



SEPTEMBER 2024 • NO. 83

## TIME AND TRANSFORMATION

Glenn Smith and the past, present, and future of Stouffville's beloved clock tower

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### Campus-of-Care

Enhancing lives of seniors at the Village of Stouffer Mills

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### Chapel Ridge

New funeral home facility coming to Gormley

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### Local Legends

Stouffville Spirit, track stars, and the Terry Fox Run

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Photograph on cover, p. 15 by Dennis Hristovski. Photo below and on p.10 by Valeria Mitsubata. Photos on p. 7 by Katrina Robert.

### LAST MONTH IN STOUFFVILLE:

Stouffville kids share the stage with Canadian hip-hop legend Maestro Fresh-Wes at Ribfest



## FROM THE EDITOR

Admit it...you never knew the clock tower needed winding, did you? Well, don't tell Glenn Smith that you didn't think so. Glenn, and his father before him, have wound the downtown landmark since 1940, and now he is winding down. Read about Glenn's 50 year journey up and down those ladders on page 15.

Lots of new businesses have opened their doors this summer, including Centex, North & Co., Acenet Wireless, and Joy's Fish & Chips. Catch their profiles starting on page 6. Markham's Chapel Ridge Funeral Home is making the journey north to Gormley with the opening of its new crematorium. I had the chance to speak with father-son duo Eric and Devin Tappenden on page 12.

Two significant organizations are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year: the Stouffville Horticultural Society and the York Regional Forest. Cassandra Papas profiles both in this issue.

As always, drop us a note anytime! Enjoy.

Glenn Jackson, Editor-in-chief  
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## Zoning Amendments Denied for 13-storey Condo Second Suite By-law Gets an Update; Memorializing the Fallen of WWI

by Glenn Jackson

This monthly column summarizes recent Whitchurch-Stouffville Council decisions. Subscribe to our eNewsletter for more information: [townofws.ca/councilnews](http://townofws.ca/councilnews)

### Ninth and Main

Stouffville Council has turned down requests to alter the Town's Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-law made by the owner of a property on the northwest corner of Main St. and Ninth Line.

The denials, issued at the June 26th Council meeting, now prohibit the landowners from building a proposed 13-storey condominium with retail space at ground level.

The amendments were submitted by M. Behar Planning and Design Ltd. on behalf of Hyson Properties Inc. The project initially proposed an 18-storey building with 200 to 210 dwelling units and 366 sq. metres of retail space. The latest submission, received on April 23rd, 2024, maintained the same number of units in 13 storeys but increased the parking spaces from 225 to 248, including surface and underground.

The decision has been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal by Hyson Properties Inc.

According to historical records, the building that still stands on the corner was built in April 1947 by Fred E. Byer of Atha (near Claremont), a John Deere farm implement dealer. He had purchased the southeast corner of a 100-acre farm from Winfred Timbers for \$696. This parcel of land was later the corner of Fairview Ave. and Main St. before the realignment of the Ninth Line. Some longtime residents may recall the gas pumps in the front of the showroom selling White Rose gasoline.

In 1960, the premises became the location of Giles Chevrolet Oldsmobile. In 2016, Giles closed and sold the land. The future of the development and the land is unknown.



ABOVE: Stouffville Council recently turned down requests to alter the Town's Official Plan and Zoning By-law which would have allowed for the construction of a 13-storey residential tower at the northwest corner of Main St. and Ninth Line. The decision has been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal by the applicant.

### Second Suites

Ontario's Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, requires Ontario municipalities to amend their Official Plans and Zoning By-laws to allow up to three residential units in a detached house, a semi-detached house, and a townhouse unit on a parcel of land which is fully serviced. Additional units are often called second suites, additional dwelling units, accessory apartments, and/or in-law apartments.

On June 19th, Stouffville Council approved the requested amendments. Serviced land in Stouffville can now have either up to two residential units within the principal building (detached house, semi-detached house, townhouse) and one residential unit in an ancillary building or three residential units within the principal building, provided there is no residential unit in an ancillary building.

The only fully serviced area of Whitchurch-Stouffville that would allow up to two additional units is in and around the Community of Stouffville.

The areas of Ballantrae, Bloomington, Gormley, Vandorf, and Musselman's Lake will allow up to one additional unit.

Planning and building permits are required regardless of the number of

units or their location. More information can be found at [townofws.ca/ARUs](http://townofws.ca/ARUs)

### War Memorial Anniversary

In 1925, Aurora, King, and Stouffville came together to memorialize those who died during World War I by building the Aurora War Memorial (now the Aurora Peace Park). To honour this significant anniversary, the three municipalities are planning various commemorative activities, including outdoor, virtual, and travelling exhibitions showcasing the soldiers. The exhibitions will run from August 2024 through November 2025, with a virtual launch on the Memorial's anniversary. Street banners will commemorate the soldiers, and a special ceremony led by the Aurora Legion will re-dedicate the restored monument, featuring traditional music and readings. More information will become available at a later date.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are held at 1 p.m. every other Wednesday at Town Hall in Stouffville. Agendas at [calendar.townofws.ca/council](http://calendar.townofws.ca/council)  
Listen live: [townofws.ca/cmlivestream](http://townofws.ca/cmlivestream)  
Live posts on X: @ws\_townhall



# Village of Stouffer Mills Taking Shape on Hoover Park

CAMPUS-OF-CARE GROUNDBREAKING HELD ON JULY 28TH by Glenn Jackson

If you’ve driven along Hoover Park Dr. east of Hwy 48 in the past two months, you’ve likely noticed the transformation of the land beside Tim Hortons. The construction you see is the first of three phases of Stouffville’s newest long-term care home, the Village of Stouffer Mills.

Named after Abraham Stouffer, who, along with his wife Elizabeth Reesor, were the first European settlers in the Village of Stouffville. The Village of Stouffer Mills will be a full-scale residential community, bringing together seniors’ residences, townhouses, and other much-needed housing.

“I want to express my gratitude for Schlegel Villages’ investment in our community,” said Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt. “With over 70 years of providing top-quality care and fostering community, Schlegel Villages will make The Village of Stouffer Mills a wonderful place to live in Whitchurch-Stouffville.”

The construction you see today on Hoover Park is the first of three phases to build a ‘campus-of-care’ for seniors. The goal is to integrate the long-term care home into the broader health care system and ensure residents can conveniently connect to the care they need.

Phase one’s 192-bed building will feature a 32-bed resident home area on all six floors. The home areas create a more intimate and familiar living space, with dining and activity areas, lounges, and bedrooms. The design also features extensive common spaces along the ‘Main Street’ of the home, linking the individual home areas with the broader community.

“The new long-term care home will provide almost 200 residents with a comfortable and supportive environment, and the quality of care they deserve,” said Markham-Stouffville

MPP Paul Calandra. “It’s a testament to our government’s dedication to enhancing the lives of seniors in Stouffville and across Ontario. I look forward to witnessing this project’s positive impact on our community.”



In the future, the Village will be part of a broader continuum of care, with approximately 500 retirement suites and independent seniors’ apartments planned. It will eventually comprise three interconnected buildings, and a linking building, collectively providing 722 residential units.

“Each new Village we design and build is enriched by the experience gained from our current Villages,” says James Schlegel, President and CEO of Schlegel Villages. “Our commitment to relationships as the foundation of care and support remains constant, and it’s an honour to bring our Village concept and philosophy of care to Whitchurch-Stouffville.”

Schlegel Villages aims to welcome the first residents in 2026. To learn more, visit [schlegelvillages.com](http://schlegelvillages.com)

# 100 Years in Bloom: The Stouffville Horticultural Society

by Cassandra Papas

The Stouffville Horticultural Society, affectionately known as the Stouffville Garden Club, is celebrating its Centennial year! Founded in 1924, the club has long been a cornerstone of the community.

Being a member means more than just learning about gardening; it’s about building friendships, contributing to the community, and nurturing a shared passion for all things green and growing.

If you’re considering joining as a member, you will enjoy regular meetings that are a delightful mix of camaraderie and education. Each gathering begins with refreshments, followed by a guest speaker or demonstrator. In 2024, topics range from indoor succulents and garden photography to the importance of gardens

and tea gardening. Additionally, the club is hoping to revive its tradition of bus trips in 2025, offering members the chance to explore beautiful gardens and horticultural sites together.

Members are dedicated to maintaining the Canada 150 Garden at Park Dr. and Booth Dr., nurtured since 2017. Wednesdays or Thursdays, weather permitting, you can join fellow enthusiasts working diligently in the garden, sharing tips, and enjoying the therapeutic benefits of gardening.

The year culminates with the Annual General Meeting and a potluck supper; a perfect opportunity to celebrate the year’s achievements and socialize with fellow members.

Perks of the Stouffville Garden Club are not just for members, the community gets to participate as the club also hosts three judged flower shows, and a photography contest, providing members with the chance to highlight their gardening skills and the local community to enjoy its beauty.

In the spring, the Stouffville Garden Club participates in a plant sale organized by St. James Church, a fantastic event to share and acquire new plants, flowerpots, and seeds.

