

Glowtown lights up Main Street Stouffville Sleepy Hollow swings into their 65th anniversary

Rocco Priore: Entrepreneurial spirit alive in Ballantrae

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## From the Editor

Welcome to the August edition of *On The Road* – just like the weather,

Lots of great business news in this edition. Sleepy Hollow Golf Course is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, making it one of the oldest golf courses in the Stouffville area. Michaela sat down with the general manager Kurt, and executive chef Jordan, to give us a taste of what's at the Tenth Line course. Glowtown opened on Main Street a few weeks back (page 3), and Rocco Priore of Country Casa Daycare in Ballantrae gives On The Road an exclusive interview on page 24.

I, on the other hand, walked 12 km up the Ninth Line in search of Stouffville's rich geographic diversity... and I found it. You can find it on

Enjoy, and as always, thanks for reading!

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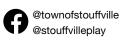
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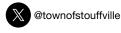
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# A Bright New Idea

## The Making of Stouffville's Glowtown Putt 'n Play

by Cassandra Papas



When longtime Stouffville residents Joe and Jenn looked around their town, in which they've lived for over 20 years and raised four teenage boys, they noticed a recurring theme: there just wasn't enough for local youth to do. So instead of waiting for someone else to fill the gap, they did it themselves.

In July, the couple opened Glowtown Putt 'n Play, a glowing, one-of-a-kind indoor entertainment venue packed with blacklight mini-golf, arcade games, and a cutting-edge VR arena. But this space is more than fun, it's a labour of love, built from scratch to bring energy, connection, and opportunity to the community.

"We heard it so often, 'there's nothing to do around here," Jenn recalls. "We knew if we felt that way, other families probably did too."

The couple signed their lease in August 2024 and got to work painting, building, and perfecting every detail. "Jenn jokes she's never painting again," Joe says, laughing. Their grand opening on August 2nd was filled with face painting, slushies, ice cream, and laughter, a celebration of

community spirit and hard work.

Glowtown isn't just for play, it's also an employment launchpad. They hired 25 local teens, many for their first-ever job. "We had over 250 applications," Joe says. "It was important to us to give these kids a meaningful first experience." For Joe and Jenn, leadership and

social skills matter just as much as knowing how to operate a register. "We want them to look people in the eye, learn how to speak up, take responsibility," Jenn explains. "That's how confidence is built." With deep corporate backgrounds, Joe

in commercial banking, Jenn in home healthcare, the pair poured their savings and hearts into Glowtown. They now run it as a true "mom-and-pop shop," despite the sleek branding. "People think we're a franchise," says Joe, "but this is all us."

Every inch of Glowtown was thoughtfully curated, from the Canadianthemed golf course to the hours spent picking carpet. The party rooms can hold up to 40 guests, and the couple is already exploring new ideas like leagues, senior socials, and themed nights.

Now, as the buzz grows, they're finally catching their breath and loving every minute. "It's incredible seeing the kids enjoying it," Jenn says. "That's the most rewarding part." 👺

#### Glowtown at a Glance:

• 5892 Main St. Unit 102

@glowtownpnp

Attractions: Mini-golf, arcade, VR arena, prizes, concessions

Great for: Families, birthdays, date nights, team-building

Party Rooms: Two rooms, 20 guests each or 40 combined

**Neon North:** The mini-golf course features vibrant Canadian landscapes and landmarks!



## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

AN UPDATE BY GLENN JACKSON



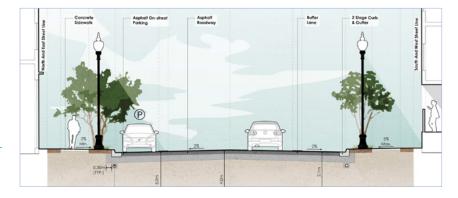
## Downtown Revitalization **Project Reaches New Milestone**

The Stouffville Downtown Revitalization project reached another major milestone in late June with its second public open house.

Held on June 17th at Nineteen on the Park Theatre, the open house welcomed more than 100 attendees. Town staff and the consulting team from Accardi Engineering Group shared the latest project updates in a drop-in format, with presentation slides highlighting progress in several key areas—particularly infrastructure analysis, traffic studies and design concept generation.

Traffic and lighting analysis revealed that Main St. is too narrow to safely support dedicated bike lanes, which require a minimum lane width of 3.3 metres. However, existing streetlight pole placements currently meet illumination standards. Additional traffic counts were recommended to support the future design of pedestrian crossings and traffic signal improvements. These counts have since been completed for all intersections from Edward St. to Park Dr.

Significant issues with underground infrastructure were presented in the storm and sanitary sewer systems, including severe corrosion, joint separations, sediment buildup, cracking, and improper lateral taps. The watermain network also



requires attention, with recent pipe breaks and aging materials like cast iron and ductile iron throughout the system. These findings point to the need for urgent upgrades to ensure long-term reliability and safety.

Accardi is currently conducting a culvert condition assessment and developing a comprehensive water model to determine appropriate watermain

The open house also introduced preliminary streetscape designs for the downtown area between Edward St. and Park Dr. The proposed design uses minimum lane widths to maximize boulevard space, making room for features like wider sidewalks, landscaping, and patios. Transit and parking functionality remain a priority.

Sustainable elements—such as infiltration trenches, bioretention bumpouts, tree pits, permeable pavements, and underground stormwater chambers—will be incorporated through low-impact development (LID) principles to improve both aesthetics and stormwater management.

Illustrations and concept designs shown at the open house are available at townofws.ca/downtown

The Town continues to work closely with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to ensure regulatory and environmental compliance throughout the design phase.

Construction is anticipated to begin in summer or fall 2026. In the meantime, each edition of On The Road will include updates on the project's progress.

#### ♠ Get project updates

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

ABOVE AND BELOW: Preliminary concepts for Main St., including potential sidewalk and roadway widths, curb placements, road alignments, sidewalks, and parking allocations



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# Sleepy Hollow Country Club

--- Written by Michaela Ray • Photos by Casey Cunningham ---



Tucked into the scenic hills of Stouffville, Sleepy Hollow Country Club has long been a local gem, where history, hospitality, and heritage come together. Since opening its fairways in 1959, the club has become more than just a place to tee off. For 65 years, it has been a place to gather, to celebrate milestones, to connect with nature and neighbours, and lately, to dine exceptionally well.

The club's story began in the 1950s when visionaries Jimmy Johnstone Sr. and Bert Turcotte toured a 100-acre farm with a dream of turning it into a golf course. By 1959, that dream became reality, and Fred Swarbrick was named the club's first Head Pro. What followed was a journey rich with community spirit. Even in the face of setbacks – such as a devastating fire in 1972 that destroyed the original clubhouse – members came together, picnicking on the lawn and keeping the tradition alive while a new clubhouse was built

Over the years, the course has become known not just for its history, but for its character and challenge. "I played with a couple of pros recently who said holes 11 and 16 could be placed on any course in the world and they'd still stand out," says General Manager Kurt Paisley. "They're beautiful and tough, and hearing that from experienced players really resonates."

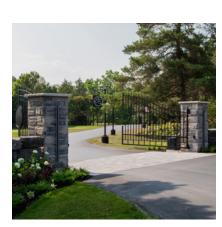
But Sleepy Hollow isn't just about the course itself – it's the people who make it special.

"There's an undeniable sense of pride here," says Kurt. "Our members love this club and care about its future, and that kind of loyalty is rare."

Indeed, loyalty is a common thread in the club's story. It's reflected in the long-standing member base, in the carefully manicured greens maintained by generations of dedicated staff, and in the way tradition seamlessly blends with innovation. From the reversing of the nines in the 1960s to course redesigns by renowned architects in the 2000s, Sleepy Hollow has never stopped improving.

"It really feels like family." says Kurt.

"Many of our members have been with
us for decades. They care deeply about
the place, and that energy carries into
everything we do, from the course to the
kitchen."





# "This milestone is about honouring our past and building our future."

- Kurt Paisley



#### **Culinary Comfort, Elevated**

While the golf course may be private, the culinary experience at Sleepy Hollow is one of the most accessible and impressive parts of the club. At the heart of that offering is Executive Chef Jordan Griner, whose passion for "upscale comfort food" is helping redefine the idea of dining at a golf club.

"The patio's beautiful, so we try to match that with the food," Jordan says. "We want to create a space where everyone feels welcome, where you can come for a special date night or bring the whole family for dinner."

