

On the Road

AUGUST 2026 NO. 96

A STOUFFVILLE MAGAZINE

Along for the Ride

From traffic stops to community outreach, *On the Road* goes on a ride-along with York Regional Police.

 Stouffville

World Stage Bound

Stouffville gymnast Arya Hughes heads to China to represent Canada

Local Authors

Meet the storytellers putting Stouffville's creativity into print

70 Years of Home

How Farquharson Realty built a legacy of trust across generations

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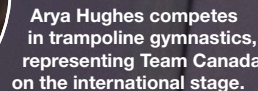
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otrmmagazine.ca

– by Michaela Ray



She's also been ranked first in Canada in the junior tumbling division for the past three years, a reflection of countless

"They're really supportive," she said. "If I have a big test or I'm having a tough day, they work with me instead of pushing

- ARYA HUGHES



Trevor Carrick Skates to Munich to Continue the Adventure

Self-admitted 'late bloomer' in the Carrick brothers quartet left a legacy in the AHL



by Jim Mason
jimmason905@gmail.com

As an 11-year-old suiting up with his pals for the single A Stouffville Clippers, Trevor Carrick had zero designs on a career in pro hockey.

But, 21 years later, he's there, happily acknowledging being on the back nine of that career while giving a backhanded compliment to his parents.

But the adventure is not over.

After 12 years in the American Hockey League and seven NHL games with Carolina and San Jose, 32-year-old Carrick left for Germany late last month, signing a contract with Red Bull Munich to continue his hockey career overseas.

"I'm super excited," Carrick said from his family's home base in Goodwood before jetting off to Europe. "It's just good timing for us. I'm getting a little bit older, and the AHL was getting a little bit younger. It just was a nice move for the family."

"The German league is a little bit older. The players are kind of the same age and stage as me. I was the oldest guy on my team last year in Charlotte. That was kind of shocking. Plus, you get treated world-class over there, especially being an import. They take really good care of you."

"Trevor is a defenceman who will immediately add stability and quality to our defence," said Oliver David, head coach of Red Bull Munich. "He brings a wealth of experience, takes on responsibility, and plays with an intensity that's very difficult for opponents to contain. At the same time, he's a leader with a high level of professionalism and the kind of character we want on our team."

Carrick was a stand-out as a 16-year-old rookie with the Stouffville Spirit Jr. A team in 2010-11 before graduating to the

Ontario Hockey League.

He was selected in the fourth round (115th overall) by the Carolina Hurricanes during the 2012 NHL draft.

Carrick played in 813 regular-season and playoff games in the AHL. He holds Charlotte's franchise record for most games played – 414.

Trevor, his wife Sydney and their 15-month-old daughter, Camille, are in Munich. Their second child is scheduled to be born during the hockey season in the capital of Bavaria (population of 1.6 million).

We asked Trevor what his favourite hockey memories have been so far.

"It's been a wild ride. It's crazy looking back and realizing it's been 12 years. But I've had some really cool experiences. "Playing my first NHL game was a childhood dream of mine, and there was the opportunity to play with my brother (Sam) in San Diego (of the AHL). During that COVID-19 year, we ended up living together."

"And, obviously, winning the Calder Cup (AHL championship) with Charlotte in 2019 was probably my favourite memory. Being there for five years and knowing the culture and doing it with some guys that I'd been there with for a while and finally getting over that hurdle and getting it done. We created some really cool friendships and memories, and I still chat with a lot of those guys."

Back to Stouffville for a minute.

All four Carrick brothers, Jake, Sam, Trevor and Josh, played in the OHL after seasons of AAA in the vaunted GTHL. It just took Trevor, the self-admitted "late bloomer" in the group, a little longer to figure it out.

"I was never really that into competitive hockey. I just liked playing with my buddies in Stouffville and I didn't really know my potential," he said with a laugh. "My parents (John and Jane)



Stouffville's Trevor Carrick and his family are in Germany where he's continuing his pro hockey career.

forced me to go to the AAA tryout with the Markham Majors, and I made the team, and they made me captain the first year. And I was like, oh wow, maybe I can actually make something of this."

"I will mention that we lost every single game that year and were last place, but I made the team."

Sam Carrick, who has a year remaining on an NHL contract with the Buffalo Sabres, is rehabbing from an injury suffered during the Stanley Cup playoffs. He's played 393 big league games with the Sabres, New York Rangers, Anaheim, Edmonton, and Toronto.

Josh and Jake operate Carrick Bros. Maple Syrup. 🍯

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Seventy Years of Home

by Adriana Barbary

As Stouffville transformed over the decades, one family remained steadfast in its commitment to people, place, and purpose.

Before sitting down to interview Dan and Mona Farquharson, I'll admit I practiced saying their last name. As it turns out, I had nothing to worry about.

"Scottish people, they don't pronounce the entire middle of the name," Dan explained, laughing. "They just say Far-ker-son; there's a bit of a soft 'r' in the middle, but that's it. Everybody mispronounces it, and we correct no one."

For 70 years, the Farquharson family has helped generations of residents find more than a house, they've helped them find a home. Ask anyone who knows Dan, and they'll tell you the real story isn't about property. It's about integrity. By putting people first and offering honest advice without an agenda, he built the kind of trust that lasts for generations.

Long before Highway 404 cut through former farmland and Whitchurch-Stouffville became one of Ontario's fastest-growing communities, the Farquharson family was putting down roots in York Region. Their story began even earlier, in Perth, Scotland, where Dan's great-grandfather emigrated to Canada in the 1860s and began farming the land. That appreciation for the countryside never faded.

BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP

Founded in 1956 by James Maurice Farquharson, the brokerage was built on principles that remain unchanged today: honesty, hard work, and putting people first. Before becoming a realtor, Maurice farmed the family's 250-acre property south of Gormley, bringing with him a deep understanding

of the land, the people who worked on it, and the communities that depended on it.

Maurice's success was all the more remarkable given that he lived with significant hearing loss throughout his life. Despite having only 15 percent of normal hearing, he earned a reputation for integrity, perseverance, and genuine care for others.

He was equally known for his generosity. A quiet philanthropist, Maurice donated a substantial portion of his income to charitable causes and continued that legacy through his estate, an instinct his son would inherit.

HONEST ADVICE, NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Dan joined his father in the business in 1970 and soon became Broker of Record, developing expertise in residential, rural, commercial, and development properties.

"I love beautiful land," Dan says simply. Where others might see acreage or square footage, he sees history, craftsmanship and possibility, and he's just as likely to talk someone out of a sale as into one. Dan has advised people not to sell their family farms, and as his wife and business partner, Mona Farquharson, puts it: "He's always taken the time and been honest with people, with no expectation of anything in return."

It's a quality Mona noticed early on. "He loves what he does. Showing properties, working with buyers and sellers has never felt like work to him.

Right: The Farquharson Realty team at their 70th Anniversary Event in downtown Stouffville, May 2026



Above: Farmhouse farewell - Maurice and Dan Farquharson in front of the office at Woodbine Ave. and Highway 7 - moments before it's picked up and moved to the Markham Heritage Museum at Highway 48.



Along the way, he's made lifelong friends," she says. "One of the first things I noticed when we started working together was that he'd spend time on the phone with someone, giving them thoughtful and honest advice, even when there was nothing in it for him. That's just who he is."

That commitment to people has helped Farquharson Realty build something increasingly rare in business: multi-generational trust. Many clients who purchased homes through the

brokerage decades ago have returned for subsequent moves, while others have referred children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbours. The company's success has never been measured solely by transactions, but by the relationships that continue long after a sale is complete.