For more information, or to join this vibrant community, visit [StouffvilleHorticulturalSociety.org](http://StouffvilleHorticulturalSociety.org), or find them on Facebook at Stouffville Horticultural Society & Garden Club.

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# Reeling in the Community

by Michaela Ray

Located in east-end Stouffville, at 6728 Main St., Joy’s Fish & Chips has quickly become a beloved spot for locals, bringing the comforting flavours of a classic dish to the community. Owned by husband and wife, Jimmy and Joy, the restaurant is an expansion of their successful Captain George’s Fish & Chips in Port Perry. The couple’s dedication to quality and customer satisfaction is evident, with Jimmy proudly noting that they always serve the best, never compromising on freshness or taste.

When Jimmy was deciding what to call his new endeavour, only one name came to mind — Joy. While honouring his wife, the name also presented a great opportunity to share a piece of their personal story with a new community.

Katelyn Babcock, a Stouffville native, played a pivotal role in this journey. She first met Jimmy at Captain George’s in Port Perry and, after an impromptu conversation, was hired on the spot. When the couple decided to expand, Katelyn suggested Stouffville, knowing the town’s need for a dedicated fish & chips spot. With Joy’s opening, Katelyn became the Manager of the new location.

Managing Joy’s Fish & Chips holds special significance for Katelyn, as the restaurant occupies the same location as a beloved donut shop from her childhood. This full-circle moment highlights the restaurant’s connection to the community.

Joy’s Fish & Chips aims to build strong relationships with their patrons, just as they do in Port Perry. With dishes like



ABOVE: Owners Jimmy Zeng, Joy Zhou, and manager Katelyn Babcock outside Joy’s Fish & Chips, located at 6728 Main St.

the Joy’s Special, featuring halibut, chips, shrimp, scallops, onion rings, and a salad, the restaurant offers not just a meal but a warm, welcoming experience. Joy’s Fish & Chips is a place where memories are made and a new chapter in Stouffville’s dining scene begins.

# Centex Petroleum Celebrates Grand Opening on Main St.

Centex Petroleum had their grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at their new location, 5505 Main St. on Friday, July 28th. The ribbon-cutting, which was followed by a reception and prize draws, was attended by local Stouffville dignitaries including Mayor Iain Lovatt and York Region Chair, and former Stouffville Mayor, Wayne Emmerson.

Situated on the previous George’s Fish and Chips, Burger Treat, and FINA gas station land, the property is owned by long-time Stouffville resident Bruce Kudelski and his family. Keep an eye out for a profile of them in a future edition of OTR!



From left: Dwayne Tapp, Stouffville Development Services Commissioner; Mayor Iain Lovatt; Bruce Kudelski; Centrex Retail Operations Specialist Bhagyesh Jain; Bill Kudelski; Ward 5 Councillor Richard Bartley; Ward 6 Councillor Sue Sherban.

# Stouffville Welcomes Acenet Wireless

Proud owner and Stouffville resident, Zef Sadikot, recently opened Acenet Wireless on Main St. to service all your cell phone and laptop needs.

Acenet offers fast repairs, phones from Apple, Samsung, and Google, with competitive cell phone plans available from major carriers. Acenet also carries cell phone accessories, such as batteries, chargers, and screen protectors.

Zef welcomes you to experience his unwavering commitment to customer service. He understands that when your cell phone needs a repair, time is of the essence. Your complete satisfaction with fast repairs is one of his top priorities.

Acenet Wireless is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 5428 Main St., Unit 117. For more information, call 647-354-5450.



ABOVE: Zef Sadikot, Owner of Acenet Wireless in his new storefront.

# Snip, Snip, Hooray: How North & Co. is a Cut Above

by Glenn Jackson



Laura Pope, the owner of North & Co. Studio at 6235 Main St., is revolutionizing the local hair care scene. With 22 years of experience as a hair colourist, including 16 years on Avenue Rd. in Toronto, Laura brings expertise and a fresh perspective to Main St.

Previously, Laura owned the Starks franchise, a barbershop exclusively for men, at the same location since 2019. North & Co. (not pronounced as “Company” but simply as “Co”), which opened in February 2024, represents a significant shift. Unlike Starks, North & Co. is a comprehensive studio offering services for men, women, and children. This transition reflects Laura’s understanding of the local market and her commitment to filling a need in the community.

“Stouffville has either barbershops or salons,” she says. “We offer both types of services – we fill that void.” According to Laura, her clientele is evenly split between men and women, with about 40% coming from out of town.

Laura’s move to Stouffville from Markham was driven by her attraction to the Town’s unique charm—a blend of endearing allure and modern vibrancy. She aptly named her studio “North & Co.” as a nod to her northward move. Describing Stouffville as a “new, old town; big, small town,” Laura sees immense potential in Stouffville’s downtown area.

“I believe in collective efforts to make the downtown area thrive,” she says. “We need to work together to make it an attraction that it deserves to be. Downtown revitalization is going to be very positive; we just need to deal with the bumps in the road for a bit, but after it is finished, downtown will be an amazing place to be.”

As a testament to her confidence in the revival, she signed a five-year lease with an option for five more.

“  
I have confidence  
in Stouffville, I  
have confidence  
in our businesses,  
and I have  
confidence in our  
decision-makers.

- LAURA POPE



# Community Open House at Vivian Baptist Church

by Ruby Vasanthan

Vivian Baptist Church invites the community to join the celebration of their recent improvements. Their Open House event will take place on Saturday, November 2nd, from 2 – 4 p.m. The event will include a range of engaging activities and programs for everyone to enjoy, along with a special appearance by the Honourable Helena Jaczek, Member of Parliament.

With 89 years on Stouffville soil, Vivian Baptist Church has been a dedicated service organization to the community. Committed to making their church accessible to everyone, they sought to address several accessibility issues, including the need for a lift and an accessible washroom.

The Open House reflects the church’s ongoing commitment to creating an accessible space for all. Their path to accessibility began three years ago when the church actively sought grants

to offset project costs. In 2021, they secured a \$50,000 Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) Federal Government grant, leading to the installation of an accessible washroom. However, challenges with inaccessible entrances brought the project back to the drawing board. Determined, the church secured an additional \$100,000 EAF grant in 2023, allowing them to complete the necessary improvements and ensure full accessibility.

The church then focused on further enhancements. Thanks to generous donations from church members, they were able to remodel various areas, including a new entrance vestibule, an accessible outside ramp with railings, a modern kitchen, upgraded flooring, a new nursery room, and more.

Vivian Baptist Church is located at 16690 Hwy 48 in Stouffville. For more information, call 905-473-5957.





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# The summer fun continues into this fall and holiday season!

As the Stouffville Celebrates Summer Series wraps up, it is clear that Stouffville was the place to be this summer! The 10th Annual Art in the Park featured a record number of artist exhibitors, while fireworks dazzled on Victoria Day weekend and on Canada Day. The inaugural Symphony Under the Stars concert filled Memorial Park with classic and contemporary music thanks to the talented Kindred

Spirits Orchestra, and Movies in the Park delighted audiences with screenings of *Kung Fu Panda 4* and *Wonka*. Lastly, the award-winning 11th annual Stouffville Ribfest featured stellar performances from Canadian icon Maestro Fresh-Wes and headliner Tebey. We already can't wait for Summer 2025! Excitement is building for the upcoming fall and holiday season in the town!



## Halloween in Civic Square • Oct 26th

Halloween in Civic Square is on October 26th! Dress up in your favourite costume and meet us in Civic Square (19 on the Park, behind the clock tower) for snacks, music, and spooky activities.

## Christmas Tree Lighting • Nov 22nd

Join the community in welcoming the holiday spirit with music, activities and a magical Christmas Tree Lighting at Civic Square.

## Holiday Market • Nov 29th-30th

The award-winning Holiday Market will return to Memorial Park on November 29th and 30th, featuring festive stalls from local artisans and vendors, delicious treats and beverages, live entertainment, rides, and more.

## Santa Claus Parade • Dec 7th

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Santa Claus Parade on December 7th. This beloved tradition on Main Street features beautifully decorated floats, bands, lights, and Santa himself!

## New Year's Eve Fireworks • Dec 31st

To finish off the holiday season, join us for the spectacular New Year's Eve Fireworks event, lighting up the sky in Memorial Park as we welcome 2025 with a bang.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The success of the Summer Series would not have been possible without our generous sponsors. Our corporate and community sponsorshelp to create memorable and meaningful experiences and play a major role in enhancing Stouffville's events and delivering impactful activations for all to enjoy.

# Exploring *Familial Waters* with Dianne Brown-Green

by Tyler Durbano

Dianne Brown-Green, an Indigenous artist and maker residing in Stouffville for over two decades, is about to unveil her solo exhibition *Familial Waters* at Latcham Art Centre. As she makes the final works inside her home studio, the profound relationship between her heritage and the environment rises to the surface. Each painting holds treasured memories of her youth visiting Manitoulin Island and her family's tradition of camping all summer in Algonquin Park. These memories come together with teachings from elders, and reminders about our interconnectedness with nature.

