their best for the happy patrons. The Market has much to choose from: all kinds of food, gifts, produce, gourmet coffee, skin care, bath and body care, treats (for humans and dogs!) and a wonderful variety of specialty items, home décor, just to name a few. Artisans and creators will showcase their talents and wares all summer. On the opening day, there was a beautiful cake to celebrate the opening, radio station 88.5 FM Hot Country provided the tunes to keep toes tapping. An ice cream truck served free ice cream to make a perfect summer day. There will be another ice cream day in August. Visit every Saturday until October 19- that's 24 Saturdays to get your Stouffville Market groove going!



MAY 11- OCTOBER 19

EVERY SATURDAY



6240 Main St.
www.thestouffvillemarket.ca
 thestouffvillemarket



JUNE 8

Art in the Park



11:00am - 5:00pm 📍 Memorial Park

Join the community in Memorial Park to celebrate arts and culture. Attendees can enjoy diverse entertainment and explore the talents of artists from across Southern Ontario.

JUNE 15

Discovery Day

10:00am - 1:00pm 📍 Library & Latcham Art Centre

It's a day to learn, enjoy, and grow! Numerous fun, free, and educational events for all ages will be held both inside and outside the Library. Additionally, the event will feature the TD Summer Reading Club kick-off.

JUNE 15

York Pride Parade

Parade starts at 3:00pm 📍 Main Street Newmarket

This vibrant showcase of 2SLGBTQ+ talent celebrates pride and self-expression, highlighting the beauty and strength of the York Region Community on Main Street Newmarket between Queen Street & Water Street.

JUNE 16

Stouffville Main Street 5K



Run starts at 8:30am

📍 Main Street & Memorial Park

Join the community on Sunday, June 16, for the 2nd Annual Stouffville Main Street 5k, benefiting the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation. Participants can walk, run, or stroll along Main Street to raise funds. A 1k Kids Dash is also available for children under 12.

JUNE 19

National Indigenous Peoples Day Odeiwun Workshop



5:00pm - 7:00pm 📍 19 on the Park

In celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day, join Odeiwun to learn about and celebrate the culture, medicines, and history of First Nation people.

JUNE 27

Country on the Patio: Featuring Ben Hudson



Concert starts at 8:00pm 📍 19 on the Park

Grab your favourite western hats and kick the mud off your boots for an unforgettable night of country music!

JUNE 28-30

Strawberry Festival

📍 Main Street & Memorial Park

Head over to Memorial Park during the Canada Day weekend for a FREE family event. Enjoy a festival market, live entertainment, a food zone, a pancake breakfast, and more. Stay tuned for more details in the July issue of OTR.



JUNE 29

Stouffville Main Street Classic Car Show (Rock 'n Roll Car Show)

9:00am - 2:00pm 📍 Main Street

Zoom over to Main Street in the Village of Stouffville for the Rock 'n Roll Classic Car Show! Enjoy over 100 classic cars with the Markham/Stouffville Cruisers and groove to classic tunes while exploring local shops and restaurants. Main Street will be closed from O'Brien Avenue to Park Drive during the event.

JULY 1

Canada Day Fireworks

Festivities start at 6:00pm • Fireworks at 9:30pm
📍 Memorial Park

Visit Memorial Park for an unforgettable evening of festivities that will kick off at 6pm and end with a spectacular fireworks show that will light up the sky in a symphony of colours, showcasing the pride and spirit of our great country.



JULY 13

Legion's BBQ Bonanza

Event begins at 4:30pm

📍 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459

Join the Legion at 4:30pm for a delicious barbecue featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, and a variety of sides. Meet Fire Chief Bill Snowball and his crew, mingle with surprise dignitaries, and enjoy an evening filled with food, fun, and community spirit for just \$15.

JULY 13

Fusion Fest: Taste of the Mediterranean

12:00pm - 11:00pm 📍 Memorial Park

Don't miss the Scotiabank Stouffville Fusion Fest: Taste of the Mediterranean, featuring free admission, a kids zone, and live performances by artists like Karl Wolf and Claudio Santaluce.

JULY 19

Symphony Under The Stars



8:00pm - 10:00pm 📍 Memorial Park

Experience an evening of classical and contemporary music with a live orchestral performance by Kindred Spirits Orchestra in Memorial Park.

