

On the Road

OCTOBER 2026 NO. 97

A STOUFFVILLE MAGAZINE

Lucky Goes to Hollywood

From Stouffville to the red carpet, author Marissa Stapley celebrates a new milestone as her bestselling novel *Lucky* becomes an Apple TV series.

 Stouffville

Simeon Park

Stouffville's new 95-acre park to open next year

Historic Reunion

Schürch family celebrates 225 years of local history

Studio Tour

Popular art show and sale back for another year

BRUCE'S AUTO SERVICE

- Oil Changes
- Seasonal Tire Switch
- Tire Repair & Sales
- Wheel Balance & Rotation
- Wheel Alignment
- Free Brake Inspection
- Brake Replacement
- Air Conditioner Repair
- Steering & Suspension
- Exhaust System Repair
- Starter & Alternator
- Batteries
- Scheduled Maintenance
- Free Local Shuttle

905.640.7098

458 Service Road
brucesauto.ca



AUTOPRO



Protecting them is the decision of a lifetime

That's why I'm here to help find a life insurance policy that's tailored to your family's unique needs.

Let's get started – get in touch today.



Jaymee MacKenzie, Agent
6336 Main St
Stouffville, ON
905-642-4546
jaymeemackenzie.ca



1921000

Desjardins®, Desjardins Insurance®, all trademarks containing the word Desjardins, as well as related logos are trademarks of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, used under licence.



WelcomeHome Care

PROVIDING NON-MEDICAL PERSONALIZED SERVICES
FOR SENIORS IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME
NURSING HOME OR HOSPITAL

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY FOR OVER 10 YEARS
7 DAYS A WEEK - 24 HOURS A DAY - 365 DAYS A YEAR

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Bathing & Grooming
- Oral Hygiene
- Mobility Assistance
- Transferring & Positioning
- Feeding & Special Diet
- Meal Prep & Cleanup
- Incontinence Care
- Light Housekeeping
- Medication Reminders
- Laundry & Linen
- Transportation & Errands
- Conversation & Friendship
- ...and more

CALL US TODAY:
905.640.2950

FOR YOUR FREE ASSESSMENT

info@welcomhomecare.ca

www.welcomhomecare.ca



Contents

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 SIMEON PARK | 17 AFFORDABLE RENTAL GRANTS |
| 4 DR. BRIAN LAING | 18 STUDIO TOUR |
| 4 BUSINESS OPENINGS | 21 THE SCOOP WITH SUE |
| 6 SCHÜRCH FAMILY | 22 CAFÉ EXTRA ORDINAIRE |
| 8 THE OLD POST OFFICE | 25 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION |
| 11 SPORTSTOWN | 25 DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT |
| 12 MARISSA STAPLEY | 26 COUNCIL CORNERS |
| 17 STOUFFVILLE VOTES | 27 TALK OF THE TOWN |

From the Editor

Welcome to the October issue of *On The Road*, the season of brilliant leaves, crisp mornings, and freshly carved pumpkins.

If you picked up last month's issue, you may have enjoyed Cassandra Papas' feature on authors with ties to Stouffville. But there was one notable name missing, and that was no accident.

This month, we're shining the spotlight on Marissa Stapley, daughter of *OTR* columnist Bruce Stapley. Marissa's literary career has taken her all the way to Hollywood, where her bestselling novel *Lucky* has been adapted into an Apple TV series starring Anya Taylor-Joy and Annette Bening. On page 12, Bruce sits down with his daughter to talk about her journey from novelist to screen adaptation success.

And that's not the only big story this month. Did you hear that Stouffville is getting a new 95-acre park? Details are on the page to the right!

Wishing you a wonderful autumn.

Glenn Jackson, Editor-in-Chief

glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

On The Road Team

Editor-in-Chief

Glenn Jackson

Graphic Design

Kira Hassard
Meagan Secord

Advertising

Bruce Stapley
otr.ads@townofws.ca

Columnists

Glenn Jackson
Jim Mason
Bruce Stapley
Susan Tucker

Cover Photography

Sarah Amelia

Staff Writers

Cassandra Papas
Michaela Ray
Adriana Barbary
Ruby Vasanthan
Hazel Pang
Glenn Jackson

Follow Us



@townofstouffville
@stouffvilleplay



@townofstouffville
@stouffvilleplay



@townofstouffville



otrmagazine.ca

Under the Willows: Inside Stouffville's New 95-Acre Park

— by Cassandra Papas —



Above: Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt and Magna International Manager of Global Corporate Responsibility and Community Relations Erin Cerenzia at Simeon Park

The first thing I noticed when I pulled into Simeon Park was the willow trees. They appear throughout the property, their long branches creating pockets of shade and giving the park an established character. It is easy to imagine families settling in for an afternoon picnic, children exploring nearby and residents finding their own favourite corner of the park.

That sense of possibility continues across the property.

Located on Woodbine Avenue north of Bethesda Road, Simeon Park spans approximately 95 acres and includes an outdoor pool, picnic areas, a playground, beach volleyball court, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and of course, Simeon Lake. Its natural areas also offer potential for hiking, snowshoeing and other year-round outdoor activities.

For decades, Magna International has owned and operated Simeon Park as a private space where employees and their families could gather, recharge and enjoy recreational activities. Magna is now donating the property and its facilities to the Town of Stouffville at no cost, with the

transfer of ownership expected to have been completed by the end of September.

"Magna's donation of Simeon Park represents an extraordinary investment in the future of our community, protecting a remarkable piece of green space and ensuring it can be enjoyed by Stouffville residents for generations to come," said Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt. "The outdoor pool is a particularly welcome addition following the closure of the Town's former outdoor pool. While we know assessments and work will be required before it can welcome swimmers, we are excited by the opportunity to bring outdoor swimming back to the community as part of Simeon Park's future."

The donation begins an exciting new chapter for the property, but transforming a large, privately operated park into a public community space will require thoughtful planning.

Many of the amenities have served Magna employees for years. Some, including the courts, will require care and rehabilitation, while the condition and future needs of others are still to be

determined. Over the coming months, the Town will undertake the studies, inspections and analysis needed to fully understand the property and its existing facilities.

That work will help identify any repairs or improvements required and allow the Town to consider safety, accessibility, maintenance, staffing and future programming. It will also provide a clearer picture of how each part of the park can contribute to the overall experience.

"The donation of Simeon Park adds an exceptional outdoor recreation destination to our community," said Rob Braid, Commissioner of Community Services. "Over the coming months, our team will evaluate the property, its amenities, and our maintenance and staffing needs, as we prepare to welcome residents."

The park is expected to open to the public in summer 2027. Additional information about its amenities, programming and opening plans will be shared as the Town's assessment progresses.

There is work ahead, but also a great deal to build on. From the sports fields and pool to the lake, natural areas and willow trees, Simeon Park already holds the ingredients for something special. The coming months will be about understanding those assets and creating a plan that allows residents to enjoy them safely and responsibly.

For now, it is easy to picture what may come next: families gathering beneath the willows, friends meeting for a walk and new traditions beginning across 95 acres that will soon belong to the community. 🌿



Stouffville Celebrates Dr. Brian Laing's Retirement

After 42 Years of Veterinary Care

by Adriana Barbary

After more than four decades of caring for the pets and families of Stouffville, Dr. Brian Laing has retired, closing up a remarkable chapter in the community's history.



Dr. Brian Laing opened Town & Country Animal Hospital in Ringwood over 40 years ago, and in the time since, he became far more than a veterinarian. He was a trusted presence for generations of local families, many of whom brought pet after pet, and even grew up bringing their own children's pets, through his doors.

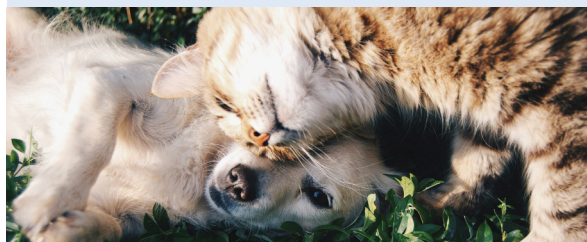
The community turned out to mark the occasion, with members stopping by to share their well wishes in person, and those unable to attend calling in or dropping off cards instead. Dr. Brian Laing himself gave a heartfelt speech, a fitting close to a career built on genuine connection.

Town & Country Animal Hospital remains in familiar hands, guided by the same values and team Dr. Brian Laing built over more than four decades.

Congratulations, Dr. Brian Laing, on an incredible career. Thank you for 42 years of compassion, expertise, and community. 🐾

"It's been hard to say goodbye to a profession that has been like an old trusted loyal companion."