Her paintings use distinct x-ray forms and bold colours associated with the Woodland School, a practice developed by Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau and furthered by Daphne Odjig and Carl Ray, among others.

More than images, her works are storied landscapes. In *Givers of Life*, Brown-Green honours the legacy of Biidaasige-ba, Josephine Henrietta Mandamin, Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner who tirelessly advocated for water purity. From 2003 to 2017, she walked the perimeter of the Great Lakes, carrying its waters in a copper bucket, to call attention to water pollution and environmental degradation



ABOVE: Dianne Brown-Green, *Nibi Life* (detail), 2023. Acrylic on canvas. Image courtesy of the artist.

on Indigenous reserves. In her painting *Nibi Life*, a figure rises from the water among vibrant fish, made by tracing her own shadow, Brown-Green showcases Mandamin's mission, as well as our reliance on water, and women as carriers of life.

As you prepare to visit *Familial Waters*, anticipate a journey through stories and symbols, all connected by water, where cultural themes remind us of our connection to the environment. Dianne Brown-Green's exhibition runs from August 30th to October 20th at Latcham Art Centre.

To learn more about this exhibit, visit [latchamartcentre.ca](https://latchamartcentre.ca)



## Courtyard Artists Show and Sale

The Courtyard Artists Show and Sale is back! This event returns on September 14th and 15th, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., featuring works from four talented artists with pieces available at various price ranges.

Held at 12601 McCowan Rd., attendees can also explore an organic garden courtesy of a neighbouring farmer, offering fresh vegetables and scenic walks. Four-legged friends are also welcome!

## LEGION EVENTS



SEP 14

### Golf Tournament

Mill Run Golf Club  
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Register before September 4th.

2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

### Fun Bingo

Bring your own bingo dabbers for an afternoon of *Fun Bingo* in the Legion clubroom every month at 2 p.m. (September at 1 p.m.)  
18+ years  
\$10 for 3 plays, \$20 for 9 plays

4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

### 31 Card Games

Try your hand at 31, a thrilling card game for two or more people.  
Sign Up: 1:30 p.m. Game Start: 2 p.m.

4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

### Branch Shuffleboard

Slide into the fun with your highest scoring weights.  
Sign Up: 12:30 p.m. Game Start: 1 p.m.



# Chapel Ridge Crematorium Coming to Gormley

by Glenn Jackson



With a new facility opening in Gormley, Eric and Devin Tappenden sit down with OTR's Glenn Jackson to talk about moving to Stouffville, the changing landscape, and the future of the industry.

**Glenn:** Eric, what is your family's background, and what are your ties to Stouffville?

**Eric:** I grew up in Scarborough during the '50s and '60s, when it was mostly farmland north of Eglinton Ave. My wife Susanne and I moved to Markham in 1980, and we've lived in the same house since then. Our connection to Stouffville began when we sought a church with a strong youth group for our teenage children, leading us to Springvale Church in west Stouffville. Our involvement with Springvale has deeply integrated us into the Stouffville community.

I have also been active in the community, serving on the board and as Chair of the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation, and supporting various local organizations and initiatives. Our team at Chapel Ridge is exceptional, chosen for their professionalism and compassionate nature, and many of our staff live in nearby communities.

**GJ:** Can you describe a bit about Chapel Ridge? What do you offer families and what area do you cover?

**ET:** Chapel Ridge is a family-owned funeral home established 25 years ago on Woodbine Ave., south of 16th Ave. in Markham. We offer a comprehensive range of funeral services, including visitations, traditional funerals, memorial services, celebrations of life, and both burial and

cremation. Our primary service areas include Stouffville, Markham, Richmond Hill, and the northern part of the GTA. However, we have evolved into a regional funeral home, providing services across the GTA from Oakville to Oshawa, and north to Newmarket. We also have a partner facility in Mississauga. Chapel Ridge stands out as the most multicultural funeral home in the province, capable of serving every faith and cultural community.

**GJ:** What led to the decision to build a new facility?

**ET:** A significant trend influencing our decision was the dramatic increase in cremation rates. In 1970, only 5% of GTA families chose cremation; last year, it was over 80%. There is a shortage of cremation facilities in the GTA, particularly those offering witnessing services. This shortage, along with our desire to provide seamless service to our families, led us to build our own crematorium.

My son Devin will be managing the new crematorium. Devin played Junior A and NCAA hockey and studied business at University in Minnesota, before coming to work at Chapel Ridge in 2020, as a Funeral Director Assistant.

**GJ:** What made you choose Stouffville, and specifically the land on Stalwart Drive in Gormley as your new location?

**Devin:** We selected Stouffville for its proximity to our funeral home and the welcoming reception from the Town Council and staff. The land on Stalwart Drive in Gormley met our needs for zoning and community support. The Town conducted thorough due diligence to ensure our facility met all environmental and aesthetic standards. We are excited to grow with the Stouffville community and contribute positively to its development. We are just extremely comfortable with Stouffville as a community – we love the people, we love the Chamber and the business community, the Town Council and staff, and we are so pleased to be becoming more a part of this community.

**GJ:** What are the timelines for opening and what will families expect with the new facility?

**DT:** Construction began last August, and we expect to complete it by September, aiming to open in October. Our facility will feature beautiful landscaping, a serenity garden, and two witnessing rooms with separate entrances. Families can hold final rites in our 'prayer room' without having to travel between locations, ensuring seamless and respectful service. Our goal is to enhance our service quality rather than increase business. We believe the new facility will attract more families, but our primary focus is on improving our delivery of compassionate, professional service.



ABOVE: Devin (left) and Eric Tappenden stand in the new facility being built in Gormley. Photo by Dennis Hristovski.

To learn more, visit [northtorontocrematorium.com](http://northtorontocrematorium.com). To inquire about cremation services, email [info@northtorontocrematorium.com](mailto:info@northtorontocrematorium.com) or call 647-295-7175.

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SEPT

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MARKET STARTS AT 9 AM

LOCATION:  
DOWNTOWN STOUFFVILLE



3  
OCT

CONCERT SERIES  
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

TIME:  
EVENT BEGINS AT 7 PM

LOCATION:  
19 ON THE PARK



6  
OCT

TTG'S ANNUAL PUMPKIN  
GIVEAWAY

TIME:  
GIVEAWAY STARTS AT NOON

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# Withstanding Time and Transformation

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF OUR CLOCK TOWER by Julia Jackson



On a cold, blustery day, you may have seen Glenn Smith carrying his ladder down Main St. on his way to Civic Square. No matter the weather, Glenn was devoted to the time-honoured tradition of winding our beloved clock, the centerpiece of Stouffville's downtown.

From 1973 to 2024, before the clock went digital, Glenn climbed the clock tower every ten days, up four levels. He was the keeper of time for our community, winding the gears and adjusting the pendulum to ensure the chime of the bell rang out every hour.

The four-face clock encased in red brick has a different perspective from within. Though Glenn has become familiar with every wooden rung of the ladders and each gear pinion, very few have actually seen inside the tower. Glenn is one of the few, carrying on the work his father, Jacob (Jake) Smith, did since 1940. Jake owned and operated a clock shop in Stouffville, and Glenn began working alongside him at only 12 years old. In fact, Jake rebuilt the clock assembly in the tower in 1981.

Winding the clock was a very different task than those Glenn had as a Funeral Director at the Dixon-Garland Funeral Home since 1980. The two worlds collided though, when Glenn was inspired by the motor used in funeral homes, which he was able to adopt to update the clock tower.

Along with his ingenuity, his 50 years winding the clock came with many memories, such as ringing the bell every five seconds for a total of 100 rings on Remembrance Day to commemorate the soldiers that fought for our country. This esteemed duty was not always easy for Glenn; weather had a major impact on the clock. It could run fast or slow, depending on temperature, which required some work adjusting the pendulum. There was also a large weight of responsibility, for an extended vacation meant the clock would stop — unbelievably, this only happened a few times over half a century!

Winter brought other challenges with the buildup of ice on the hands. When this happened, there was nothing to do but wait for nature to warm up and allow the clock to tick once more.

One morning, Glenn found that a hand was binding. After investigation, he discovered that a string of Christmas lights had fallen, wrapped around a hand, causing the standstill.



## Where it Began

Before the Smiths, Hector Pollard, a local jeweler, installed the clock in 1931, and wound it thereafter. Hector stepped in when outside experts couldn't be secured. Local electrician, N.E. Byer, also helped by providing the lighting so the clock faces could be seen at any hour of the night.

The clock tower has been a source of much tension over its more than 100 years of history, beginning in 1899 when a wood structure was to be built for a fire hall. James Ratcliff wanted it on Mill St., but Mr. Stark took it to election to be built on Main St. Stark won, and Nathan Forsyth was contracted to carry out the work.

Believe it or not, there were also jail cells at this site! Later, Jacob Burkholder built an addition to the fire hall for a library. This then became the Council Chambers and Clerk's office.



ABOVE: This Stouffville landmark has been home to a fire hall, council chambers, and even a jail in its more than 100 years of history. Image courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum permanent collection (accession number 988.014.210).