His menus, which change seasonally, are built on thoughtful variety and fresh, local ingredients. Some of the club's most popular dishes include grilled salmon with hoisin glaze, braised beef short rib, and the ever-requested summer berry salad. Jordan describes his culinary style as a blend of influences, drawing on his Italian training, Korean family roots, and local ingredients from around the region.

"I want every dish to feel intentional, to be something that makes people excited to come back," he says. "There's a lot of love, passion, and hard work in every plate we serve."

Food & Beverage Manager Shelby Minor shares that vision and is passionate about welcoming a broader community into the club's dining experience.

"You don't have to be a golfer to enjoy an incredible meal here," she says. "Whether it's a casual lunch or a special anniversary dinner, our doors are open. We want people to know this is a restaurant worth visiting on its own."

One of Jordan's favourite events of the year is the club's Hole-in-One Closing Party, where he goes all out with chefled action stations and elevated dishes designed to wow.



"It's a chance to get really creative and give people a true experience," he says. "That's what I love – connecting with guests, hearing their feedback, and creating food that sticks with them."

That connection doesn't stop at the table. For Jordan, the magic starts behind the scenes, in the camaraderie and collaboration of his kitchen team.

"I love my staff," he says plainly. "This place runs because of them. We're a team that looks out for each other, and that culture makes its way into the food. When the kitchen's happy, the food is better—every time."





sleepyhollowcountryclub.com

#### **Looking Ahead**

As Sleepy Hollow celebrates its 65th anniversary, the leadership team is looking toward the future with energy and excitement. Plans are in place to continually refine the member experience through new events, updated facilities, and ongoing investment in the culinary program.

"This milestone is about honouring our past and building our future," says Kurt. "We've come a long way, but we're just getting started."

Whether you visit for a round of golf, a family dinner, or a quiet meal on the patio with a glass of wine, Sleepy Hollow is ready to welcome you. After 65 years, it's clear that this club isn't just about the game – it's about the people, the moments, and now more than ever, the food.



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Born To Run: Days Of Thunder Begin In Stouffville Shop

Engine builder John Stefko has worked a lifetime squeezing extra horsepower out of stock cars, dragsters, muscle machines





by Jim Mason iimmason905@gmail.com

The nondescript green garage is hidden behind a farmhouse and a massive willow tree off Hwy. 48 on Stouffville's western edge.

No signage or anything else to alert you to what happens here.

Inside, car engines at various stages of life fill the floor.

A wall of fame, if you will, towers over the workspace featuring photographs of cars and drivers, many showing off trophies, checkered flags and large smiles. Classic rock streams in the background.

Welcome to Stefko Racing Engines.

Proprietor John Stefko leads a tour, telling the story behind each engine he and his crew are working on as machines grind away in the background.

Some will be fitted into dragsters racing on a four-stop Ontario circuit.

Others, including one soon bound for Sault Ste. Marie, are destined for stock

And there's a completed engine just waiting for the bodywork on a muscle car - a 1968 Camaro - to be finished in Oshawa.

Stefko knows his stuff. He was basically born into it.

As kids, he and his four brothers helped racers in their Montreal neighbourhood work on their cars.

"I grew up in one of the worst areas of the city," he told On The Road. "So you either go with the car guys, or you go with the criminals."

At 15, Stefko bought his first ride, another '68 Camaro he would later drag race throughout Quebec, Ontario and the northern states. There's a photo of it, front and centre, on 'the wall.'

"I lost my mind on it," he said of the hours and money he poured into the Camaro and the sacrifices he made. "I got tired of eating Kraft Dinner and peanut butter sandwiches."

So, he studied electronics and later applied to work for Bell Canada, all with the goal of getting out.

"I didn't want to work on cars," he

But his first love, those cars, always drew him back in, as a career and a hobby

Much of his knowledge is self-taught. After leaving Quebec and working in garages around the GTA, he opened his own speed shop in Thornhill in 1984 "from ground zero – with nothing."

He moved to Stouffville during the 1990s and has amassed the latest in tools and equipment.

Now 67, the proud dad and grandad is cutting back on work, focusing on

"No imports, no diesels," he said in his answers to recent inquiries.

He got back into driving from time to time, too, most of the time in stock cars.

Stouffville Councillor Hugo Kroon is a client and a fan. Stefko recently built a 600-horsepower motor that moves Kroon's drag racer, a 1967 Dodge Dart.

"In an industry where most guys with John's skillset end up working for race teams," Kroon said, "he's one of the few independents that guys continue to come back to because he's just very good at what he does. The level of the work he does speaks for itself in the car community."

Other Stouffvillians who have used Stefko's services include the late Eddie Hakonson and his race teams, Gary Morton, drag racer Joe Ferrari, and Lambert Yake.

"I'm not big on street racing but people like the speed and the sound," Stefko says, looking around the shop. "A lot of the motors here are for older guys who have muscle cars or restorations. They want a bit of power to go down the street."

Or to the wide variety of car shows in the area, including the Markham Stouffville Cruisers Motofest in Stouffville Memorial Park on September 13th and Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's Antique & Classic Car Show August 10th.

Stouffville's own Owen Wells was one of his protégés before travelling the world on the top racing circuits.

Wells worked with Stefko as an apprentice machinist ahead of stints with an NHRA drag racing team out North Carolina and in Formula 1 with Red Bull and Honda. He's been back in Carolina running his own show, Wells Combustion Development, for the past two years.



## Jays VP 'Happy to Be a Part of **Exciting Season'**

Stouffville native Jeremy Reesor is now Vice President of Baseball Operations for those playoff-bound (at this writing) Toronto Blue Jays. The kid who graduated from Stouffville District Secondary School at the top of his class in 2008 has been profiled on this page

He joined the Jays in 2013 as a member of the Rogers Centre field conversion team before getting an internship in the baseball department.

The promotion hasn't changed his focus with the Jays.

"Still working on the same major things: Major League team transactions, payroll and strategy," he said.

What's new is working for a team that was in first place at the All-Star break.

"Happy to be a part of an exciting season," he told On The Road following a franchise-record 11th straight win at home against the arch-rival New York Yankees. "It's gratifying to see it all come together and the fans and the city get behind the team. We've had some



incredible crowds recently, including

Growing up in Stouffville, Reesor "never played an organized competitive game of baseball in my life ... was kind of a baseball nerd, following the numbers and transactions side of the sport," and it's paying off.



## Stouffville Swimmers Make **Waves at Provincials**

Four members of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Swim Club qualified for the 2025 Ontario Swimming Championships at the Toronto Pan Am Centre July 10th-13th.

David Wang led the way with a seventhplace finish in the 200-metre fly and an eighth in the 400 individual medley.

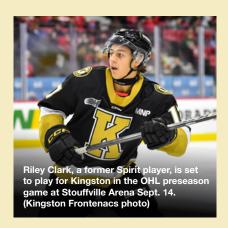
Ellie Chen was 14th in the 200 backstroke.

Hilary Chan's best of three finishes was 15th in the 100 backstroke.

Annabelle Chau-Colaco finished 19th in the 50 freestyle.

"It's the first time any of these swimmers qualified for the provincials and it's a huge testament to all the hard work they've put into their training the past few years," said club spokesperson Antia Kwan.

## **OHL Teams to Play First-Ever Exhibition Game** in Stouffville



It's a new one for Stouffville. The Sudbury Wolves will face the Kingston Frontenacs in the first-ever Ontario Hockey League (OHL) preseason game played in the community.

The game starts Sunday, September 14th, at the Stouffville Arena. Puck drop

The Stouffville Spirit of the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) – one level below the OHL - and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association (WSMHA) are hosting the game.

Both OHL teams open the regular season at home on September 19th. The game in Stouffville is the final game on the OHL's preseason schedule.

Spirit alumni Brady Smith (Sudbury) and Riley Clark (Kingston) are expected to play in the game.

In conjunction with the game, the WSMHA is hosting a public skate Saturday, September 13th, from 7 to 10 PM.

The Spirit opens the OJHL regular season at home on Thursday, September 11th, against the Pickering Panthers.

## Game Day —

Sunday, September 14th 4 PM Puck Drop • Stouffville Arena



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**Racing for Good** August 17



**DTM Food Festival** September 12 - 14



**Markham Stouffville Cruisers Motofest** September 13



**Run for Markham** September 28



The Village Grocer **Giving Thanks** October 6 - 12



The Fortune Ball November 22



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In an increasingly digital world, coding skills are highly sought after in nearly every industry, providing a competitive edge in the future job market.