- DR. BRIAN LAING



BUSINESS OPENINGS

What's New in the Village this Fall

by Madison Kennedy



KIBO Sushi

6140 Main St. | kibosushi.com

KIBO Sushi, located at 6140 Main St., brings fresh Japanese flavours to the heart of Stouffville. Offering a variety of sushi, rolls, grab and go trays, and Japanese favourites. The restaurant also features a ramen bar and grocery section, where customers can shop for specialty foods and ingredients. If you're craving fresh sushi, a comforting bowl of ramen, or looking to pick up something to enjoy at home, KIBO has something for you!



Kumon Math and Reading

20 Freel Ln. Unit 8 & 9 | kumon.com

Kumon Math and Reading, located at 20 Freel Ln., Units 8 & 9, is a family-focused learning center helping children build confidence and strengthen their math and reading skills. Through personalized, self-paced learning, Kumon supports students in developing strong academic foundations and independent learning skills.



Lou & Co Boutique

6391 Main St. | louandcoboutique.ca

Lou & Co. Boutique is a chic women's clothing boutique bringing fresh style to The Village of Stouffville. Located at 6391 Main St., the boutique offers a stylish shopping experience with a curated selection of women's fashion and accessories. With its modern, feminine feel, Lou & Co. is an exciting new addition to Main St. and another great reason to shop local in the Village.



Clock Tower Grill

6302 Main St. | clocktowergrill.ca

Clock Tower Grill is a new addition to The Village of Stouffville, located at 6302 Main St. Offering all-day breakfast, burgers, sandwiches, pasta, steaks and other classic dishes, the restaurant provides a casual and welcoming dining option. With meals cooked to order and doors opening daily at 7AM, Clock Tower Grill brings a fresh new dining experience to the heart of Main St.



J'adore Intimates

6316 Main St. | jadoreintimates.com

J'adore Intimates, located at 6316 Main St., is a specialty intimate apparel boutique offering professional bra fittings and a curated selection of lingerie, bathing suits and intimates. With a focus on comfort, confidence, and finding the right fit, the boutique provides personalized service in a welcoming environment.

Stouffville Optometry

New
Patients
Welcome

Dr. Lucy Huang
Dr. Melanie de Jesus
Dr. Anthony Soluri
Dr. Martin McDowell
Dr. Lorenzo Taurasi

905-642-3937
6085 Main St.

www.stouffvilleoptometry.com

Support our annual eyecare project in West Africa, where
Dr. McDowell continues to provide care for communities in need.

Your support directly helps deliver essential
eye services, medicine and surgery.

Please scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more



Authorized dealer

BORLAK LAW

GET THE RIGHT LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE CLOSE TO HOME



**CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL
WILLS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY & TRUSTS
ESTATE ADMINISTRATION
REAL ESTATE**



6372 MAIN STREET, STOUFFVILLE // 905-642-6661 // www.borlak.ca

Well Compounding Pharmacy

Monday - Friday 9 am - 7 pm Saturday 10 am - 3 pm Sunday - closed

WE ACCEPT ALL INSURANCE PLANS & TRANSFER ALL PRESCRIPTIONS EASILY

Walk in clinic and family physician:

Monday: 2 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am - 1 pm

Clinic: 905-591-5454

Products & Services:

- Compounding Services
- Blister Packs
- Vitamins & Supplements
- Pain Relief
- Digestion, Nausea, and Probiotics
- Personal Hygiene
- Home Health Care & First Aid

5 - 5402 MAIN ST. STOUFFVILLE

PHONE: (905) 591-5402

FAX: (905) 591-5403

15% Seniors
Discount

Parking available on site & **FREE local delivery***

*on prescription orders

Routes to Roots:

A Family Reunion Over 200 Years in the Making

by Michaela Ray

For most people, moving to a new town means learning the streets, finding your favourite coffee shop and slowly figuring out who's who. For Rick Evans, moving to Stouffville in 1985 was a little different. He just didn't know it yet.

It wasn't until more than 20 years later, while researching his family's genealogy, that Rick discovered his own family had deep roots in the community he had chosen to call home.

"I just felt this immediate connection to Stouffville," he says. "When I discovered this, it was just like, 'Oh my goodness, I've come home.'"

That discovery made the 22nd biennial Schürch Family Association Reunion, held in Stouffville on July 24th and 25th, 2026, particularly meaningful. More than 75 descendants gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion from across Canada, the United States and Switzerland, following different routes to reconnect with the same roots.

The theme, "Routes to Roots", was fitting.

The Schürch name has more than 50 spellings, including Shirk, Sherk and Sherick. The family story stretches from Switzerland to Pennsylvania and eventually to Ontario.

Among those who came north was Casper Sherick, who arrived in the Markham area in 1804 with his wife, Esther, their five children and a group of other Pennsylvania German families.

Rick didn't know any of this when he moved to Stouffville.

"I always assumed my grandmother was adopted," he explains. "As I researched more, a distant cousin connected me with the Schürch Association and opened my eyes to a lot of things."

Eventually, Rick learned that his grandmother's great-great grandfather was Casper Sherick.

And Casper's story is written into the landscape around Stouffville.

After arriving in Ontario, Casper settled closer to Gormley than present-day Stouffville. Between 1826 and 1829, he built a lumber mill on Lot 34,

"Living here means so much more knowing the Shirk roots."

- RICK EVANS

Concession 5, followed by a grist mill using lumber from the first mill. The mill later became associated with the Bruce brothers and is now part of Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.

For Rick, discovering that connection changed familiar places into pieces of his own family history.

"I used to take my kids swimming there," he says of Bruce's Mill. "To think that my great-great-great-great-grandfather may have been connected to that place is pretty amazing."

That sense of connection was at the heart of this year's reunion.

The gathering is held every two years, alternating between Canada and the United States. When it returned to

Canada in 2026, Rick advocated for Stouffville.

"It's pretty special to have it in Stouffville specifically," he says. "And special for me because I've lived here for 40-plus years now."

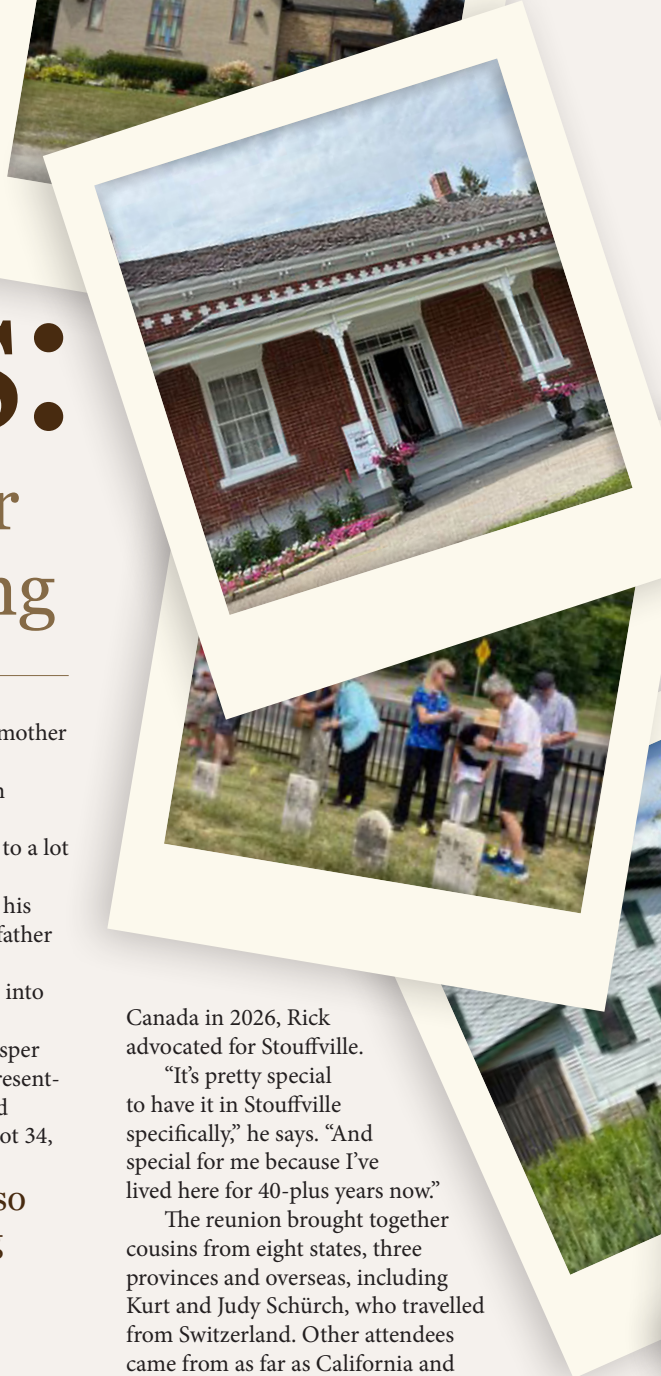
The reunion brought together cousins from eight states, three provinces and overseas, including Kurt and Judy Schürch, who travelled from Switzerland. Other attendees came from as far as California and British Columbia.