JULY 19 - AUG 24

BIPOC Lens-based Artists Exhibition

Opening Reception: July 19, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
📍 Latcham Art Centre

This small group exhibition of lens-based artwork was created through an open call to Black and Indigenous artists and artists of colour who reside in Ontario. Each artist was invited to reflect on the various facets and complexities of human connection and identity, to explore the exhibition's theme of belonging in their own ways.

JULY 26

Movies in the Park: Kung Fu Panda 4



Movie begins at sundown 📍 Memorial Park

Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and head to Memorial Park for family movie nights under the night sky! Enjoy a lineup of fun films, with a food vendor on-site offering delicious treats. Admission is free, no registration required. Movies start at sundown, weather permitting.

JULY 27

Jazz on the Patio: Featuring Lady Be Good



Concert starts at 8:00pm 📍 19 on the Park

Enjoy the latest pop hits and classics in the signature style of jazz at this enchanting evening!

AUG 9-11

Ribfest



Fri 4:00pm - 10:00pm | Sat 12:00pm - 10:00pm | Sun 12:00pm - 7:00pm

📍 Memorial Park

Celebrate the BEST summer has to offer with a FREE three-day festival that features award winning ribs, local breweries, a variety of food trucks, a kids zone, marketplace, and live entertainment all weekend long!



AUG 11

51st Annual Antique & Classic Car Show

11:00am - 4:00pm  Stouffville Museum

Visit the Museum for the Antique & Classic Car Show, the town's longest-running family event, held annually on the second Sunday in August. With over 400 vintage vehicles, activities for all ages, and the chance to explore historic buildings and exhibit spaces, it's an event not to be missed.



50th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show

AUG 17

MPP Paul Calandra's Summer BBQ

12:00pm - 2:30pm  Memorial Park

Join MPP Paul Calandra for a community BBQ! Bring your family and enjoy free food and entertainment.

AUG 16

Movies in the Park: Wonka

Movie begins at sundown  Memorial Park

Grab your lawn chairs and blankets and head to Memorial Park for family movie nights under the night sky!



Movies in the Park 2023

AUG 17

90s on the Patio: Featuring Big Shiny 90s

Concert starts at 8:00pm  19 on the Park

Dial up your crew, throw on your fave band tee, and relive the nostalgia of 90s alternatives!

AUG 30 - OCT 12

Solo Exhibition

Opening Reception: Sept 6, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
 Latcham Art Centre

Stouffville-based artist Dianne Brown-Green presents artworks that reflect her Indigenous cultural heritage and experiences with nature. Adopting the iconography of the Woodland School of painting, and adding to its ongoing evolution, Brown-Green shares works that are deeply personal. Collectively her works offer an environmental worldview of interconnectedness and interdependency.

SEPT 14

Motorfest

8:00am - 3:00pm  Memorial Park

Visit Memorial Park for a spectacular display of Classics, Muscle Cars, Street Rods, Tuners and Agriculture Vehicles!

SEPT 15

Terry Fox Run

12:00pm registration • Mass start at 1:00pm
 Memorial Park

Registration for the 2024 Terry Fox Run is now open! Exciting news: over \$2,000 has already been raised! Don't forget to sign up and check out the new season's Terry Fox Run shirts, certified by Ryan Reynolds himself!

SEPT 21

Legion Senior's Wellness Fair

10:30am - 3:00pm
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459

Visit the Legion for this free event packed with demonstrations, giveaways, trade shows and more! Enjoy refreshments from the cash bar while participating in workshops, asking questions, and learning about health resources to protect yourself and enhance your well-being.

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SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR US

MOTUS O's James Croker, Cynthia Croker, and Jack Langenhuizen sit down in an interview with OTR to discuss calling it a career.

by Michaela Ray

After more than three decades of captivating audiences with their innovative performances and unique approach to movement, the esteemed Canadian dance theatre company MOTUS O is retiring. Sitting down for an interview from their homestead in Mount Forest, just days shy of their final performance, the founders, James Croker, Cynthia Croker, and Jack Langenhuizen reflect on their careers, memories, and thoughts of the future.

Founded in 1990 by an eclectic trio—a gymnast from the United States, an Australian sheep shearer, and a Canadian figure skater—MOTUS O has emerged as a dynamic force in the performing arts, renowned for its engaging storytelling and physical inventiveness. James, Cynthia, and Jack each brought diverse backgrounds and deep passion to the stage. Their convergence of skills allowed MOTUS O to carve out a distinctive niche in dance theatre, blending various artistic disciplines with a playful yet profound exploration of movement. The company's Latin name, meaning “the method of movement,” reflects its mission to make every motion meaningful.

