

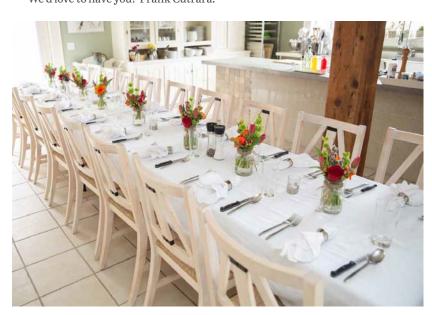


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POG is an initiative of Karen Merk, of Merk Photography. Karen is an Accredited Professional Photographer of Canada. 2023 marks POG's 14th year of celebrating and raising awareness of giving. The two descriptive portraits below are excerpts regarding honourees from Whitchurch-Stouffville. Full portraits can be seen and read at: merkphotography.com/portraits-of-giving.

SHANIA AND ANYA BHOPA

Young Adult Honourees [written by Sheri Andrunyk, ICPublishing.ca]

Photographed above, sisters Shania and Anya Bhopa founded the nonprofit organization, Canadian Courage Project (CCP). The CCP strives to promote the health of at-risk youth with animal companions across the Greater Toronto Area. Shania is a current Ph.D. student in Global Health, and Anya is an animal sciences student. Together they have built and inspired a team of volunteers and employees to deliver empowering workshops at youth shelters and libraries, set up educational animal service booths, and assemble wellness kits to support youths and their pets. The CCP is a recent recipient of the Queens Jubilee Community Impact Medal and the Aerie Real Changemaker Grant.

Their most memorable experiences have been facilitating shelter workshops with youth and animal companions; seeing the tremendous effect and the cooperative action that is fostered through their efforts is like no other. Their motto is that no child's health should be left up to chance, and everyone deserves to have an animal companion by their side to optimize their well-being. Shania and Anya say they wouldn't be living this purposeful life without the support of their own animal companions who have enhanced their mental

health in so many ways and shaped the way they see the world.

Shania and Anya Bhopa (above) and Susan Tucker (on cover) are Portraits of Giving

honourees from Whitchurch-Stouffville [photos by Karen Merk, Merk Photography]

The CCP started in the spirit of collective action after the pandemic. It was a long-time goal for Anya and Shania, and they're amazed they got to build a team, scale to the level they have so far, and still continue to partner with shelters in the area weekly. They are so grateful for the support and kindness of their wonderful town of Stouffville and its community for prioritizing the health of youth and animal companions across Ontario.

SUSAN TUCKER

Stouffville Honouree [written by Sheri Andrunyk, ICPublishing.ca]

Susan Tucker moved to Stouffville with her husband John in 1991. Together they have three daughters, all born and raised there. Susan has been volunteering and helping others for as long as she can recall. She says that it's just in her, it's what she does.

For well over 30 years, Susan has been contributing in a myriad of ways, always quietly and behind the scenes. However, three higher-profile public projects have put Susan a little more in the forefront lately. These ventures include the Adopt-a-Senior campaign, the Stouffville (Clock Tower) Poppy Project, and the Stouffville Market.

Susan has run a large community Facebook group for the town called the Stouffville Bulletin. It's for all things community-related such as news, events, announcements, happenings, help needed, help offered, and so on. Reflecting on the last few years and some of the good she saw evolve out of difficult times, it truly warmed her heart when she would witness someone post in the group that they had something to offer to those in need.

There have been so many memorable moments in Susan's journey, big and small, but mostly it's the smile and the thankyous that stand out and have real meaning for her. She will always do what she does regardless of any acknowledgment.

ON THE ROAD 2023 HOLIDAY EDITION

Remembrance & CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS

Clock Tower Poppy Project

Contributed by Susan Tucker

The Clock Tower Poppy project of 2022 was a magnificent and moving display of what we can do when a community comes together. The Stouffville Clock Tower (officially named the Percy Memorial Clock Tower) in the centre of town was covered in poppies, all hand made by volunteers in the town and even from outside of our town borders.

The project is meant to raise awareness for our legion, to start conversations and continue conversations of the meaning behind Remembrance Day, and all that we have to be thankful for, what we need to appreciate, all because of the sacrifices made by thousands of Canadian soldiers so many years ago. As time passes, we lose more and more veterans, and with them go memories and stories. Stories of war, of heroes, of sacrifices, of the horrors seen and experienced.

These are all things that must not be forgotten. Sadly, we continue to hear about wars around the world. The life we lead in Canada, the advantages we have are all thanks to those that made the ultimate sacrifice in order to save our country in war time. We must all continue to educate our children and honour and recognize the importance of Remembrance Day, it is not just a day off for govt employees, it is a day to think, to thank veterans and current military members.

There are poppies available for anyone who wishes to, to attach to the designated section of netting. Everyone is welcome to come by and pay their respects, reflect and remember, and attach poppies. I look forward to seeing how quickly it gets filled with poppies from those coming to honour our fallen heroes. The display will be available from November 1 – 12, please come by and see it, it truly is wonderful.

I thank the the many volunteers for the making of thousands of poppies, everyone that came out to help tie the poppies to the display netting, the students who created the artwork that is adorning several downtown store fronts, the store front decorators and the businesses that have allowed us to use their windows for the poppy displays. Thank you to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for the support, and allowing the use of the clock tower, and to the staff involved that a hand in any way to make this happen.



Stouffville Services of Remembrance



Sunday, November 5

Stouffville Cemetery (12118 Tenth Line) Ceremony starts at 1pm

Saturday, November 11

Remembrance Day Ceremony at 10:55am Stouffville Legion Branch 459 (150 Mostar) Followed by a light lunch in the Branch

Meet The Legion: Remembrance

Every year the Royal Canadian Legion acknowledges the end of conflicts (it does not commemorate the start of conflicts). On November 11, the Legion recognizes all of Canada's Veterans, serving and retired, and commemorates the Fallen. From November 4-11, the Library will have a display available to commemorate the Stouffville sons and daughters lost due to conflict. On November 4, Saturday, 10am-2pm, members of the Stouffville Legion will be on site to answer any questions that you might have about the act of remembrance.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

The Stouffville Memorial Christian Church has begun the annual Christmas Shoe Box drive to fill as many shoe boxes as they can with all manner of items that children can use and have fun with. Each year Samaritan's Purse ships tens of thousands of filled boxes to underprivileged children around the world for Christmas. More information can be found on their website, samaritanspurse.ca.

The church invites all who wish to participate in this worthy project email them at **stouffvillechristianchurch@gmail.com** or give call at 416-803-6253.

Adopt-A-Senior is Back for 4th Year

This project started during the height of the pandemic when we saw the valued senior members of our community – family, friends, neighbours – locked down in their homes. In buildings that are dedicated senior residences, our elders were restricted to their rooms, unable to see anyone, go to meals, have any visitors, or leave the building. The restrictions placed on all of us were of course required, and were hard on everyone, but especially hard on seniors.

The loneliness and sense of abandonment they felt was truly saddening. This event was a way to show them that they were not forgotten, that while we went on with our lives chasing kids and taking care of our families in our own households, we still cared and wanted to help, and to bring smiles to them during the Christmas season.

In December 2020, we created and distributed 150 gift bags to these seniors who have given us

so much. In December 2021 and 2022 we did 250. The need is there, the support is there, and this town is full of wonderful caring neighbours who have donated and volunteered for the past 3 years, I know this event can continue growing. If you'd like to donate, help, volunteer, or be involved, please contact:

whitchurch stouff villes eniors @gmail.com.

Lions: Toy & Coat Drive and Christmas Tree Sale

The Lions Annual Toy Drive we will be accepting donations of new unwrapped toys this year at the Fire Department both on Weldon Rd. in Ballantrae on Hwy 48, and at the Town Office at 111 Sandiford in the lobby from December 1st to Wednesday, December 20th, 2023. All toys donated stay within Whitchurch-Stouffville for local families in need. Applications for families in need will be available via our Facebook page and our website stouffvillelions.ca by Wednesday, November 29.

Coats for Kids is an ongoing collection of new and clean gently used coats, boots, mits, hats, scarves, snow pants and snowsuits for all ages that are available for ANYONE free of charge. Stouffville Lion's support this project with the collection at Stouffville Honda again this year from Oct 17 - Dec 30. Stouffville Honda is also offering families in need without transportation shuttle service Saturday's to and from the Newmarket Coats for Kids Depot. Email stouffvillelions@gmail.com to reserve a shuttle appointment.

Residents have created a family tradition of coming to the Stouffville Lions Tree Lot with kids and parents in tow to debate which tree is the best for their home and shared many smiles, stories and laughs along the way. The tree lot is located at Canadian Tire's parking lot.