ABOVE: View of Main St. with the clock tower on Dominion Day in 1938. Image courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum permanent collection (accession number 987.080.006)

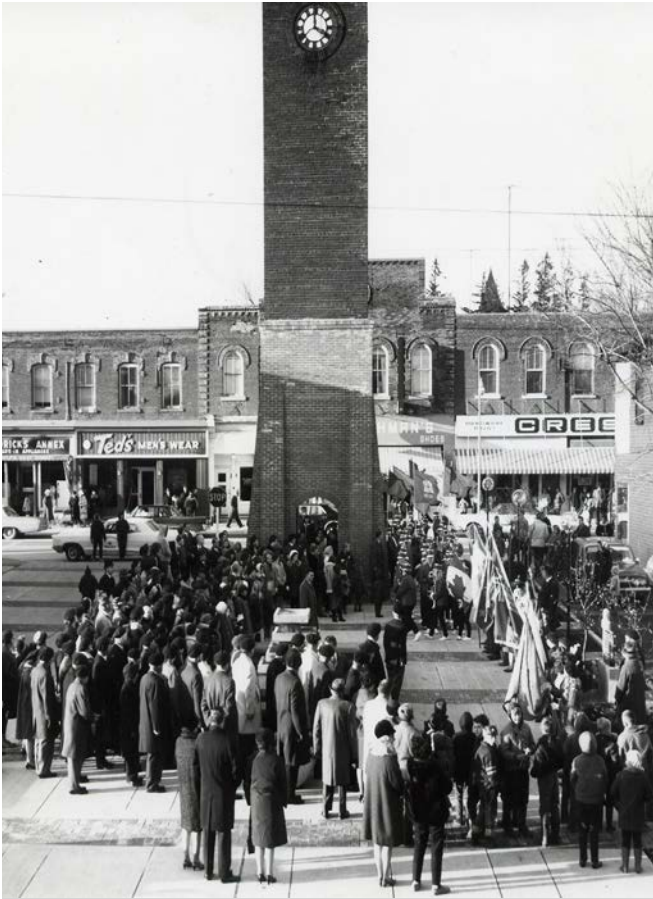
## "Great Things from Little Acorns Grew"

In 1931, the Stouffville Tribune printed an article regarding a desire for a clock tower in the community. It was suggested that it would be an admirable memorial and hoped for a kind-hearted person to make it come to fruition. In stepped Elizabeth Percy, whose family were early settlers to Pickering before coming to Stouffville.

In memory of her father, Reverend William Percy, and mother, Esther Elizabeth Graham, Elizabeth donated the clock and the bell by Gillet & Johnston that came from Croydon, England. She memorialized her father, who was once pastor of Stouffville, Bloomington, and Ringwood Christian Churches, and was well known for supporting the community with strength and spirituality.

Though Elizabeth provided the clock, the tower would need to be built by public subscription. Donations were quick to come in from 53 community members, including the Stouffville's Women's Institute. Delbert Holden even gave a car away to help fund the cost of the \$1350 tower! Wideman's Marble and Granite Works donated a marble panel for all donor names to be inscribed to, including contributions of \$5 or \$10. The Businessmen's Association helped organize, and Fred Betz was contracted.

On September 7th, 1931, the dedication ceremony took place, at which time the clock was handed over to the municipality and named the Percy Memorial Tower. "Great things from little acorns grew," said Dr. Ira Freel, opening the official presentation after a crowd gathered and a band played. Reeve Wilford E. Morden promised that the Town would guard and protect this gift with care. Tensions rose once again in October 1931, when some Town officials and businessmen showed hostility over the undertaking of the tower. They watched the note that financed the project go up in flames in a tin can — the note which



ABOVE: Stouffville residents and delegates gather on Remembrance Day in 1967. Image courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum permanent collection (accession number R998.033.001)

contained 42 signatures, serving as collateral for the bank while the community raised funds.

Though there was \$2000 held in the water works fund, Council refused to make a grant to the tower fund, even billing the fund for brick used from an old sidewalk.

However, there were other Councillors who contributed to the fund personally, and the community members didn't let this stop them. The note didn't mean anything since the funds had already been secured and collateral wasn't required. They even continued fundraising for an addition of restroom facilities.

The tower not only kept time but served as a drying station for fire hoses. In 1935, a fire siren was installed to replace the fire bell. Another addition was made for fire-proof vaults in 1937.

Thirty years later, in 1967, many gathered to celebrate the Centennial and the Town's Civic Square project. This included the \$3000 construction of the base under the tower and the removal of the fire hall and jail cells.

In 1986, work was done to replace damaged brick and plaster, and to improve ventilation and waterproofing. In 2002, Council designated the Clock Tower as an historically significant site.

Over the years, other changes included the openings at the top being closed so birds would stop nesting within, and the installation of a radio tower.

## A Promise Kept

As promised in 1931, the Town of Stouffville has remained dedicated to caring for the clock tower. "After a thorough condition report, it became clear that restoring this landmark of Stouffville required significant and meticulous care," says Brian Slater, Manager of Facilities Development & Operations, Town of Stouffville. "We are thrilled that this restoration project will ensure the clock tower remains structurally sound for years to come."

Bridging the historic charm of the designated site with modern technology, the clock tower still houses the bell proudly while a digital world clock keeps the time. This addition can automatically shift to daylight savings time and play digital music for special initiatives throughout the year.

The famous clock faces will continue to be lit in white on all four sides and can be changed to multiple colours for significant events and commemorations. Heritage Restoration Inc. took the utmost care in re-pointing and replacing over 500 bricks over a three-month period earlier this year using heritage bricks, and by fabricating replications as necessary.

Though "it has been strange" to not help keep time for Stouffville since March of this year, Glenn says that "it has been a privilege to carry on a tradition of 84 years." He exemplifies the heart of this community and all those who came together to make the dream of a clock tower come true.

Next time you find yourself downtown, take a moment to admire the clock tower that has become a symbol of Stouffville. It has weathered many storms and gone through multiple transformations, yet it forever remains a pillar of strength, perseverance, and community.



ABOVE: Glenn Smith carried on the time-honoured tradition of winding the clock since 1973; his father, Jake Smith, did the same since 1940. Image courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum permanent collection (accession number 2024.000.004)



CELEBRATING THE YORK REGIONAL FOREST:  
**A Century of Conservation**

by Cassandra Papas

The York Regional Forest, a cherished natural sanctuary, is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a year full of free activities, events, and historical exhibits. This centennial celebration highlights the forest's 150 KM of trails that exemplify rich history, ongoing conservation efforts, and its beautiful environment, all carefully preserved over the past century. The festivities also honour Indigenous history, culture, and language, thanks to the invaluable collaboration with Indigenous partners and community members.

York Region has organized monthly guided forest walks with forestry experts to mark this special occasion, creating an adventure challenge to explore different forest tracts, capture your favourite forest moments in a photo contest, or help restore the natural environment through community tree planting events.



ABOVE: York County Council members during the annual tour and inspection of the Vivian Forest, 1968. Source: York Region Archives.



Did you know that more than half of the York Regional Forest's 24 tracts are in Stouffville? These beautiful areas offer a variety of activities such as hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, and nature appreciation. The forest is open to visitors every day of the year, free of charge.

One special event to look forward to is the *Learn to Hike* event on September 7th at the Hollidge Tract. This is perfect for beginners eager to explore the forest, offering valuable insights into hiking techniques, equipment, and safety from seasoned experts.

In commemoration of the centennial anniversary, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre is proud to showcase a captivating exhibition, *The York Regional Forest, A Growing Legacy*, takes visitors on a remarkable journey through the history and evolution of the forest since its establishment in 1924. Admission to this exhibition is free and open to everyone throughout the year.

For more information on the York Regional Forest's 100-year anniversary events and activities (subject to change), visit [york.ca/Forest100](http://york.ca/Forest100). To learn more about the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and *The York Regional Forest, A Growing Legacy* exhibition, visit [townofws.ca/exhibits](http://townofws.ca/exhibits)

**Voices Alive Women's Choir Seeks New Members**

by Amelia Papaikonomou

The Voices Alive Choir for women has rapidly become a vibrant musical and community force in Stouffville. The group offers a safe space for women to express themselves, and champions community causes through fundraising events. Founder Mary Bennet says Voices Alive is "more than just music" because the group works to "foster positive change."

The choir welcomes new members without obligation; no auditions, experience, or reading of music is required. Voices Alive offers a diverse repertoire, singing a dynamic variety of genres including pop, folk, and jazz. The new season begins September 18th with weekly practices held Wednesday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. at 6432 Main St. in Stouffville.

For more details, visit [voicesalive.ca](http://voicesalive.ca) or contact Mary Bennet at [voicesalivechoir@gmail.com](mailto:voicesalivechoir@gmail.com)

**New Life Coming to Stouffville's Music Scene**

by Cassandra Papas

Exciting news for music lovers! Epidemic Music Group (EMG), the powerhouse behind the celebrated Wintersong Music Festival, is opening a new music space in Stouffville.