MOTUS O's connection to Stouffville is not just geographical but deeply personal. As residents, the co-artistic directors nurtured a special relationship with their community. After their move to Stouffville early in their career, where the trio bought a house together, MOTUS O had found a community that resonated deeply with their artistic vision and lifestyle. This intimate connection extends beyond the stage; the directors often engaged with locals in everyday settings like grocery stores and coffee shops, further solidifying their bond with the community.

For 16 years, they ran popular dance camps at Stouffville's 19 on the Park, fostering local talent and ensuring their art form resonated with the next generation. Their role as artists-in-residence at the venue from its re-launch in 2009 allowed them to perform regularly in their hometown, becoming an integral part of the local cultural landscape.

MOTUS O's enduring impact on Stouffville is a testament to their belief in the power of community engagement and



MOTUS O presenting *Moving Stories*, a series of several short visual vignettes of real-life stories. Their performances were often engaging, powerful testaments to the human spirit. Image provided by MOTUS O.

the role of art in enriching local culture. As they prepare for their retirement, their legacy in Stouffville remains a vibrant chapter in the town's artistic history, celebrated not just through awards and accolades but through the lives they have touched and inspired.

Over the years, MOTUS O has produced over 25 full-length productions that have entertained audiences all over the world. Their work extends beyond traditional performance spaces; they have reached out to communities large and small, introducing the transformative power of dance and movement in places as diverse as street theatres and grand stages across the globe. This commitment to making art accessible underscores the company's foundational belief that dance can inspire reflection, examination, and appreciation of both community diversity and individual uniqueness.

Each of the co-founders has not only contributed to the ensemble's creative force but also fostered growth in others through teaching and outreach. Cynthia Croker, for instance, has used her background in dance and voice to engage with various social service organizations, helping individuals with conditions such as Parkinson's and Cerebral Palsy. Jack

Langenhuizen, with his roots in figure skating and dance, has brought athletic precision to the company's choreography, while also imparting his knowledge to aspiring dancers and figure skaters. James Croker's experience in mime and theatre has enriched the visual and narrative depth of the group's productions.

As MOTUS O approaches retirement, the co-artistic directors reflect on their most memorable productions, each a testament to the company's innovative spirit and dedication to exploring complex themes through the art of dance. James Croker highlights “Carmina Burana” as a standout production, appreciating its dynamic blend of pathos and comedy. This vibrant spectacle features an eclectic array of characters—gods, monks, lovers, and devils—brought to life with stunning costumes and live video footage. It embodies the creative and physical energy that defines MOTUS O, capturing the essence of the opera's themes with passion and creativity.

Cynthia Croker selects “The Shunning,” based on the moving work of Canadian poet Patrick Friesen. This narrative delves into the isolation of a farmer shunned by his community, exploring deep themes of conformity and personal belief. The

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR US CONTINUED...

seamless integration of dance and text in this piece highlights the emotional depth and societal commentary that are central to MOTUS O's work, providing a reflective mirror on the human condition.

Jack Langenhuizen's favourite, "Delusions," examines the chaos and beauty of the human condition through a thrilling fusion of theatrics, ballet, and modern dance. This production engages audiences with its blend of humour and poignancy, effectively reflecting on life's inherent quirks and turmoil, and showcasing MOTUS O's flair for capturing complex emotional landscapes.

An honourable mention shared by all three directors is "Prisoner of Tehran - The Stage Show." This significant collaborative project with author Marina Nemat merges spoken word, movement, video, and music to narrate a compelling story of oppression and freedom. It stands as a poignant illustration of MOTUS O's commitment to addressing social justice issues through

the expressive power of dance, marking a bold intersection of storytelling and choreographic innovation.

These productions not only highlight the diversity and skill of MOTUS O but also underscore the profound impact that innovative dance theatre can have on both audiences and broader societal narratives. As MOTUS O concludes its remarkable journey, it leaves behind a rich archive of creative works and a community of artists and audience members who have been irrevocably changed by its artistic endeavours. The company's retirement is both a moment of reflection on its considerable achievements and a testament to the enduring power of collaboration, diversity, and creativity in shaping the world of dance theatre.