A NEW CHAPTER

A significant chapter in the company's evolution began in 1990, when Mona joined the business. Leaving behind a successful career in television and media, she brought fresh marketing ideas and a unique ability to tell stories. She founded

the Farquharson Realty Country Estate Division and helped introduce countless buyers to the benefits of rural living within close proximity to Toronto.

The road wasn't always easy. Like many family businesses, the company weathered economic downturns and shifting markets, and success often required long hours and sacrifice. Yet the Farquharsons stayed committed to the values that first inspired the business.

COMMITTED TO STOUFFVILLE

Today, Farquharson Realty remains intentionally independent. Despite opportunities to join larger organizations over the years, it has chosen to stay a boutique, family-owned brokerage rooted in Stouffville.

That local focus extends beyond real estate. Through charitable giving, volunteer leadership, youth sports sponsorships and community involvement, the family has consistently invested in the well-being of the communities it serves. Dan has also contributed his time to numerous boards and community initiatives, including helping establish what is now Markham-Stouffville Hospital. 🏡

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Above: Dan Farquharson with his father and business partner, Maurice Farquharson.



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Evergreen Hospice: Supporting Every Step of Life's Journey

by Ruby Vasanthan



Laura and team on site at the future residential hospice in Rouge National Urban Park

of the people Evergreen supports.

"There really isn't one type of person who comes through our doors," Laura says. "We like to think of ourselves as the people stepping into rooms that others might step out of."

Volunteers are a vital part of that work, helping create a space where neighbours support neighbours with no expectation of anything in return. "There is something magical about seeing people come together simply to help each other," says Laura. Just as remarkable is the fact that all Evergreen services are offered free of charge. From counselling and caregiver support to children's programs and grief groups, families can access care without financial barriers, thanks to the generosity of volunteers, donors, and community partners.

For Laura, the work is deeply personal. The loss of a close friend to cancer reinforced the importance of supporting not only individuals, but entire families through grief and loss. Today, she is helping lead Evergreen into an exciting new chapter.

The organization is expanding its reach through new locations and services, including a residential hospice being developed in Rouge National Urban Park, a first-of-its-kind project in Canada. "To honour the legacy that's been built here and then help it grow into something even bigger is incredibly special," she says. "As a female leader, as a mom, and as a community member, it's something I'm very proud to be part of."

For families across Stouffville, Evergreen Hospice is more than a healthcare organization. It is a place of comfort, connection, and hope, ensuring no one has to navigate life's most difficult moments alone.

Learn More

Discover programs, volunteer opportunities, and ways to support Evergreen Hospice at evergreenhospice.ca

When people hear the word "hospice," they often picture end-of-life care. While that remains an important part of Evergreen Hospice's work, CEO Laura Lavallee says the organization's impact reaches much further. For more than four decades, Evergreen Hospice has been supporting individuals and families in Stouffville through grief, loss, caregiving, serious illness, and bereavement. Along the way, it has become what Laura describes as "the heart of the community."

"We quite literally touch the lives of everyone," she says. "Everyone experiences grief, loss, death, or bereavement at some point. It's a beautiful honour to be able to support people through that."

What makes Evergreen unique is its ability to meet people wherever they are

on their journey. Support often begins long before end-of-life care is needed and continues long after a loved one has passed away.

Among its many programs is Mothers Without Mothers, which supports women navigating new motherhood after losing their own mothers. Evergreen also works closely with local schools to help children and families cope when a loved one is facing serious illness.

"We're really trying to break down the stigma around death," Laura explains. "Being proactive, preparing for difficult conversations, and making sure loved ones are supported is actually a beautiful thing."

That philosophy is reflected in Evergreen's daily work. Counsellors visit families in their homes; doctors provide bedside palliative care, and volunteers help deliver programs and support services throughout the community. Nearly all programming takes place face-to-face, creating meaningful human connections when they are needed most.

The people who walk through Evergreen's doors come from every stage of life. From young children attending grief programs to adults and parents navigating loss, there is no single profile

*"We like to think of ourselves as the people **stepping into rooms that others might step out of.**"*

- LAURA LAVALLEE

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ALONG FOR THE RIDE

OTR's Glenn Jackson climbed into a York Regional Police cruiser to see what happens on the streets of Stouffville and discovered a story that wasn't about policing at all.

BY GLENN JACKSON

"You look like a size large."
Assuming I know what York Regional Police Staff Sgt. Miguel Torres means, I say, "Probably."
"Here, try this on," he says, pointing to the bulletproof vest lying on the desk.
I slip it on.
It's a perfect fit. Having never worn one before, it isn't as heavy as I expected. As long as it does its job, that's what matters.
I'm at the Stouffville York Regional Police substation getting ready for my ride-along. A few weeks earlier, I asked York Regional Police if I could spend an afternoon with an officer to better understand the realities of policing in

Stouffville and to see firsthand the work residents rarely get to witness. After a background check, they agreed.
"We'll go out anytime you want, just tell me when," Miguel told me during our first meeting.
We settle on an afternoon shift, so on July 15, I head downstairs to the station. My office at Town Hall is directly above the police station, so I regularly see officers coming and going throughout the day. There's always a friendly hello when our paths cross.
After putting on the vest, Miguel shows me around the substation.
Despite its modest footprint, the station supports a wide range of policing

activities for a community that continues to grow. There is a public reception area, and workspaces for officers and staff.
As we prepare to head out, Const. Adam Daviduke, seated at the front desk, stops me for a quick briefing before I can climb into the cruiser. He walks me through the emergency procedures, explaining how police dispatch would be alerted if anything were to go wrong.
With the briefing complete and the vest strapped on, there's nothing left to do but hit the road. Moments later, we're pulling out of the Sandiford Drive substation parking lot toward Main Street.

ARTICLE PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIRA HASSARD | PAGE 14 PHOTOGRAPHY BY VALERIA MITSUBATA



York Regional Police Staff Sgt. Miguel Torres prepares his cruiser before our ride-along. Before joining the Stouffville detachment, Torres worked in organized crime, intelligence and investigative services.

SCANNING SURROUNDING TRAFFIC

Not five minutes into the shift, Miguel motions toward a screen beside the steering wheel. Four cameras mounted on the cruiser are continuously scanning surrounding traffic, automatically reading licence plates as we move through the roads of Stouffville.

A soft electronic chirp sounds from the dashboard.

The system has found something.

A vehicle owner, according to the database, is associated with a suspended licence.

Miguel glances at the screen, reviews the information and keeps moving. He explains that it does not necessarily mean the person behind the wheel is the registered owner. It is a lead, not a conclusion.

“We used to have to manually run plates,” he says. “Now the car does it for us.”

It is the first lesson of the ride-along: technology can point an officer in a direction, but judgment still decides what happens next. The shift is less than 10

minutes old, and already I’m seeing a side of policing most residents never think about.

It is also an early reminder that much of modern policing happens before a call ever comes in. The same principle shapes where we drive next.

We head toward downtown.

I ask what determines his route, and he shows me another computer screen.

This program shows police vehicles across the district appearing as moving icons. There are Stouffville cars, Markham cars, supervisors, officers tied up on calls and officers completing other work. A separate map shades neighbourhoods in different colours depending on how recently a cruiser has travelled through them.

Some areas are light. Others are darker. One area near a place of worship has not seen a police vehicle for several hours.

He takes a look and pulls down Market Street.

To a resident, it might look like a police car simply driving around, but from the passenger seat, it looks different. The route is deliberate. The streets are

being checked, not wandered. The map has identified a gap in visibility, and Miguel is filling it.

At first, I see scenery, but Miguel sees details. Sitting beside him, I begin to understand what that means. He is not searching for trouble in every driveway. He is reading the environment.