For over 15 years, EMG has fostered York Region's vibrant music culture, supporting countless artists through festivals, artist development, and more. Their epic 2017 "Longest Concert by Multiple Artists" set a Guinness World Record and raised nearly \$100,000 for charity. Wintersong now draws over 100 performances across 17+ venues, becoming a winter highlight.

The new venue, set in a beautifully repurposed building over 100 years old is expected to hold over 120 people. Stay tuned for our next edition, where we'll share all the juicy details about this thrilling new venture. Get ready for more music, more magic, and more community connections!



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# Dan Larmer Brings 'Stouffville Spirit' to the ECHL

by Amelia Papaikononou



From right to left: Dan Larmer pictured with his daughter Abby, son Finn, and wife Becky.

Stouffville native and former Stouffville Spirit Head Coach, Dan Larmer, will join the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) Bloomington Bison as their Assistant General Manager in their debut season. Dan Larmer’s hockey career took off shortly after he graduated from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association. One of his earliest career achievements includes winning an Ontario Minor Hockey Association Bantam Championship. Larmer played Jr. B for the Vaughan Raiders between 1988-1990, where he later advanced to Jr. A, serving as Assistant Captain for the St. Michael’s Buzzers in the 1990-1991 season. Later, he headed South to play in the National Collegiate Athletics Association for Mercyhurst University where he graduated with a B.A. in Business Management.

Following graduation, Larmer’s small-town roots brought him back to Stouffville, kickstarting his coaching career as the Head Coach and Assistant General Manager of the Jr. A Stouffville Spirit. “I still enjoy getting back to visit and feel very fortunate to have grown up in Stouffville,” says Larmer on his relationship with his hometown. In 2015, he began scouting for the Peterborough Petes, which he will continue to fulfill while working for Bloomington. Larmer joins the ECHL for Bloomington’s debut as the 30th team in the league. The Bloomington, Illinois team announced their NHL affiliation with the New York Rangers in late May. As he steps into the role of Assistant General Manager, Larmer’s wealth of experience with achievements on the ice and behind the bench will surely help him succeed this season.

# Stouffville Spirit Kicks Off the 2024-25 Season with Star Players and Optimism

by Jim Mason

There’s reason for optimism as the Stouffville Spirit prepares to open the Ontario Junior Hockey League’s 2024-25 regular season. “You’re always excited heading into a new season,” said Spirit Head Coach TJ Hill. “But we are because we have a solid group of veteran players returning. We lost some key pieces, but we like the guys we have coming back who now have a year or two in the league under their belts. It’s a great group. They truly care about each other and like playing for each other. Plus, we’re very happy with our recruiting class from this off season.” There are 12 players returning from last year’s team that was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, led by third-year skaters Zack Corte, Riley Pope, and David Paglia.

Stouffville’s own Evan Breckles is in the group of second-year players along with Julian Demiglio, who has a scholarship to NCAA Division I RIT in Rochester, New York. The Spirit should be solid in net with both veteran goaltenders, Stephen Toltl, and Kyle Downey returning. The new recruits include Ivan Mentiukov, 17, and Owen Van de Ven. Mentiukov is a Russian native, and had 57 points in 58 games for the Barrie Colts U18 team last season. Defenceman Van de Ven split last season between Junior B teams in St. Thomas and Komoka. Off the ice, the Stouffville Spirit prides itself on community involvement. Keep an eye out for the players joining in at the September 15th at the Terry Fox Run!

## SEPTEMBER HOME GAMES

📍 Stouffville Arena

- Home Opener – Sept. 12th: Spirit vs Aurora Tigers
- Sept. 14th: Spirit vs Lindsay Muskies
- Sept. 21st: Spirit vs Burlington



ABOVE: Stouffville’s own Evan Breckles and the Stouffville Spirit host their home opener Sept. 12 at the Stouffville Arena. (Photo by Ray MacAloney/OJHL Images)

# Local Grade 7 Athletes Excel at York Regional Track and Field Finals and Set Sights on Olympics

by Cassandra Papas

Hannah Brewster from Glad Park Public School and Sawyer Nicholson from Wendat Village Public School, both going into Grade 8 in September, showcased exceptional talent at the York Regional District School Board Regional Finals for Track and Field in Stouffville. Brewster emerged victorious in the 100-metre race with a time of 12.63 seconds and the 200-metre race in 26.84 seconds. Meanwhile, Nicholson dominated the 1500-metre run, finishing over 200 metres ahead of her closest competitor, and set a new regional record in the 800-metre run with a time of 2:26.90. Nicholson began her record-breaking journey last year, setting the world record for the fastest 5K by an 11-year-old with a time of 17:28. Now 12, she competes against athletes twice her age. This summer, she will compete in rep soccer for the FC Durham U14 team and continue running with the Durham Dragons. She has also been selected for two Team Ontario squads. Inspired by the Olympic Games, Nicholson dreams of representing Canada on the global stage. “When COVID had first started and everything had shut down, my soccer also got shut down, and my coach wanted us to try and stay in shape. My dad, he was a runner, so he started running with me,” Nicholson

explained. Though she still plays soccer at a high level, running has become her favourite. “I do both, and I still play soccer at the highest level, so it’s been good. But right now, track is kind of my favourite.” Balancing her athletic commitments with schoolwork, Nicholson prioritizes education. “Sometimes it can be hard, but I always put school first because, at the end of the day, that’s the most important thing,” she admitted. Hannah Brewster, a standout athlete, recently traveled to Korea for a Taekwondo competition and training camp. She trains six days a week with her sisters, Megan and Ella, who have represented Canada internationally. Brewster attributes much of her track success to her Taekwondo training. “I started doing sports for school, like track and field, and that was when I noticed I was fast,” Brewster recalled. Last year, she won the 200-metre race at the regional finals and finished second in the 100-metre race. This year, she improved



LEFT: Hannah Brewster (photo by Cassandra Papas). RIGHT: Sawyer Nicholson (photo by Action Click Photography).

her 100-metre performance, achieving a time of 12.63 seconds. Despite the demanding schedule, Brewster remains passionate about Taekwondo and is determined to achieve her goals. “Next year is the World Championships. My goal is to try and get there and win some medals,” she said. Brewster and Nicholson exemplify dedication and excellence in their sports, making their community proud and inspiring their peers with their unwavering commitment and heartfelt passion.

# STOUFFVILLE'S TERRY FOX RUN RETURNS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

The Stouffville Terry Fox Run is making its highly anticipated return to Memorial Park on Sunday, September 15th. This annual event, which began in 1982, has raised an impressive \$2.2 million for cancer research to date. Last year alone, Stouffville’s run attracted approximately 1,000 participants and volunteers, raising over \$76,000. Festivities kick off at 12 p.m. with entertainment, displays, refreshments, and activities for children. The opening ceremonies will begin at 1 p.m. Participants can run, walk, cycle, rollerblade, or push strollers along the new 5K route through southern Stouffville, or on the shorter 2K route. Local entertainers

such as Tom Pullin, the Tanya Porter drum group, and Kendall Lily, will perform at water stations along the sidewalk route. Cancer survivors are invited to participate and are provided with special red t-shirts and lawn signs recognizing their survivor status. Event organizers are hoping to have more local sports teams and organizations join the cause for 2024. To register yourself or your team, volunteer, or register a survivor, email [tfox.stouffville@gmail.com](mailto:tfox.stouffville@gmail.com) or call 416-768-6971. Register in advance at [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org). For more information and updates visit [terryfox-stouffville.ca](http://terryfox-stouffville.ca) and follow along on the event’s social media channels.





**LUTHER WOOD** received treatment for his OCD through the child and adolescent mental health outpatient program at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

took him to their family doctor who immediately identified his symptoms as OCD. Thus began the arduous journey of finding an effective treatment plan, joining some 28,000 children and youth that Children's Mental Health Ontario says were on wait lists for mental health treatment across the province in 2020. In York Region, wait times could be as long as 2.5 years. "We needed something sooner than that," says Julia.

#### A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Luther's OCD turned out to be too complex for the community adolescent counsellor he tried, so his family doctor referred him to MSH. The outpatient program was the perfect fit for Luther and his parents, offering a combination of therapy and education for the entire family. However, for those who arrive at MSH's ED in crisis and need admission for more intensive treatment and observation, it's an entirely different journey.

"If we determine the child cannot return to their home or community, we place them in a hold in our ED in one of our mental health suites," explains Dr. Sethna. "They're held there, usually supervised by security guards, until we find a suitable child and adolescent treatment facility in the GTA that's willing and able to take them."

The new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit at MSH will provide a specialized environment and individualized treatment plans designed for today's youth. With generous support of the community through MSH Foundation, and a \$500,000 donation from Hyundai Canada to kick-start a \$3.1-million fundraising project, the hospital plans to break ground for the new unit in a few years, pending government approval.

As for Luther, after two years of treatment, he's living a full life as a first-year linguistics student at Wilfred Laurier University. "I feel like a completely different person."

# CLOSE TO HOME

A new inpatient mental health unit for children and youth will provide community-level support at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital.