And there was plenty to reconnect with.

The first day included presentations on local history, genealogy, and the family's journey from Europe to North America. One of the most memorable moments, however, happened outside the Legion when a Conestoga wagon arrived.

David and Lorne Smith of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society brought the wagon to Stouffville, giving attendees a glimpse of how their ancestors travelled.

"When David Smith pulled in with the Conestoga wagon, I almost started crying," Rick says. "It was uncertain



whether or not we were going to be able to get the wagon.”

The significance wasn't lost on the group. These early settlers were leaving everything familiar behind.

Casper and his family made the journey with five children, including an infant. Their belongings would have been packed into a wagon pulled by horses, with the journey taking weeks or even months through difficult terrain.

The reunion's second day brought those stories to life even more directly during a bus tour of the surrounding area.

The group first visited the Altona Meeting House, where caretaker Graham Fretz shared its history and the story of the early Anabaptist community.

From there, the bus continued to Bruce's Mill, where the group could stand in the area where Casper's mill once operated,

before travelling to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum to explore the one-room schoolhouse, log cabin and other reminders of early life in the area.

The tour ended at Heise Hill Cemetery, a particularly significant stop for the Shirk descendants. Casper is buried there, along with several generations of his descendants. His daughter Elizabeth married Adam Wideman, meaning the cemetery is also home to numerous Wideman descendants connected to the family.

As cemetery manager, Rick added a bit of fun to the reunion with a “find a grave” challenge. He placed numbered yellow flags at the gravesites of Shirk descendants and asked attendees to match names to markers.

“People were running around looking at names and matching up the numbers,” he says. “Within seven minutes, the first person returned with a completed sheet.”

For Rick, cemeteries are more than historical puzzles.

“It really does speak to knowing your place and having roots,” he says.

That idea of roots goes beyond one family.

Their communities were built around cooperation and shared responsibility. Rick points to the tradition of barn raising as one example.

“When your neighbour needs help, we go and help them,” he says. “Somebody's barn burned, so we've got to raise another barn.”

For him, those stories are worth preserving because today, they offer perspective.

“We don't want to live in the past,” he says. “We have to live in the present. But I think it's important to recognize our past.”

That may be the most important role of a family reunion like this one.

The Schürch Association has been gathering since 1982, but participation has changed over the years. This year's reunion welcomed about 75 people, while the 1988 gathering in the Markham area drew more than 300.

As older generations pass away, Rick believes it becomes increasingly important for younger family members to ask questions and listen to

the stories while they still can.

“If we don't ask those questions, they get lost when family members pass on,” he says.

He has three granddaughters of his own and wants them to know more than just names and dates on a family tree. He wants them to understand the people behind them.

And perhaps that is what makes “Routes to Roots” such an appropriate theme. The reunion was about tracing the routes people took to get here, but it was also about understanding what those journeys created along the way.

The 2026 reunion offered a chance

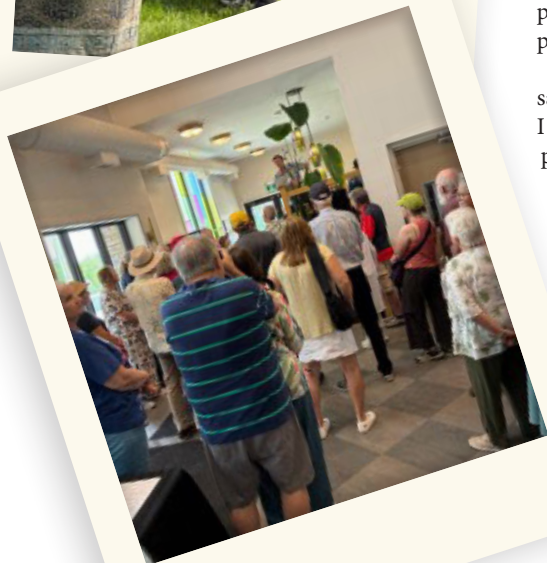
“To think that my great-great-great-great-grandfather may have been connected to that place is pretty amazing.”

- RICK EVANS

for 75-plus cousins to walk the land, hear the stories, visit the graves, and see the places where their ancestors helped build a community.

And for Rick, it was a chance to experience home in a way he never expected.

“Living here means so much more knowing the Shirk roots.” 📌



100-Year-Old Building at Main and Market Sts. Served as Town's Post Office for Half a Century

by Trevor Alkema



Downtown Stouffville's old post office at Main St. and Market St. as seen in 1927.

The first post office in the community opened in 1832 in the shop of Ben and John Boyer, with Charles Sheldon serving as postmaster. This office was officially named "Stouffville," bringing the name into formal use for the settlement. In 1835, William Doyle succeeded Sheldon as postmaster. Doyle was an active member of the Reform Movement under William Lyon Mackenzie and even appeared as a member of the Provisional Government on Navy Island following Mackenzie's failed 1837 Rebellion, although he likely never made it there in person. Because of Doyle's involvement, he was removed from his post, and the post office remained closed from 1838 to 1841.

From its establishment in 1832 until 1926, the post office operated out of various local general stores. The building described here became the first purpose-built post office in Stouffville. It was designed by Richard Cotsman Wright, Chief Architect of the federal Department of Public Works, along with his staff. The construction tender was awarded to Stuart Brothers Ltd. of Hamilton, as no local contractors had the resources required at the time. The firm was well qualified, having completed several other major projects in Hamilton, including the Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Salvation Army Hall, and an addition to Livingston United Church. Construction took place from fall 1925 to late spring 1926.

The *Stouffville Tribune* offered a detailed description of the new post office's design:

"The building will be a very attractive one, to be constructed of rug texture or tapestry brick. The outside dimensions are given as 37 × 40 feet, two stories high with basement extra. Instead of a door on either side at the front of the building, as many of the offices are now built, there will be one pair of centre doors, reached by a rise of four steps from the

sidewalk. On either side of the entrance, two pillars will be constructed, each containing electric lights. The building will contain a full-size basement, while the business of the post office will be transacted on the main floor, which will be equipped with facilities for handling mail with the quickest dispatch. The upper floor provides accommodation as a dwelling for the caretaker, and the entire building will have steam heating. All water conveniences will be installed on each floor."

Before the post office was built, the site had been home to one of Stouffville's three mills. During excavation, workers uncovered an old shallow mill race from the sawmill that operated there in the 1870s. A race channels water from a millpond to drive a waterwheel or turbine, and this one was discovered in excellent condition roughly ten feet below the sidewalk. Foundations for the new post office require digging an additional two to three feet deeper.

Following the mill, the site was occupied by Daley's Hall, built in 1889. The hall served as a market building and skating rink until it burned down in 1923, leaving the centrally located Main Street lot available for the new post office.

Although the Stouffville Board of Trade petitioned for a clock tower, one was never added. Construction was already underway, and the federal Department of Public Works was moving

away from the clock-tower style, seen in similar era post offices in places such as Uxbridge, Cannington, Port Perry, and Whitby, in favour of simpler, more economical designs resembling branch banks. The foundation for the building was completed on Saturday, October 31, 1925, and brickwork began the following week.

The new post office opened to the public on Monday evening, June 28, 1926, receiving the evening mail. Robert Miller was the first resident to collect his mail from the new building. No formal opening ceremony was held, as no Member of Parliament, including the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, could be convinced to attend.

The building contained 400 lockboxes. Of these, 297 were available at \$1 per year, while the larger boxes cost between \$2 and \$3 annually. The boxes were installed along the western wall, and the steel lockboxes and office fittings were supplied by the Office Specialty Company of Newmarket.

On July 30, 1926, eight applicants were interviewed for the position of postmaster by Post Office Inspector W. R. Ecclestone. Questions focused on their occupations, availability, and general qualifications. Preference was given to veterans of the Great War, and three applicants met that criterion. The successful candidate was Eugene Leavens, a veteran of the American Army and the son of Milton and Allie Leavens, local grocers. He replaced Mrs. Rae, who had temporarily filled the role after the death of her husband, James Rae, the previous postmaster.

This building served as Stouffville's post office for 48 years, until operations moved to the current location in 1974. 📧

A New Chapter Begins

As of 2026, 100 years after its original construction, the Post Office has changed ownership to the owners of the restaurant Watercolour of Unionville.

FALL DANCE

York Dance Academy

- Acro
- Ballet
- Jazz
- Tap
- Lyrical
- Musical Theatre
- Contemporary
- Early Childhood Dance (ages 3-5)

private lessons
and adult
programming
available!