That difference becomes clear again only minutes later.

ALREADY HOLDING HIS ID

We eventually leave town and head north. As we travel up a concession road, Miguel turns into a neighbourhood.

“The folks here appreciate seeing us drive around,” he says. “There have been break-ins in neighbourhoods like this, and residents like knowing we’re present.”

According to data from YRP.ca, there have been 34 break-ins in Stouffville over the past 12 months.

We wind through the streets, passing landscapers and work trucks. Then Miguel spots something.

“I’m going to turn around.”

By this point, I’ve learned that when Miguel says that, it usually means he has

noticed something I haven’t.

A parked vehicle has caught his attention.

He points out a collection of tiny details: where the vehicle is positioned, the tinted windows and how it stands out against its surroundings. None of it is enough on its own. Together, it’s enough to investigate. By the time we circle back, the vehicle has started moving.

Miguel speeds up a bit as the car turns right at the stop sign.

We turn, and the car pulls over without us even turning our flashing lights on. The driver is already holding his ID out the window before we stop.

“He knew we were after him,” Miguel says as he unbuckles and gets out of the cruiser.

After about 40 seconds and a brief discussion, he returns to the car with the man’s identification.

After running some checks, Miguel confirms that the man is a licensed private investigator conducting legitimate business in the area.

In Ontario, to become a private investigator, you must complete a 50-hour basic training course, pass the provincial exam and apply for a private investigator licence through the Ministry of the Solicitor General. You must be at least 18 years old and have a clean criminal record.

“He’s clean.”

Miguel walks back to the vehicle, hands the ID to the gentleman and tells him he is free to go, recommending that, in the future, he notify police if he is working in a residential neighbourhood where residents may report suspicious vehicles.

At this point, I’m beginning to understand that not every police encounter is about finding wrongdoing. Sometimes it’s simply about making sure a situation doesn’t become a problem.

HAVING CAR TROUBLE

We head across Bloomington Road to the Ninth Line.

“Have you ever been in here?” he asks.

I say no, and he turns into a development where some houses are still under construction.

We notice two cars parked on the side of Bloomington as we pull in.

Nothing seems out of the ordinary as we cruise the neighbourhood. Then one of the vehicles we’d noticed on

Bloomington turns onto our street.

Miguel pulls up beside the driver and asks if everything is all right. The gentleman explains that the other car belongs to his wife, who is having car trouble. After confirming that he’s okay, the man thanks Miguel and drives away.

“Again, you notice the little details that don’t look quite right: two cars pulled over. Always good to just make sure everything is OK.”

We continue our patrol through the countryside, looking for details.

With no calls coming in, our conversation drifts from patrol work to how policing is perceived by the public.

“Do you find the word ‘cop’ derogatory?” I ask him.

After pointing out I’ve already said it four times, he says he does.

Miguel explains that the term “cop” has always bothered him. In his view, the word tends to appear when police are being criticized, while “police officer” is more often used when speaking about professionalism, service or sacrifice.

He acknowledges that many people use “cop” without any negative intent, but he believes language helps shape public perception.

“In an era dominated by social media and headlines,” he says, “I prefer terminology that emphasizes professionalism and the broader responsibilities of the role.”

“It’s just one of my quirks,” he says with a laugh.

Stouffville is part of York Regional Police’s District 5, which stretches from Davis Drive to Steeles Avenue and from Highway 404 to Durham Region. While District 5 headquarters is in Markham, the Stouffville detachment and its team of approximately 35 officers are responsible for policing everything north of Major Mackenzie Drive.

As the afternoon continues, our conversation shifts to the realities of policing a growing community.

Miguel talks about the importance of recruiting, training and mentoring the next generation of officers. Like many professions,

policing continues to evolve, and ensuring officers are ready to meet the community’s needs remains a priority.

He also speaks about the importance of training, awareness and avoiding complacency.

“Complacency can have serious consequences,” he says. “That’s why we never stop learning.”

As we head south, we notice another York Regional Police officer conducting a traffic stop.

“Let’s go make sure everything is OK,” Miguel says.

We pull alongside briefly before continuing on our way.

“It’s good practice,” he explains. “If an officer needs assistance, getting support there quickly is important. Safety is always number one.”

Safety is a recurring theme throughout the day. And as our conversation continues, I begin to realize that safety means more than what happens at a traffic stop or emergency call. It also means making sure officers have the support they need to cope with the things they experience on the job.



RIDING AN E-SCOOTER

Crossing into Markham, we head toward Victoria Square, a community at Woodbine Avenue and Elgin Mills Road that remains part of the Stouffville patrol area.

After spending years in organized crime, intelligence and investigative services, Miguel recently returned to uniform patrol work.

“I still like it. I still enjoy coming to work,” he says. “Right now, honestly, I have the best job there is.”

We head over to District 5 headquarters on McCowan Avenue for a visit.

On the way, we spot a young boy riding an e-scooter along the sidewalk.

Miguel notices immediately that the rider is not wearing a helmet.

We turn around and catch up with him a short distance later at an intersection.

What happens next becomes one of the most memorable interactions of the day.

We make a U-turn on McCowan and activate the lights. Moments later, we’re



stopped alongside the young rider.

The interaction is calm and respectful. Rather than focusing solely on enforcement, Miguel takes time to speak with him about safety, responsibility and the rules surrounding e-scooters.

Watching from the passenger seat, I begin to understand another side of policing. Not every interaction is about issuing a ticket or responding to a crisis. Sometimes it’s about taking a few minutes to educate, build trust and help prevent a future problem.

As we continue through the neighbourhood, we pass other young people riding e-scooters and bicycles. It’s a reminder that many of the challenges officers deal with aren’t major crimes or dramatic incidents. Often, they’re everyday situations that create opportunities for conversation, guidance and community engagement.

What could have been a simple enforcement interaction quickly becomes something else. It becomes a reminder that community policing often involves education and conversation just as much as enforcement.

POSITIVE INTERACTIONS

After a quick stop at headquarters, our conversation shifts from what officers do on the road to how they are supported behind the scenes.

I tell Miguel about a night several years ago when police officers knocked on my door to tell me a family member had died. It is the kind of news no one ever wants to receive.

Miguel says those calls remain among the most difficult parts of policing.

That conversation leads to a broader discussion about trauma, resilience and

mental wellness.

York Regional Police has dedicated wellness supports available to officers, including access to mental health professionals, peer support and chaplain services. During my visit, I met YRP Chaplain Herbie Kuhn, who supports officers and their families through some of life’s most difficult moments.

The public often sees the visible parts of emergency work: the cruiser, the lights, the fire truck, the equipment, the uniform. Miguel says that is not always the reality of the job. For police officers, firefighters and other first responders, much of the work is quieter and heavier than people imagine. It is notifying families. It is dealing with death. It is showing up when someone is in crisis. It is carrying scenes and conversations home long after a call has ended.

“No normal person should have to deal with that much trauma all the time,” he says.

He believes policing has improved in how it talks about stress. There is more support now. The stigma around seeking help is not what it once was. Officers are more likely to talk, to check on one another and to recognize that burying the worst parts of the job can spill into personal struggles, including mental health challenges.

He also says policing has become more open when it comes to

conversations about mental health and wellness.

There is greater recognition today that asking for help is a sign of strength.

A short time later, the conversation is interrupted by a much more routine call for attention.

We stop outside a local business where a driver is parked in a designated fire route.

Miguel speaks briefly with the driver and reminds him about the restrictions.

The entire interaction lasts less than a minute.

For Miguel, it is an example of discretion.