As for where you can see MOTUS O again, their dancing days certainly aren't over. MOTUS O will be performing this fall at the Markham Fair happening October 3-6.

Visit motuso.com for more information and updates.

Give Back Awards Honours Stouffville's Prisha Bhavsar

by Cassandra Papas

Since its inception in 2008, the Neighbourhood Network Give Back Awards have consistently highlighted the extraordinary commitment of high school students to community service. Held annually during National Volunteer Week, these awards honour 20 remarkable youths from York Region for their substantial contributions to the community, coupled with a \$1,000 cash prize to encourage their ongoing efforts.

Organized by Neighbourhood Network, a division of Magna International Inc., the awards focus on students from Aurora, Georgina, King Township, Newmarket, and Stouffville. These accolades serve as a recognition of the significant positive impact these young individuals have on their environments.

A standout among this year's awardees is Prisha Bhavsar, a senior at Stouffville District High School. Prisha exemplifies the spirit of dedication and service through her extensive volunteer work. As a Student Trustee for the York Region District School Board, she initiated workshops designed to support students from 33 different high schools grappling with pandemic-related learning losses. Prisha's leadership extends to her roles as President of both the Empowered Student Partnership and the STEM Science Council, as well as Chair of the Ontario Well Being Working Group, which focuses on assisting students with physical and mental health challenges.

In addition to her leadership roles, Prisha is an active STEM mentor and volunteers at her local hospital. Her commitment to service also led her to found RedCycle, a global initiative aimed at providing menstrual health resources and education to women in developing countries. Prisha's profound impact on both local and international communities showcases the essence of the Give Back Awards: recognizing selfless service that extends beyond academic achievements.



Stouffville's Prisha Bhavsar receives her award certificate from Janice Tee (left, Global Director HR Systems and Projects), and Erin Cerenzia (right, Manager of Community Relations). Image from Magna Facebook.

Prisha's story is a testament to the significant role volunteering can play in a young person's life, influencing not only those they help but also their personal and professional development.

As she prepares to pursue a career in medicine, Prisha remains dedicated to creating equitable health solutions. Her plans to continue her advocacy and service work in college demonstrate an enduring commitment to community leadership and development.

Celebrating individuals like Prisha reminds us of the vital role young people play in creating a kinder, more equitable society. The awards not only honour these young heroes but also inspire others to embark on their own journeys of volunteerism, perpetuating a cycle of generosity and compassion.



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For Grades 1 to 6

Summer of Code and Math
For Grades 3 to 8

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Week2: July 15 - 19 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Week4: August 12 - 16 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Week5: August 19 - 23 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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Get involved with MSH

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



MSH Foundation 50/50 Raffle
June 11



Stouffville Main Street 5K
June 16



MSH Foundation Golf Tournament
August 12



Radiothon for MSH
October 17

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

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Celebrating 75 years with JOHN & MARY

In this month's column, we honour John and Mary Moffat, who recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with a beautiful gathering of family and friends here in town. There was a lot to celebrate, as stats show that the percentage of couples that see this Diamond Jubilee of marriage sits at .001627% – that sure is something!

The happy couple arrived in Stouffville in 1968 when John's company built a new facility in Markham, and his job was transferred. It was a time when the town had only a few streets, when Stouffville was way out in the countryside, surrounded by wide open spaces and farmlands. They were hooked when they found the house they would call home for 56 years, raise their children, form friendships, and get involved with the community... and get involved they did! They immersed themselves in the Lions Club organization doing many different events and activities. John was heavily involved in the creation of Camp Kirk in Kirkfield, ON, when that local Lions Club was gifted the property. They needed people to build the cabins and infrastructure to create the summer camp, and John found one of his many callings in getting that camp up and running. Mary was a Lioness, the women's branch of the Lions and was there to do whatever needed doing! Some readers may also remember Mary as the mainstay working in the snack bar at the old Park Dr. arena, so well-loved in her job there that most just called her "Mom."

Want to know just how involved they were in the Lions? On top of the toy drives, food baskets, Christmas tree sales, walks for guide dogs, BBQs at the Strawberry Festival, etc., John created the fishing derby

for local seniors; he would organize a day at Burd's Family Fishing, have a group come up to fish, and they could take their catch back to their retirement homes, where the kitchen would cook it up for dinner. The Lionesses would cook up hot dogs and other goodies to keep everyone well-fed for the day.