(905) 640-6082
info@yorkdance.com
www.yorkdance.com



it's not too late to sign up!



MCC
CARE & SHARE
THRIFT SHOP

Your closet called...

It's ready to let go!



33 Ringwood Dr,
Stouffville

Make room for what
matters most and
donate to MCC Thrift.

THE STOUFFVILLE MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY

9AM - 2PM

VENDORS  MUSIC  GREAT FOOD 

9AM - 2PM

6240 MAIN ST.

MAY 9 - OCTOBER 17



BUICKSKARATE.COM

Since 1973

905-832-0112



Time for less screen time
and more
energetic, physical & fun time!

Classes for all ages!

Right in the heart of Stouffville!



Over
50 YEARS
Teaching
Martial Arts
And Changing Lives!

Look at our website for monthly specials!



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

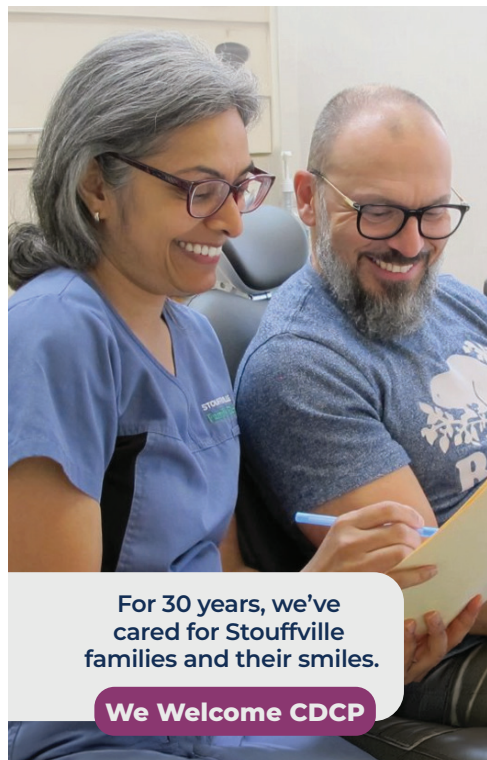
CHRIST CHURCH STOUFFVILLE GOLF TOURNAMENT
HELD AT ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB SEPTEMBER 26



O'Neill
Funeral Home
by Arbor Memorial



We gratefully acknowledge the businesses whose support made this event possible.



For 30 years, we've
cared for Stouffville
families and their smiles.

We Welcome CDCP

How Oral Health Affects Heart and Brain Health



Harmful bacteria
and inflammation
from gum disease
can enter the
bloodstream.



This can contribute to
inflammation in the
blood vessels and
may increase the risk
of heart disease.



Poor oral health has
been linked to a
higher risk of stroke
and cognitive
decline in recent
research.

Protect your Mouth, Heart and Brain



Brush
twice
a day



Floss
daily



See a
dentist
regularly



stouffville
FAMILY DENTISTRY



905-642-7474



stouffvillefamilydentistry.ca



6212 Main Street, Suite 206 - Just east of the GO Station

New Wave: Stouffville Residents Part of Jr. A Spirit's Youth Movement

11 players off last season's record-setting roster now with university, OHL, QMJHL, and pro hockey teams



Stouffville's own Justin Sekulovski (left) and Ronan Quinn are rookie forwards on this season's Stouffville Spirit Jr. A hockey team.



by Jim Mason
jim.mason905@gmail.com

Talk about flipping a script.

Fresh off the best regular season in its 31-year history; the Stouffville Spirit has gone young.

Last year's team went 40-14-2-0, was ranked in the national top 10 much of the year and went two rounds deep in the playoffs.

Eight players on that team aged out of junior eligibility (20 years old). This year, three of them are playing at Canadian universities, and another three are at NCAA Division 3 schools in the U.S. Tayjon Street turned pro at Danbury, Connecticut in the Federal League.

Another four players off last year's roster were expected to start this season one level up, on Ontario Hockey League or Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League teams. Three others moved to Jr. B or C squads.

That left the door wide open for newcomers when the Spirit opened

training camp in mid-August.

When the puck dropped on the Ontario Junior Hockey League season last month, the Spirit had only two 20-year-olds – ex OHL/QMJHLer Daniel Chen (Brantford Bulldogs, Charlottetown Islanders) and goaltender Calem Yorke – on the roster. Griffen Boyle and Rowan Smith were the only other returnees.

Two Stouffville residents made the Spirit as rookies:

Ronan Quinn, 16, is a 6-foot-2, 195-pound forward who was a third-round pick of the Sudbury Wolves, the Spirit's OHL affiliate, in this year's OHL draft. He played AAA for the Markham Majors in the GTHL.

Justin Sekulovski, 17, was a 15th-round pick of the Owen Sound Attack in 2025. The forward played for the Vaughan Kings AAA U18 squad last year.

The Spirit roster is dotted with players from across Ontario, from Sudbury and North Bay to Ottawa and London.

An OJHL-best 20 Spirit players were at OHL or QMJHL training camps last month, a testament to the talent level.

Spirit General Manager/Governor Kenny Burrows and Chief Scout Greg Buchanan say they're more than happy with this year's crop of recruits.

The Spirit has five home games in October at the Stouffville Arena. The regular season schedule, which opened September 10th, runs through February 27th.

ATN Adds Synthetic Ice Rink in Bigger Hockey Home

You know you're in a hockey town when...

Around The Net (ATN) hockey unveiled a massive addition to its new training facility on Sandiford Road last month.

The business, operated by ex-pro Scott Howes and his wife Katie, remains in the same west Stouffville industrial park it first opened three years ago.

The new digs feature: Two skating treadmills (up from one), a 1,200-square-foot synthetic ice rink, and a pro shop at 3,300 square feet.

"We had outgrown our previous space and wanted to create a more complete hockey training facility that could better accommodate individual players, small groups and full team training," Scott and Katie said in a statement. "Our goal is to continue growing ATN as a go-to resource for hockey development in Stouffville and beyond, while staying true to our approach of individualized coaching, high repetition and proper correction."

Up to four coaches can train players at the same time in the new facility. ATN's summer on-ice camps at area arenas employed six staff members.

For more information, go to aroundthenethockey.ca

Stouffville Boys at U.S. Colleges, Coach Headed to Hall of Fame

Stouffville's **Evan Breckles** (Concordia, Wisconsin) and **Kyle Baston** (Elmira) are on the list of graduates from last year's Stouffville Spirit team now at U.S. colleges... Congrats to former Stouffville resident **Glenn Clark** on being named to the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame's Class of 2026. The head coach and general manager of the Oshawa FireWolves of the National Lacrosse League, Clark is a three-time Mann Cup Canadian senior champion and five-time NLL Champion with the Toronto Rock.

LUCKY GOES TO *Hollywood*

by Bruce Stapley

Author Marissa Stapley's Career Shifts to
High Gear with Airing of Apple TV Series



While most people can only dream of being paraded down the red carpet in Hollywood, my daughter Marissa got to live the experience in full living colour this past summer, leaving her with a sense of awe and gratitude.

Marissa broke down in tears when her agent and editor sat her down in August of 2021, opened up a bottle of champagne and proceeded to tell her that her fourth novel, *Lucky*, was to be that December's pick for Reese Witherspoon's book club. It was the first time a book by a Canadian author had been selected for the book club, which boasts over six million online members, resulting in a spike in book sales both in Canada and internationally, and a spot on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Witherspoon, the Academy Award winning actress and founder and primary owner/board member of the prominent film and television production studio Hello Sunshine, had suggested from the beginning that the book could make a great TV series. Five years later, thanks to Witherspoon's initiative, *Lucky* became one of the top trending mini-series on Apple TV when it debuted in July this year. With a star studded cast including Anya Taylor-Joy, Annette Bening,

Timothy Olyphant, Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, and Drew Starkey, it is the story of a young woman who tries to escape her past criminal life but must use her con artist prowess one last time when a heist goes awry.

Since the Reese's Book Club selection, Marissa has been flown to Los Angeles on five occasions for matters pertaining to the book, and more recently the TV series. She was accompanied by her husband and their two teenaged offspring on a visit to the set in May of 2025, where they got to see a day of *Lucky* being filmed. The family returned this past July for the World Premiere event for *Lucky* which saw Marissa walking the red carpet alongside the stars and other key figures involved in the production of the series. She was also invited to New York for a *Lucky* Premiere event.