“Police could issue a ticket for every violation they see,” he says, “but that is not always the best way to build trust or change behaviour.”

Sometimes a conversation is enough. It’s a lesson I’ve seen play out repeatedly throughout the afternoon.

Miguel also emphasizes the importance of positive interactions between police officers and young people.

“Young people,” he says, “need positive, ordinary contact with police long before their first interaction happens during a crisis or confrontation.”

That is one reason the e-scooter interaction stands out to him.

A brief conversation may not seem significant in the moment, but positive experiences can leave a lasting impression.

VERY, VERY SAFE

My day sitting in the passenger seat of a police cruiser begins to wind down as we drive along Main Street once again and spot a vehicle parked illegally in front of Nineteen on the Park.

Miguel pulls in behind it. “Can you read the licence plate?” he asks.

I roll down the window and read off the numbers.

As Miguel runs the plate, an elderly gentleman approaches the vehicle.

Miguel gives him a warning, asks him to move the vehicle, and off we go.

As we pull away, I’m struck by how ordinary the interaction is. No ticket. No confrontation. Just another brief conversation and another problem quietly resolved. After spending the afternoon alongside Miguel, it feels like a fitting final stop.

As our ride-along comes to a close, I ask Miguel how he would describe

Stouffville from a policing perspective.

His answer is immediate.

“Very, very safe.”

“That isn’t to say there aren’t problems,” he says. “Stouffville still deals with impaired driving, break-ins, domestic violence calls and mental health crises.”

But compared to many communities, he believes Stouffville remains a place where residents support their police service and where officers maintain strong connections with the people they serve.

“Residents wave. They stop and talk. They call when they see something suspicious. They appreciate seeing officers in their neighbourhoods.”

As we drive back to the station, I reflect on what I’ve seen.

The ride-along isn’t about high-speed pursuits, arrests or dramatic police calls. It is about the quieter parts of the job that most people never see.

It is about observation.

It is about prevention.

It is about helping people.

And it is about understanding that the people behind the uniform carry many of the same responsibilities, stresses and challenges as everyone else.

THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN STOUFFVILLE:

50 Break and enters (res. and comm.)

51 Impaired Operations

41 Theft of Motor Vehicles

5 Robberies

By the end of the afternoon, what stays with me isn’t a particular call or incident.

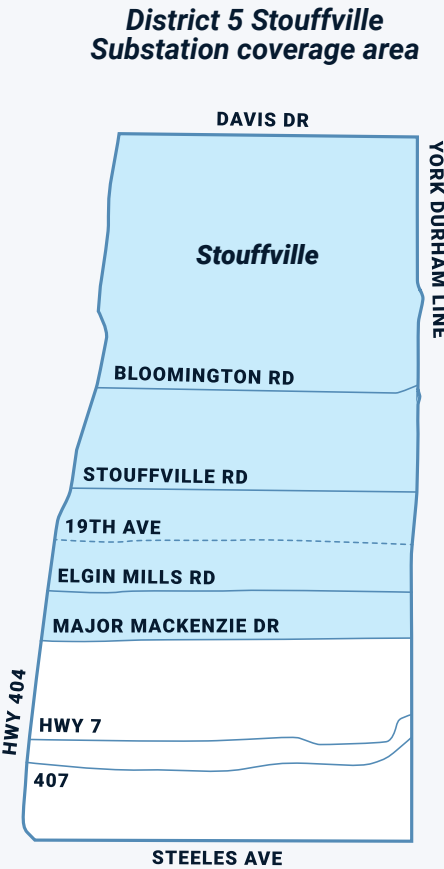
It’s the reminder that behind every uniform is a person.

They’re parents. They’re spouses. They’re loved ones.

They’re individuals trying to do a difficult job while balancing many of the same pressures everyone else faces.

In the end, the ride-along isn’t really a story about policing.

It’s a story about people doing a difficult job in a community they care deeply about. 🚔



From left, York Regional Police Constable Adam Daviduke, Staff Sgt. Miguel Torres and YRP Chaplain Herbie Kuhn at the Sandiford Drive Stouffville Substation.

Thank you!



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On Sunday, June 21, over 1,200 community supporters came together for the fourth annual Stouffville Main Street 5K.

Thank you to all who participated. This year's run raised over **\$121,000** to invest in exceptional care close to home.



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Discovering Whitchurch-Stouffville: A Journey Beyond Main Street

by Hazel Pang



Hello, fellow residents! This summer, I am working with the Town of Stouffville. But before I started my role, I had only visited Stouffville a handful of times to see friends and family. As an outsider, "Stouffville" to me began and ended at the Main Street strip. Like many visitors, my familiarity with the community was limited to the areas I had previously seen. It wasn't until I began spending more time here that I realized just how much beauty lies beyond the village.

Early on in my role, a conversation with a Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum staff member blew my narrow view wide open. They pointed out a surprising fact: many people who work here at the Town are neither from the area nor do they know much about the broader municipality beyond the village of Stouffville. Intrigued by this, I grabbed my keys and set off on a mini road trip to explore the rest of Stouffville.

Heading north on Ninth Line, the paved landscape began to melt away into rolling hills. Suddenly, the trees parted, and the shining waters of Musselman's Lake appeared right in front of my eyes. I parked my car at Coultice Park, where a bunch of kids were laughing and splashing at the spray pads. I took a walk along the water. A crisp breeze rolled off the lake, making the whole area feel wonderfully fresh, vibrant, and alive.

While walking, a friendly resident

struck up a conversation with my unfamiliar face. She told me she had been living in the area for decades, having decided to retire here for a quieter pace of life. As she spoke about her love for the community, she shared some local history of the neighbourhood and warmly suggested where I should head next.

Following her advice, I wound my way over to the rural roads of Vanden. I stopped at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. Walking through the historic grounds, I was fascinated to learn how various heritage buildings from across the municipality have been carefully relocated and preserved. From old log cabins to historic schoolhouses, these beautifully kept structures silently tell the long, resilient story of Stouffville's early days. Everywhere I stopped, people genuinely wanted to know how I liked the area and made me feel welcome. What stood out most was how these quiet countryside pockets and the growing urban centre each contribute something unique to the community while remaining closely connected.

My experiences across the municipality left me wondering: how do so many distinct places come together to create such a strong sense of community?

After speaking with residents across different corners, I started noticing a common thread. Whether I was at Musselman's Lake, in Vanden, or back

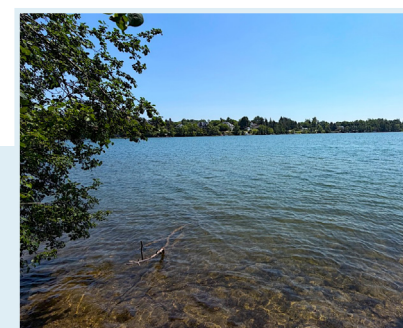
on Main Street, people spoke about Stouffville as though it were one community rather than a collection of separate places. The social bonds between the people are closer and more trusting than in many tightly packed city blocks. It is a place where neighbours genuinely look out for one another, where strangers smile as you pass, and where a spirit of safety and connection is woven into daily life.

My road trip completely redefined how I look at this community. I came to Stouffville as an outsider expecting a simple, cozy town. I am leaving with a deeper appreciation for the people, landscapes, and history that make this municipality unique.