## A Man with a Vision

#### How ACENET WIRELESS is Changing the Way Stouffville Stays Connected



I had the pleasure of sitting down with Zef Sadikot, the owner and founder of ACENET WIRELESS located at 5428 Main St. (at Baker Hill Blvd.), where customers can walk in for phone, tablet, laptop, gaming systems and PC repairs. He is passionate about his business, keeping us all connected, and, ensuring our devices are in good working order.

As a teen, Zef immigrated to Canada with his family from Tanzania and was a high-calibre Squash player, which helped him earn a university scholarship. He holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing and Management from Northwood University in Michigan, where he laid the groundwork for his future entrepreneurial pursuits. He later earned his MBA from Sprott School of Business at Carleton University in Ottawa, further sharpening his business acumen and strategic thinking. These academic achievements, combined with his hands-on industry experience, shaped Zef into a dynamic and forwardthinking business leader.

In a world where staying connected is no longer a luxury but a necessity, Zef has made it his mission to deliver seamless connectivity and expert device repair services to the community. Before launching ACENET WIRELESS, Zef built a successful 12-year career in the healthcare industry as a Product Marketing Manager. During this time, he developed a deep understanding of how to connect people with essential services, a skill that would later become the backbone of his own business. His experience managing product portfolios and executing marketing strategies provided him with a unique edge when entering the telecommunications and tech repair space.

In 2022, Zef officially launched ACENET WIRELESS, a one-stop shop for budget phone plans, home internet, and mobile, tablet, or PC repairs. The brand quickly gained a reputation for its high-quality service, affordable rates,



and deep community roots. The shop also carries a wide range of accessories for your electronics, including cables to fit all ports, car chargers, power adaptors, screen protectors, cases, power banks, selfie sticks, wireless speakers, and more. All these items are conveniently available right here in town, no need to order and wait for delivery! Additionally, Zef manages an office in Markham, operating as an authorized Telus/Koodo dealer, offering competitive mobile plans with wide coverage and fast data speeds.

ACENET WIRELESS is not just a service provider—it's a trusted local brand known for its dedicated customer support, reliable technology solutions, and quick turnaround times for repairs. Whether you're looking to switch to a better phone plan, get stable internet for your home, or fix a cracked screen, Zef and his team are ready to help.

What sets ACENET WIRELESS apart is its commitment to personalized service. Zef understands that every customer has unique needs, and he's made it his mission to offer tailored connectivity solutions for families,

professionals, and small businesses. Under his leadership, the company continues to grow, while staying true to its core values of trust, affordability, and innovation.

In just a few short years, Zef Sadikot has transformed his vision into a thriving business that's making a real impact in the community. ACENET WIRELESS is more than a tech shop it's a reflection of Zef's passion for service, innovation, and helping people stay connected in today's fast-paced digital world.

#### Connect with ACENET WIRELESS

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The journey's primary goal is to identify the geographic zones and regions, both in a human and physical context, that the Ninth Line transects. My hypothesis states that I will cross dozens of these socio-economic, demographic and geological regions – all having significant influences on the identity of the town.

The journey will be a transect of Stouffville from the south all the way up to Davis Dr. in the north. Needless to say, the walk will be uphill. According to my trusty Google Map, it should take just over four hours. More on that 'uphill' part later. Upwards...

#### Paid your taxes to Markham

It's a beautiful, very hot July day, and I'm standing at the corner of Ninth Line and 19th Ave. The astute may know I am technically in Markham, as the southern border of Stouffville lies at the northern edge of the properties on the north side of 19th. This places the stormwater pond behind the houses on Reeves Way Blvd. in Markham.

For those of you who lived here before 1971, you probably remember that Markham used to extend to Stouffville's



My hiking journey began at 19th Ave. just south of the Markham boundary and ended at Davis Dr. on the edge of East Gwillimbury, as shown by the orange dotted line.

Main St. If you lived on the south side, you paid your taxes to Markham. When the Region of York was created, Stouffville annexed the portion down to the current border.

I start here for one good reason. Just steps to the east of me is one of the GTA's crown jewels... one of only six National Parks in Ontario. The Rouge National Urban Park is North America's largest

urban park, spanning about 80 km², and stretching all the way to Lake Ontario. Amongst other valuable assets, the park preserves critical deciduous trees of the Carolinian forest throughout the Rouge River watershed.

Although none of the park's land resides in Stouffville, the town's trail system connects with the park's trail network for easy access. The main parking lot is just east of me on 19th Ave.

I'm off... as I check the box beside "region #1: National Park."

#### Most prosperous region in Canada

This is obviously not a scientific study. If I genuinely wanted to determine if the Ninth Line was the most diverse transect in town, I would need to walk every road in the municipality and then run some fancy statistical/analytical modelling software to test the theory. Those days are over for me, and this magazine doesn't give me enough pages to do that.

However, it should also be mentioned that my definition of "geographic zone" or "region" is not too scientific either. On my trip to Kirkland Lake, my professor argued that we travelled through five very distinct and well-defined regions. Not so on this trek. Honestly, I'm just making some of the names up based on my eight-year post-secondary geographic knowledge base in my head. Other regions I'll travel through, however, are very defined.

Not two minutes into my trek up the Ninth, do I encounter my first anomaly – something I didn't expect. Just off to the side of the sidewalk are bear droppings. Black bear, to be specific.

Black bears are not rare in Stouffville. Every year, someone reports a bear sighting, most commonly in the northern part of town in the countryside. But coming across droppings here jogs my mind that if my old geography professor

Just steps away from the 19th Avenue and Ninth Line intersection lies Rouge National Urban Park - Canada's only national urban park.

from Peterborough were with me today, he would say that Stouffville is only in one geographic region: the Great Lakes -St.Lawrence Lowland.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowland is a well-defined region, densely populated, and in many ways, the most prosperous region of the country. The Lowland is characterized by a diverse mix of hardwood forests, coniferous forests, and open areas. The region is home to a variety of mammals, including gray wolf, coyote, white-tailed deer, moose, beaver, muskrat, otter, snowshoe hare, bobcat, porcupine, and, of course, black bear.

Although Stouffville is located entirely within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands, the Canadian Shield is less than an hour drive to the north. The geologic boundary between the two regions is not abrupt, with the Trent-Severn Waterway forming a convenient zone of demarcation between the two areas.

The climate of the Stouffville area, as with the rest of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowland, is continental, with significant variation from season to season. Because of the influence of the Great Lakes, the Stouffville area experiences temperatures less extreme than other parts of Canada (cooler in the summer, warmer in the winter).

I please my professor, and move on.

#### Boat race on the pond

From a geographic perspective, it is odd that within 300 metres of the start of my journey, the most abrupt boundary exists. Literally one step, I'm surrounded by farmland, and the next I'm in a community of close to 39,000 people.

I reach Reeves Way Blvd., a major residential street that winds its way to the east and up to Hoover Park Dr. On the west, and worth mentioning, is a condo building built almost six years ago. The

town has quite a few condos now, but at the time it was built, it was one of the tallest buildings in Stouffville at seven storeys. Today, there are applications for up to 18-storey buildings on Main St.

I jot in my notebook "geographic region #2 – major urban settlement area." I'm ignoring those farmers' fields I just walked through, for now.

As I make it up towards Hoover Park Dr., one of Stouffville's main east-west residential throughfares, my memory recalls my elementary school days at Orchard Park Public School.

Orchard Park was located on Sunset Blvd., where École catholique Pape-François now sits. But right behind the fields where we would play at recess, there were two huge farm fields and a forest. A portion of the forest remains south of Hoover Park.

Occasionally, on 'Sports Day', our class would walk down into the forest (probably trespassing) to a small pond. One day, our teacher said that we could all make small homemade boats, and we would have a boat race on the pond. I made mine out of a milk carton, pencils and a piece of paper for a sail. I must say, I impressed myself with my boatmaking skills.

When we got to the pond, I couldn't do it. I loved my boat far too much to put it in the water and potentially lose it forever. I carried the boat back to school with me, as some other classmate claimed the prize for top boat racer.

The pond, like my boat, is long gone. However, I do pass its lakebed on my

journey. It was located where the parking lot and grass field are now, west of St. Brendan Catholic School, on the northeast corner of Hoover Park and the Ninth. How times have changed in 40 years.

The pond may not go down in the Stouffville lore, but as I approach Main St., I pass what is, or should be, considered a Stouffville landmark: Parkview Village for Seniors. This senior's residential community is home to the 'who's who' of Stouffville citizens. Michaela Ray did an excellent job in an article in June's On The Road about their 60th anniversary.

Although not considered a geographic zone, I will come back to the importance of seniors' care on the Ninth later in my journey.

I reach Main St. Feet are sore, sun is hot, but who cares...