John received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from the Lions Clubs International, the Lions' highest form of recognition to acknowledge an individual's dedication to humanitarian service. He also earned an honorary lifetime member of the Lions.

They both took up golfing. John took it upon himself to teach himself and became so proficient that he would get in hot water with the local golf pros when he tried to help new golfers by giving them pointers for free! Always on the lookout for opportunities, collecting and selling golf balls became a little side hustle.



When asked what they remember about Stouffville as they look back at their 58 years here, first and foremost was the incredible neighbours they had. A few names that popped up are Gibbons, Bakers, Lonegan, Stovers, Darlings, Hodgeson, Cassano, Beavis, Zerdin, Johnston – so many great people who created such a wonderful neighbourhood. They say they



lived on the best street in town. Going down memory lane brought up the story of the Lehman cabbage farm behind their house, which generated quite an aroma in the area (if you've ever driven by a cabbage farm, you know what they're talking about!). The Lehmans always shared their bounty and kept the neighbouring freezers well stocked over the winter months. Their many friends from Christ Church on Sunset Blvd. were a source of great happiness in our conversation. John was such a fixture every weekend at the old Stouffville Country (Flea) Market on Tenth Line that many of the vendors thought he was the market owner. They discussed so fondly the wonderful people, the days of knowing everyone in town, when men would tip their hat and say hello, the caring, the togetherness, the sense of community, the many businesses that have come and gone over the years, the arena, the parks, the events. They raised two children here and now boast the family has grown to include 5 five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren – all with roots in our beautiful town.

75 years ago, butter was 62 cents/lb, gas was 8 cents/L, and John and Mary were wed in Hamilton, beginning their married life together. They moved to Stouffville and created a legacy made with love, family, neighbours and friendships. I was honoured to spend time with them and their daughter Linda, hearing their stories and memories.

Congratulations to you both, and thank you for letting me tell a small fraction of your story.

Pork Tenderloin with Grilled Broccolini and Black Bean Salad

tales from
the **Q**
with DAVE MILLS



Contact Dave Mills: david@stouffville.com

I am cooking this during the sixth game between Toronto and Boston (I can't watch, so I must distract myself). To me, other than my guitar, there is no better way for me to distract myself than cooking. So tonight, I am grilling some pork tenderloin and broccolini, and to keep up my new healthy theme, a black bean salad I promise you will love. Let's get going.

Pork Tenderloin

This is a simple pork tenderloin marinade that works well with the black bean salad. I marinated it for 8 hours, but you can do it as long or as little as you want (4 hours would be the minimum I would recommend). Here's what you will need.

- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1/2 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves fresh garlic
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground pepper
- 2 medium-sized pork tenderloins

1. In a bowl, combine lime juice, orange juice, olive oil, garlic salt, and fresh ground pepper. Mix the ingredients well.
2. Place the pork tenderloins in a resealable plastic bag. Pour the marinade over the pork tenderloins, ensuring they are evenly coated. Use your hands to massage the marinade into the meat, making sure it is well-covered.
3. Seal the bag and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes, or ideally up to 4 hours. Marinating longer will allow the flavours to penetrate the meat more.
4. Preheat your grill to medium-high heat, 350 to 400°F (200°C).
5. When the grill is up to temperature put Pork Tenderloins on and sear all sides. Then move to lower heat side of your grill.
6. Cook until desired doneness.

Tip: Let it rest! Resting allows the juices to redistribute throughout the meat; cutting the pork immediately causes these juices to run out, resulting in less flavourful meat.

Black Bean Salad

This is an amazing side dish that can be added to any meal, or you can just get a bowl of tortilla chips and dig in. I am sure if you haven't tried this before you will love it.

- 1/2 cup sunflower oil
- 1 cup green onion, chopped
- 2 red peppers, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 can black beans
- 1/2 jar of pimentos
- 1/2 cup corn
- 1 can lentils
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 tbsp water
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Mix together sunflower oil, sugar, apple cider vinegar, tbsp of water, salt and pepper.
2. Chop the green onions, red peppers, and celery stalks to desired size.
3. Drain and rinse the black beans and lentils under cold water to remove excess sodium and prepare them for the salad.
4. In a large mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients and mix well.
5. In a pot, whisk the sunflower oil, sugar, apple cider vinegar, water, salt, and pepper and heat on the stove until the sugar is dissolved.
6. Once cooled pour the dressing over the vegetable and legume mixture in the large mixing bowl. Gently toss the salad until all the ingredients are coated evenly.
7. Cover the salad bowl and chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes to allow the flavours to meld together.