BY GLYNIS RATCLIFFE

Everyone has done something, unintentionally or not, to hurt another person and later felt guilty about it. When Luther Wood felt he'd wronged someone, he'd keep replaying the incident over in his mind. "I would feel an overwhelming sense of guilt," says Wood, now 18.

These types of intrusive, seemingly never-ending thought cycles are a hallmark of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), which often drive the sufferer to perform repetitive behaviours to stop them. "I just thought that was kind of who he was," explains Luther's mom, Julia Wood. "I didn't at all understand the deeper level of the emotional and mental burden."

#### OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

Luther is far from alone in his mental health struggles. The Canadian Institute for Health Information estimates that approximately 20 per cent of Canadian children and youth (ages three to 17) have a mental health disorder.

To help address the growing need

in the community, Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) recently announced plans to build a six-bed youth mental health inpatient unit to accommodate patients requiring intensive, long-term treatment.

Dr. Rustom Sethna, Oak Valley Health's Chief of Psychiatry, has witnessed this youth mental health crisis first-hand during his 33-year tenure. "There's a critical shortage of inpatient beds dedicated to this demographic, which leads to long wait times, increased emergency department (ED) visits and just inadequate care," he notes.

#### UNTENABLE WAIT TIMES

Luther managed his undiagnosed OCD for most of his childhood, but things took a turn for the worse when he hit his teens during the first pandemic lockdowns. Soon, his compulsions seeped into his daily life and impacted his ability to complete schoolwork.

Realizing that something serious was happening with their child, Luther's parents

## A Day in the Life of a Stouffville Taxpayer

by Brandi Pickering

This year, the Town of Stouffville is inviting residents and business owners to participate actively in the Town budget process. We believe that informed and engaged community members are key to creating a budget that truly reflects our Town's needs and priorities. This month we continue the journey with a look at the daily impact of your taxes.

#### Your Taxes in Action

Every day, from when you wake up to when you go to bed, you and your family benefit from services funded by your hard-earned tax dollars. Here's a glimpse into a typical day in a taxpayer's life, showcasing how your contributions enhance our community.

As you wake up, the water you use to brush your teeth, shower, and make coffee is clean and safe, thanks to our water and wastewater treatment teams. Staff ensure that every drop of water meets health and safety standards through rigorous inspections and regular maintenance and service.



The roads you drive on, whether a quick trip or a longer commute, are maintained and repaired by Town staff. Streetlights, traffic signals, and road signs are all part of the infrastructure supported by your tax dollars. Snow removal during the winter and pothole repairs in summer keep your drive safe and smooth.



It's time for lunch, so you head to a local park to eat and relax on a park bench. Parks and recreational areas are beautifully maintained, offering green spaces for relaxation and exercise. Stouffville's well-kept playgrounds, benches, spray pads, and picnic areas are all part of what makes our community vibrant and enjoyable.



When picking up your children from school, the crossing guards ensure the safety of students, which is paid for with your tax dollars. Schools, including the staff and educational

resources, are primarily funded through property taxes.



Our town facilities offer sports, arts, and educational programs for kids, funded by local taxes. Whether your family takes swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre, a skating lesson at an arena, or visits the Library for story time, all these amenities are subsidized by tax dollars, enriching our children's lives.



As you're winding down for the night, you can rest easily knowing that fire and emergency services are always ready and available to protect us in times of need.

Your taxes are an essential contribution to the quality of life in our municipality. They fund a wide range of services and infrastructure projects that benefit everyone. From the moment you wake up to the moment you go to bed, your tax dollars are hard at work, ensuring that our community remains a beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Learn more about our budgeting process at [townofws.ca/budget](https://townofws.ca/budget)

## Stouffville Cares: Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Success

by Michaela Ray



ABOVE: Mayor Lovatt (middle) with Sarah Carrick (second from left), chairperson of Stouffville Cares, smile for the camera alongside many Syrian refugee community members at the celebration.

On June 23rd, Stouffville Cares, a non-denominational community group, celebrated the conclusion of its Syrian refugee sponsorship program. Founded in 2015, Stouffville Cares brought together local congregations and the community to support 20 Syrian refugees from five families, all now settled in Stouffville.

The event at Christ Church Anglican featured a delightful Middle Eastern buffet provided by the Fandi family, one of the sponsored families. Mayor Iain Lovatt joined the celebration and presented Sarah Carrick, chairperson of Stouffville Cares, and Reverend Joan Masterton of St. James Presbyterian Church, with a certificate honouring the organization's work. Both Carrick and Reverend Masterton reflected on how the group grew from a small initiative to a significant support system, expressing deep gratitude for the community's unwavering support through fundraisers and donations.

Nariman Fandi and her daughter, Ranim, members of the first family sponsored by Stouffville Cares, expressed heartfelt thanks to the volunteers. "Stouffville Cares did a lot for our family. They made my children's future," Nariman shared with the gathering. "Everyone knows there has been war in my country for almost 30 years. We did not see a future for my family there."

The celebration of Stouffville Cares marked an indelible impact, fostering hope and new beginnings for the Syrian families they welcomed with open arms.



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**Epilepsy York Region**  
www.epilepsyork.org  
905-640-8000

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905-591-0339

**HearingLife Canada**  
www.hearinglife.ca  
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www.stouffvilleoptometry.com  
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www.markhamradiology.com  
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# ROAMING AROUND with Jim Thomas



Contact Jim Thomas, [thomas-jim@rogers.com](mailto:thomas-jim@rogers.com)

## Time to Shine

On November 21st, more than 300 students, ages six to 17, will perform at the 30th annual Student Music Scholarship Concert at Stouffville District Secondary School. Hosted by Stouffville’s St. James Presbyterian Church, participating schools include St. Mark, St. Brendan, Whitchurch-Highland, Summitview, Oscar Peterson, Stouffville Christian, Glad Park, St. Katherine Drexal, and SDSS.

One student, excelling in vocal, instrumental, or dance, will receive a \$500 scholarship, presented by St. James pastor, Reverend Joan Masterton.

Out of a love for music, I attended a Christmas concert at Summitview Public School in 1993. Performances varied with students of all ages taking part before a standing-room-only audience. Then, a choir, directed by Julia Topping, gathered on stage. What was to follow took everyone’s breath away, including mine. Their choices of songs were not only seasonal but sensational, bringing the audience to its feet. Cheers and applause vibrated from the rafters.

The next day, with the sounds of children’s voices still ringing in my ears, I called Summitview principal Douglas Winger, and asked if a similar concert could be arranged for the entire community at the High School, then located on Edward St.

His reply? “Why only Summitview?” “Why not all the schools?”

“Why not?” I answered. The wheels began turning.

Calls to other principals resulted in positive responses. A date was selected, and a three-member committee was organized.

The initial five-school concert attracted 300 parents and friends. Twenty-nine years later, an audience of more than 400 is expected with nine schools entered.

The business community, along with the Town and Lions Club, have been extremely supportive. Along with a \$5 adult admission, more than \$140,000 has been raised with all funds divided among participating entries to aid their financially hard-pressed music programs. All music and dance directors give their time without charge, as do caretakers.

“The Scholarship Concert is a student favourite,” says Diane Marlatt, director of the SDSS wind symphony for the past 16 years.

“It’s always nice to perform for the younger kids and their families so the community knows what their musical future here will be like,” says Diane. “Their musical maturity is excellent and their desire to do everything correctly amazes me. At every rehearsal they make me smile”. The funds received allows the band to participate in major assemblies and festivals as well as host adjudicators to work with the students.

Lisa Mitchell, music director at Whitchurch-Highland PS says, “our students love the opportunity to display their talent before such a large audience, especially the new band members who find it a great bonding experience. This year, for a first time, they’ll be wearing new uniforms. For me, there’s excitement arranging the music and seeing the band come all dressed up. The boys and girls, ages 10 and 11, have only a short time to get ready, but this pushes us and helps bring the band together”. The money received has enabled Whitchurch-Highland to purchase one new instrument every year.

Jessica Leung is the music director at Stouffville’s new St. Katherine Drexel CRS. “As a new school, it’s wonderful to be

inspired by others and in return, provide music that is both joyful and meaningful. I look forward to seeing students grow and develop as a strong school community in the coming years,” says Jessica.

“For many in our choir, this will be their first public performance,” explains Lisa Lauriault, music director at St. Mark CS. “Performing in front of an audience is a great learning experience. The children will be happy and proud. I too am very much looking forward to this event. My thanks to concert organizers for making this program possible.”

Lisa Taylor has been a teacher at Glad Park PS since the school opened 26 years ago. “I’m so excited,” she says, “and I’m sure my dancers are also. I see the concert as a wonderful experience, not only in providing students courage to go on stage before a large audience but also prompting dedication to learn dance routines during free time.”

“The Stouffville Christian School has been a part of this concert since its beginning,” says music director Kelly von Keitz. She admits that, along with excitement, there’s also a degree of nervousness, particularly among younger students. “But when it’s all over, there’s always a great feeling of having done well.” Kelly says their share of income has enabled the school to purchase a keyboard and additional bells.