Stouvella Virtual Market

Stouvella will once again open its virtual doors on November 1st. This is an online marketplace for local residents to sell their handcrafted and artisan products to eager buyers looking for the perfect gift for the Christmas season. Once you join the group you will have access to buyers and sellers and can shop to your heart's delight!

All transactions are done directly with each vendor to make it fast and easy for everyone. If you're a vendor, feel free to make and post an album of your goods, buyers will contact you directly. Everyone, please make sure you know where and how to access your Messenger message requests. Happy shopping! www.facebook.com/groups/stouvella

RICHARDSON LODGE

A Salute to Parkview **Home Front Line Workers**

Contributed by Ken Prentice

On Saturday, Nov 25 at 6pm the doors swing open to a Gala Dinner and music from 7 piece Metro Big Band Orchestra. This event, hosted by Richardson Lodge, Stouffville will be happening in the beautiful setting of Oakview Terrace, Leslie Street north of Gormley. The evening includes dinner, prizes, lucky draws, and Big Band Dancing.

Past Master and committee member Ken Prentice explains, "Our Lodge wanted to offer a heartfelt thank you to those folks who

worked very hard during the COVID ordeal in our local Parkview Home. We were also certain that the broader Stouffville Community wanted to say thanks as well." Several of these Frontliners along with their companions will be treated to this evening out. The event has been postponed from 2 prior planned events owing to recurring COVID issues but now it is full steam ahead.

Richardson Lodge was formed in 1860, originally in the upper room of a livery stable in the community of Cashel (Elgin Mills & Kennedy Road). After several interim meeting locations in Stouffville, they settled in 1955 in their present-day Temple at 279 Second Street, Stouffville at Ninth Line.

According to Richardson's incoming Master, Dennis Linis, "Our goal in Masonry is to take good men and make them better. Just as our early initiates were seeking opportunities for fellowship, charity, and education that still remains. Today Richardson Lodge



is reflective of the present Stouffville community with members from various faiths and backgrounds working to be better people and stronger community members and for sure the world can do with more of that."

Through the years Richardson Lodge has been involved in several activities ranging from Blood Donor clinics, Strawberry Festival, Santa Claus Parade, and through their affiliation as Shriners they have helped raise funds for the Shriners Hospital in Montreal. As for the suggestion that Masons have secrets, Richardson's Master Nitin Pande explains, "There are no secrets in Masonry, except of course, that everyone knows a Mason - you just don't know that they are a Mason... that's the secret!"

For further information about the Gala and Richardson Lodge contact: Lodge Officer Curtis Potter at RL136GRC@gmail.com or 416-272-8135.

RICHARDSON LODGE NO.136 OF STOUFFVILLE PRESENTS A Salute to the Frontline Workers of Parkview Home

An unforgettable evening dedicated to expressing our heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering commitment of the Frontline Workers of Parkview Home with the exquisite auditory offerings from the Metro Big Band

GALA NIGHT

Saturday, November 26, 2023

Oakview Terrace, 13256 Leslie Street

Doors Open & Cocktails: 5:30pm, Dinner: 7:00pm, Dance & Mingle: 9:00pm

Dress Code Semi-Formal Ticket Price \$125 pp or \$235 for two or Table of 8 for \$925 Advance Tickets only, on sale until November 10

Contact: Curtis Potter at RL136GRC@gmail.com or 416-272-8135









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10 ON THE ROAD I BUSINESS

Local Community Health Clinic

GEARS UP FOR FLU SEASON

By Ronald Ma, EYRND OHT



Team members from Oak Valley Health and Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy at the Community Health Clinic

Oak Valley Health, in partnership with the Eastern York Region North Durham Ontario Health Team (EYRND OHT) and Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy, has opened the Community Health Clinic (CHC) to provide the residents of Stouffville and surrounding areas access to services for all patients six months of age and up.

Led by nurse practitioners, the CHC offers rapid access to providers who specialize in paediatric care. The CHC is appointment-based and offer both same and next day appointments. Patients will be able to access in-person booked appointments with follow-up care provided when considered necessary and appropriate.

Carol Hotchkiss, Stouffville resident and Unit Secretary at the CHC says, "Itakegreat pride in being an employee at the Community Health Clinic that provides accessible and timely patient-focused care to the community of Stouffville and surrounding area. It is

nice to hear the positive feedback from patients when I speak with them."

The Community Health Clinic is located inside the Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy at 5402 Main St. The clinic is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments can be booked online at: oakvalleyhealth.ca.

Feeling under the weather and don't want to visit an in-person clinic? You can now access care from the comfort of your own home! In collaboration with Ontario Health, the EYRND OHT, and Oak Valley Health, the Central Region Virtual Urgent Care Clinic (VUCC) is also available to community members. The virtual clinic is the perfect option for those who need timely access to care for conditions that can be address virtually. The clinic is open daily from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is available to everyone, whether you have a family doctor or not. You can book a virtual appointment at oakvalleyhealth.ca.

Give a bear to show you care with 'Bear Necessities'

Making a patient's hospital stay a little more 'bearable' is just a bear hug away. Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) Foundation have relaunched the Bear Necessities program after the COVID-19 pandemic sent the fundraising initiative into hibernation.

Created in 2016 to provide added comfort to patients of all ages at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital, the Bear Necessities program began by offering cuddly teddy bears to those who needed their spirits lifted. In 2018, the program expanded to include soft sleep sacks for newborns and plush blankets to keep patients warm and comfortable.

When you give a 'bear hug', you are supporting critical, life-saving equipment and bringing comfort to those who need it at MSH. Anyone who receives a 'bear hug' is reminded that they are not alone and that the talented hospital team has the tools they need to ensure excellent patient care, close to home.

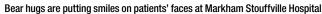
"Participation in the Bear Necessities program showcases how generous our community is," says Marina von Engelbrechten, Director, Community Giving, MSH Foundation. "By sending a teddy bear, sleep sack, or blanket, our community is caring for one another, no matter the age, while supporting a great cause. Whether you are a child in the paediatric clinic or elderly patient in palliative care, knowing someone is thinking of you brings our community closer together."

Grateful patient, John Harrison, has supported the Bear Necessities program every year since the beginning. "It was a winwin situation," says Harrison. "A patient gets something in their time of need and the funds support the hospital to improve patient care." Harrison donates each year to purchase as many bears to be gifted to MSH patients knowing it provides comfort during their time at the hospital.

Bear Necessities are not only available for patients through a donation, they can also be purchased as gifts for loved ones for any special occasion. As the cold weather arrives and the holiday season is fast approaching, what better gift is there to give than the gift of warmth and support.

This Giving Tuesday, November 28, when you give a gift of comfort and joy, you will help deliver 1,900 bear hugs in 24 hours. For every Bear Necessity purchased by a community member, a SECOND patient at MSH will also receive a bear hug. This is thanks to the incredible generosity of Shahan and Aida Güler who will match donations of up to \$50,000.

Visit www.lifesavinggifts.ca to purchase a Bear Necessity and double your impact thanks to Shahan and Aida Güler's pledge to match donations this Giving Tuesday, November 28.





Thank you, Whitchurch-Stouffville for supporting your community's health!

This summer, Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Iain Lovatt, council and staff arranged three amazing events in support of Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH); The Stouffville Main Street 5k, All Night Lawn and Mayor Lovatt's Charity Golf Classic collectively raising over \$425,000 to benefit MSH.



















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A Medal and Memories: Softball Star Played for Canada at Pan Ams in Colombia

By Jim Mason

Akid who grew up on the ball diamonds and hockey rinks of Stouffville was a member of the Canadian U18 national team that won bronze at the 2023 WBSC Americas Pan American softball championship in Sincelejo, Colombia in September.

The Canadians went 4-2, defeating Argentina 1-0 in extra innings in the third-place game. With that finish, Brad Barker could represent Canada at a World Cup event in Mexico this month.

But his other favourite sport would get in the way. Twosport Brad also plays forward for the Toronto Patriots of the Ontario Junior Hockey League. The resident of Goodwood, is a three-year veteran in the southern Ontario Jr. A loop.

"I just can't miss three weeks of hockey," Barker told OTR. The Pan American Championship featured six teams - the other countries were Colombia, Peru, the United States and Venezuela. The top four earned a spot at the 2023 WBSC U18 Men's Softball World Cup Nov. 11-19 in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Barker pitched against the U.S. and had some key hits for the national team. But some of his memories from the Southern American trip aren't sport-related. "A once-ina-lifetime opportunity," the Stouffville District Secondary School graduate told OTR. "We saw a lot of Colombia and it was pretty eye-opening to realize just how privileged we are up here."