It can be easy to take the beauty of your everyday surroundings for granted when you live here. But as an outsider who got to experience the full breadth of your home for a few short months, I can tell you that what you have here is incredibly lovely and unique. By the end of my internship, I understood that "Whitchurch" isn't simply the first half of a municipal name. It's the countryside roads, lakes, hamlets, and heritage that give Whitchurch-Stouffville its unique character. What began as a simple road trip ended as a lesson in how many different places can come together to feel like one community. 🌿

"What began as a simple road trip ended as a lesson in how many different places can come together to feel like one community." - HAZEL PANG

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAZEL PANG



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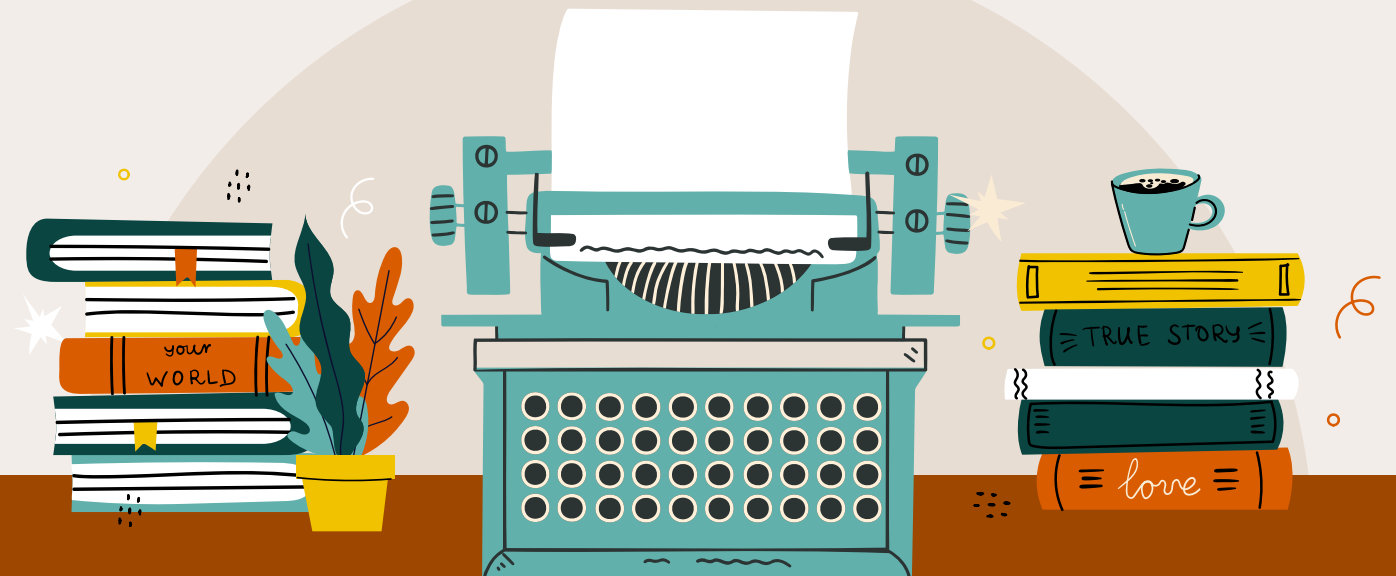
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Stouffville **Author** **Spotlight***

From magical realms and memoirs to history, wellness, and poetry, these local authors demonstrate how storytelling helps us understand ourselves, our community, and the world around us.



by Cassandra Papas

I have always believed that stories help us make sense of the world. Roald Dahl shaped my childhood, filling it with mischief, imagination, and the possibility that ordinary life could hold something strange and wonderful. In my teens, Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters taught me about wit, longing, and the complicated inner lives people carry beneath the surface.

As I have grown older, my relationship with reading has become more

intentional. I look for books that light me up, bring me joy, and help me practice empathy, curiosity, and reflection. Writing offers something similar: a reason to slow down, pay attention, and find language for what matters.

That same love of storytelling is alive across Stouffville. Local authors are creating fiction, memoir, history, and children's literature shaped by imagination, research, memory, and lived experience.

Our community also offers spaces for writers to connect. The INKlings Adult Writers Group meets bi-weekly at the Stouffville Library, while another writer's group meets through the 55+ Club.

In the pages that follow, we celebrate local authors who have transformed their experiences and imaginations into stories worth sharing.

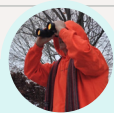
Aaron R.B. Bangay



Aaron R.B. Bangay's connection to Stouffville is rooted in family and memory. His grandparents lived on Ninth Line, where he spent many weekends growing up, visiting local diners with his great-aunt and attending traditions such as the Strawberry Festival and Santa Claus Parade.

His debut memoir, *The House on 9th Line*, explores grief, family relationships and the legacies passed between generations. The book was inspired by his grandfather, who died when Bangay was 10. Years later, following his grandmother's death and the breakdown of family relationships, he began confronting difficult truths about love, betrayal and inheritance.

The memoir is both a tribute to his grandfather's quiet generosity and a reflection on the emotional responsibilities families carry. Bangay hopes readers consider what it means to honour the past while creating healthier foundations for the future.



Chester AT A GLANCE

Genre: Poetry, short stories, essays and reflections

Featured work: Seasons on the Sideroad, An Occasional Fantasy and Light Reading

Local connection: Lifelong connection to Stouffville

Find his work: Available directly from the author during Whitevale Porchfest

Connect: Facebook under Chester Bathias

Published: Independently produced by the author



Chester Bathias

Doug Johnson, who writes under the name Chester Bathias, has lived in Stouffville for much of his life. After a 30-year career with Consumers' Gas, followed by work on a horse farm and at Schell Lumber, he began writing more seriously in retirement.

His work includes two chapbooks, *Seasons on the Sideroad* and *An Occasional Fantasy*, the short-story collection *Light Reading*, and a wide range of poems, essays and quotations. Much of his inspiration comes from the countryside, gravel roads and rural culture that shaped his early years in Stouffville.

Ideas often arrive without warning, sending him searching for paper before they disappear. He even keeps a clipboard beside his bed for late-night inspiration. His writing often carries a quiet moral, encouraging readers to reflect and look more closely at everyday moments.



Cindy AT A GLANCE

Cindy Lorraine Toner has long been part of Stouffville's creative community. About 25 years ago, she founded the Stouffville Quilt and Craft Club, which continues today as String Therapy at the Stouffville Library.

A lifelong writer, Toner spent nearly nine years developing *The Cressida Series*, completing all three novels before releasing the first. Her stories draw inspiration from forests, trails, wildlife and rainy landscapes, including the Stouffville Reservoir and natural spaces near her home.

Toner describes herself as a "pantser," beginning with key plot points and an ending while allowing her characters to guide the journey. Her emotionally rich stories centre on strong young women discovering their identities, abilities and the magic around them. She is currently working on a standalone novel, *Pursuit of Raine*.