Getting to know Witherspoon has been a revelation for Marissa in terms of the actress/entrepreneur's authenticity, as well as her largesse towards creative females in Hollywood. "Almost immediately when we met in person I realized she is a very real and genuine person," said Marissa. "Of course, there is this aura about her that comes with all her fame but she's trying to use the influence she has with Hello Sunshine to champion female centered stories and directors. This is so important in Hollywood, where I think there is still a low percentage of not just female centered, but female directed stories." She noted the *Lucky* series boasts a high number of female directors.

Marissa also had praise for the members of the *Lucky* cast, who showed genuine respect for her and her children upon meeting them on the set and at the Premiere celebration in Los Angeles. "Anya (Taylor-Joy) walked up to my family and started talking to my children. 'Look what your mom did!' she said to them. She then told me what lovely kids they were. I don't think they will ever forget the way she was with them. It was very telling in terms of her true character."

The countless workers on the set expressed their appreciation to Marissa for providing them with the opportunity to work on the series. "That was most



Marissa with Reese Witherspoon in Los Angeles celebrating *Lucky* being chosen as the December 2021 pick for Reese's Book Club.

rewarding for me," she acknowledged.

Marissa accepts the fact that the *Lucky* TV series strayed somewhat away from the book in its plot line. "But I feel strongly that the characters have remained true, and I really did give my blessing to the way the series was done," she said. "I don't like watching an adaptation that is completely faithful to the book because it's so boring, you know exactly what's going to happen. I want people to read the book and watch the TV series, so they get the full experience of who the characters are and where they came from. It's a multimedia experience."

"Mom got to read the final draft before she died. The book is dedicated to her. She taught me to be brave and resilient."

- MARISSA STAPLEY

For Marissa, just writing *Lucky* in the first place is something she will always attribute to her late mother Valerie, who died of cancer in 2020. Marissa wanted to put her writing career on hold so she could spend time with her ailing mom, but her mother would have no part of it. "Mom insisted I find something to write, and suddenly *Lucky* came to me," recalls Marissa, who wrote much of the book while visiting and helping care for her mother. "Mom got to read the final draft before she died," said Marissa. "The book is dedicated to her. She taught me to be brave and resilient."

While Marissa's career has flourished these past few years, leaving her in awe





Marissa on the red carpet at the *Lucky* world premiere in Los Angeles this past July.

as she befriended Reese Witherspoon and walked the red carpet with the star-studded cast of the *Lucky* TV series in Hollywood, she can still recall how it looked like she might never get to become a published author. “I wrote a novel that Key Porter Books purchased in 2010, but the publisher declared bankruptcy mere months before the book was to be released,” she remembers. When efforts to shop the book to other publishers met with no success, she wrote another novel. “Getting published had become my sole ambition; it was all that mattered. But when no offers came in, I gave up. I stopped writing fiction and focused on my freelance writing career, eventually taking a job as editor of a beauty magazine.”

However, she couldn’t deny the creative spark that lay within her for long. Eventually she began writing short stories in her spare time. “I wasn’t writing for anyone else, just for me. I eventually showed the stories to my agent who said “These are good. I think you have a book here.” And thus, was born Marissa’s debut novel *Mating for Life*, which became a Canadian best seller shortly after being published in 2014.

Things To Do When It’s Raining followed in 2018, with *The Last Resort* being released the following year. *Lucky* was published three years later. Her most recent novel, *The Lightning Bottles*, came out in 2024. All five books have been international best sellers. In between her novels she has written or co-written half a

dozen romantic comedies under pen names.

Through all her successes as an author, Marissa hasn’t forgotten her roots. Born and raised in Stouffville, she attended Stouffville District Secondary School and did her high school co-op placement at the *Stouffville Tribune*, where she also penned a few sports columns for her dad when he was on vacation. “That’s where I learned how to find stories,” she says. “The sports writing came in handy when I served my internship writing sports for the *Toronto Sun* upon graduating from Ryerson (now Toronto Metropolitan University) with my journalism degree. I was never into playing sports, but I was always interested in them as my brothers, my dad, my husband and my son are all big on sports.”

An avid reader in her early teens, Marissa recalls spending much of her time poring over books in John Lord’s Book Store, a fixture in Downtown Stouffville back then. “I would save up and be so excited to go in and buy a *Sweet Valley High* book or whatever,” she said. “I remember that new book smell in there and how John knew me as a regular patron.”

Although Marissa currently resides in Toronto’s High Park neighbourhood, she still finds herself drawn to this area by Uxbridge’s Blue Heron Books. She has been a guest author at various events held by the store’s owner Shelley Macbeth and the Blue Heron team through the years in support of Canadian authors. The most notable of these is the annual multi-week literary celebration known as the Book Drunkard Festival held each fall at locations including the Uxbridge Music Hall and Wooden Sticks Golf Club. “They have been some of my biggest supporters and cheer leaders” says Marissa. “What they and other independent book sellers do by creating these really vibrant communities surrounding their stores is no small feat. I know how hard they work at that.”

Marissa, who attributes her flair for writing to her paternal grandparents and great grandfather, wasn’t the first family member to write a best-selling book. Her grandfather, Ray Stapley, was an automotive writer and syndicated columnist and features writer for the

Toronto Star from the 1960s through the 1980s. His book, *The Car Owners Handbook*, was a Canadian best seller in the early 1970s.

Her grandmother Margaret Stapley was an accomplished free-lance writer whose human-interest stories were regularly published in the major Toronto daily newspapers as well as various well-known magazines in the 1950s and 60’s. The pen names Marissa has used for her romantic comedy books - Maggie Knox and Julia McKay - were derived from her grandmother’s nickname Maggie and middle name, McKay. Marissa’s paternal grandfather Donald McLeod had several short stories published in Toronto newspapers in the 1940s and 50s.

While Marissa is still on a high in the aftermath of all that has come her way as a result of *Lucky*’s success in print and its adaptation as a TV series, she is looking ahead to what she hopes will be continuing success and fulfillment. Her latest romantic comedy, *Something About September*, was published in September. She has written a sequel to *Lucky* called *No Such Thing as Lucky*, which is to be published in 2027. “I could write novels about *Lucky* for the rest of my life,” she says. The holiday rom-com *Three Holidays and a Wedding*, co-written with Uzma Jalaluddin and published in 2023, has been optioned by Netflix. There are irons in the fire involving several possible series based on her other novels as well.

Back on the home front, Marissa hopes to get some down time this fall following what has been the busiest few years of her career. But she says it will take some adjusting to the fact that both her children are now enrolled at out-of-town universities. “It seems like it was only yesterday I was waking up at six o’clock in the morning to get some writing in before starting my mothering duties for the day” 📖



Marissa and her father Bruce having a coffee in downtown Stouffville.

TRENTADUE TORRES GROUP

REMAX HALLMARK REALTY LTD. | BROKERAGE, INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



#1 TEAM IN STOUFFVILLE* | WE KNOW REAL ESTATE

*BASED ON REMAX STATS SINCE 2017

905.591.1939 | Sold@TTGRealty.com | TTGRealty.com

155 Mostar Street, Unit 1 & 2, Stouffville | 15343 Hwy 48, Ballantrae

DOLORES TRENTADUE & SONYA TORRES
TEAM LEADERS & REALTORS®

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH TTG!



**17
OCT**

**TTG SPONSORED
HALLOWEENPALOOZA**

LOCATION:
AROMA GRILL AND BAR STOUFFVILLE
TIME:
8 PM UNTIL 1 AM:

EXPERIENCE MATTERS. IF YOU WANT YOUR HOUSE SOLD, CONTACT US!



TRENTADUE TORRES GROUP RE/MAX ALL-STARS REALTY



TRENTADUE.TORRES.REAL.ESTATE.GROUP



TRENTADUE_TORRES_GROUP



TTGREALTY.COM

RE/MAX All-Stars Realty Inc. Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated. Not intended to solicit those under contract



A NEW CHAPTER STARTS HERE.

Buying or selling a home is a big moment, and we're here to make the legal side feel easy.

We'll explain the paperwork, answer your questions, and guide you through each step so you feel confident and supported along the way.

Because we believe legal services should be friendly, approachable, and easy to understand.

**FRIENDLY LEGAL GUIDANCE
FOR LIFE'S BIG MOMENTS.**

S.K. GILL LAW

1-6165 Main Street Stouffville, ON L4A 4H8

(416) 619-0754 

info@skgilllaw.com 

skgilllaw.com 



RENOVA DENTAL

Your Serene Family Dental Home

Advanced care in a calming, family-friendly atmosphere

**FREE ORTHODONTIC AND
IMPLANT CONSULTATION**

- ✓ New Patients Welcome
- ✓ Accepting Canadian Dental Care Plan
- ✓ Evening and weekend availability



(905) 951-9569



6284 MAIN ST, STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO



2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

STOUFFVILLE VOTES



Don't Forget!