The Canadians were surprised to see water served up in bags to help them deal with the stifling heat and humidity. There was no shortage of quality food for the visitors, including "amazing steaks and chicken."

Barker was named to the national team during a busy week in mid-August. The 19-year-old shuttled – it's a five-hour round trip – between junior A hockey training camp in Toronto and the U20 Men's Canadian Championship softball tournament in Napanee.

The 6-foot-2, 205-pound Barker played for the host team who won the national title with a 2-0 win over the Tavistock Athletics, from near Stratford. Napanee went 8-1 at the eight-team, six-day tournament.

"After that final catch was made in that championship game, we were celebrating with the medals and taking pictures," Barker said. "The CEO of Softball Canada came over to me, shook my hand and mentioned that he needed my passport. It was a pretty cool moment. It was like two wins in one day."

It was Barker's first national championship. The Pan-Am



Brad Barker played for Canada at the 2023 WBSC Americas Pan American softball championship in Sincelejo, Colombia in September. [photo courtesy of OJHL Images]

tournament in Colombia marked his debut playing for Canada.

"First thing, I hugged my mom, who was crying, and my dad," he said. "It was a special moment. All that work we put in. They did so much for me." He had additional special praise for Ed Matthews and his father, Kelly, who began coaching him in softball at the age of 5 at the house league level.

The Matthews tandem coached Barker through his select and rep days in Stouffville, and with a team in Port Perry in 2022. Ed was on the gold-medal staff in Napanee this summer.

Barker also thanked Randy Smith of Body Smith International in Gormley, where he has worked out for the past seven years. Barker eventually hopes to play men's softball at its highest level, in the International Softball Congress, where players are paid. He's working out with one of the ISC clubs, the Toronto Batmen, but plans to return to the U20 division next summer.



A Spectacular Holiday Series

The Town's Events team is getting ready to light up our Town and get everyone into the festive spirit as we head into December. The Stouffville Celebrates Holiday Series includes 5 seasonal events: Halloween on Main, Light up the Village, Stouffville Holiday Market, Stouffville Santa Claus Parade and the New Year's Eve Fireworks to end off the year with a bang!

Light Up the Village takes place on Thursday, November 23rd from 5:00pm-9:00pm. Come see our Historic Main Street decked out in its Holiday best as this event ushers in the holiday spirit with festive light displays, ice sculptures, holiday treats, music, roaming entertainment, and our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The stores, businesses, and restaurants welcome you to start your holiday shopping and explore the Village of Stouffville with cheerfully decorated storefronts, and share a bite to eat or drink with friends and family – 'Tis the season! The Tree Lighting Ceremony will begin at 6:30pm in front of the Clock Tower on Main Street. To learn more about Light Up the Village, visit townofws.ca/lightupthevillage.

Directly following Light Up the Village is our award-winning Stouffville Holiday Market which takes place in Memorial Park on Friday November 24th from 5:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday November 25th from 12:00pm-9:00pm. Stop by during operating hours to enjoy a free carousel ride, horse and carriage rides, pictures with Santa, holiday train rides, various light activations, and the local artisan vendor marketplace.

This year's Holiday Market will be packed with lots of amazing music. Sofia Camara will set the stage as she opens for the event's headline performer on Saturday night: Tyler Shaw! Tyler is making his way across Ontario on his Christmas Tour and has included Stouffville on his list! To top it all off, Saturday evening's performances will be hosted by the amazing Jax Irwin. Check out the mainstage on Friday to join the Motown Boys as they sing your holiday favourites! Live music continues on Saturday with the Candy Cane Carolers, Evan Farrel, and Alessia Cohle.

The Events team is thrilled to once again be partnering with Latcham Art Centre's **Beyond Craft** during the Holiday Market! Don't forget to visit 19 on the Park to see artisanal vendors and artists. Beyond Craft runs from November 23rd to 26th.

To learn more about Stouffville's Holiday Market, visit townofws.ca/holidaymarket. For more info on Beyond Craft, visit latchamartcentre.ca/our-events.

We can't wait to see you over the holidays and share the magic of the season with you!





Holiday Activities

Oct. 20 - Dec. 8

Exhibition: Continuous Memory

Latcham Art Centre, 2 Park Dr.

Max Lupo and José Andrés Mora explore the power and playfulness of words using technology. This two-person exhibition asks what is required to give meaning to language, and how that meaning can change as we experience words from different perspectives. See latchamartcentre.ca for more.

Friday & Satruday, Nov. 3-4

Stouffville's Christmas Home Tour

The Marketplace, 13414 Highway 48

Every year, the Stouffville Christmas Home Tour takes place in early November, kicking off the holiday season. Local designers and florists team up with homeowners throughout Stouffville to decorate their homes for the holidays. Guests are welcomed into the homes to view the decor, ask questions and get inspired. A Christmas marketplace runs all weekend and the annual Friday night cocktail party is not to be missed. This is an Adult only event. Purchase tickets online at: stouffvillechristmashometour.ca.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Family Paint Night

Latcham Art Centre, 2 Park Dr.

(Ages 7+) Our Van Gogh inspired Family Paint Night is a perfect opportunity for families to come together and enjoy a fun and creative activity that celebrates the beauty of nature. Come join us in our amazing studio where families can bond and create wonderful memories in a relaxing environment while unleashing their creativity! No experience is required. Each ticket comes with all materials ready for acrylic painting. Register at latchamartcentre.ca/programs. 7:00-8:30pm.

Thursday, Nov. 9

Annual Customer Appreciation Night Redefined Finds, 6258 Main St.

Start the holiday season off right by joining us here at Redefined Finds for our annual customer appreciation night. We will have food, Slabtown Cider samples, door prizes, and more! 5-8pm.

Thursday, Nov. 9

Let's Paint "Crystal Flake"

Cornerhouse on Main, 6403 Main St.

Enjoy a creative night out and learn to paint your own unique snowflake with Brittany! Project is guided and beginner friendly. Visit brittanylauren.ca/letspaint for details and registration. 6:30-8:30pm.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Diwali Storytime

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Join us for a Diwali-themed storytime and learn more about this beautiful, light-filled festival! All ages, Free. Location: Children's Area. 10:15-10:45am.

Sunday, Nov. 12

From Ideas to Impact A 'How-to' Social Media Workshop

Casa Code, 200 Mostar St, A115

For all Business owners how are looking to build more consistency with their social media presence, including: Discover how to to capitalize your business; How to use AI for social media; Learn about branding basics; Create month's worth of content on the same day, and so much more. 11am-2pm. Fee: \$54. rb.gy/cvoru.

Friday, Nov. 17

Messy Christmas on Friday

Stouffville United Church-Auditorium, 34 Church St.

Messy Church Is For People Of All Ages To Share Fun Through Crafts And Games, Food, Friendship And Faith. We have fun doing 4-5 crafts or activities based on this month's Christmas theme, share a meal together and a celebration story and songs. 5:30pm. To attend this family fun evening, preregister at stouffvilleuc.ca/events.

Friday, Nov. 17

PA Day: Elves in the Workshop

W-S Museum . 14732 Woodbine Ave.

Calling elves of all kinds! Head out on a holiday traditions tour of the heritage buildings, decorate seasonal cookies, enjoy hot chocolate and get crafty to start the festive season. Ages 6 - 12. 9am - 4pm. townofws.ca/museum, see programs, tours & camps.

Friday, Nov. 18

43rd Annual Victorian Tea

W-S Museum . 14732 Woodbine Ave.

This event will provide you with a delicious taste of Christmas past, featuring a traditional catered tea and a festive tour of the Museum's buildings. Seatings at 11:30am and 1:30pm. This is a an all ages event. \$30 plus hst per ticket. townofws.ca/museum.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

DIY Gifts

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Join our 'DIY Gifts' program and craft a unique, handmade gift perfect for the holiday season. It's a thoughtful way to show your loved ones you care, and a fun opportunity to unleash your creativity! Location: Teen Lounge. Free Event. 6-8pm.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Holiday Sip n Shop

Casa Code, 200 Mostar St, A115

Two local boutiques - Lemon Cyprus and Casa Code - team up for an exclusive Holiday Sip n Shop. Meet three women with three powerful stories, and view curated clothing lines and home decor. It will be a lovely night out. **7-9pm**. For more about them, see lemoncyprusboutique.com and casacode.ca.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Art and Wellness Workshop

Latcham Art Centre, 2 Park Dr.

(Ages 18+) Explore the powerful combination of mindfulness techniques and creative expressions in this workshop designed to help you tap into your inner creativity! As you participate in the guided art directives and mindfulness practices, you will cultivate a deeper sense of awareness, learn to manage stress and anxiety, and develop a greater connection with your thoughts and emotions. Join us in a safe and non-judgemental environment where you can connect with yourself and others in the community. No experience is necessary, and all materials are provided. Register at latchamartcentre.ca/programs. 7:00-8:30pm.

Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 22-25

Choko's Annual Warehouse Sale

19 Anderson Blvd.

Choko's Annual Warehouse sale is just around the corner. Choko opens its doors to the public for 4 Days Only! End of Lines and One of a Kinds at Rock Bottom Prices, Winter Jackets, Fleece, T-Shirts, Hats and Accessories in all the axutomotive and farm brands you know and love! choko.com.

Thursday, Nov. 23

Let's Paint "Precious Pine"

Cornerhouse on Main, 6403 Main St.

Enjoy a creative night out and learn to paint this "Precious Pine" with Brittany! Project is guided and beginner friendly. Visit brittanylauren.ca/letspaint for details and registration. 6:30pm.

Thursday, Nov. 23

Light Up The Village

Main Street Stouffville - Park Drive to O'Brien Avenue

Kick off the Holiday Season in The Village of Stouffville. You won't want to miss the tree lighting, characters, shopping & holiday cheer from 5-9pm. Join your Mayor and Council in front of the Clock Tower for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony featuring holiday activations, performances, and the businesses in the Village of Stouffville. The tree lighting will take place at **6:30pm.** Main Street will be closed to traffic between O'Brien Ave. and Park Dr. so you can share in the festive spirit. For more information visit discoverstouffville.ca/light-up-the-village.

Nov. 23 - Dec. 24

Village Holiday Shopping Contest

Downtown Stouffville

Submit a sales receipt from 3 different Stouffville Village businesses dated Nov 23 - Dec 24 to be entered to win. For full details and to enter visit: discoverstouffville.ca/2023-holiday-contest.

HOLIDAY DIY WITH **Perennial Petals Flower Farm**





Wicked Winter Sleigh Workshop

Tuesday, November 21, 4-6 Sunday, November 26, 1-3pm

Thursday, November 30, 4-6

This is one of our most requested workshops. Grab a friend and come out to make your own winter sleigh from natural greenery and complimentary accents. For your front door, for your backyard or for your favourite relative. Learn how to make it once and re-create every year as a tradition. All materials included. \$85.00 + HST per sleigh. This is a small group workshop and each person will have all the attention they need to create a masterpiece. Min.3 - Max.6. For more, see perennial petals.com.

Wicked Winter Wreath Workshop

Friday, November 24, 1-3pm OR 4-6pm

Sunday, November 26, 4 -6pm

Come to the farm and get into the festive spirit by creating your very own natural greenery wreath. All materials will be provided including freshly harvested evergreens, berries, dogwood and pinecones. Ribbons are optional. No previous experience is necessary. Enjoy an afternoon with friends. A great way to start off the holiday season. \$95 + HST. This is a small group workshop and each person will have all the attention they need to create a masterpiece. Min.3 - Max.6. For more, see perennial petals.com.

Urn Insert

Thursday, November 23, 4-6pm

Come to the farm and create your own winter container insert. Use the greenery and accents that best reflect you and take it home to pop into your container. Easy and effective. No previous experience is necessary. Cost is \$65 + HST. This is a small group workshop and each person will have all the attention they need to create a masterpiece. Min.3 - Max.6. For more, see perennialpetals.com.

Gnome Workshop

Sunday, December 3, 3-5pm

Gnomes make everyone smile and we may all need a smile at some point this winter. Create a gnome to live on your veranda or front lawn. Bring a friend and have some fun. Sure to help get you in the Holiday spirit. All materials included. Cost is \$55 + HST. This is a small group workshop and each person will have all the attention they need to create a masterpiece. Min.3 - Max.6. For more, see perennialpetals.com.

Holiday Activities

Saturday, Nov. 25

Willowgrove's Christmas on the Farm 11737 McCowan Road

Christmas on the farm will have you travelling on a guided tour around our property to various activity sites. Try your hand at creating a country Christmas craft, re-enacting the nativity story in the barn with our farm animals, looking for items in the I Spy Christmas room. an outdoor tradition hunt and a play in the hayloft Your family will also learn about traditions around the world and hear stories about "why we decorate evergreen trees, eat candy canes and exchange gifts. End your adventure around a campfire singing favourite Christmas songs where hot apple cider and hot chocolate will be sold by the cup. Tickets: \$15 per person, children 2 and under free, at Willowgrove.ca. 10am-4pm.

Saturday, Nov. 25

Cricut Creations: Holiday Gift Jar

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Looking to give a gift with a personal touch this holiday season? Join us as we explore DIY gift giving with the Cricut. We will discuss the different gifts that can be given in a 1-litre mason jar and will create a pre-portioned holiday baking recipe to share this season. With all the instructions and ingredients listed on the jar, it is a perfect package to share. \$10, register at wsplibrary.ca code 29253. Ages 16+. 11am-12pm.

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Watercolor Card Making Workshop by Alorah Designs

Casa Code, 200 Mostar St, A115

Join us for a step-by-step journey in creating seasonal greeting cards using watercolor!! Our workshop will begin with an exploration of fundamental watercolor techniques, which will serve as the foundation for crafting beautiful greeting cards. In the second part of the workshop, you'll have the opportunity to create several themed greeting cards of your choice. Our Watercolor Beginners Workshop is the perfect choice! **7-8:30pm**.

https://guestli.st/760422.

Friday, Dec. 1

Bluesy Christmas

19 on the Park, 19 Civic Ave.

It's Christmas time, a time for friends and family to get together and spend time telling stories, singing songs and reminiscing! Bluesy Christmas is just that. An evening where longtime friends get together and sing some of their (and your) favourite Christmas songs, with a Blues & Roots tinge... This will be a fun filled Christmasy sort of evening with friends, old & new...maybe Santa will come down and sing a song....you better watch out! 7:30pm. For more, see: 19onthepark.ca.

Dec. 1 - Dec. 24 Stouffville Village Advent Calendar

Downtown Stouffville

Each day in December will feature a new exclusive offer from the Village of Stouffville. Don't miss out - check in online all 24 days! Visit: discoverstouffville.ca/holiday-advent-calendar.

Saturday, Dec. 2 Santa Paws

Muttz With Mannerz, 5710 Main St.

Join us at Muttz With Mannerz for a Festive Event. Family and furfriends welcomed for fun times. Our special guest, Santa Paws will be there ready to take photos with you and your pup. Visit our vendors and leave with Treats and Goodies for all, humans and dogs. Please contact us at 905-640-DOGS(3647) for more information. 11am-2pm.

Saturday, Dec. 2 **Annual Open House**

Velvet Sunrise, 100 Ringwood Dr Unit 8.

Join Velvet Sunrise Coffee Roasters for the annual open house event, featuring free samples and Birthday Cake (celebrating 14 years in business) as we share our gratitude for another year with our valued friends, family and customers. This holiday season be sure to try The Nutcracker Seasonal Feature Coffee, Lisa's shortbread cookies - sweet and cheesey, espresso chocolate bark, housemade marshmallows and more. 9am-4pm.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Santa Claus Parade

Main Street Stouffville, from Ninth Line to Park Dr.

Santa is coming to Whitchurch-Stouffville! Celebrate the season with your community as a parade of lights, entertainment, and characters, makes its way down Main Street. 6pm.

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 2-3

Holiday Market @ Musselman's Lake

The Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop, 150 Cedarvale Blvd.

Our local vendors will be selling lots of amazing one-of-a-kind handmade products for everyone on your list! 12-3pm.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Cricut Creations: Holiday Gift Jar

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Ages 16+. Looking to give a gift with a personal touch this holiday season? Join us as we explore DIY gift giving with the Cricut. We will discuss the different gifts that can be given in a 1-litre mason jar and will create a pre-portioned holiday baking recipe to share this season. With all the instructions and ingredients listed on the jar, it is a perfect package to share. wsplibrary.ca to register, \$10, code 29254. **7-8pm**.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Make Your Own Magic Bracelet Workshop by Lo & Co

Casa Code, 200 Mostar St, A115

Experience magic in motion with Lo & Co. Make Your Own Magic is a custom curated bead bar activation designed to compliment your event. Have your guests create their own bespoke bracelets with a bead buffet set up - candy bar style. \$65, materials provided. 7-8:30pm. casacode.ca/ products/make-your-own-magic.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Chamber Holiday Luncheon

Meadowbrook Golf Club, 11939 Warden Ave

This is our last networking event of the year and a great way to celebrate the season with fellow Chamber Members ahead of the holidays. We invite you to bring along your staff and/or clients to a wonderful festive luncheon. Holiday themed lunch will be served. Cash bar. Purchase tickets at https://w.stouffvillechamber.ca/events/details/ stouffville-chamber-of-commerce-holiday-luncheon-2023

Friday, Dec. 8

Living Nativity

Stouffville United Church, 34 Church St.