The intersection of Ninth Line and Main St. is bustling, and for the purpose of this trip, interesting. And not only for the reason that if I were doing this trip in 1970, I'd also just be leaving Markham now.

I'm about to walk on the newest part of the Ninth – a part that didn't exist 15 years ago.

Some of you may recall that the Ninth Line north of Main St. didn't align with the Ninth Line south of Main St. before 2014. If you were travelling up the Ninth from the south and continued north, you would end up on Fairview Ave., which is now a dead end. In 2014, the Region of York eliminated the misalignment, resulting in the curved jog we have today.

One of the casualties of this

realignment was the 67-year-old Stouffville Legion. It used to sit across from Second St. in what is now the grass field behind NAPA Autopro. After negotiations with the Region, the land was expropriated in 2010, and an agreement was made for the Legion to move to its current location on Mostar St.

It's taken me 31 minutes to get here, and I need a brief rest. After some water in this hot sun, I continue. I'm now passing the old part of the Community of Stouffville on my right as I work my way towards Millard St. It's a good time to reflect on Stouffville itself.

Not only is it the largest settlement area I will encounter today, but it is also the largest community in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The intersection of Ninth Line and Main St. was approximately one kilometre west of where Abraham Stouffer, his wife Elizabeth Reesor and their family settled in 1804. The Mennonite family had travelled, by covered wagon, from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, to settle in 400 acres around what is today Market St. and Main St.

By 1824, he had built a saw and gristmill on Duffin's Creek, near which a hamlet developed, and, in 1832, a post office named Stouffville was established.

In the 16th century, the area now known as Stouffville was home to a Wendat village with over 1,700 inhabitants. The remains of their settlement were found over 20 years ago, less than 1.5 km from where the Stouffers settled.

Left: a concept drawing of a potential condominium proposed at the northwest corner of the intersection of the Ninth Line and Main St. Below: A John Deere dealership built in 1947 at the same intersection. A portion of the Ninth Line can be seen in the bottom right beside the large tree

The Wendat were the last major Indigenous group to occupy the region before European contact, but they were preceded by thousands of years of continuous Indigenous presence – from Paleo-Indigenous (around 9000 BCE) to Archaic (7500-1000 BCE) to Woodland period cultures.

Stouffville will be one of five towns I will pass through today, although one is a stretch saying it's on the Ninth, and one no longer exists.

I continue...

#### What is it the ninth of?

During the 1980s, the Stouffville and Markham area grew extensively. In Markham, the new Markville Shopping Centre was ready to open its doors, and the Markham-Stouffville Hospital began accepting patients. Here in Stouffville, the big news was the opening of the new Stouffville Arena – my next stop up the Ninth.

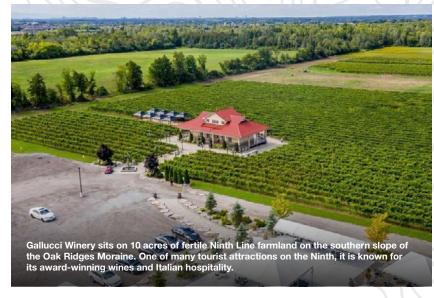
The arena replaced the old arena in Memorial Park, which is now gone. It opened with only one ice pad, with a second one added in 1996. The Stouffville Spirit Ir. A hockey team, has called it home since 1995.

I arrive at Millard St. Millard opened from Stouffer St. to the Ninth Line in the mid-1980s and later extended all the way to Highway 48 near the turn of this century. It is one of only three roads in the Community of Stouffville that travels the entire distance from Highway 48 to the Tenth Line (or almost!).

I'm about to leave the Community of Stouffville, pass through the only roundabout on the Ninth, and continue northward when two personal and family-related memories pop into my

In 1953, my mom's family moved to Stouffville from Scarborough (and East York before that) to a 52-acre farm on Highway 48 (it's now owned by Spring Lakes Golf Course). My grandfather's two brothers also moved to Stouffville at the same time. One of his brothers, Percival (Perse), bought a 50-acre farm on the west side of the Ninth just north of what is now Baker Hill Blvd. The two brothers, along with their third sibling Ernie, who settled on Stouffville Rd., farmed close to 150 acres of Stouffville for close to half a century.

I remember Perse's farm from my childhood but not much remains today. The fields have been taken over by houses, with more to come.



Before I leave the Community of Stouffville per se, I walk past a place that will always have a place in my homegrown heart - Timbercreek Golf. This is the first, and won't be the last, major tourist attraction I will encounter on the Ninth Line.

I worked at Timbercreek for two summers. Back then, the summer kids did everything – picked up range balls, fixed batting cages, blew leaves off the mini golf course and served ice cream. Maybe it's the same 30 years later, but it will always be a memory I will cherish.

The same Reesor family that opened it back then still owns it today.

I am now leaving Stouffville and passing Bethesda Rd. on my left and 300m later, on my right.

Technically speaking, I have just transected one socio-demographic geographic zone - the settlement of Stouffville. Geographically speaking, it is an urban area made up of smaller regions catering to population growth, density and diversity. I have passed major recreational facilities, a major tourist attraction and a senior's community - all vital to the existence of a healthy community.

This is a good time to address why the Ninth Line is called the Ninth Line. What is it the ninth of?

The Ninth Line is a concession road. In southern Ontario, concession roads are often roads running parallel to one another approximately two kilometres apart. Concession roads are frequently laid out in a series of 10, and they usually coincide with the boundaries of municipalities.



Long before the creation of Whitchurch-Stouffville, a series of 10 concession roads were built through the then-Township of Whitchurch, all two kilometres apart. Some of these roads reach all the way to Lake Ontario, and many travel well north of Stouffville. Running perpendicular to them are sideroads. These grids formed blocks of land approximately 1,000 acres in size.

For some unknown reason, the Ninth Line and the Tenth Line were not given formal names by the province of Ontario. Every other concession road in Stouffville is named, starting with Woodbine Ave. (the Fourth Line) in the west, followed by Warden Ave. (the Fifth), Kennedy Rd. (the Sixth), McCowan Rd. (the Seventh) and Markham Rd. (the Eighth).

Yonge St., Bayview Ave. and Leslie St. represent the first three concessions, as they were part of the old Whitchurch Township ages ago.

If you have any relatives over the age of 50, I'm sure you remember them referring to these roads by their concession number. "I'm gonna drive the hogs over to Henry's on the Sixth this evening," was something many farmers



Flying Club – and the town's only airport.

The Club is a community aviation

group. It is based at the Stouffville Airport

located about 1.7 nautical miles northwest

As Jim pointed out, more than 30

with a call sign of CBB2. According to

official records, it is a private airfield

planes are stationed here. The Club

is organized by enthusiasts – pilots,

builders, instructors, mechanics - who

share a passion for aviation, including

paragliders. All of them are almost half a

kilometre from the road. Easy to miss on

Within a span of a few hundred

metres, I add another tourist attraction to

I also just passed a unique spot in

In 1877, the Lake Simcoe Junction

43-kilometre route was an offshoot of the

Toronto-Nipissing Railway, which, six

years previous, had reached Stouffville.

The LSJR rails, long since torn

up, crossed the Ninth Line at the

light aircraft, ultralights and power

the ground... not so easy in the sky.

Stouffville, if not in all of Ontario.

Railway (LSJR) opened between

Stouffville and Jackson's Point. The

the list and an airport.

of Stouffville.



said back in the day.

The Ninth Line starts at Steeles Ave. in south Markham, travels north through Markham and Stouffville and ends as a driveway into the Mt. Albert water tower north of Mt. Albert Sideroad.

#### Town's only airport

I'm 50 minutes into my trek and exactly 4.1 km away from where I started. But more importantly, I'm 29m higher than I was when I started. The intersection of 19th Ave. and Ninth Line is 257m above sea level (asl). Standing at the corner of Bethesda Rd. (the eastern side), I am now 287m asl. This is where the fun begins, and my feet will suffer. More on that later...

I continue uphill towards the hamlet of Bloomington. But before I reach there, I pass yet another town tourist attraction, Gallucci Winery. Gallucci Winery was founded in 2014 by Paolo Gallucci and his family. It is one of three major wineries in Stouffville.

In 2013, their first crop of grapes was harvested, yielding about 2,500 bottles of red, white, and ice wine. I will touch upon this later in the trek, but there is a great reason why these fields are as fertile as they are.