The Municipal Election
is on **October 26, 2026**

Other Important Dates

NEW! INTERNET VOTING



October 17 - 26

ADVANCE VOTING



October 17, 21 & 24

ADVANCE VOTING AT MUNICIPAL OFFICE



October 19, 20, 22 & 23

Find everything you need to know about the
upcoming election at stouffvillevotes.ca

Don't know if you're on the voters list?

Verify or register your voter information at
stouffvillevotes.ca/voterslist by **October 16**.

stouffvillevotes.ca

Turning Extra Space Into Affordable Housing

— And Cash Back For You —

If you've got an unused basement, or you've thought about a coach house for aging parents or adult kids, the Town has good news: there's now funding to help, through the new Multiplex/ARU Affordable Rental Grant.

Wait, what's an ARU?

You've probably heard it called a basement apartment, in-law suite, granny flat, coach house, or second suite. The Town's official term is Additional Residential Unit, or ARU. They're all the same idea, a self-contained home on your property with its own kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom.

Available Funding

- **Up to \$10,000 per unit** to bring an existing ARU up to the Ontario Building Code.
- **Up to \$11,000 per unit** to build or convert a new ARU or multiplex.
- **An extra \$3,000** through the **Accessible Design Top-Up Rebate**, for accessible or barrier-free features beyond code (funded through the federal Housing Accelerator Fund).

A fully accessible new suite could see up to \$14,000 in support.

How many can you build?

Under the Town's Zoning By-law, fully serviced properties with a single detached, semi-detached, or townhouse home can generally have up to three ARUs — significant value for homeowners and more housing options for the community.

Not sure where to start?

Homeowners and builders can use either the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CHMC) Housing Design Catalogue or the Town's Pre-approved Additional Residential Unit (ARU) Designs, both free of charge, as a starting point before calling a contractor.

This grant is part of a broader effort to make housing in Stouffville safer, more affordable, and more accessible for current and future residents. This program is only available to homeowners within the Community of Stouffville. 🏡

For full program details, application forms, and pre-approved designs visit townofws.ca/rentalincentives



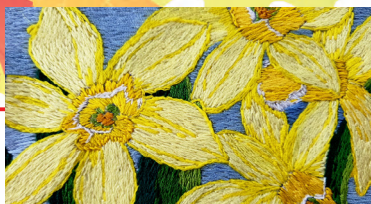
26th Annual STOUFFVILLE

FINE ART STUDIO TOUR & SALE

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2026 10:00am - 5:00pm
12 VENUES / 22 ARTISTS

Lisa Allen

Painting, Embroidery
at **7 High Point Drive, Ballantrae**



Meral Altinbilek

Watercolour Painting
at **27 Sneads Green, Ballantrae**



Asel Artemenko

Jewellery
at **184 Church Street, Stouffville**



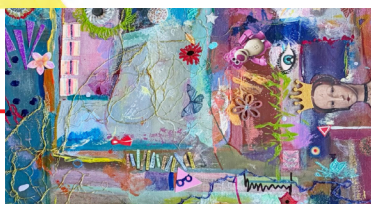
Carin Bacher

Flameworked and Sandblasted Glass
at **16436 McCowan Road, Cedar Valley**



JoAnne Caza

Acrylic Painting
at **3972 Jesse Thomson Road, Stouffville**



David Clubine

Watercolours
at **9 Hollinrake Street, Ballantrae**



Alison Gauthier

Fibre Artist
at **9 Hollinrake Street, Ballantrae**



Monica Gennaro

Sterling Silver and Gold Handmade
Jewellery at **15167 McCowan Road, Ballantrae**



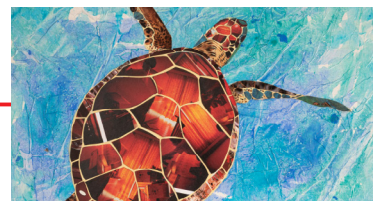
Margaret Grandison

Watercolours, Acrylics
at **184 Church Street, Stouffville**



Kate Greenway

Watercolour, Mixed Media Collage, Stained/Fused/
Mosaic Glass at **5005 Sideline 34, Claremont**



With continued support from the Town of



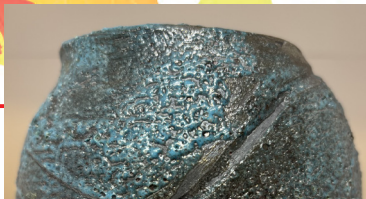
THIS IS A Self-Guided FREE EVENT!

Check out our website at www.WSStudioTour.com



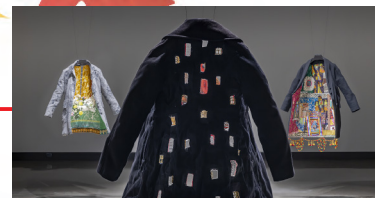
Ed Keith

Paint and Clay Artist
at 7 High Point Drive, Ballantrae



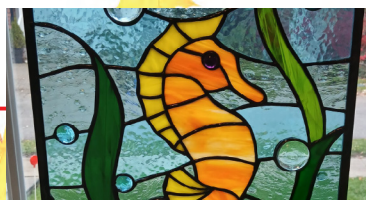
Latcham Art Centre

Public Art Gallery
at 2 Park Drive, Stouffville



Laureen Lucas

Stained Glass, Woodcrafts
at 192 Second Street, Stouffville



manberdo

Sculpture
at 3972 Jesse Thomson Road, Stouffville



Jane McLellan

Painted Glass, Felted Vintage Wool Mittens
at 25 Dorman Drive, Stouffville



Ray McNeice

Watercolours, Acrylics
at 184 Church Street, Stouffville



Shiva Moghaddasi

Shiva Studios Pottery & Textiles
at 86 Ringwood Drive, Unit 28, Stouffville



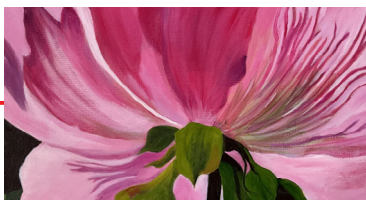
Pat Neal

Weaver
at 5005 Sideline 34, Claremont



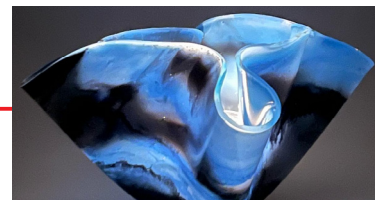
Sharon Nielsen

Painter
at 3972 Jesse Thomson Road, Stouffville



Sarah Porter

Kiln-Formed Glass
at 9 Hollinrake Street, Ballantrae



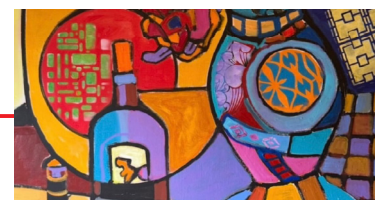
Jeannine Rosenberg

Silver Jewellery
at 9 Hollinrake Street, Ballantrae



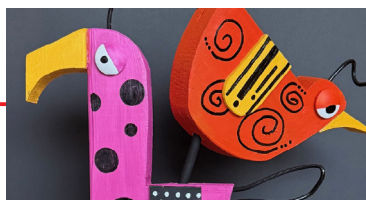
Colin Whitebread

Acrylic and Mixed Media Acrylic
at 5005 Sideline 34, Claremont



Susan Whitebread

Recycled Character Art
at 5005 Sideline 34, Claremont



With financial support from the

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
Legacy
FUND

THE SIGN THAT
HAS STOOD THE
TEST OF TIME!

GALLO

REAL ESTATE LTD
BROKERAGE

50th

Anniversary

A Portrait of Giving an honour bestowed upon For Little Monkeys Charity™



by Susan Tucker

OTRtipoff@outlook.com

Some honours arrive as plaques. Portraits of Giving arrives as a face, a story, and a challenge. This year, that honour belongs to For Little Monkeys Charity, the Stouffville organization that designed and donated sensory rooms and sensory kits to neurodiverse children. The recognition is more than a local pat on the back. It places a young charity inside one of York Region's most distinctive traditions of celebration: photographer Karen Merk's long-running project to make generosity visible.

Merk created Portraits of Giving after years of covering community events with a camera in her hands. She met people quietly changing lives: coaches, shopkeepers, volunteers, and families who turned private struggle into public help. They inspired her to give back. Then she asked a larger question: if their stories moved her, how could those same stories move a whole region? The initiative grew into an annual tour of York Region's 9 municipalities: Stouffville, Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Markham, Vaughan, King, Georgina, and East Gwillimbury. Each year, honourees are selected not for titles but for the way they show up. Merk photographs them and tells their stories. Local receptions bring neighbours into the same room to honour the recipients, with a region-wide finale gathering honourees so the map of giving can be seen all at once.