Aaron AT A GLANCE

Genre: Memoir and biography

Featured work: *The House on 9th Line: A Memoir of Grief and the End of a Family*

Published: March 2, 2026

Local connection: Family roots on Ninth Line

Find his book: Amazon, Indigo, Chapters and independent bookstores

Website: thehouseon9thline.com

Instagram: @aaronbangay

Facebook: Aaron Bangay, Author



Cindy AT A GLANCE

Genre: Young adult magical realism, romantasy and fantasy

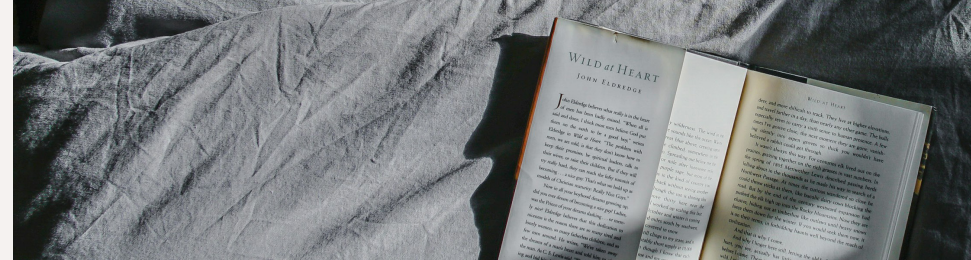
Featured work: *The Cressida Series*

Local connection: Stouffville resident for 27 years

Find her books: Amazon and Kindle Unlimited

Connect: TikTok @cindylorainetoner

Newsletter: cindylorraine@hotmail.com



Grant AT A GLANCE

Genre: Business, inspirational non-fiction

Featured work: *Why Not! Move Your Idea to a Brand*

Published: May 2026

Local connection: Longtime Stouffville resident, business owner and Greater Stouffville Chamber member

Find his book: whynotthebook.com, Foxglove Books and Next Chapter Books and Games

Website: whynotthebook.com

Instagram: @whynotthebook

Facebook: Why Not! The Book

Contact: grant@saywhat.com

Also available: Audiobook in production



Grant Ivens

Grant Ivens has spent more than three decades helping entrepreneurs, builders and dreamers turn ideas into recognizable brands. As founder of Say What! Communications, he has built businesses, launched products and learned firsthand what it takes to move an idea from possibility to reality.

His first book, *Why Not! Move Your Idea to a Brand*, grew from his experience teaching marketing in Seneca Polytechnic's Graphic Design program. Stories and real-life examples once shared in the classroom became chapters offering practical lessons and encouragement for people with ideas waiting to be pursued.

Stouffville also plays a role in the book. Ivens reflects on opening For the Love of Jo Coffee House in 2006 and supporting efforts to strengthen historic Main Street as the community grew.

Since the book's launch, readers have reached out about reviving old ideas, starting businesses and completing creative projects.



Jason AT A GLANCE

Genre: Canadian history, sports history, music and biography

Featured work: *King Alpha's Song in a Strange Land* and *The Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey Club*

Local connection: Stouffville resident for 19 years

Find his books: Indigo, Amazon and major booksellers

Connect: jasonwilsonmusic.com

Instagram: @jason.wilson.music



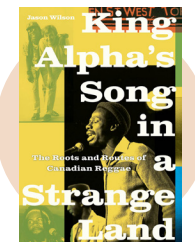
Jason Wilson

Jason Wilson is a bestselling historian, two-time Juno Award-nominated musician, television personality and Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Guelph. Across his career, storytelling remains a common thread.

Wilson traces his love of stories to childhood summers spent in his parents' home village in Scotland, where memorable characters sparked an early interest in people, place and cultural tradition.

His books explore Canadian music, sport, history and the connections shared across cultures. He is especially interested in how songs, stories, food, art and customs move between communities and evolve over time.

Life near Preston Lake and Musselman's Lake has also shaped his creative process. After growing up in Toronto, Wilson found that Stouffville's stars, wildlife and natural surroundings gave his writing and music a more grounded, unforced quality.



Local Bookshops

Stouffville's independent bookstores, including **Next Chapter Books & Games** and **Foxglove Books** at Redefined Finds, offer everything from bestselling titles to books by local authors. By shopping locally, readers support small businesses, literary events, and the growing community of writers who help tell Stouffville's story.





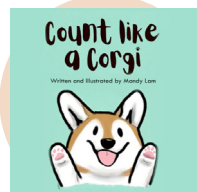
Mandy Lam

Mandy Lam's writing journey began at age seven, when she won her first school writing contest in Hong Kong. Although she now writes in English rather than Cantonese, her first language, her love of turning ideas into words has remained constant.

An Ontario Certified Teacher and college professor, Lam draws on her STEM background and experience in early numeracy development. Her picture books use storytelling to make mathematical ideas engaging and accessible for young readers.

Lam is also an active member of Stouffville's INKlings writing group, where prompts, discussions and occasional ekphrastic writing sessions at Latcham Art Centre have helped foster a supportive creative community.

Her current projects include new picture-book manuscripts shaped by her immigrant experience and interest in amplifying Asian voices, along with a women's fiction novel and a psychological thriller.



Mandy AT A GLANCE

Genre: Children's picture books and educational stories

Featured work: Seven Ate Nine, The Humdrum Party at the Zoo and Count Like a Corgi

Local connection: Stouffville resident since 2015

Find her books: Amazon, Indigo and Next Chapter Books and Games

Connect: profmandylam.wixsite.com/aloveofmath

Instagram: @mathstorytelling and @mandylamwrites



Nina AT A GLANCE

Genre: Self-help, mindfulness and wellness

Featured work: Let That Sh*t Go

Published: January 2019

Local connection: Stouffville resident and business owner since 2012

Find her book: Amazon and Indigo

Website: ninapurewal.com

LinkedIn: Nina Purewal

Instagram: @nina.pure.minds

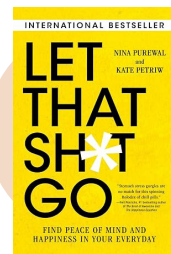
Also: Founder of Pure Minds Inc. and Executive Grief Ambassador for the Seasons Centre for Grieving Children

Nina Purewal

Nina Purewal never expected to become an author. After years in corporate sales, marketing and leadership, she stepped away from the pace of professional life to spend a year living in an ashram in Northern California.

The experience deepened her mindfulness practice and inspired her to explore how ancient wisdom could help people navigate modern pressures. After returning, Purewal founded Pure Minds Inc., a Stouffville-based social enterprise focused on workplace wellness and mental health.

Her workshops eventually caught the attention of HarperCollins, leading to Let That Sh*t Go, co-written with Kate Petriw. Through the book, workshops and coaching, Purewal encourages people to quiet an overactive mind, live more authentically and find steadiness through adversity. She says the most meaningful part of publishing has been hearing from readers who found hope in its pages.



Norma Elizabeth Beckberger

Norma Elizabeth Beckberger has been drawn to words, stories and music for much of her life. Before writing her first novel, she explored poetry, family history and personal memories, including stories about her mother and her own childhood.

Born in Heswall, England, Beckberger moved to Canada after the Second World War and later completed her education in Saint John, New Brunswick, a place that continues to influence her writing. She now lives at Parkview Village in Stouffville.

Her debut novel, Soul Mates, grew from her belief in resilience, compassion and healing. Beckberger says the characters came alive as she wrote, helping turn the manuscript into a full novel over about a year and a half. Through the story, she hopes to remind readers that hope and new beginnings can emerge after difficult chapters.



Norma AT A GLANCE

Genre: Fiction

Featured work: Soul Mates

Published: March 2026

Local connection: Parkview Village resident for nearly six years

Find her book: Amazon, FriesenPress, Indigo, Foxglove Books at Redefined Finds or directly from the author

Contact: normabeckberger@gmail.com



Steve AT A GLANCE

Genre: Speculative fiction, dystopia and environmental non-fiction

Featured work: The Olduvai trilogy

Local connection: Whitchurch-Stouffville resident for more than 30 years

Find his books: FriesenPress and olduvai.ca

Connect: olduvai.ca

Also writing on: Medium and Substack under Olduvai

Steve Bull

Steve Bull's writing grew from a lifelong interest in expressing complex ideas through the written word. His background in biology, psychology, archaeology and education informs work exploring resource depletion, ecological overshoot, societal change and the consequences of endless growth on a finite planet.

Bull began researching these subjects after watching a documentary in 2010 that connected with his graduate studies in archaeology. Fiction became a way to explore unsettling ideas through characters navigating a changing world, while his research later expanded into essays, social commentary and collaborations with academics and activists.