Living Nativity brings story of first christmas to life with narration, song and live donkey. All welcome in the Stouffville United Church garden at the corner of Church Street North and Duchess Street. Hot chocolate and cookies available following the presentation. Donations for the Stouffville Food Bank Accepted. A shuttle ride will be available from the parking lot at 6240 Main Street, Stouffville starting at 6:15pm. stouffvilleuc.ca.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Creative: Chefs Holiday Cooking with Santa by Earlyon

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Ages 2-6. Enjoy some simple, nutritious cooking and gift activities in a North Pole kitchen and then enjoy a visit with Santa! Allergy alert. Free Event. 10:30am-12pm (code 29806) and 1:30-3pm (code 29976). Visit wsplibrary.ca/ earlyon to register.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Holly Jolly Jingle Mingle

Stouffville Legion 459, 150 Mostar St.

Christmas Turkey Dinner and Dance with live performance by the Chapman Brothers. Limited seats, book with Rochelle, rochellechristmas 22@gmail.com. Please bring an ornament for the Merry Little Ornament Exchange. Wear something green or red - photographs will be published on Legion website. \$25 per person. Doors Open 5:30pm.

continued on Page 22

CRAFTS ARTS FOODS

Christmas Markets 2023

Saturday, Nov. 11

Harvest Market Craft Show & Sale

Springvale Church, 3885 Stouffville Rd.

Come support local with over 80 vendors, workshops, cafe, live entertainment, Beavertails truck, goodie bags for first 100 customers at the door, a kids activity table and we are still adding more! Come and check out all the excitement this year at Springvale's Annual Harvest Market. 9am-5pm.

Saturday, Nov. 18

A Country Christmas Market

St. James Presbyterian Church, 6432 Main St.

A warm welcome awaits you 9:30am-12pm. Enjoy Santa's Tea Room, Craft Table, and Silent Auction. Shop for Baked Goods and Frozen Meals.

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 9-10

Christmas Holiday Sale

Holy Theotokos Convent, 4369 Faulkner Ave.

Joyous Light Candles will be hosting their Christmas Holiday Sale and invite you to join them. Need gift ideas? Come and see all the new candle designs and holiday decor. Along with the candles, indulge in Greek pastries and other baked goods and homemade jams. Sale hours are Saturday & Sunday from 11am to 5pm.

Saturday, Nov. 18

Christmas Market & Cafe

Christ Church Anglican, 254 Sunset Blvd.

 $The \, Christ mas \, Market \, is \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which \, includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, which includes \, an \, annual \, Christ \, Church \, tradition \, an \, annual \, Christ \, church \, c$ a small volunteer-run cafe with soup and sandwiches and desserts, a baking table of homemade goods, a gift and crafts market with booths from local vendors, a book sale, and a boutique of gently used items donated from the church community. 10am-3pm.

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 23-26

Beyond Craft Show & Sale 2023

19 on the Park , 19 Civic Dr.

Shop handmade for the holidays at Latcham Art Centre's one-of-a-kind craft show & sale! Beyond Craft is an annual fundraiser in support of the Art Centre's programming held in the center of historic downtown Stouffville during the award-winning Stouffville Holiday Market. Find something special for yourself, a gift for a loved one, stocking stuffers, and more. Learn more at latchamartcentre.ca/our-events.

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 24-25

Stouffville Holiday Market

Memorial Park

Experience live entertainment, visits with Santa, light displays, artisanal and handmade goods, roaming holiday characters, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more! Stouffville's award-winning winter wonderland also features Latcham Art Centre's Beyond Craft. Friday, 5-9pm, Saturday, 12-9pm. Learn more at townofws.ca/holidaymarket.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 24-25

Country Pastimes Marketplace

12601 McCowan Rd.

Country Pastimes is excited to welcome you to another amazing outdoor sale. This sale is 2 km south of Lemonville on McCowan Road (#12601). The greenery bundles are best ordered in advance by calling 905-640-3216. Cash, debit and MasterCard accepted. 10am-3pm.

Connecting Communities to the World Around Us

We're proud to be a part of the communities we serve, including Stouffville's Summer Series, Strawberry Festival, and more. Catch us at upcoming fall and winter events in town!



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22 ON THE ROAD 2023 HOLIDAY EDITION

Holiday Activities

Saturday, Dec. 9 Candlelight Christmas

W-S Museum , 14732 Woodbine Ave.

The Candlelight Christmas event is a long-standing tradition at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre. Decorated for the season, the Museum comes to life with the traditions of Christmas past. This event includes a sleigh ride, a visit with Santa Claus, musical live performances, holiday treats, visits to the historic buildings where you'll find costumed staff and volunteers, and a blacksmithing demonstration. It's the perfect way to spend a cozy evening by lamplight. 6pm-9pm. Tickets are \$15 per adult, and \$10 per child at townofws.ca/museum.



Saturday, Dec. 9 Christmas Carol Sing-Along

19 on the Park, 19 Civic Ave.

Enjoy the music of the Christmas season including singing Christmas Carols with the Voices Alive choir, children's craft activities and lots of Christmas cookies. This will be a fun afternoon for the whole family. Admission is free. To register, please visit reunionstouffville.com This event is hosted by Reunion, a new kind of church community built around food, friendship and a conversation about Jesus. For more information, visit reunionstouffville.com. 3:30-5pm.

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 9-10

Holiday Market @ Musselman's Lake The Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop, 150 Cedarvale Blvd.

Our local vendors will be selling lots of amazing one-of-a-kind handmade products for everyone on your list! 12-3pm.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Stouffville Memorial Christian Church, 6528 Main St.

The Stouffville Memorial Christian Church community will be hosting a Christmas dinner. We welcome people to join us in a Christmas spirit of carol singing, celebrating, and feasting! 1pm.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Christmas Pageant and Concert

St. Mark's Catholic Church, 345 Glad Park Avenue

St. Mark's presents the 17th annual Christmas Pageant and Concert. All are welcome to join us for the Pageant, Solo and Choir Performances and congregational sing along! There will be a gathering down in the church hall for refreshments and fellowship. 3pm.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Community Lunch

Stouffville United Church, 34 Church St.

 $Stouff ville \ United \ Community \ Lunch \ is \ held \ in \ the \ Davis \ Room.$ Join us for a Hot Lunch served at noon to build community over a table with warm food, shared stories and laughter. All Welcome! Donations appreciated. **stouff villeuc.ca.**

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Permanent Jewellery Pop-up by Get Linked

Casa Code, 200 Mostar St, A115

Custom fitted jewellery that is clasp-less. Welded together with a quick and painless spark - you are forever linked! Custom fitted bracelets, anklets or necklaces. Charms can be added to any piece. Susan uses a professional welder and high grade chains. Each appointment is for one person and a 15 minute slot **between 3-7pm.** In that time you will select your chain(s) and charm(s). I will weld on your Get Linked chain and you then have a permanent bracelet, anklet or necklace! rb.gy/rsnbq.

Friday, Dec. 15

Christmas Baby Craft

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Ages 0-11 months. Families work together to make a work of holiday-themed artwith baby. \$5, register at wsplibrary.ca code 29290. Location: Children's Program Room A. 10:15-10:45am.

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 16-17

Holiday Market @ Musselman's Lake

The Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop, 150 Cedarvale Blvd.

Our local vendors will be selling lots of amazing one-of-a-kind handmade products for everyone on your list! 12-3pm.

Dec. 13 - Jan. 13

Exhibition: Images 2023/2024

Latcham Art Centre, 2 Park Dr.

An exhibition of work by the graduating art class from Stouffville District Secondary School. Students work with the Latcham curator throughout the fall semester to learn about the curatorial process, plan the exhibition, create related marketing materials, install the art, and organize the opening reception, providing an opportunity for these student artists to engage with a professional gallery in their community. Opening Reception: Wednesday, December 13, 7-9pm.

Saturday, Dec. 16

A Christmas Celebration of Song

Christ Church Anglican, 254 Sunset Blvd.

Men of Note Male Voice Choir and special guests New Song Chancel Choir with music directors Heather Williams and Jonathan Liebich present *A Christmas Celebration of Song*. Tickets: Adults \$25, Youths 12-16 \$10, Children under 12 Free. On sale at Cards Appliances, Barthau Jewellers, and Candlelight and Memories | or at menofnote.com | by phone 416-509-5249 | or at the door. Shows at 2pm and 7:30pm.

Sunday, Dec. 17

One Small Child Cantana

Stouffville United Church, 34 Church St.