Grilled Broccolini

Grilling broccolini is simple, flavourful and nutritious. Here is how I like to cook mine.

1. Preheat your grill to medium-high heat.
2. Rinse the broccolini under cold water and pat it dry with paper towels. Trim any tough ends, if necessary, but leave the stems intact for grilling.
3. Drizzle the broccolini with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Place the seasoned broccolini directly onto the preheated grill. Cook for 3-4 minutes per side, or until the broccolini is tender and slightly charred, turning occasionally.
5. Once the broccolini is grilled to your desired level of doneness, you are ready to serve.



Now let's put it all together. Place a few slices of the tenderloin on a plate, add a few spoonfuls of the black bean salad, and add your broccolini right in the middle.

Hope you enjoy this delicious meal.



Windfall from Windsor TREASURE TROVE OF LEAFS MEMORABILIA TO SUPPORT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

The Toronto Maple Leafs may have fallen just short of advancing past the first round of the NHL playoffs, but thanks to the generosity of a patient from Windsor, the Markham Stouffville Hospital, along with the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program, will be winners.

Stouffvillites who have lived in the area since the late 1990s might remember Fariba Marandi, a hair dresser who plied her trade in a number of hair salons in town for 17 years. While Fariba's sister Fahimeh was staying at Fariba's house a year ago, she had a medical emergency and was admitted to Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) for 10 days.

So impressed was Fahimeh with the care she received that when she and her husband recently decided to sell their Windsor home and move to a condo unit with limited storage space, she chose to earmark the most sought after items from her vast collection of Maple Leafs memorabilia for the Hospital Foundation's fundraising efforts.

Fahimeh has been accumulating her treasure trove for 35 years. The collection includes everything from autographed

sticks, jerseys, pictures and hockey cards from the Mats Sundin/Gary Roberts/Darcy Tucker era, through novelty items such as a Leafs-themed chandelier, a lighted bar clock, Leafs logo playing cards, insulated travel mugs, Christmas tree ornaments, scarves, place mats, bobble heads, waste baskets and so much more. "I would go to auctions and flea markets, my friends and relatives would always get me Leafs stuff for Christmas and for my birthday," said Fahimeh.

Fahimeh approached her sister to see if she could arrange to have the hospital benefit from the dispersal of the majority of her collection. Fariba contacted MSH and was paid a visit by the Foundation's Community Relations and Events coordinator Mateo Paolucci. Mateo liked what he saw and arranged to take the higher end jerseys, sticks and certified authentic autographed pictures to be sold at the online auction that will precede the 39th Annual Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament in August.

Mateo said he felt right at home sorting through the endless boxes of Leafs items that required Fariba to take two trips to Windsor with her SUV to transport back to Markham. "I'm a big collector of this kind of stuff myself," he acknowledged. "It's kind of cool to meet someone with the same interests." He said the Foundation will send an e-blast to its donor base before the event to tell them about the auction and what's included in it. "The Foundation is very grateful to Fariba and her sister. It's this type of thing that puts much needed equipment in our hospital."

Auction bids are to be entered from August 8-12. To get more information about the auction and to see what is up for bid, visit the website: mshf.on.ca/events. Or you can follow them on Instagram at [@supportmsh](https://www.instagram.com/supportmsh).

As for the remaining items that won't be part of the online auction, Fariba then contacted Parya Eshrathi, a department manager with Pro Hockey Life, which is owned by Canadian Tire. Parya is involved in the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program that helps children of low income families get into organized sports in their community. She came by to assess and select items for the program. "My family couldn't afford to put me into sports when



ABOVE: Fahimeh Mirandi, in her signed Mats Sundin jersey, admires her extensive 35-year collection of Toronto Maple Leafs memorabilia.

I was growing up so I'm very passionate about this," said Parya. She said the Leafs memorabilia will be given as an incentive for donors who make large donations to the program.

This will still leave a slew of items, some of significant value, to go towards supporting MSFH. They will be put up for sale by Fariba at the Stouffville Market in front of 6240 Main St. on Saturday June 8, where she will be given a booth free of charge for the day. "I'm really looking forward to seeing people get excited about buying these Leafs things," said Fariba, a committed Leafs fan.