Bordering the winery is something you may have never seen before, and up until Jim Thomas' column about it in the April edition of *On The Road*, you may have never heard of it! It is the Stouffville

driveway. Within 220m of that spot, three major modes of transportation are (or were) present: a major highway, an airport and a railway.

exact location of the Gallucci Winery

#### **Bloomington landmarks**

I am approaching the major intersection of Bloomington Rd. and Ninth Line. I say 'major' for two reasons – Bloomington Rd. has a lot of traffic, and the hamlet of Bloomington is actually quite big!

Bloomington is the second settlement area I have come across on this trek. And, uniquely, within about 250 metres, I will pass four significant features.

The first is Bloomington Cove Seniors Community, the only long-term care community in Ontario devoted exclusively to dementia care. With Parkview, it is the second seniors' facility on the Ninth Line.

Formally called Green Gables, the land once contained the home of Maxson Jones. Jones settled on the southeast corner of Bloomington Rd. and the Ninth in the 1850s and served as reeve of Whitchurch from 1882 to 1885 and again from 1889 to 1891. Jones reputedly named the community Bloomington, after Bloomington, Illinois.

Just up the road on the east, and one hour and 17 minutes into my trek, I take a break under a huge tree at the beautiful Bloomington Christian Cemetery.

The earliest interment date at the cemetery is Moses Cherry who died in August 1838, and his wife Sarah. A neighbouring Christian church was built next to the cemetery in 1852. By 1867 the church had over 140 members and in 1892 a new church, still standing, was built across the road.

The former Stouffville Legion Branch 459 on the Ninth Line was torn down in September of 2012 to make way for the road re-alignment.

In 1956 the church severed its connections with the Christian Conference and joined the Associated Gospel Churches of Ontario. Today, it is called the Bloomington Gospel Church and still offers Sunday worship. The breeze feels nice...

Just around the corner on Bloomington Rd., a second church, the Bloomington Methodist Church, was built in 1869. Maxson Jones sold the initial acre to the Methodist Church for \$50, followed by an adjoining acre for the cemetery in 1871, also for \$50. It was moved to Buttonville in 1939 and still serves as a community hall. Today, only a small modest cemetery, operated by the Town of Stouffville, remains on the site.

The last of the Bloomington landmarks is the old red-brick one-room Bloomington schoolhouse on the east side of the road, constructed in 1898. Now, the building is a multi-unit residence. It's the only historic schoolhouse I will pass today.

I'm heading north now and will wait at the intersection of Bloomington Rd. and Ninth Line. Bloomington Rd. is a regional road owned by York Region. Other than Stouffville Rd. to the south, I will go out on a limb and say it's one of the busiest east-west roads in Stouffville.

While I'm standing on the corner of the intersection waiting for the light to change, I count 12 gravel trucks either waiting at a red light or travelling through. That is the perfect indicator that I am entering a new geographic region: the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM).

#### Massive ridge of dirt

The Oak Ridges Moraine, one of the largest glacial landforms in Southern Ontario, has two definitions: one geophysical and one political. I'll stick to the geophysical one here.

Simply speaking, the moraine is one massive ridge of dirt. It extends from Caledon in the west to Rice Lake in the east and at certain intervals is close to 15 km wide.

The moraine has a complex origin. However, geophysicists, geomorphologists and hydrologists have pieced together a convincing theory on the paleo-events during the formation process.

In a nutshell, the moraine formed at the end of the last ice age around 12,000 years ago when two ice lobes came together. The ice melted, and through a series of meltwater events, sediment was deposited between them. This sediment is the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The sediment varies in clast size, as we will see evidence of later in the trek. Depending on the type of meltwater event, everything from clay, silt, sand, and gravel was deposited as the ice melted.

Regardless of what type of sediment was deposited, all this glacial action formed the hummocky landscape that makes up most of Stouffville today.

On the Ninth Line, the Oak Ridges Moraine extends south to the Markham area. However, that portion is not hilly and is pretty much flat and featureless. The sediments in that area are typically fine silt and clay deposited by flowing water from the moraine's crest in the north. Geomorphologists have termed this area the "Oak Ridges moraine south slope." Some researchers argue this is not technically part of the ORM.

Most of the core of the moraine is made up of coarse gravel – hence, the gravel trucks. The gravel industry is a huge economic driver in the town, with, according to the province of Ontario, six pits operational in Stouffville. One I'm about to pass.

As I continue up the Ninth Line, I climb what seems like an endless incline. And I get to another of the town's biggest tourist attractions. Magic Hill Farm is a family-owned and operated business, hosting family occasions and corporate events for over 35 years. Some of you may remember the years of selling Christmas trees. Oh, more on that later...

I have now passed three major tourist attractions on this trek. And before I forget, I will write down "geographic region #3: Oak Ridges Moraine."

As the gravel trucks roar past me, it's hard not to see that they are full of soil and other dirt. They are going to the pits, not coming from them!

United Soils Management oversees a former gravel pit owned by Lee Sand and Gravel. They bring in excess soil from large-scale construction activities and minor landscaping and home renovation projects all over southern Ontario to be disposed of. Inconspicuously, beside the USM pit is Lafarge Stouffville, the largest gravel pit in Stouffville, spanning from the Ninth to the Tenth Line.

You can't see the Lafarge pit from the Ninth Line, but you certainly can if you are on the Tenth Line.

I should also say, for the sake of my feet, that I have reached the highest point in my journey. The Ninth Line at this point is 362m asl. From my calculation, this could be the highest point in all of Stouffville, but as I look out towards the west, that hypothesis may be challenged.

As I trek north, I am not leaving the Oak Ridges Moraine; however, I am going to say I'm entering another geographic zone that I'll call "Cottage Country." It's home to Musselman's Lake.

TO BE CONTINUED IN SEPTEMBER



#### Geographic Zones, so far

- National Park
- Major urban settlement
- Agricultural
- Tourist attractions
- Oak Ridges Moraine



Special thanks to Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, Fred Robbins and Ivan Harris for historical information.

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## Sandy Schell-Kennedy Returning as Ambassador for Stouffville Terry Fox Run



The face of Stouffville's Terry Fox Run for a quarter century is the Ambassador of this year's event.

Sandy Schell-Kennedy has accepted the role for the run, which returns to Stouffville Memorial Park on Sunday, September 14th. She'll address participants before they hit the sidewalks and trails of southern Stouffville.

Stouffville run organizers were honoured this spring for raising \$2.3 million since 1982. The 2024 event drew approximately 1,000 participants and volunteers who raised more than \$91,000 for cancer research.

Schell-Kennedy, Stouffville's 2003 Citizen of the Year, led the local event

from 1990 to 2015. She and her husband, Richard, moved to Norland in the City of Kawartha Lakes. They return to Stouffville every September to volunteer on run day.

"Terry Fox was a once-in-a-lifetime true Canadian," she said. "He came into my life in 1980, when he began his Marathon of Hope. I followed his journey from St. John's to Thunder Bay.

"Terry's determination to make a difference has shone on Stouffville for 45 years. Terry gave his life so that others would have a fighting chance against

"The Stouffville Terry Fox Run will always be home. It's about family, old friends and new friends. We look forward to seeing everyone."

Stacey FitzPatrick and Adele Palmer are co-chairs of this year's run.

Festivities begin at noon featuring entertainment, displays, refreshments and children's activities. The opening ceremonies begin at 12:50 PM.

You can run, walk, cycle, ride a wheelchair, push a stroller or rollerblade on the 5K or 2K courses. E-bikes and e-scooters are not permitted. Entertainment is provided at refreshment stations.

Look for run volunteers at The Stouffville Market on September 6th and 13th. The Stouffville Spirit Jr. hockey

team is donating proceeds from 50/50 draws held during games in August and September to the run. Short sleeve run T-shirts (\$30) will be available.

A special invitation is extended to cancer survivors, who are given special red T-shirts and lawn signs recognizing

Businesses, churches, families and sports clubs are encouraged to form a team, like the 50 teams who took part last

#### 2025 Terry Fox Run

#### Saturday, September 14th



12 PM • Memorial Park terrvfox-stouffville.ca

To enter a team, volunteer or register a survivor, email tfox.stouffville@gmail.com or call 416-768-6971. Individuals should sign up now at terryfox. org. For more information go to Facebook, Instagram or the run website, terryfox-stouffville.ca

## Voices Alive Choir Hits a High Note for Local Food Bank

by Cassandra Papas

Local women's choir, Voices Alive, proudly presented a cheque for \$1,706 to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bankfunds raised during their end-of-season concert in June. This vibrant, no-audition choir welcomes all skill levels and sings a variety of styles from pop to jazz. Weekly practices resume in September and take place Wednesdays from 7–9 p.m. at St. James, 6432 Main St. Learn more at voicesalive.ca or contact Mary at voicesalivechoir@gmail.com





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"I've always been an entrepreneur at heart," he says. "As soon as someone told me I couldn't do something, that's when I got serious."