Directed by Daniel Mehdizadeh and performed by the Stouffville United Church Choir and Friends at our 10:30am service. One Small Child brings together some of the most beloved contemporary worship songs with favorite carols for an unforgettable Christmas celebration! David Meece's touching, powerful song is the recurring theme, which ties the work together. stouffvilleuc.ca.

Sunday, Dec. 17

DuffleBag Theatre's A Christmas Carol

19 on the Park, 19 Civic Ave.

Penny-pinching miser Ebenezer Scrooge is well-known across Victorian London for being far more interested in making money than friends. Above all else, he hates Christmas time and its spirit of giving. Recommended for grades K-8. Please note, children ages 0-3 are free (babes in laps only). Performance run time: 50 minutes. 2pm. For more, see: 19onthepark.ca.

Thursday, Dec. 21 DIY Gifts

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Join our 'DIY Gifts' program and craft a unique, handmade gift perfect for the holiday season. It's a thoughtful way to show your loved ones you care, and a fun opportunity to unleash your creativity! Location: Teen Lounge. Free Event. 6-8pm.

Dec. 27-29 & Jan. 2-5

Winter Break Art Camp

Latcham Art Centre, 2 Park Dr.

Ages 5-11. Participants of Winter Break Art Camp can select which days they would like to attend. Each day features new, fun and creative art activities using different materials, styles, and techniques! 8:30am-4:30pm.

Thursday, Dec. 28 Leftover Crafts

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

Ages 3-12. Help us use up various craft that we have done throughout the year. Location: Children's area. 10-11:30am.

Sunday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Memorial Park

Bring the whole family to Memorial Park for entertainment, food and the most spectacular fireworks display of the year. Fireworks begin at 7pm.

FOOD MUSIC EXPERIENCE Christmas Entertaining

Saturday, Nov. 11

Kevin Ker at the Coach House Pub

3 Felcher Blvd.

Come spend the afternoon singing along with Kevin Ker as he takes over the Coach House Pub. For reservations go to **coachhousepub.com** or call 905-640-8118. **2-5pm.**

Saturday, Nov. 18

Grant Fullerton at the Coach House Pub

3 Felcher Blvd.

Canadian Rock Legend, Grant Fullerton rocks the Coach House Pub. For reservations go to coachhousepub.com or call 905-640-8118. 2-5pm.

Saturday, Dec. 14-23 Duck The Halls!

King Cole Ducks, 15351 Warden Ave

Visit Ontario's only duck farm fresh store at the top of the town. Delicious Duck Samples served from 11am-3pm. Try duck spring rolls, duck pate, smoked duck breast, confit, crispy duck wings and more! Chef consultant available to help with holiday meal planning. Store hours: 9am-4pm, 7 days a week. kingcoleducks.com or 800-363-3825.

Cater that Dinner Party or Corporate Event Sunrise Cafe & Bistro Catering 37 Sandiford Dr.

We offer a wide variety of catering options for your holiday parties, family/ friends get togethers, celebrations, or corporate events and parties. We have freshly made hot meals with your choice of lasagna, pork tenderloin with gravy, chicken and beef kabobs, a variety of delicious pasta choices like Alfredo pasta, and Mexican style food like bean burritos etc. If you are looking for ready to serve goumet boards, we have charcuterie boards, dessert boards, fruit boards, deli sandwich boards, and tea sandwich boards. We also have a wide variety of salads like our signature sunrise salad, strawberry goat cheese salad, and Caesar salad. If you are looking for more breakfast options we do offer coffee, freshly baked croissants, muffins, bagels, eggs with bacon/sausage etc. the pricing ranges for each option.

Hot meals start at \$69.99 total for 10-12 people. Breakfast starts at \$79.99 total for 10-12 people. Deli sandwich board starts at \$59.99 total for 10-12 people. We can also serve large groups with our full catering menu through our sister company Yum Yum Catering. Check our website for menu ideas and options to make your holidays special at www.yumyumcatering.biz. For questions, ideas and free quotes call the owner Sophia at 647-230-8446.

Cater that Dinner Party or Corporate Event Christina Cooks Catering Company

100 Ringwood Dr. Unit #11

We are a full-service, award-winning catering company with over 20 years experience. We specialize in coming to your home or venue and cooking on site. We provide a fun, exciting and memorable guest experience. We have recently moved to a larger location to serve our clients and community better and we are excited to welcome you! For more, see:

christinacookscatering.com.



VISITING THE VILLAGE

by Stouffville Chamber of Commerce

The Village of Stouffville looks forward to welcoming you!



Kick off the Holiday Season in The Village of Stouffville on Thursday, November 23rd from 5 to 9 p.m. You won't want to miss the tree lighting, characters, shopping & holiday cheer!





Each day in December will feature a new exclusive offer from the Village of Stouffville. Don't miss out – check in online all 24 days! discoverstouffville.ca/holiday-advent-calendar



Let's all do our part to support local by shopping local this holiday season!



Submit a sales receipt from 3 different Stouffville Village businesses dated Nov 23 - Dec 24 to be entered to win. For full details visit: discoverstouffville.ca/2023-holiday-contest





To help you with your holiday shopping, local businesses will share with you some gift giving ideas. Visit often for new ideas: discoverstouffville.ca/2023-holiday-gift-guide





DISCOVERStouffyille.ca . There Is So Much To See & Do In Stouffyille!

Give a Bear Necessity, get a warm feeling.

A little gift goes a long way. Like a cuddly teddy bear to lift someone's spirits, a soft sleep sack to hug a newborn or a plush blanket to provide comfort and warmth.

Buy a Bear Necessity and help purchase life-saving equipment not covered by government funding.

Also on Giving Tuesday, November 28, for every Bear Necessity you purchase, a SECOND patient at Markham Stouffville Hospital will receive a bear hug.

This is thanks to the incredible generosity of Shahan and Aida Güler who will match donations (up to \$50,000).

Make a patient feel loved this holiday season. lifesavinggifts.ca





CONTACT Susan Tucker, otrtipoff@outlook.com



FILL A PURSE FOR A SISTER

67,000 women and children leave domestic abuse situations every year in Canada. The numbers are staggering, in York Region alone, 1 in 3 women is involved in domestic violence/abuse situations.... Types of abuse can include physical, psychological, sexual, financial, gaslighting, etc. There are support services in place but like most services, they are stretched thin for resources. Angel Freedman has created a charity to help women take a small step back to normalcy.

Angel is a Registered Social Worker who lives and works in Stouffville. In her line of work, she deals with many different types of situations and people requiring support. She is a very strong advocate for women's issues particularly in the field of domestic abuse in Canada.

To help these women who often escape with nothing but the clothes on their backs, Angel created the Fill A Purse for A Sister charity. She started it in her living room in 2014 and in that first year, collected 1500 purses filled with personal essentials to be distributed to women in crisis. Angel notes that these women have nothing, their self-esteem is crushed, and this campaign provides them with a bit of dignity to raise their spirits in the hopes that they can start to put their life back together. The campaign website states the purpose of the charity is it "Bring comfort, hope, and dignity to women and youth in crisis with the gift of purses filled with personal necessities."

The campaign has been growing every

year and the number of purses collected continues to increase to the point that last year, there were 10,000 purses collected, vetted, sorted and distributed to various women's shelters, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centres and other social services that support women. Men and children are not left out, the Fill A Purse campaign will also collect backpacks and men's products to distribute appropriately.

The Fill A Purse For A Sister campaign runs every year from September 1 -December 1, and asks for donations of new or gently loved purses, and new backpacks. Items to fill the purses and backpacks include full-size containers of: (please do not include sample size or opened/used products)

- · Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- · Feminine hygiene products (women's purses only please)
- · Toothbrush and toothpaste
- · Shaving products (men's backpacks only please)
- Gift cards
- · Notes of support and encouragement are a welcome gesture of kindness.

Although the charity runs in other towns and cities in Ontario, it became truly national last year after Angel did an interview with CBC television, the calls came in from all over the county from people wanting to be involved. Volunteer Community Leads are needed across Canada to keep the program expanding, so it can be run in each municipality. Angel's goal is to be in every town and city in Canada.

Stouffville's Mayor, Iain Lovatt is a strong supporter of Fill A Purse For A Sister and every year donates several purses filled with the items listed above. Last year, he also challenged Mayor John Taylor of Newmarket to see which municipality would collect the most purses. Angel is proud to say that the challenge was a huge success and Stouffville came out on top! This year, Mr. Lovatt took it a step further, and after Angel presented the campaign to the York Region Council, our mayor then challenged all the other mayors in York

Region to see who would collect the most this year. My guess is that it will be a close race, so let's get Stouffville to the top of the podium again!