Watching Stouffville and surrounding communities grow has added urgency to his work. Through fiction and non-fiction, Bull encourages readers to question prevailing assumptions and consider how community-level preparation may help reduce future harm.



Beyond ★ *These Pages*



The authors featured here represent only a small chapter in Stouffville's much larger writing story. Across town, more voices are drafting first pages, revisiting family histories, building imagined worlds and finding new ways to share what matters to them.

Some are already published. Others are writing quietly at kitchen tables, in library corners or alongside fellow writers in local groups. Previous editions of *On the Road* have also celebrated local authors including Bruce Smith and Joe Lyons-Rising, adding to the growing collection of stories connected to our community.

There is much more to read, discover and celebrate, and many more local stories still waiting to find their way onto the page. 📖

✉ If there is a local author you think we should know about, email otr@townofws.ca

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SAVE THE DATE:

Stouffville's Terry Fox Run Returns September 20th

Stouffville event has raised \$2.4 million for cancer research since 1982



by Jim Mason

Save the date, Stouffville. The Terry Fox Run is returning to Stouffville Memorial Park on Sunday, September 20th, 2026.

The Stouffville run has raised more than \$2.4 million since 1982. The 2025 event drew approximately 1,000 participants and volunteers who raised more than \$95,000 for cancer research.

This year's goal is \$100,000.

Festivities begin at 12 noon, featuring entertainment, displays, refreshments, and children's activities.

The opening ceremonies begin at 12:50 PM.

The Terry Fox flag will be raised by municipal officials at a ceremony at the Stouffville Leisure Centre, on Terry Fox Way, on September 14th at 12:30 PM. It will fly over Stouffville until September 21st.

"My favourite day of the year is Terry Fox Run Day because it reminds me what a community can accomplish when everyone comes together for something bigger than themselves," said Adele Palmer, Chair of the Stouffville Terry Fox Run. "Every breakthrough in cancer research starts with people who choose to get involved. That's why we're dreaming big this year, more teams, more volunteers, and more people joining us to help carry Terry's dream forward."

This year's run will follow a 5 km course through southern Stouffville that begins and ends in the park and will travel along the section of Park Drive that was renamed Terry Fox Way in 2023. With safety in mind, a new route was developed and tweaked in recent years in

cooperation with the Town of Stouffville to keep participants on scenic trails, municipal sidewalks, and off streets as much as possible. A 2 km route is also provided.

You can run, walk, cycle, use a wheelchair, push a stroller, or rollerblade.

Entertainment will be provided at water stations along the route by local musicians.

You can learn more about the run and Terry Fox while enjoying the local Stouffville Market. Look for run volunteers at the downtown Market, which is a run sponsor, on August 22nd, September 12th, and September 19th. They will be signing up participants and selling Terry Fox Run t-shirts.

The Stouffville Spirit Jr. A Hockey Team will be donating proceeds from 50/50 draws held during home games in September to the run again this year. Go to stouffvillespirit.ojhl.ca or updates.

Short-sleeve run T-shirts (\$30) will be available at these local events preceding the run, or you can reach out via Facebook or Instagram!

You can obtain official run merchandise, including hoodies, caps, water bottles, and even bandanas, from shop.terryfox.org

Organizers are again sending a special invitation to those Cancer survivors.

Survivors wear special red T-shirts and are given lawn signs recognizing their survivor status.

The red shirts are a powerful symbol of hope, as they are worn not only by those who have conquered cancer, but also by those currently in treatment.

The Purple Terry Fox shirts are worn by scientists and researchers. Whatever colour your shirt is on run day, we look forward to having you walk, run, or ride with us as we support one another in Terry's honour.

Stouffville businesses, service clubs, churches, families, and sports organizations are encouraged to form a team, like the 57 teams who took part in the 2025 run. Seventeen teams have already registered for September.

Teams receive special recognition during the event. They can pre-order Terry Fox T-shirts with their team's name printed on them.



Join the Stouffville Terry Fox Run

Register at terryfox.org

Team Registration:

cindyjmc68@gmail.com

Survivor Registration:

Sonjaderoo4@outlook.com

Volunteer Application:

forms.gle/AY5RrLjjkVhKKHPNA

More Information:

terryfox-stouffville.ca



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PHOTO BY DENNIS HRISTOVSKI

STOUFFVILLE LEGION

Lunch & Learn

Thursday, September 17 | 10 AM

Learn about heart health, vision care and hearing wellness from local healthcare professionals, including cardiologist Dr. Abdulwahab Arrazaghi. Lunch and light breakfast provided. To RSVP, contact Rochelle D'Souza, at rochellestouffvillelegion@rogers.com

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DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

AN UPDATE BY GLENN JACKSON

Main St. Concepts on Display at Leisure Centre

Residents can now take a look at the future of downtown Stouffville through a series of new public display banners at the Leisure Centre, 2 Park Drive. On display until August 24th, the banners showcase the Town's Downtown Revitalization project, offering a detailed look at the vision and plans developed over months of work by Town staff and project consultant Accardi Engineering.

The displays walk residents through the project's timeline, objectives and design concepts, illustrating how the downtown could evolve over the coming years. Designed to inform and engage the community, the banners also provide opportunities for residents to learn more about the project and share feedback as the plans continue to take shape. While the project includes important underground upgrades to watermains and sewers, the banners focus on the transformation residents will experience above ground, including wider pedestrian spaces, enhanced landscaping, public gathering areas, improved accessibility and sustainable design features.

Detailed concept plans highlight proposed improvements along the Main Street corridor, including expanded seating areas, decorative paving, public art opportunities, improved lighting and enhanced connections to Stouffville Creek, local trails and community destinations. Urban greening features such as tree plantings, permeable paving and stormwater management elements are designed to create a downtown that is both vibrant and environmentally resilient.

The banners also invite residents to help shape the final design. Visitors can vote on their preferred bench and streetlight styles while learning more about project goals, upcoming engagement opportunities and ways to stay informed through the Downtown Revitalization eNewsletter.

Construction is expected to roll out in phases, continuing through to the end of 2028. In the meantime, each edition of *On the Road* will share updates as the project moves from design to reality. 📢

 **Get project updates**

Follow this project and sign up to receive the eNewsletter at townofws.ca/downtown

 **TOWN EVENTS TEAM**

LIVE ON MAIN

URBAN PLAZA
AUGUST 18 - SEPTEMBER 10

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
6:30 - 8 PM

New *Live on Main* Series Brings *Summer Music* to *Downtown Stouffville*

This August and September, discover the sounds of summer at Live on Main, a free all-ages outdoor music series bringing live performances to Stouffville's new Urban Plaza.

Running every Tuesday and Thursday evening from August 13th to September 10th (excluding September 8th), the series celebrates independent musicians and small ensembles in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

From contemporary country and roots music to blues-jazz fusion, live-looping covers, and indie rock, each performance offers something new to discover. Featured artists include Sam Polley & the Old Tomorrows, J.E. Lopez, Dylan Hennessy, Kendall Lily, Erin Blackstock, and more.

Concerts will take place at the new Urban Plaza located at 6240 Main Street. A community-focused public space designed to support local business, cultural programming, and community connection. The plaza is anchored by the new GIP Stage, with technical equipment Powered by Long & McQuade. Concerts take place from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

Grab your lawn chairs, load up the kids in the wagon, pick up some takeout from a downtown restaurant, and settle in for an evening of live music. A local vendor will also be on site offering light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

Live on Main is an invitation to discover local talent, connect with neighbours, and experience downtown Stouffville in a new way.