That drive to push forward, take risks, and create opportunities has been a constant in his life. And it's what eventually brought him to Stouffville.

"This community has given me so much. It's only right to give back."

- Rocco Priore

#### A New Way of Learning

Rocco moved to Stouffville in 2003 with a vision to build something missing in the local childcare landscape. A space that was warm but professional, structured but flexible, and grounded in both education and Montessori philosophies.

That vision became Country Casa Montessori Daycare & Academy; a childcare centre located in Ballantrae that now serves over 240 children from infancy to school age. As founder and CEO, Rocco has established an awardwinning institution that has become a cornerstone of early childhood education in the community.

"Kids today are often disconnected from where things come from," Rocco explains. "We want to show them: 'This is how carrots grow, this is how you feed a goat, this is how to problem-solve outside a classroom."

His educational model is holistic and grounded in real-world learning. The curriculum emphasizes curiosity, independence, critical thinking, and emotional development. Every aspect of the environment contributes to the learning process.

"It's about helping them grow in every direction, not just academically," he says. Country Casa blends structure with spirit. Beyond the gardens and animals, it's a place where children form meaningful relationships with their peers, with staff, and with the people who care for them every day.

Most mornings, Rocco is there to greet families as they arrive. As kids tumble out of cars and run toward the doors, you can hear the familiar chorus

of voices calling out, "Hi Rocco!" One little boy recently came to school wearing cowboy boots, just like Rocco's.

His father, a regular presence on-site, is affectionately known by many of the children as "Nonno." It's one of those details that signals the culture of Country Casa. The kids see Rocco and his family as extended family.

For Rocco, success isn't about metrics or marketing. It's about moments like that, when a child runs into the day with joy, when a parent feels peace of mind, when a staff member feels empowered to lead.

Country Casa connects kids to nature, yes, but more importantly, it connects them to people who care.

#### **Pivoting Perspectives**

Country Casa's mission is deeply personal, shaped in part by Rocco's experience as a father to Alaina and Thomas.

His daughter Alaina was born with a rare and fatal surfactant deficiency, a genetic condition that affects lung function. Doctors gave her one year to live. Rocco and his family spent over a decade navigating her treatment, appointments, hospital stays, and moments of fear and faith. Today, Alaina is 15 and thriving.

That long stretch of uncertainty, advocacy, community support and hope reshaped Rocco's perspective. "It made me realize what actually matters," he says. "People. Time. Health. The way we care for each other."

His son, Thomas, is now 18. Both kids have grown up watching their father prioritize community, pursue purpose, and build something lasting.

#### **Guided by Determination**

Rocco is preparing to launch Country Casa Academy, a new childcare centre set to open in September 2025. This initiative will create up to 80 additional childcare spaces, addressing a critical need in the community.

"It's still holistic, but it also allows us to build something scalable, sustainable, and more accessible to families across Stouffville."

He's thinking long-term. One day, he'd like to see an education model that carries a child from daycare through to Grade 12 a place where curiosity is nurtured into leadership;

"That might not happen tomorrow," he admits. "But that's the dream."

#### **Community Involvement**

Rocco's commitment to the community extends far beyond his business.

He serves on the board of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and holds the position of Second Vice President at the Greater Stouffville Chamber of Commerce. In these roles, he champions local business growth, civic engagement, and collaborative community development.

He also supports the MarkhamStouffville Hospital as a donor, with a focus on youth mental health services, a cause important to him.

His civic engagement shows up in his day-to-day. He matches every toy donated during the Lions Club toy drive, often contributing hundreds himself; he sponsors and participates in five Santa Claus parades every year;





**Investing in People** 

Rocco knows that, like any thriving

business, it begins and ends with people.

professional development and looks for

opportunities to promote from within.

"People grow when you give them

That approach extends to the broader

"Mentorship matters. No one builds

Rocco doesn't shy away from risk.

"Don't listen to the noise," he says.

"Stay with your heart. If you're only

following the money, you're already off

track. You need to lead with what you

It's a mindset that has kept him

grounded while others burned out. It's also what allowed him to build something

He also doesn't follow trends. He follows

entrepreneurial community. He regularly

meets with new or struggling business

owners to share what he's learned over

He encourages his team to pursue

trust and room to lead," he says.

nearly three decades in business.

No Risk. No Magic.

alone."

conviction.

believe in."

he donates regularly to local drives, events, and causes, often quietly and without seeking recognition.

For Rocco, this isn't public relations, it's personal. "This community has given me so much," he says. "It's only right to give back."

In 2025, Rocco was named the Stouffville Strawberry Festival Citizen of the Year, an honour that reflects not just the scope of his contributions, but the heart behind them. His impact has shaped this town in countless ways, from building a business that supports families to advocating for local businesses and public institutions.

You need to lead with what you believe in.

truly unique, especially in an industry often pressured toward standardization.

He still owns a sheep farm with his family, which serves as a quiet personal retreat and a physical reminder of how far he's come, from the son of an auto mechanic to the founder of one of Ontario's most respected childcare

#### **Looking Forward**

Today, Rocco Priore continues to build a legacy rooted in values, shaped by adversity, and sustained by community. His 2025 Citizen of the Year award is a fitting marker of what so many already knew: that his presence in this town has made it stronger.

For the kids who walk through the doors at Country Casa, that legacy is lived out in small moments, feeding goats, planting tomatoes, running into the arms of trusted teachers, and learning how to share their voice.

The story of Country Casa is one of intention. And Rocco is only getting started.



#### **Country Casa Montessori Daycare and Academy**

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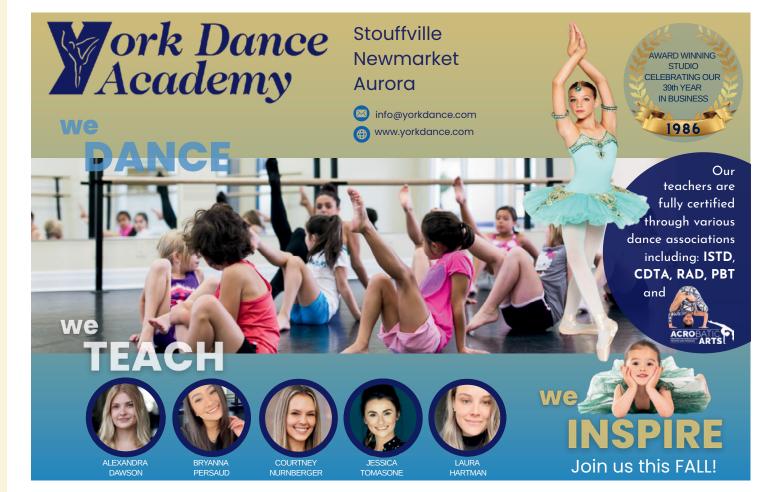




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# History Repeats Itself



by Jim Thomas thomas-jim@rogers.com

It's a story we all should remember; a story we should never forget.

In 2016, a grade 6 student, attending Glad Park Public School, orally illuminated this community, and, indeed, all Canada, with a historic essay that would alter a long-standing ironic conception and set the record straight.

Nadine Carter, then 11, vividly recalls how her classroom teacher, Terry Sinclair, asked all his pupils to prepare a written composition that would back-date information related to the town in which they lived – Stouffville. He established no timeframe.

The challenge, Nadine remembers, got everyone thinking. Understandably, this was no easy task for any pre-teen, but Nadine was determined.



Following several days in deep thought, the name of the British airman, Capt. Arthur Roy Brown came to mind. While she'd never talked to him or even met him, she was aware his wife Edythe and son Donald, had operated a 100-acre Warden Avenue farm only two miles west of her parents' Lemonville home. She began digging in.

But where to start? Nadine gives credit to an uncle for acquainting her with several World War 1 authorities, some residing in the area of Carleton Place, Ont., where Capt. Brown had once lived. To further assist, she visited the town and personally viewed the prestigious monument and accompanying statue of the community's hero.

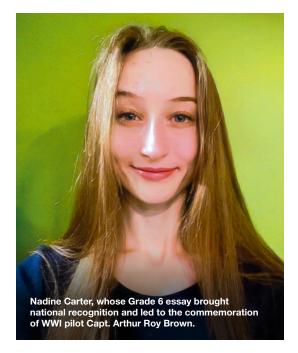
Unfortunately, because Brown had served as a pilot with the RAF and not the RCAF, the Stouffville Legion had no record of his achievements. Neither the local library nor the museum. But this didn't deter Nadine's desire to learn more. And she did.