The project's purpose has stayed remarkably consistent. Merk has said the goal is to inspire people to start giving back, or to keep going. Portraits of Giving now reaches hundreds of thousands of residents through events, media, and social channels. It is not a contest with scorecards; it is a public gallery of character. Over more than fifteen years,

the awards have honoured lifetime contributors and first-time builders, young adults and emergency workers, educators and sports leaders, families and business owners who treat charity as part of how they work. Annual themes give the tour a heartbeat. Recent years have spoken of optimism, hope, connection, and the simple idea that this is what Canadians do: they notice a need and fill it. That is the tradition For Little Monkeys Charity joined.

Natalie Abkarian Cimini co-founded the charity with her husband, Michael, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their two children are autistic, so they knew the waitlists, the price of equipment, and the daily puzzle of making a house livable for a child whose senses do not negotiate. Natalie had already written a children's book about autism, and they decided a book was not enough...children needed rooms.

From Stouffville, they built an organization that fundraised, created, and donated sensory rooms, and carefully curated kits for families that needed the space. The rooms are practical acts of love. Swings, crash pads, tactile walls, calm lighting, and movement equipment help children regulate, relax, and practise fine and gross motor skills, communication, and creativity. Parents talk about fewer storms after school, a child who can finally play, a house that feels safer.

The work has spilled into the wider community in ways that match the spirit of Portraits of Giving. The charity donated sensory bags to the pediatric unit at Markham Stouffville Hospital, so children in a clinical setting have something predictable and soothing within reach. With funding from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Legacy Fund, they partnered with the Stouffville library to place sensory tools in the Lendery, the

Adventure Zone, and library programs. A charity hockey game with Scoring Goals for the Community packed Stouffville Arena with supporters, a silent auction, and the familiar noise of a town raising money together. Local groups and businesses came on board as sponsors to contribute to the cause.

Portraits of Giving is the right honour because it does what For Little Monkeys does. It refuses to leave good work invisible. Merk's portraits ask viewers to look a giver in the eye. The charity asks a community to look a neurodiverse child in the eye and then change the room around them. One project uses light and story. The other uses foam, fabric, motion, and time. Both insist that York Region is built by people who refuse to wait for someone else.

For Stouffville residents, the award is also a reminder that big regional recognition can still be hyperlocal. The rooms went into houses down the street and across the region. The kits landed on kitchen tables; the hospital bags travelled a few kilometres. Merk's camera, touring town by town, is a way of saying those quiet deliveries count as leadership.

For Little Monkeys Charity closed in May 2026. The sensory rooms it built are still in use. The kits it delivered are still in living rooms and hospital rooms. And this year, before and after that ending, York Region still had a way of saying the work mattered: Portraits of Giving.

For Little Monkeys exists so that one child, then another, has a place that fits.

Awards do not build rooms. Neighbours do. But recognition matters because it tells other families they are not invisible, and it tells other residents that a local charity saw and changed how neurodiverse children experience home and community.

For Little Monkeys: Believe in a spectrum of possibilities. 🌈

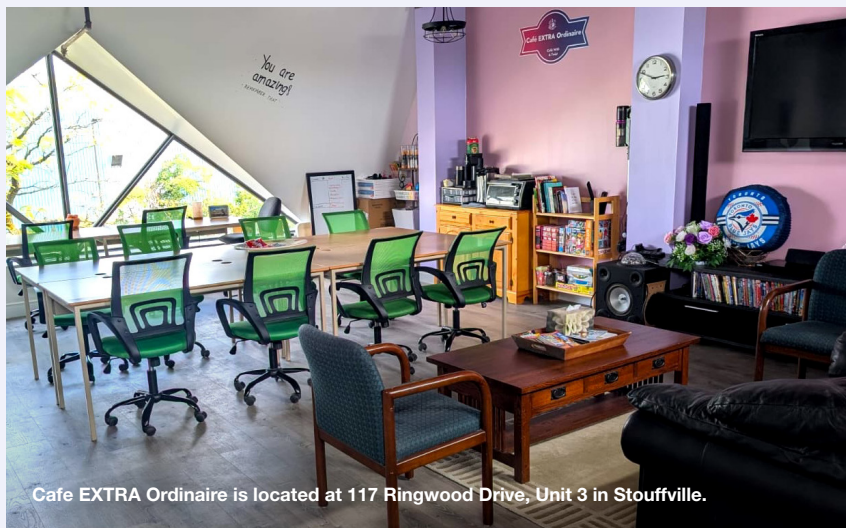
Make a Difference

Donate online to help support families with neurodiverse children! Contributions can be made online at forlittlemonkeyscharity.ca or inquiries can be sent to forlittlemonkeyscharity@gmail.com

More Than a Café:

The Extraordinary Vision Behind Café EXTRA Ordinaire

by Ruby Vasanthan



Café EXTRA Ordinaire is located at 117 Ringwood Drive, Unit 3 in Stouffville.

When Rita Aprile and Christina Farrell talk about Café EXTRA Ordinaire, they don't spend much time talking about coffee.

Instead, they talk about people.

They talk about young adults with developmental disabilities who want what so many of us want: meaningful work, friendships, independence, and a sense of belonging. They talk about parents who wonder what opportunities will be available for their children as they grow older. They talk about the importance of community and what can happen when people take the time to truly see one another.

Built from love, filled with love and rooted in the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to belong.

Most of all, they talk about love.

That love is at the heart of Café EXTRA Ordinaire, a new Stouffville café and community hub created to provide opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities while bringing people together in a meaningful way.

The idea has been years in the making. Through her work with

Children's Aid and Community Living, Rita witnessed firsthand the challenges many individuals face once they age out of school programs and youth services.

Christina saw a similar reality while working in retail, where employment opportunities for people with disabilities were becoming increasingly limited, particularly for those who needed additional support. Rather than focusing on what was missing, they set out to create something that could make a difference.

The result is Café EXTRA Ordinaire.

"We're a café, and these people are extraordinary," the founders said when explaining the inspiration behind the name.

What stands out most when Aprile and Farrell speak, however, is how they describe the people at the centre of the café's mission. They talk about individuals who are kind, caring, and eager to connect with others.

People who remember faces, build meaningful relationships, and genuinely light up when someone they know walks through the door.

"They have so much love," Aprile said. That spirit is woven into everything the café hopes to become. Beyond serving coffee and baked goods, the space is designed to foster confidence, independence and connection.

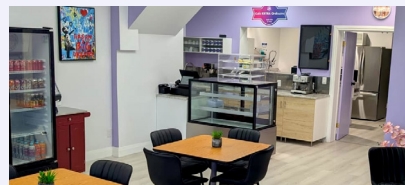
The founders envision a welcoming hub filled with workshops, community events, movie nights, dances and opportunities for people of all ages to come together. More than anything, they hope the café becomes a place where everyone feels they belong.

Throughout the conversation, Aprile and Farrell rarely spoke about business goals or growth.

Instead, they spoke about helping someone earn a certificate and feeling proud of their accomplishment. They spoke about opening doors, building confidence, and giving people the chance to discover what they're capable of.

Again and again, the conversation returned to the same message: kindness matters.

In a world that can often feel rushed and disconnected, Café EXTRA Ordinaire is a reminder of the power of taking the time to know someone, support someone and believe in someone.



Yes, it's a café. But more importantly, it's a place built from love, filled with love and rooted in the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to belong.

And perhaps that's what makes it truly extraordinary.

Community members are invited to experience that spirit for themselves at Café EXTRA Ordinaire, located at 117 Ringwood Dr. #3 in Stouffville. 📍

Experience Café EXTRA Ordinaire for yourself!

📍 117 Ringwood Dr., Unit 3

📷 @cafeextraordinaire

👉 cafeex.ca

Get involved to support MSH



There are plenty of ways for you to support our hospital and be part of our community. See what's coming up and join us in making a difference at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital.



Canadian Mar Thoma Church Walkathon
October 3



Run for Markham
October 3



The Village Grocer Giving Thanks
October 5 - 11



GoSan Charity Concert
November 1



Get A Move On
November 7



The Fortune Ball
November 21



Giving Tuesday
December 1



**Wrap for a Cause
at CF Markville**
December 5 - 24



**Become a Monthly Donor
this Holiday Season**



For more information about these events please visit mshf.on.ca
or follow [@supportMSH](https://twitter.com/supportMSH)





A Magical Trio of Classical Musicians



Friday, October 30

Doors: 7:00 pm

Show: 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$35

Lorena Valero

(mezzo-soprano from Spain)

Camero Crozman (cello)

Meagan Milatz (piano)

THE PLOWBOYS



This Is Country Music!