Anyone wishing to donate financially is welcome to, funds are always needed to purchase products, as every purse and backpack needs to be filled before being distributed. Learn how to donate funds at fillapurseforasistercampaign.ca or email angelfreedman@rogers.com. Donations of \$25 or more are eligible to receive a tax

Volunteers are also needed to help deliver the purses in the first week of December to the various agencies.

If you are able to donate 1 or 100 purses, they are all welcome and needed. There are 9 drop-off locations in Stouff ville or you can email Angel for alternate arrangements.

- · Christ Church Anglican, 254 Sunset
- · Redefined Finds, 6258 Main St.
- Code Ninjas, 6601 Main St.
- Lindy's Floral Boutique, 6287 Main
- · Mathnasium, 30 Innovator Ave, #8.
- Stouffville Family Eye Care, 30 Innovator Ave, #4
- · Stouffville Toyota, 1288 Millard St.
- Trentadue Torres Real Estate, 155 Mostar St. Units 1 and 2
- W-S Public Library, 2 Park Dr.

If you are a woman in crisis, there are 2 shelters in York Region that you can contact 24 hours a day, every day of the year:

- · Yellow Brick House, call or text 1-800-263-3247
- · Sandgate, call 1-800-661-8294

Angel Freedman, Creator, Fill A Purse for A Sister



Savory Stuffed Red & Green Peppers A DELICIOUS FEAST

Ok. I know this article is not a holiday meal, but it is still the season of comfort food, and this is definitely comfort food... and I am sure you all know how to cook a turkey. Stuffed peppers are a timeless dish that never fails to satisfy both your taste buds and your heart. Whether it's a cozy family dinner or a special occasion, these vibrant peppers filled with a savoury mixture of ground pork, ground beef, onions, garlic, and homemade tomato sauce are a guaranteed crowd-pleaser. In this article, we'll take you through the stepby-step process of creating this delicious dish, along with a homemade tomato sauce recipe that adds a burst of flavour.

For the Stuffed Peppers:

- 4 large red and green bell peppers
- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 1/2 pound ground beef
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup cooked white rice
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

For the Homemade Tomato Sauce:

- 6 large tomatoes, blanched, peeled, and diced
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 slices of cooked bacon diced
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- Salt and pepper to taste

Homemade Tomato Sauce:

Heat the olive oil in a saucepan over medium heat.

Add the chopped onions and sauté until they become translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in the minced garlic and cooked bacon and cook for another minute until fragrant. Add the diced tomatoes, sugar, dried oregano, salt, and pepper. Reduce the heat to low and let the sauce simmer for

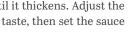
25-30 minutes until it thickens. Adjust the seasoning to your taste, then set the sauce

Stuffed Peppers:

Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Cut the tops off the peppers and remove the seeds and membranes. You can also trim the bottoms slightly to make them stand up straight. In a large skillet, brown the ground pork and ground beef over mediumhigh heat, breaking them into small pieces as they cook. Add the chopped onions and minced garlic to the skillet. Cook until the onions are soft and translucent. Stir in the cooked rice, both cheeses, salt, black pepper, paprika, red pepper flakes, and chopped parsley. Mix everything well. Carefully stuff each bell pepper with the meat and rice mixture, packing it firmly.

Place the stuffed peppers in a baking dish and pour the homemade tomato sauce over them. Cover the baking dish with aluminum foil and bake for 30-35 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for an additional 10-15 minutes or until the peppers are tender, and the tops are slightly browned. Serve the stuffed peppers hot, garnished with fresh parsley, and accompanied by extra tomato sauce for those who want more.

Stuffed red and green peppers with a mixture of ground pork, ground beef, onions, garlic, and homemade tomato sauce are a true comfort food. The vibrant colours of the peppers and the rich, sayoury filling make this dish a feast for the senses. If you like a little extra heat, try and add a couple





tales from

with DAVE MILLS

CONTACT Dave Mills, david@stouffville.com

of jalapeño peppers while cooking the meat. Or add some sriracha to the tomato sauce while reducing. It's a perfect choice for both special occasions and everyday family dinners. It can also be served with other main dishes.

While we are talking about peppers, another thing I love to do in the fall is roast red shepherd peppers. So easy to do. You can do them on the BBQ or in the oven. Either way, roast them until the skins turn black... not too black. Then put them in a plastic bag, and the steam will loosen the skins. Once cool enough, remove from the bag and take the skins of the peppers. Now you can freeze them and put them in a jar with olive oil in the fridge. I add them to so many things, soups, sauces, salads, sandwiches, and the list goes on. They are so flavourful and sweet...try it you will love





CONTACT Bruce Stapley, bstapley@sympatico.ca



IT'S A WRAP Stouffville Market Goes Over the Top in Year Two

When the giant Stouffville Country Market located on Tenth Line just north of Main St shut down in 2016, the Town set out to fill the void. A Thursday afternoon farmers market in the Downtown business area came and went. When a similar concept behind 19 on the Park fizzled after two years, the Town approached Susan Tucker.

"They asked me to take it over as a business proposal," recalls Susan, a Stouffville resident of 32 years with a strong background in corporate customer service and a flair for community involvement. "I submitted my bid in April 2022 for the Stouffville Market and the Town approved it for the new location in front of 6240 Main St."

Susan set out to avoid the pitfalls encountered by the 19 on the Park endeavour. "The consistent message I got from vendors was that it was not a good location," said Susan, "and they didn't appreciate having duplicate vendors in such a small market."

With limited time to get organized for the May 2022 opening, Susan went to work lining up vendors. "The first year, on any given Saturday we had about 20 vendors, with a lot of them agreeing to come and give it a try, despite the less than stellar success of the 19 on the Park market. But by the end of the season, most of them were asking 'Where do we sign up for next year?"

She had ample time to drum up interest and promote the Market for its second

season, and the results spoke for themselves. "On opening day we were at capacity, 45 vendors, and every week after that we had from 30-35 vendors. We had 1100-1200 visitors every Saturday. On the Saturday of the Strawberry Festival, it was crazy. We gave up counting after 5,500 visitors."

During the five months the Market runs, Susan is constantly publicizing it. "All the money that comes into the Market goes right back into it for marketing, supplies, promotions, and advertising. I do a lot of social media advertising and promotion for the Market and its vendors."

People have been drawn to the Market by the diverse array of vendors, including artisans, foodies, crafters, creators, bakers, a honey products vendor, and the Muddy York Brewing Co. "We also had a fundraiser each week, local hockey teams and other organizations would sell barbecued corn on the cob donated by a farmer," Susan noted. Adding to the festivities has been entertainment featuring local performers. "Last year I was approaching entertainers to come and play, but this year they were approaching me, there was a waiting list."

The influx of people to the Downtown business area didn't go unnoticed by the businesses located there. "I've had feedback from the Main Street merchants thanking me for having the Market here because it increased their traffic. That was an added bonus. We work with the Chamber of Commerce, they promote the Market and we support them too."

Did Susan expect the enthusiastic response the Market has received? "I wanted it to be successful but I didn't know it would grow so much. It's a win everywhere, I haven't found a downside to it yet." She credits Town staff with helping the Market succeed. "The Town has been incredibly

With the long hours she has committed to the Stouffville Market and no financial payoff for herself, Susan insists her involvement is truly a labour of love. "It's for the community, it's about the community." Looking ahead to next year, she has her sights set on further enhancing the Market. "I'm looking to grow it. We could open up the parking lot to enable 10 more vendors. I want to do different events, like an art exhibition, and a collectors exhibition - people collect everything, matchboxes, bottle caps, just bring what you have."

There is only one potential snag. As the Market is on Town property, it must be made available to bids from other interests that might want to take it over next year. "That's how the process works," said Susan. But while she understands the need for fairness, she has her heart set on returning for a third year so she can pick up where she left off this season. "I'm hoping to keep it going. If someone else takes it over, they will be starting from scratch."

Susan Tucker's tireless efforts, promotional expertise and creative flair have made the Stouffville Market the jewel of Downtown Stouffville the past two summer seasons.



COACH SEES BRIGHT FUTURE FOR IN-DEMAND STOUFFVILLE SWIM CLUB

Business is good at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Swim Club. So good that the organization has had to cap its membership and create a waitlist for interested swimmers.

Founded in 2001, the club was originally known as the Stouffville Ducks, an offshoot of the Aurora Ducks. Both clubs were founded by Reg Chappell.

The Stouffville club went out on its own in 2015.

Open to competitors eight years and older, the club grew from 23 swimmers in 2022 to 58 this fall.

Konstantin Danailov took over as head coach 14 months ago following the retirement of Nick Rottmann.