Information, gleaned by her, dating back more than 80 years, told of a 'dogfight' somewhere over the English Channel, involving German air ace Manfred von Richthofen and Capt. Brown. It was said that Brown observed a pilot buddy within the sights of Richthofen's guns, and immediately intervened, blowing the 'Red Baron' out of the sky. Later, when Brown observed the wreckage and the dead pilot still at the controls, he was quoted as saying, "I'm sorry."

But the story didn't end there. Reports, until now, persisted that the British ground artillery, not Brown, had taken von Richthofen's life. No more. Nadine's research has set the record straight. Capt. Brown was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Bar. He suffered a heart attack in 1944 and later died at his Whitchurch Township home at the age of 50.

Even with all this information located in her file, Nadine wasn't satisfied. Accompanied by her parents, she visited Captain Brown's grave site at Toronto's Necropolis Cemetery, only to learn there was then no visible marker, but instead, a ground plate with a name engraved. Beside it, Nadine placed a bouquet of red roses. Since then, a vertical monument has been erected, bearing an engraving that reads: ARTHUR ROY BROWN, DFC, RAF CAPTAIN, 1893-1944.

Earlier, it was at age 12 that Nadine



contacted Stouffville Town Council, urging members to erect a plaque commemorating the life of Capt. Brown. At this point, MPP Paul Calandra rallied to her support. Before a packed chamber, he presented Nadine with a framed 'Citation of Appreciation' Certificate, representing the work she'd completed and the result it provided. He did not stop there - Calandra later rose within the House of Commons and lavishly praised the pre-teen for all the time she'd spent enlightening her community and Ontario. He referred to Nadine as an 'incredible constituent.' Before this, Town Mayor Justin Altmann had presented Nadine with a Silver Cross Medal of Excellence.

However, the best was yet to come. Before a Strawberry Festival crowd of several thousand, Nadine held centre stage, receiving a standing ovation. Amid this celebration, two planes, one a Brown re-make and another a comparable von Richthofen's craft, circled the Park, a sight that observers will never forget.

#### So, what of Nadine Carter today?

It was in grade 11 at Stouffville District Secondary School she decided to embark on a nursing career. Since then, she's graduated from Toronto's Seneca College and will now study at Durham College, Oshawa, for her RN degree. And the result of an essay completed nine years ago? "To be honest, I'm still in shock," she says, "I never expected it would gain such notoriety, but I'm also very happy at what it accomplished."





#### **VISIT THE TTG TEAM AT THESE EVENTS**

**PATIO SERIES: BRITISH INVASION** THURSDAY AT 7:30 PM

> LOCATION: CIVIC SQUARE, 19 ON THE



THE STOUFFVILLE **MARKET** 

SATURDAY AT 9 AM - 2 PM **SEPT** 

LOCATION: 6240 MAIN STREET



**STAY UP TO DATE** ON LOCAL EVENTS WITH OUR BLOG!





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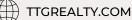








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# THE STOUFFVILLE ARKET





# **EVERY SATURDAY**

9AM - 2PM

9AM - 2PM 6240 MAIN ST. MAY 10 - OCTOBER 18

## Motofest: Community Driven since 1998

by Hayley Langdale



The Markham Stouffville Cruisers, once known as the Markham Classic Cruisers, are not just about shiny cars; they're champions of connection, purpose, and making a difference in their communities. With weekly summer meetups in Markham and Stouffville's Motofest, their car show that draws enthusiasts of all ages to Memorial Park, each event is powered by community

"There's just something about the memories cars hold — the people, the places, the joy."

- Terry Sutton

President, Markham Stouffville Cruisers

goodwill. For Motofest, volunteers include beloved TV personalities David Grainger and Janice Stone of *The Guild Garage* who donate their time as guest judges, creating an unforgettable experience for participants and guests alike.

The Markham Stouffville Cruisers are proudly recognized as a non-profit Community Service Group by both municipalities — a rare distinction for a car club and a testament to their unwavering commitment to giving back. Their efforts span from supporting charities like local food banks to awarding scholarships for students pursuing automotive careers, and most notably, Motofest, which serves as a fundraiser for the Markham Stouffville Hospital's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit. This cause deeply resonates with Terry Sutton, current club president and retired nurse.

"Mental health touches every family," Terry says. "Whether it's your sibling, your best friend, or your own child, it reaches all of us."

"When I took on this role, the club had already adopted the motto 'community-driven,' she says. "I asked myself, 'How do we live up to that?" The answer, for her, was simple: serve others. The Cruisers fuse two of Terry's lifelong passions: caring for people and a deep love of cars — especially her cherished '67 Camaro, which she's owned since she was 23. "That car was my first baby," she smiles. "There's just something about the memories cars hold — the people, the places, the joy." She's always been in awe of the way cars connect generations and how shared appreciation can be a sort of love language within families. "Some of my earliest and happiest memories are of spending time with my dad, talking about cars or just sitting in the garage," she recalls. "Cars were how we bonded; they've always been our shared language."

The club's members believe that it's all about what they leave in their rear-view mirrors. "I hope we've built something others can carry forward: a legacy of kindness, community, and connection," Terry says. In every rev of an engine and every dollar raised, the Markham Stouffville Cruisers prove that a car club can do a whole lot more than appreciate sweet sets of wheels — it can steer positive change into the lives of families that need it most.

## Motofest 2025

Saturday, September 13th 8 AM - 3 PM • Memorial Park markhamstouffvillecruisers.com

**NOTICE:** 

## Churchill Cemetery

Ashley van der Walt (OP-0014373) has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Ashley van der Walt at (647) 573 9752 or **churchillcemeteryinc@gmail.com** for information, or to make copies. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at: **churchillcemetery.com** 

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Telephone: Bereavement Authority of Ontario 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356

## **Building** Affordability in Stouffville

Exciting news, Stouffville! The Town is launching an Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan (CIP) to transform our housing landscape and help grow our market and affordable housing stock.

The study supporting this plan is being funded by the Government of Canada's Housing Accelerator Fund program. The CIP is an initiative under an \$8 million agreement between the Town and the federal government. Through this agreement, the Town is incentivizing the construction of new homes.

A CIP allows municipalities like Stouffville to offer financial and non-financial incentives to private landowners to encourage investment in key areas that support the Town's goals. This study will identify opportunities to boost new housing supply through targeted incentive programs. We will be looking at a range of opportunities to help fund a variety of units, helping to increase housing options for Stouffville residents. This project is an important step not only in increasing housing supply but also housing options within the Town.

Over the next few months, the Town will be working with its consultants, Nethery Planning, to prepare the Affordable Housing CIP for Council approval. This process will involve extensive consultation with agencies, stakeholders, and the public. We invite you to get involved and provide your feedback.

#### Save the date



The Town is hosting an open house to kick off the project, hear your feedback and answer questions from the community.

Visit townofws.ca/affordablehousing for project details, register for the open house, and sign up to receive the eNewsletter.

Questions about the project? Contact us at housingcip@townofws.ca

#### STOUFFVILLE'S 2026 BUDGET

Building a better budget

# Together

## Fact or Myth? Clearing up common budget misunderstandings

MYTH

"The Town gets 100% of my tax dollars."

**FACT** 

The Town only receives about 34% of your property taxes. The rest goes to York Region and school boards.

**MYTH** 

"The Town can run a deficit."

**FACT** 

According to the Municipal Act, the Town must balance its budget every year.

**MYTH** 

"Property taxes cover all Town services."

**FACT** 

Property taxes fund many services, but others are supported by user fees, grants, and other revenue sources.

We're building the 2026 Budget—and we want to hear from YOU. From roads to rec centres, parks to public safety, the municipal budget supports everything that makes Stouffville a great place to live, work, and play.



Your voice helps shape what matters most, get involved at townofws.ca/budget

#### Family Fun with a Purpose at the

## **GTA Mennonite Festival**

#### Monday, September 15

The GTA Mennonite Festival for World Relief will be held on September 20th at Willowgrove Farm in Stouffville, supporting global relief, development, and peace through the Mennonite Central Committee. Since 1967, it has raised over \$1.3 million. The festival features activities like wagon rides, apple picking, shopping for crafts, fresh products, and the famous LIVE Quilt Auction at noon. Volunteers from Mennonite churches across the GTA come together for this fun, family-friendly event. For more details and tickets, visit gtamennonitefestival.ca

TOWN EVENTS TEAM

# Farewell to Summer and Hello to the **Holiday Season**



From fireworks lighting up the sky to live music filling Memorial Park, this year's Stouffville Celebrates Summer series of events was unforgettable. The 2nd annual Symphony Under the Stars captivated an audience of over 4,000 people with a stunning performance by the Kindred Spirits Orchestra under the open sky. Families enjoyed outdoor movie screenings of Moana 2 and Wicked, and Ribfest welcomed over 44,000 attendees for a weekend of great food and live music featuring headline sets from Sully Burrows, Nate Haller, and Fefe Dobson.