Fahimeh couldn't be happier with what is going to happen with the plethora of Leafs jerseys, sticks, pictures, cards, bar clocks, she has amassed. "All of this stuff was such a pleasure to have around, but now it's going to a good cause and other people will get to enjoy it," she said.

PEDAL TO THE METAL: BMX Track Turning Out National-Level Riders, Hosting Major Competitions

Brendan Arnold is proud of 10-year-old Bruce's Mill facility 'but there's still room for growth'

Pop music blasts through the countryside just off Stouffville Road on a to-die-for-May night. Dozens of kids of all ages and sizes, dressed up, it appears from a distance, as Star Wars stormtroopers, mount their bicycles.

"I just wanna ride," one of them excitedly shouts, all set to pedal around the track.

This has to be Stouffville's best-kept sporting secret. In the middle of it all is Brendan Arnold. His Stouffville BMX T-shirt tells you he's a 'COACH' when he's so much more.

Tucked into Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, between the York Regional Police Safety Village and the maple syrup festival buildings, the track is celebrating its 10th anniversary. One of the largest clubs in Canada, it produces national-level riders and hosts big-time events. Last month, a team of 24 riders from the track raced in the world championships in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

What is "BMX"?

The acronym BMX stands for **bicycle motocross**.

The sport got its start in California in the late 1960s with kids racing pedal bikes on dirt tracks trying to imitate motorized motocross.

Made super popular by the annual Summer X Games, BMX racing became a sanctioned Olympic sport at the 2008 Games in Beijing.

A non-profit, the club recently renewed its land lease for another five years with its partners, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Arnold built the track with a lot of help from local businesses, tradespeople and individuals, and foundations, including Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Legacy Fund. Former Stouffville mayor (now York Region chair) Wayne Emmerson and his golf tournament fund were early backers. And there was that personal loan Arnold took out himself 10 years ago.

A Stouffville resident since 2004, Arnold moved to Canada from Australia in 2001. Now 46, he began racing at the age of 6 in his native Sydney.

Fast forward to 2024, and the club has more than 200 members, ranging in age from 2-50. There are 70 riders under the age of 5.

"Much more than I expected," he said trackside when asked to review the last decade. "To have all this going on from our little town and the group going to worlds."

"But there's still room for growth," he later added. "This is a sport that's quite unknown to a lot of people, and that scares them a little bit. You're on your own in some ways. Very friendly sport but much different from the traditional baseball, soccer... where you drop your kid off and they're welcomed by a team and a coach and away they go."

The Stouffville club has the largest number of girls of any BMX club in Canada, Arnold said, "but we could do with a lot more."

Geographically speaking, 70 percent of members are Stouffville



Contact Jim Mason: jimmason905@gmail.com

residents. Milton, the next closest facility, is the only other BMX club operating in the GTA.

"It's a fairly inexpensive sport," said Arnold, who had three children playing rep-level hockey last winter.

Riders buy a \$70 annual licence and pay a nightly fee (\$7 per practice, \$15 per race). Newcomers are invited to take a free ride on Mondays from 5:30-6 p.m.

Bikes cost from \$300 to \$9,000. Used bikes are available to purchase.

The club is hosting the Greater Toronto Nationals June 23-24 and another large event on August 23.

For more details, including contact information, go to stouffvillebmx.ca



ABOVE: Riders from Stouffville BMX race around the track located at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.



COMMUNITY NEWS

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COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

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

Upcoming Council Meetings:

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

Council will take a brief recess over the summer, returning on Wednesday, September 4 at 1 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings

(if required):
 Wednesday, June 5 – 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 19 – 7 p.m.

Residents may watch the meeting live online at townofws.ca/cmlivestream.

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

Follow all council meetings on Whitchurch-Stouffville's official council Twitter account [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall).

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

MORE INFO:
townofws.ca/council



LIBRARY

Want to head out with your family for some fresh air but don't have the gear? **The Adventure Zone** is an outdoor extension of the Library Lendery program and we are excited to bring this program back to our community for 2024! Borrow bikes, bike accessories, sporting equipment, outdoor gear, and more. All you need is a library card!