“To be invited puts a smile on everyone’s face,” co-music director Lisa Parkes of St. Brendan CS says. “Proceeds from this and previous concerts always go back to build our music/arts program.”

Melissa McWilliams has been the music director at Oscar Peterson PS for the past 15 years. “Being part of the OPPS community has allowed me the pleasure of teaching entire families of Stouffville students. I cherish these connections.” Melissa voices pride in the fact OPPS played alongside the grade 9 SDSS band last fall, also at Wonderland and at their own school concert.

In addition to concert chair, committee organizers include Pat Welch, treasurer, and George Smart, stage manager.

# EX-LEAF GRABOVSKI SHOOTING FOR THE PROS AGAIN – AS A COACH

Proud Whitchurch-Stouffville resident coaching sons' teams, running hockey skills camps – when not on social media

Former Toronto Maple Leaf Mikhail Grabovski probably had his tongue firmly in cheek when he advised the team’s General Manager, Brad Treliving, he was open to a comeback on social media earlier this year.

Probably.

After all, Grabovski is 40 and eight years removed from his last NHL game. And he’s a jokester.

The proud Whitchurch-Stouffville resident is more likely to make it back to the big league as a coach.

He’s on a path.

As a player, Grabovski had 296 points in 584 NHL games with the Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, New York Islanders, and Washington Capitals from 2007-2016.

Since then, he and his wife, Katelyn, have been raising their three active kids.



ABOVE: Former Toronto Maple Leaf Mikhail Grabovski and wife Katelyn with their three children, Lily, Jaeger, and Charlie, and their dog, Lenny.

Grabovski spent three years as an assistant coach with Dinamo Minsk of the Kontinental Hockey League in his native Belarus. He also coached and served as GM with national teams in his homeland, before moving back to their home in Stouffville three years ago.

He coached youngest son Charlie on a team of 2017-born players last season.

He was named head coach of the U14 Markham Waxers AAA team for next season. His other son, Jaeger, is on that team, “We’re big rock music fans,” he says of the name.

If the Grabovskis weren’t busy enough, daughter Lily is a figure skater.

“I’ve already forgotten what it’s like to be a hockey player,” Grabovski told OTR during a break from his NITRO youth hockey camp at the Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex in early August. “It’s time now for my kids. There was too much travel with the pro team (in the KHL). It was hard to help my kids then.

“That’s my dream, to be a pro coach one day. It’s the closest thing to being a pro hockey player. I’m getting the experience with the young kids now.”

That includes being an innovator.

“I like to be creative,” he said. “During practices, I change the drills up all the time and make adjustments. The players always need to be thinking. But all the drills I create myself. Some of them might be crazy, but I enjoy doing it.”

“The kids love it, love the high tempo. Because if you play in the NHL everything is fast. I can’t stand seeing people standing around in any sport: soccer, baseball...it makes me insane.”

Grabovski says local residents should be proud of their community and its facilities.

“Stouffville is a nice place,” he said. “Far from the city but not that far.”

“And the (arenas) are so good. Everyone says how good the ice is here. And the track and soccer fields, too. People back home in Belarus are jealous.”

His favourite NHL memories all stem from Toronto.

“Meeting my wife here and then having all of our kids born here,” said Grabovski, who plays with the Leafs alumni team. “Playing for the Leafs was my best time



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

– although it wasn’t the best time for the Leafs.”

Grabovski points to the ‘Keith Acton Ice Pads’ sign at the Clippers Complex and fondly remembers his former Leafs assistant coach, now a Stouffville politician and restaurant owner.

## NOW STARRING ON INSTAGRAM

If Mikhail Grabovski wasn’t busy enough as a dad and hockey coach, he’s also a social media star. On Instagram alone (@[officialgrabo](#)), he has more than 20,000 followers, many attracted to his zany videos:

- Firing a puck from the family’s outdoor rink through a neighbour’s window last winter (“Still have to fix that window; it’s OK. We’re good friends,” he says with a wink).
- Inviting contest winners to skate with him on the rink.
- Asking fans to meet up with him at The Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop at Musselman’s Lake. Several drove in from long distances to get autographs and a photo.
- Meeting more fans in Grabovski No. 84 jerseys at a Leaf game at Scotiabank Arena.





## What's Going on Here?

Thirty years ago, Stephanie Hall-Wilkins was born to Maureen Hall and Steve Wilkins. The proud parents soon learned that Stephanie was born with cerebral palsy and would have a difficult life ahead of her with no ability to walk or communicate and a maximum life expectancy to age 12. That was the start of the new life that Maureen and Steve now understood was ahead of them. Like all parents, they devoted their lives to their family and to providing a loving, caring, and educational environment for their children, including Stephanie who would require more care than even they understood at the time.

Stephanie, now at age 30, has defied the doctors and is thriving under the incredible care she gets from family, and nursing and PSW staff that come to their home.

At age 21, children with disabilities age out of government funded educational and therapy programs...so what does a family do then? You could say that Maureen and Steve are advocates for the disabled but that would be missing the mark. They are innovators, they are creators, they are do-ers. When Steph aged out, there were no other programs around for her to attend, so they created one. Steer Friends was born out of this need for programming for people and families living with disabilities. I’ve previously written here in On the Road about Steer Friends, and I can’t express enough what an incredible operation it is. They are at full capacity, with a

waiting list, a testament to the quality programming they offer.

The reason for this column is to answer a question many have been asking for several months: What’s going on at the corner of Rupert and Fairview?

Maureen and Steve are now retired and...how do I put this delicately...? Life is about ever-changing challenges, and one of them is aging. They are finding they need more help in the day-to-day world of caring for Stephanie. Jacqueline Hall-Fusco is Stephanie’s sister and the Executive Director (and wizard) at Steer Friends. She works tirelessly with staff and volunteers to provide the amazing programming offered to their clients. Jacqueline and her partner Matt sat down with Maureen and Steve and came up with a solution that will take them into the next phase of their lives. They will all move in together so they can all share in Stephanie’s life and her care. This took almost 2 years of thinking through all the details and once again, they have come up with a unique solution to their unique situation. So, Maureen and Steve sold their house in Ballantrae, Jacqueline and Matt sold their Stouffville home, and pooled their resources to purchase this property so they can more efficiently manage Steph’s care and hopefully ease the financial strain that comes with someone with such high needs. Several properties were looked at, but none were able to check all the boxes like this one. Working closely with Stouffville’s Planning Department, they determined that this home could be renovated to suit their needs. When completed, it will have three separate, but joined, living quarters. Jacqueline, Matt and their two boys in one section, Stephanie in another, and Maureen and Steve in their own area (multi-generational housing is something the federal government is promoting via tax breaks, so it just may be worth looking into if you’re lucky enough to have family to share a home with).

Keeping the project in the family, Matt’s company, MCCustom Renovations Inc. is handling this job. Matt is a skilled builder with special expertise in creating accessible spaces, so this was a perfect fit. Steve’s family has been in Stouffville since the early 1900s, he knows local and they are proudly supporting local by using all local trades and suppliers, they see the difference it makes. As with all projects of this size, there are bumps in the road but overall it has been a very positive experience with Steve expressing appreciation for the expert advice and support they have been receiving during this monster project.

There continues to be a steady stream of people stopping to ask what exactly is happening with this house and how it’s changing and why, and after meeting with Maureen and Steve, and getting a tour, I can say it is impressive. Matt has thought of everything to ensure it meets the special needs of Stephanie, as well as the needs of his in-laws that are approaching the stage in life where they may need some support, and of course, his own young family.

Some have asked about the four-car garage and wondered who would be moving into this new huge home. Now you have the official scoop, there is no four-car garage – what was a garage has been converted into living space and there will be three separate living quarters for this most exceptional and inspirational Stouffville family.



## THE ART AND FLAVOUR OF WOOD-FIRED PIZZA

I love cooking with a wood fired pizza oven — it’s an experience. The crackling wood, the intense heat, and the smoky aroma all contribute to a culinary adventure that transports you to the rustic pizzerias of Italy. The unique cooking method of a wood-fired oven, reaching temperatures upwards of 800°F, allows the pizza to cook quickly, giving it a distinct, crispy crust with a slightly charred flavour. Here, I delve into the essence of wood-fired pizza and present three diverse recipes that showcase its versatility and appeal.

### The Essence of Wood-Fired Pizza

The magic of wood-fired pizza lies in the oven. Unlike conventional ovens, a wood-fired oven cooks the pizza rapidly, often in just 90 seconds. This quick cooking time locks in moisture, resulting in a perfectly chewy yet crisp crust. The high heat also caramelizes the toppings, enhancing their natural flavours.

A key component of wood-fired pizza is the dough. Authentic dough is typically made from just four ingredients: flour, water, salt, and yeast. The simplicity of the dough allows the toppings to shine while providing the perfect base for that coveted crispy crust.