A sincere thank you goes out to Stouffville Celebrates Presenting Sponsor Hyson Properties, and Series Sponsors Decast and Country Casa Montessori and Daycare. Sponsor support brings these events to life, helping to create shared moments and meaningful experiences across our community.

As we transition into fall and winter, there's even more to look forward to. On October 25th, put on your costume and head to Halloween on Main for treats and family fun. Then, join us on November 21st and 22nd as we kick off the festive season with the award-winning Holiday Market featuring local vendors, food and drink, live entertainment and holiday magic.

Don't miss the Santa Claus Parade on December 6th, as it lights up Main Street with floats, music, and festive flair. We'll then close out the year in style with the Mayor & Council's Levee and New Year's Eve Fireworks on December 31st. For more event information, visit townofws.ca/events

Don't miss your chance to be part of the magic by becoming a sponsor. More than just brand visibility, sponsorships help make meaningful connections with the community. Let your brand shine alongside the joy, excitement, and unforgettable moments that define Stouffville's annual event calendar.

## **Community Events**

## Legion Events

Branch 459 150 Mostar St.

stouffvillelegion.ca



#### 2025 Golf Tournament

Mill Run Golf Club, Highland Course (18 holes) \$100/person – includes golf, cart, prizes and steak dinner (+1 guest for additional charge). Sign up & pay in the Legion clubroom by Aug. 26



#### Fun Bingo

In the clubroom every month at 2 p.m. 18+ years. \$10 for 3 plays, \$20 for 9 plays.

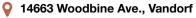


#### Lunch & Learn: Digital and Financial Estate planning

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This free event includes info on cybersecurity, digital estate management, and funeral preplanning. Reserve your seat by emailing rochellestouffvillelegion@rogers.com

### Harmony Hall Events

Top notch entertainment close to home!



Tickets at harmonymusichall.ca



The Lowest of the Low 7:00-11:00 p.m.

John Muirhead 7:00-11:00 p.m.



The Dirty Nil 7:00-11:00 p.m.



## Major addition on Winona Drive coming?

War memorial anniversary and waste collection on council agendas



by Glenn Jackson glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

#### Winona Dr. Place of Worship

At the June 18th Public meeting, Stouffville Council received information regarding a proposed zoning by-law amendment application for 27 Winona Dr. in Stouffville.

The applicant proposes to construct a three-storey place of worship with a gross floor area of approximately 2,294.5 square metres, a building height of 9.2 metres, and a 19-metre minaret. The development includes 53 parking spaces.

The area under consideration is currently zoned as 'Commercial Residential Mixed' in the Community of Stouffville Secondary Plan. The subject property, formerly a car parts retail store, is surrounded by a car wash and residential neighbourhood to the north, and a commercial plaza to the south.

According to the application, several variances from the current zoning standards are requested, including reduced front yard setbacks, increased maximum front yard setback, reduced landscape strip widths, and a significant reduction in required parking.

Concerns were raised, particularly regarding parking shortfalls and traffic impacts. Staff noted the Town's current Official Plan (OP) does not permit places of worship in that location, though the newly adopted plan does. The Province is currently reviewing the new OP before it approves it.

Next steps include collecting feedback, completing the analysis, and preparing a recommendation report for Council. A future Site Plan Control application will also be required.

#### **War Memorial Anniversary**

At the June 4th meeting, Council received an update on the 100th anniversary of the Aurora War Memorial project. The project, a collaborative effort between the Town of Stouffville, the Town of Aurora, and King Township, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Aurora War Memorial this year. Originally



established to honour WWI veterans, the memorial has since expanded to include tributes to WWII, the Korean War, and other service-related sacrifices.

The report highlighted several key initiatives aimed at honouring veterans and enhancing community remembrance efforts, including a unified branding campaign which will introduce a new logo and banners across three municipalities and the establishment of a Veteran Banner Expert Panel to ensure accurate representation, which has resulted in the identification of 57 veterans, including seven newly recognized individuals.

In addition, corrections to the memorial will also be made to ensure proper naming and honours.

The project includes a multi-format exhibition titled *In Their Memory*: The Story of the Aurora Whitchurch King War Memorial, which will feature outdoor, virtual, and travelling displays. A commemorative ceremony is planned for October 3rd, 2025, with efforts to involve descendants of the original memorial organizers.

#### **Downtown Waste Collection**

Earlier this year, Stouffville Council decided that, starting January 1st, 2026, the Town will stop collecting recycling, garbage and green bin waste from various businesses in town.

At the June 18th meeting, a report was presented asking Council to consider options for how waste could be handled in the downtown area moving forward. Council directed staff to come back with a detailed plan and cost estimate for setting up a shared waste drop-off site for the businesses. The plan will include the cost of purchasing collection bins and maintaining the site, with funding to come from the Downtown Special Tax Levy. 🛭

## COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

**Upcoming Council Meetings:** Wednesday, September 3rd - 1 PM

Next Public Meeting (if required): Wednesday, September 3rd – 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 Subscribe to the monthly newsletter: townofws.ca/councilnews

# **国talk** of the town

Stay connected on our social channels: (f) @TownofStouffville @ @TownofStouffville & @townofws





#### Help Shape the 2026 **Budget**

Municipal budgets impact every part of daily life—from roads and parks to events and essential services. As we plan for 2026, we want to hear from you. Your input helps guide decisions that matter.

▶ townofws.ca/budget



#### We're Hiring

Be part of a team that makes a difference in your community. Explore current opportunities.

**townofws.ca**/careers



#### Support Local. Support Loc Strengthen Stouffville.

When you shop local, you help your community thrive in visible, lasting ways. Keeping your dollars in Stouffville supports neighbours, entrepreneurs, and future growth.

**★ discoverstouffville.ca**/shoplocal



#### **Test Your Smoke Alarm Day**

#### Sept. 28th

Join the province-wide movement for a fire-safe Ontario! Snap a photo while testing your smoke alarms and share on social media with #SavedByTheBeep. Get educated on all things smoke alarm safety on our website.

townofws.ca/fire

#### RECREATION



## Youth Advisory Working Group

Are you in Grades 7-12 and passionate about making a difference? Apply to join Stouffville's Youth Advisory Working Group and help shape the future of your town. Gain leadership experience and contribute to youth-focused projects. Applications open early fall.

**▶ townofws.ca**/YAWG



#### Fall Program Registration

Keep the family active and engaged this season. Registration for Fall recreation programs opens:

Aug. 19th at 12 PM (Residents)

**townofws.ca**/active

#### 19 ON THE PARK THEATRE



## Celebrate Culture Days at the **Stouffville Market!**

Sept. 20th. 9 AM - 2 PM Stop by our booth at the Stouffville Market (6240 Main St.). Enjoy live music, face painting, and spin-to-win prizes!



## Venue Rentals

Looking for a unique space? 19 on the Park offers a heritage venue for weddings, meetings, and special events complete with technical equipment.

townofws.ca/19onthepark

#### MUSEUM



## PA Day Camp: Hungry Heroes

Sept. 26th, 9 AM - 4 PM • Ages 6-12 Superhero-themed cooking camp focused on fun, food, and kitchen safety.

townofws.ca/museumcamps

#### FALL WORKSHOPS

#### In Recognition of **Truth and Reconciliation**

#### What is Reconciliation & Where Do I Fit In?

Sept. 16th, 6 - 8 PM | Stouffville Library Ages 16+ | Register on Eventbrite

#### **Indigenous Oral Traditions**

**Sept. 24th, 6 - 8 PM** | 19 on the Park Ages 16+ | Register on Eventbrite

#### EXHIBITS —

#### Worthy: The History of the Royal Canadian **Armoured Corps**

Jun. 28th - Mar. 27th, 2026

Presented by the Canadian Tank Museum, this exhibit explores the legacy of the RCAC and its founder, Major-General F.F. Worthington.

#### Fighting in Flanders -Gas. Mud. Memory.

Aug. 2nd - Dec. 20th

On loan from the Canadian War Museum, this exhibit tells the story of Canadian soldiers in Belgium during

townofws.ca/museum



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