Mondays: Closed
 Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
 Wednesdays: 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
 Thursdays: 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
 Fridays: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
 Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit: wsplibrary.ca



FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services announces the return of the 'Home Safe Home' program, offering free fire safety assessments to ensure homes have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and a planned escape route. This summer, Stouffville firefighters will conduct a community outreach, directly engaging residents and performing on-the-spot safety checks. Schedule your free assessment by contacting (905) 640-9595 or fire.prevention@townofws.ca

NINTH LINE CONSTRUCTION

Construction on Ninth Line, from Donald Cousens Parkway to north of Main Street in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville, is scheduled from late May to July 2024, involving concrete repairs and microsurfacing to extend road life, with possible lane closures and access disruptions. For general inquiries about this project, contact Transportation Operations at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75000 or transportation@york.ca

TOWN LAUNCHES NEW "AMPS" TO STREAMLINE RESOLUTION PROCESS

The Town has a new Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS) to expedite the resolution of specific by-law infractions. This system aims to streamline processes by allowing the by-law division to address penalty notices in-house, thus diminishing the need for court involvement under the Provincial Offences Act.

AMPS applies to violations like parking, noise, and short-term rentals. Offenders will receive Penalty Notices and can choose either to pay the fine directly or to schedule a Screening Appointment for review by a Screening Officer. This setup simplifies dispute resolution, making it more accessible and less time-consuming.

Residents can manage payments and appointments through the town's official website, which supports electronic and virtual interactions. For those dissatisfied with a Screening Officer's decision, an appeal can be made for a Hearing Officer's review, whose determination is final.

For additional information about AMPS visit townofws.ca/amps

RECREATION

Fitness Festival

Join us at the Leisure Centre on Saturday June 1st to celebrate National Health & Fitness Day! There will be light refreshments and prizes. Admittance to the Fitness Festival is free, but we ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Stouffville Food Bank. We are pleased to offer this event in partnership with ParticipACTION Canada.

Fitness Centre- All Day (7:30-5:00 p.m.):
 Members bring a friend for free!
9:30-10:00 a.m.: Free trial – Off the Barre Class! (Group Fitness Room – Max 24)
10:15-10:45 a.m.: Free trial – Learn to Cycle Fit! (Spin Studio – Max 21)
11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m.: Yoga (Gym)
12:20-1:00 p.m.: Cardio Salsa (Gym)

Register for Summer Camps!

There are still spaces available in our summer camps! Participate in recreational, swimming, sports, arts, museum, theatre camps, and more. Register at townofws.ca/active



Summer Registration Dates:
 June 4th @ 12 noon – Residents
 June 11th @ 12 noon – Non-residents



June is Parks & Recreation Month!

Watch for more information on ways to stay active and enjoy the benefits of recreation and parks for physical, social, and environmental health.

Recreation Volunteer Opportunities

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

19 ON THE PARK

2024 FREE Patio Series!
Gates open 7 p.m., music starts 8 p.m.
 Country on the Patio feat. Ben Hudson – June 27
 Jazz on the Patio feat. Lady Be Good – July 27
 90s on the Patio feat. Big Shiny 90s – August 17
townofws.ca/events

Summer Camp at the Theatre

Visit townofws.ca/camps to see summer camp program information.

MUSEUM

The York Regional Forest, A Growing Legacy – The Exhibition
 Now–December 14 (10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Wednesday to Saturday)

Celebrating 100 years of the York Regional Forest, York Region has partnered with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum to bring you an engaging exhibit featuring the history of the forest since 1924. Free admission.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards

May 15 – June 30
 The Annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards recognize residential and commercial properties that have made an extraordinary effort towards the conservation, restoration, or adaptive reuse of a built heritage property. Nominate a local heritage property online at townofws.ca/heritageawards

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

May 18 – July 27 (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wednesday to Saturday)
 In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act (1923), this exhibition tells the story of resistance, resilience, and the many accomplishments of York Region's residents of Chinese descent.

Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville

June 1, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Celebrate 20 years of Doors Open in Whitchurch-Stouffville by exploring the community for FREE. Each attraction will offer a unique experience. Participate in behind-the-scenes tours, activities, and more. For more information or a complete list of this year's sites, visit doorsopenontario.on.ca

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

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

JOIN THE STOUFFVILLE TEAM–WORK WITH US!

Your work can impact the community of Stouffville in a valuable way. Find opportunities at townofws.ca/careers and apply today!



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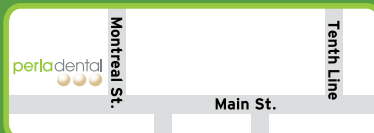
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