The plaza concept was developed by Stouffville resident and landscape architecture student Riley Rogers, whose vision helped inspire this exciting new downtown destination (see June's OTR for his profile). 📢

 **For the full summer lineup and event updates, visit townofws.ca/liveonmain**

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773-home Community Approved on Highway 48

Waste contracts, audited financial statements, agri-tourism update on recent agendas



by Glenn Jackson
glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

Highway 48 Lands Approved for Subdivision

On June 17th, Council approved a draft plan of subdivision for lands located at 11776, 11822 and 11882 Highway 48 (opposite Sam's Way, south of Walmart), allowing a new mixed-use community to move forward on approximately 85 hectares. The approval is subject to conditions that will be addressed through detailed design and future subdivision agreements.

The development will include 773 residential units, an elementary school block, a neighbourhood commercial/mixed-use block, a future community centre, stormwater facilities and significant natural heritage lands.

As part of the approval, lands will be conveyed to the Town for community and recreational purposes, including lands that could accommodate future sports fields and other unserviced recreational uses.

Garbage Collection on Main Street

On June 17th, Council approved the implementation of a user-pay garbage collection program, until September 30th, 2029, for businesses in the downtown Village area of Stouffville (Albert Street to Park Drive), with service expected to begin January 1st, 2027.

Under this program, the Town will provide weekly garbage collection only, while businesses remain responsible for arranging and paying for their own recycling.

All commercial property owners in the area will be charged an annual fee (estimated at approximately \$400 per business), collected through the tax bill or by invoice, regardless of usage.

According to the report, this approach responds to business concerns following the discontinuation of

municipal collection services in 2026, while allowing the Town to recover costs and maintain oversight of waste management in the downtown.

Extension of Waste Contract

On June 17th, Council approved an extension of the Town's waste collection contract with GFL Environmental Inc. until September 30th, 2029, ensuring uninterrupted curbside collection services until procurement process for a new long-term contract conclude. According to the report, the extension provides flexibility as municipalities evaluate future service delivery options.

Audited Financial Statements

On June 17th, Council approved the Town's 2025 audited financial statements and received related financial reports for information, all which confirmed a "strong financial position and sound governance."

The external audit issued an unqualified opinion with no deficiencies. The Town recorded an annual surplus of \$12.4 million and increased net financial assets to \$51.3 million, supported by steady revenue growth and effective cost management.

According to the report, cash declined due to reinvestment in the Town's investment portfolio, while operating cash flows remained strong. Debt levels continued to decrease, improving key financial indicators and strengthening long-term flexibility. Reserve balances grew, supporting infrastructure funding and future needs, although continued investment is required to keep pace with asset replacement.

Agri-Tourism Strategy Update

Council received an update on the Town's Agritourism Strategy and Toolkit project, including a draft market analysis that identifies strong opportunities for growth in Stouffville's agritourism

sector. The study found the Town is well positioned to expand agritourism due to its strong agricultural base, proximity to the GTA and growing demand for farm-based experiences.

The analysis highlighted opportunities to expand accommodations, year-round activities and destination marketing, while identifying barriers such as zoning limitations, regulatory complexity and infrastructure needs. Approximately 32 agritourism and on-farm diversified operations currently exist in Stouffville.

Findings will help shape the Town's Agritourism Strategy and Toolkit, which is expected to be presented to Council later this year.

Streetscape Design Manual

On June 17th, Council endorsed a new Streetscape Design Manual to guide the design of streets, public spaces and private developments across Stouffville. The manual establishes standards for features such as lighting, landscaping, tree planting, accessibility and public art to help create more attractive, consistent and pedestrian-friendly communities.

The guide will be used by Town staff, developers and consultants to support future growth and ensure a cohesive community character across the municipality. 🌿



COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Wednesday, September 16 – 1 PM
Wednesday, November 18 – 7 PM
Wednesday, December 2 – 1 PM

Next Public Meetings:

Wednesday, September 16 – 7 PM
Wednesday, December 2 – 7 PM
Wednesday, December 16 – 7 PM

Agendas for Council and Public Meetings will be available on townofws.ca/council at 12 PM the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Anyone wishing to provide comments may attend the meeting in-person at the Municipal Offices.
Contact clerks@townofws.ca for more information.

Listen live: townofws.ca/cmlivestream
Live posts on X: [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall)
Subscribe to the monthly newsletter: townofws.ca/councilnews

talk of the town

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STOUFFVILLE VOTES 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Get Ready to Vote in October

Are you on the municipal voters' list? Make sure you're ready to vote in the upcoming Municipal Election. Verify your information or register by October 16. Visit stouffvillevotes.ca/voterslist. You must be 18 years of age or older to vote.

👉 stouffvillevotes.ca/voterslist

LIVE ON MAIN

NEW! Live on Main Series

Aug. 13 – Sep. 10 | Tuesdays & Thursdays
6:30 – 8 PM

Enjoy free, all-ages outdoor concerts at the new Urban Plaza, featuring independent artists performing everything from country and roots to blues-jazz, live-looping covers and indie rock. Bring a lawn chair, grab some local takeout and discover your new favourite artist.

👉 townofws.ca/liveonmain

19 ON THE PARK THEATRE

Discover Your Stage: 2026-2027 Concert Series

Tickets now on sale

Discover a vibrant new season of live entertainment close to home, featuring comedy, family entertainment, Newfoundland music, holiday jazz, country-roots legends and more.

👉 townofws.ca/concertseries



Stay in the loop on projects shaping Stouffville, visit townofws.ca/projects to explore the initiatives helping build our community's future.

WSFES

Fire Department Open House

Sep. 12 | 10 AM – 2 PM

Fire Station 5-1, 100 Weldon Rd.

Join Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services for the annual Open House. Meet local firefighters and community partners, learn about fire safety, enjoy games and prizes, explore a fire truck, spray a fire hose and more.

👉 townofws.ca/fire

RECREATION

Roller Skate Nights

Thursdays | Aug. 20 – Sep. 3

Roll into summer with free roller-skating events at the Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Trail, featuring all-ages and youth-only sessions with free admission and skate rentals.

👉 townofws.ca/rollerskate

Youth Advisory Working Group

Applications open in early fall

Stouffville youth in Grades 7-12 can share their voices, build leadership skills and help shape the future of their community through meaningful projects and initiatives.

👉 townofws.ca/YAWG

Fall Program Registration

Aug. 25 | 12 PM

Registration for fall recreation programs opens for residents. Create your account in advance and get ready to register.

👉 townofws.ca/active

HOUSING

Affordable Rental Grants for Homeowners

Applications now available

Homeowners in the Community of Stouffville can access financial assistance to create safe, legal and affordable rental units, including basement apartments and backyard dwelling units, as well as associated accessibility improvements.

👉 townofws.ca/rentalincentives

Housing Affordability Resource Program (HARP)

Applications now available

York Region's Housing Affordability Resource Program (HARP) supports non-profit and co-operative housing providers with funding, incentives, and approvals. Funding opportunities include the Community Housing Supply Grant and Pre-Development Support programs.

👉 york.ca

MUSEUM

Worthy: The History of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps

Until Dec. 19 | FREE admission

Explore the history of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps and its founder, Major-General Frederic Franklin Worthington, from the First World War through to Afghanistan.

👉 townofws.ca/exhibits

Museum Minis: A Tiny History

FREE admission

Discover the big stories behind tiny objects in this exhibit exploring miniatures created around the world for play, learning, art and memory.

👉 townofws.ca/exhibits

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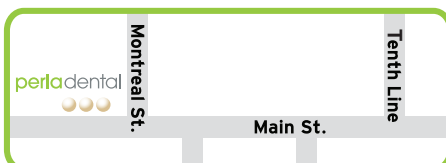
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