Danailov is a proud product of the Bulgarian sport system, which produced an inordinate number of Olympic medalists during the 1980s. He swam at an elite level and studied kinesiology and sports management in the homeland before immigrating to Canada in 1990. He coached in Bulgaria, Richmond Hill, North York and Florida before arriving in Stouffville.

"I have an extensive view of European sport and North American sport," he told OTR. "It's very uncommon in Canada"

He's impressed by the Stouffville swimmers.

"We've progressed a lot," he said. "We'll have a far better year this year in comparison to last year. We'll continue to grow the performance, which is the ultimate goal."

Swimmers, sporting the club's purple and white caps, train in one of four competitive groups that matches and caters to their abilities and ambitions. They swim three to six times a week for 90 minutes at a time. Add a one-hour dryland session to the weekly schedule for most of them.

Club officials have high praise for officials at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre pool who have "been working hard to balance the community's and the club's need for the pool." But the lack of available practice time has forced the club to rent hours in neighbouring municipalities, including Uxbridge and Markham.

"There is a very real need for a second pool in Stouffville," said club spokesperson Antia Chen. "The town's population is growing and with it comes increasing demand

for pool time for community lessons and activities. At the same time, the club is growing or wanting to grow – we want to grow and build a team where local youths can represent Stouffville at provincials and even nationals. But that can't be done without pool time for these youths to train and develop."

The town's Leisure Services Master Plan calls for a second pool when the next recreation centre is built.

Stouffville swimmers competed at meets across the GTA last year, including events at the Markham and Toronto Pan Am centres, the Magna Centre in Newmarket and the Etobicoke Olympium. The pool at the Leisure Centre is too short to host meets.

Two competitors represented the club at provincials last year. Isaac Lau

SportsTown

CONTACT Jim Mason, jimmason905@gmail.com

competed in 50m freestyle, 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle and 100m breaststroke. Paul Shortis swam in the 100m freestyle, 200m backstroke and 800m freestyle. For more information on the club, go to: stouffvilleswimclub.com.

Coach Konstantin Danailov with members of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Swim Club during an afternoon practice at the Leisure Centre.



¥Stouffville

Stouffville receives 'strong mayor powers'

"I don't anticipate the need to ever use them" Mayor says in statement

Glenn Jackson, Contributor



ABOVE: The Province of Ontario recently granted Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt (left) (seen with Councillors Richard Bartley and Keith Acton) 'strong mayor powers.' Under the powers, Lovatt has authority over the Town's budget, the ability to dictate corporate staffing policies and to veto town by-laws. In a statement Lovatt delegated a number of those actions back to staff.

Strong mayor powers. On August 21, the Province revealed that Stouffville, along with 20 other municipalities in Ontario, would be granted 'strong mayor powers.' This change was introduced in alignment with the Province's core focus and pledge to boost housing availability by 1.5 million new homes by 2031.

In accordance with the recently revised Municipal Act, 'strong mayor powers' grants mayors and other council leaders the authority to propose their municipality's budget and endows them with the capacity to veto local by-laws should they deem them as potential hindrances to provincial objectives, particularly in the domain of housing development.

Mayors also have the authority to appoint or remove municipal department directors and other town managers. However, a strong mayor can't hire or dismiss the fire chief, town clerk, deputy clerk or integrity commissioner, among other roles.

During the Council meeting held on October 18, and in a subsequent official statement, Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt detailed his plans for utilizing the newly granted powers.

"I don't anticipate the need to ever use them." Lovatt said. "I appreciate all of you (council members) and the contribution each of you make to the great team we are."

At the meeting, Lovatt delegated several powers back to staff. Under the new powers, the Mayor has the authority to appoint the Town's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the members of any Council-appointed committees. Lovatt delegated them both back to Council, as it was before the 'strong mayor powers' were granted.

Lovatt also delegated to the CAO any powers related to altering the corporate organizational structure and hiring and dismissing staff members.

One aspect of 'strong mayor powers' that mayors cannot delegate back to staff is proposing the Town's annual budgets. In previous years, Stouffville staff would create a proposed operating and capital budget, which would then be deliberated before Council over one or two days. Council would then approve the budgets, with corresponding tax levy increases. Under 'strong mayor powers,' Lovatt will direct staff to create the budget on his behalf, after which council members may contest individual items. After a series of reviews, the Mayor will finalize the operating and capital budgets for

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

the following year. Mayor Lovatt will circulate his budget to other council members this year in mid-November. The new budget structure, as defined by the Province under 'strong mayor powers,' can be found at: bit.ly/46EY2LM

Also under the new powers, the Mayor may "... direct municipal employees to undertake research and provide advice on policies/programs or carry out duties... including implementing decisions." Under previous procedures, Council, as a whole, could only dictate tasks to staff. This power cannot be delegated.

All directives must be given in writing. When such direction is given, the Mayor must provide a written record of the direction to the Clerk and CAO by the next business day. In addition, the Mayor must provide a written record to each Member of Council and make them available to the public.

All mayoral directives will be available on the Town's website at *townofws.ca/mayoral-decisions*

To be granted 'strong mayor powers,' Stouffville had to commit to the Province's Housing Pledge. On August 22, 2023, the Province indicated that the Town had been assigned a housing target of 6,500 new residential dwellings to be built by 2031. Council adopted this target at the September 13 meeting. The pledge can be found at: bitly/3Zzjtem. See the October issue of OTR for more information about Stouffville's housing target.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

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

RECREATION OFFICIAL PLAN

@wstouffville

COMMUNITY NEWS

Winter Registration: Resident, November 28 at 12 p.m. Nonresident, December 5 at 12 p.m.

Discover and register for winter camps and other holiday programming **townofws.ca/ playbook**

MUSEUM

townofws.ca

PA Day: Elves in the Workshop Friday, November 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Calling elves of all kinds! Head out on a holiday traditions tour of the heritage buildings, decorate seasonal cookies, enjoy hot chocolate and get crafty to start the festive season! Pre-registration required at townofws.ca/active using barcode 28924. Ages 6-12, \$70 per child.

43rd Annual Victorian TeaSaturday, November 18, 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. seatings.

A delicious taste of Christmas past, featuring a traditional catered tea and a festive tour of the Museum's buildings! Please contact the Museum at (905) 727-8954 or **wsmuseum@townofws.ca**. All ages, \$30+HST per ticket.

Candlelight Christmas

Saturday, December 9, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Decorated for the season, the Museum comes to life with the traditions of Christmas past! Join our costumed staff and volunteers on this charming evening tour! Preregistration required at **townofws.ca/active** using barcode 28935. All ages, \$10 per child, \$15 per adult.

Museum Hours: Wed-Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bookings are open for education (virtual or in-person), group tours, and various rentals (including corporate and weddings).

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

The Final Draft of the new Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Official Plan will be presented to Council on November 1, 2023, at 2 p.m. for potential adoption. After Council approval, it will be submitted to the Region of York for final approval. You can find the Final Draft on our project webpage: **cometogetherws.ca/opr**. The Council Agenda and Staff Report will be available on the Thursday before the Council meeting: **calendar.townofws.ca/council**.

X @townofws

Visit **cometogetherws.ca/opr** for more information. Thank you for your ongoing participation in the Official Plan Review.

19 ON THE PARK THEATRE

Yuk Yuk's On Tour!

@ @townofws

November 10 is SOLD out but tickets are on sale for Friday, February 16, 2024, 8 p.m. 19 on the Park

Three hilarious Yuk Yuk's comics performing right here in Stouffville!

Bluesy Christmas

Friday, December 1, 2023, 7:30 p.m. 19 on the Park

An evening where longtime friends get together and sing some of their (and your) favourite Christmas songs, with a blues and roots tinge.

DuffleBag Theatre's A Christmas Carol Sunday, December 17, 2023, 2 p.m.

Ebenezer Scrooge hates Christmas time and its spirit of giving. Join the interactive fun as Ebenezer is whisked off on a journey through past, present and future, showing him the true meaning of the season. From Fezziwig to Tiny Tim, all the favourites are included in DuffleBag Theatre's exuberant version of the Charles Dickens Yuletide classic! Recommended for grades K-8.

For tickets, please visit **tows.ticketpro.ca/ en/pages/19onthePark**. For accessibility

COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

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

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Wed. Nov. 1 - 2 p.m. (Special) Wed. Nov. 1 - 7 p.m. Wed. Nov. 15 - 9 a.m. Wed. Nov 29 - 9 a.m. (Budget) Wed. Dec. 6 - 7 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings

(if required): Wed. Nov. 22 - 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**.

Join our Council E-Newsletter at: **eepurl. com/cKPNg9** and receive meeting agendas and summary reports straight in your inbox.

More information at townofws.ca/council



From our Family to Yours

Wishing you and your family a safe and Happy Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!





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Sales Representative

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