### Recipe 1: Classic Margherita Pizza

- 1 ball of pizza dough (about 250g)
- 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1 fresh mozzarella ball, sliced
- Fresh basil leaves
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt

Heat your wood-fired oven to around 800°F. On a floured surface, stretch the dough to your desired thickness, usually around 12 inches in diameter. Spread the tomato sauce evenly over the dough, leaving a small border for the crust...or not. I like my crust with a little sauce. Place the mozzarella slices on top of the sauce. Scatter a few fresh basil leaves and slide the pizza into the oven. Cook for 90 seconds to 2 minutes, rotating it occasionally to ensure even cooking. If you want, you can drizzle a bit of extra-virgin olive oil and garnish with additional fresh basil leaves.

### Recipe 2: Prosciutto and Arugula Pizza

- 1 ball of pizza dough (about 250g)
- 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1 fresh mozzarella ball, sliced
- Fresh basil leaves
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt

Heat your wood-fired oven to around 800°F. Again, on a floured surface, stretch the dough to your desired thickness, about 12 inches in diameter, spread the tomato sauce over the dough and add the mozzarella slices. Cook for 90 seconds to 2 minutes, rotating it occasionally for even cooking. This time, once cooked, remove the pizza from the oven and immediately drape the prosciutto slices over the hot pizza. Top with fresh arugula, shaved Parmesan, a drizzle of extra-virgin olive oil, and balsamic glaze if desired.

### Recipe 3: Spicy Sausage and Pepper Pizza

- 1 ball of pizza dough (about 250g)
- 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan
- 1 spicy Italian sausage, cooked and sliced
- 1/2 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/2 yellow bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- Crushed red pepper flakes (optional)
- Fresh basil leaves
- Extra-virgin olive oil



Contact Dave Mills: [david@stouffville.com](mailto:david@stouffville.com)

Heat your wood-fired oven to around 800°F. And one more time, on a floured surface, stretch the dough to your desired thickness, about 12 inches in diameter. Spread the tomato sauce then sprinkle shredded mozzarella and grated Parmesan. Evenly distribute the cooked sausage slices, red and yellow bell peppers, and red onion over the cheese. Cook for 90 seconds to 2 minutes, rotating occasionally. Once cooked, remove the pizza from the oven and sprinkle with crushed red pepper flakes if desired. Garnish with fresh basil leaves before serving.

Wood-fired pizza captures the heart of Italian culinary tradition. The high heat, the unique flavour imparted by the wood, and the simplicity of fresh ingredients combine to create an unforgettable dining experience. Whether you prefer the classic margherita, the savoury prosciutto and arugula, or spicy sausage and pepper, wood-fired pizza offers a versatile canvas for culinary creativity. So, fire up your oven, gather your ingredients, and enjoy the art of wood-fired pizza.







# COMMUNITY NEWS

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## COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Agendas for Council and Public Meetings will be available for review on [townofws.ca/council](#) at 12 p.m. the Thursday prior to the meeting.

**Upcoming Council Meetings:**  
Wednesday, September 11th – 1 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 25th – 1 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 2nd – 1 p.m.

**Upcoming Public Meetings**  
(if required):  
Wednesday, September 11th – 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 25th – 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 2nd – 7 p.m.

Residents can watch the meeting live online at [townofws.ca/cmlivestream](#)

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

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

Join our Council E-Newsletter at: [townfws.ca/councilnews](#) and receive meeting agendas and summary reports straight to your inbox.

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

## UPCOMING STOUFFVILLE CEMETERY CLEAN UP

To ensure that the Stouffville Cemetery remains in a safe and accessible condition for you and your family to have a respectful place to grieve and reflect, the Town will be working to remove memorials, plants, shrubs, and trees that are in contravention of the Town's Cemetery By-law 2012-059-RE. Please refer to section 4 of the Cemetery By-law for rules and regulations.

[townofws.ca/ceimeteries](#)

## FIRE HALL OPEN HOUSE

Sept. 28th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
100 Weldon Road

Come to Fire Station 5-1 for our annual Open House! Meet local firefighters, community partners, and learn about fire safety! Enjoy the fun with games, prizes, a BBQ, touch a truck, spray the fire hose, and more!

[townofws.ca/fireevents](#)

## TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM DAY

On September 28th, join Ontarians in marking the first-ever Test Your Smoke Alarm Day! This initiative was launched in response to the tragic loss of 133 lives in Ontario due to fires in 2022 – the highest number in 20 years. On this day, everyone is encouraged to learn about fire safety, home fire escape planning, and, most importantly, to test their smoke alarms. Protect your loved ones and be proactive – test your smoke alarms and share a photo on social media using the hashtag [#SavedByTheBeep](#) to spread the word!

## JOIN THE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE!

The Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) of Whitchurch-Stouffville is seeking dedicated volunteers to advise the Town Council on conserving and preserving cultural heritage properties under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1990.

We're looking for individuals with knowledge and interest in local history and architectural heritage, ideally affiliated with industries such as building, development, urban design, architecture, and construction.

As an HAC member, you'll gain expertise in cultural and archaeological heritage preservation and participate in reviewing commemorative plaque applications, site plan control applications, and heritage property assessments.

**Apply by September 11th!**  
Learn more and apply at [townofws.ca/committees](#)

For questions, contact the Clerks Department at [clerks@townofws.ca](mailto:clerks@townofws.ca)

## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS

**Drivers:** Reduce speed in school zones, obey crossing guards, and always yield to pedestrians.

**Parents & Children:** Walk on sidewalks, cross at designated crosswalks, and stay alert—no texting or playing games while crossing.

Stop for school buses, follow parking rules, and ensure children exit vehicles safely from the passenger side. Together, we can ensure a safe and smooth start to the school year.

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## RECREATION

### Recreation Volunteer Opportunities

Calling all volunteers! We are looking for passionate people ages 14 and up, who want to share their talents, skills, and experience with the community. Current volunteer opportunities include aquatics, sports classes, skating lessons, PA Day camps and more! Learn more at [townofws.ca/volunteer](#)

### Annual Maintenance Closures

Please note the following upcoming maintenance closures at the Leisure Centre for annual maintenance:  
Fitness Centre: Aug. 26-30  
Gymnasium: Sept. 2-10  
Pool: Sept. 2-19

### Fall 2024 Registration

Keep your whole family active by registering for one of Stouffville's exciting, inclusive, and accessible programs. Registration for Fall programs opens on Aug. 20th at 12 p.m. for residents and Aug. 27th at 12 p.m. for non-residents. Visit [townofws.ca/playbook](#)

## 19 ON THE PARK

### 2024/25 CONCERT SERIES IS HERE

With a variety of shows from comedy sets and tributes to family performances and award-winning spectacles, this upcoming Concert Series offers something for everyone!

### Opening Night Reception featuring Good Lovelies

Oct. 3rd, 8 p.m.  
Kick off the Concert Series with us and Good Lovelies! This elegant evening will include a mesmerizing performance, passed hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, activations, and more.

**Yuk-Yuk's On Tour**  
Nov. 15th, 8 p.m.

**Sonshine & Broccoli:**  
**Live for the Holidays!**  
Dec. 15th, 3 p.m.

**Sultans of String: Christmas Caravan**  
Dec. 20th, 7:30 p.m.

Take advantage of our 3-event\* bundle to save 15% on tickets, and keep your eyes peeled for even more spectacular shows being announced soon! (\*Does not include Opening Night Reception.)

Visit [townofws.ca/concertseries](#) for more information on the full line-up and to purchase tickets.

## 19 ON THE PARK PROGRAMS

### Introduction to Salsa

Sept. 24th – Nov. 19th\*, Tuesdays from 7 – 8 p.m. Ages 18+, \$105  
\*no class on Nov. 12th

### Bollywood for Kids

Sept. 24th – Nov. 12th, Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Ages 6-12, \$105

### Curtain Call Youth

Sept. 29th – Nov. 26th, Sundays from 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Ages 12-17, \$108

### Trivia Nights

Sept. 12th, Oct. 10th, Nov. 7th, Dec. 5th  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Ages 18+, \$8.85

Register at [townofws.ca/play](#)

## MUSEUM

### PA DAY: Cooking with Apples

Sept. 27th, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Cook and bake in both modern and historic kitchens! Using a variety of apples and the Museum's gardens as a guide, campers will stir up recipes to take home. Recommended ages 6-12, \$72.00 per child. Pre-registration required at [townofws.ca/padays](#) using barcode 34016.



## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

To commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, several workshops are offered throughout September. Brought to you by the WS Museum and the WS Public Library, these workshops honour the diverse cultures, voices, experiences, and stories of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

### Blanket Exercise

Sept. 14th, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
at the WS Public Library

Join Mim Harder for this free, in-person workshop that explores the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

### Indigenous Education and Commemoration Workshop with Odeiwin

September 24, 6 - 8 p.m., W-S Public Library  
September 25, 6 - 8 p.m., 19 on the Park

### Why We Acknowledge the Land

Sept. 30th, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
at the WS Public Library  
Join Heather Watts from First Peoples Group and learn about the historical context of acknowledging the land from an Indigenous worldview of Haudenosaunee origin.

**REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS:**  
[townofws.ca/indigenousworkshops](#)





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