The Plowboys bring the heart and soul of traditional country music with a little extra sparkle.

Doors: 7:00 pm

Show: 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$40

(\$50 at door)

Friday, November 6



Stouffville's historic destination for performing arts

stained glass centre

34 Church Street North, Stouffville
www.stainedglasscentre.ca



INTERNET | TELEVISION | PHONE

vianet



YOUR COMPLETE HOME CONNECTION

INTERNET, TV, AND PHONE BACKED BY
FRIENDLY DEPENDABLE SUPPORT



FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT VIANET.CA OR CALL 1-800-788-0363

ALL YOU NEED THIS WINTER IS YOUR SUITCASE.



- Delicious meals & everyday conveniences
- Comfortable, fully furnished accommodations
- Social activities & a welcoming community

No shovelling.

No home maintenance.

No winter worries.

Settle into a fully furnished suite and enjoy the warmth, comfort, and companionship of our retirement residence.

STOUFFVILLE CREEK
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH



*Make our home
your winter home*

**Book your winter stay
today!**

Call (905) 642-2902

Visit our residence at 40 Freel Lane, Stouffville, ON or online at VerveSeniorLiving.com/stouffville-creek

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

AN UPDATE BY GLENN JACKSON

Town receives bids from construction companies

After months of planning, design work, and technical coordination, Stouffville's Downtown Revitalization project is taking a major step forward. This summer marked the transition from design development into procurement, bringing the long-anticipated project closer to construction.

In July, Town staff and project consultants at Accardi Engineering completed the detailed design phase, reaching the 100 percent design milestone. The focus then shifted to preparing documentation required to bring the project to market. Tender documents were finalized, utility and agency reviews were coordinated, and requirements from organizations including Bell and Metrolinx were addressed. Teams also worked through construction staging, transit detour planning, environmental remediation requirements, and winter maintenance specifications.

Residents had an opportunity to see the project come to life at the end of July through a public display of the design concepts at the Stouffville Leisure Centre. Community members provided feedback on benches, decorative streetlights, and other streetscape elements. The response showed a strong preference for heritage-inspired features, including a traditional bench style and curved-arm streetlights that reflect the character of downtown Stouffville. Those selections were incorporated into the streetscape package, while the public feedback period continued online through August.

By month's end, the complete tender package had been assembled and issued to pre-qualified contractors.

Live tendering began in August, with design drawings, technical reports, and supporting documentation submitted to approval agencies for review. With the project officially out for tender, the team's focus shifted to supporting procurement, coordinating with stakeholders, and responding to agency feedback. The tender closed recently, and Town staff are now evaluating submissions.

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



Get project updates

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



Downtown Comes Alive with Music, Theatre and Family Fun

by Jane Taylor

This summer, the Urban Plaza at 6240 Main Street has quickly become a vibrant hub for arts and culture. From Endless Summer on the Patio featuring the Beach Party Boys, to the new Live on Main series, these events have brought entertainment into the heart of the community. Running Tuesday and Thursday evenings through September 10th, the free series featured performances by local artists across multiple genres, alongside family-friendly games and activities. Together, these shows created a welcoming downtown atmosphere where residents enjoyed live music, supported local businesses, and experienced the best of the Village of Stouffville.

Tickets are selling fast for the upcoming Nineteen on the Park Theatre 2026-2027 season. Discover Your Stage is an eleven-show series that brings everything from East Coast Folk and jazzy holiday tunes to comedy, family shows, special event film screenings, and more to the community.

Nineteen on the Park Theatre's programming is now open for registration. Curtain Call Kids gives young performers the chance to explore theatre, build confidence, make new friends, and discover their creative side, while Stage 19, for ages 12+, offers passionate young performers a supportive space to broaden their skills, collaborate, and grow as performers.

Join us this season for a celebration of culture in our community! 🎭

Don't miss a season of arts and entertainment!

Explore upcoming events, performances, and programs happening right here in our community by visiting townofws.ca/19otp

Ringwood Townhouse Development One Step Closer

Council designates important historical house, receives results of resident satisfaction survey



by Glenn Jackson
glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

Townhouses at Ringwood

On August 12th, Council approved Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments for lands at 5262, 5270, 5286 and 5318 Main Street, and 12371 Highway 48, clearing the way for a new mixed-use development in Stouffville's western gateway area. The project will include 165 condominium townhouse units, a commercial block featuring a proposed hotel, restaurant and retail space, a private road network, and the preservation of a significant natural heritage area.

A key feature of the development is the planned incorporation of the historic Major John Button House (see below) into the commercial area, potentially as part of a future restaurant associated with the proposed hotel. The development will also protect nearly three hectares of Natural Heritage System lands, which are expected to be dedicated to public ownership and connected to the Town's active transportation network through new trails and pedestrian connections.

While Council's approval establishes the planning framework for the project, additional applications, including Draft Plan of Subdivision, Site Plan Control and Condominium approvals, will be required before construction can proceed.

Heritage Designation of the John Button House

On August 12th, Council approved designating the Major John Button House at 5270 Main Street under the Ontario Heritage Act, recognizing its cultural heritage value and significance to the historic communities of Stouffville and Ringwood. Located east of Highway 48 on Stouffville Road (Main St.), the c.1890 home is associated with Major John Button and his family, who played an important role in the early history of York Region.



On August 12, Council approved zoning amendments to support a proposed 165-unit townhouse development at the northeast corner of Highway 48 and Stouffville Road in Ringwood. According to the developer, the plans will incorporate the recently designated Major John Button House, helping preserve a local heritage landmark as part of the new neighbourhood.

The designation will protect key heritage features, particularly the building's front façade and its presence as a landmark at Stouffville's western gateway, while still allowing it to be incorporated into future redevelopment plans. Council also authorized staff to streamline heritage approvals needed to support the building's relocation, restoration, conservation, or adaptive reuse.

2026 Resident Satisfaction Survey

On August 12th, Council received the results of the 2026 Resident Satisfaction Survey, which gathered feedback from 779 residents and business owners on quality of life, municipal services, safety, customer service, communication, and value for taxes.

Results were largely positive, with satisfaction increasing in several areas. Nearly 90% of respondents reported being satisfied, very satisfied, or neutral with quality of life in Stouffville. Emergency services, parks, libraries, Town facilities, and community events received some of the highest ratings, while customer service remained a key strength. More than 93% of respondents said they felt safe in the community. Residents also identified priorities such as managing growth, improving infrastructure and

traffic safety, supporting affordability, and protecting Stouffville's small-town character. Staff will use the results to help guide future planning, service improvements, and Council decisions. 📊



COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Friday, October 16 – 1 PM
Wednesday, November 18 – 7 PM
Wednesday, December 2 – 1 PM

Next Public Meetings:

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

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

Anyone wishing to provide comments may attend the meeting in-person at the Municipal Offices.

Contact clerks@townofws.ca for more information.

Listen live: townofws.ca/cmlivestream

Live posts on X: [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall)

Subscribe to the monthly newsletter: townofws.ca/councilnews

talk of the town

Stay connected on our social channels: [f @TownofStouffville](#) [@ @TownofStouffville](#) [@ @townofws](#)

RECREATION

Youth Trivia

Oct. 16 | 6 - 8 PM | FREE

Put your knowledge to the test at 19 on the Park! Youth can bring a team or join one on arrival for a fun night of pop culture, general knowledge and more.

townofws.ca/yawg

Stouffville Card Show

Oct. 17 | 10 AM - 3 PM | FREE

Browse, trade and collect Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, vintage and modern sports cards at the Leisure Centre. Admission is free with a suggested food bank donation.

townofws.ca/cardshow

Fall Swimming Lessons

Begin the week of Sep. 28 | \$

Get ready to make a splash! The first week of fall swimming lessons begins September 28.

townofws.ca/swimming



19 ON THE PARK THEATRE

Line Dancing Social (19+)

Oct. 8 & Nov. 5 | 7 - 10:30 PM | \$

From beginner-friendly dances to an open floor for experienced dancers, enjoy a lively night of music and movement.

townofws.ca/theatrevents

PA Day Workshop: Trick or Theatre

Oct. 26 | 10 AM & 1 PM | Ages 4-12 | \$

Create creepy characters, playful plots and improvised scenes in this Halloween-themed theatre workshop. Save \$5 when registering for this workshop and the Museum's Monster Lab.

townofws.ca/theatre

Rum Ragged

Oct. 30 | 7:30 PM | \$

Kick off the season with JUNO Award nominees Rum Ragged and their powerhouse take on the folk traditions of Newfoundland.

townofws.ca/concertseries

EVENTS

Halloween on Main

Oct. 31 | 11 AM - 2 PM | FREE

Main Street comes alive with family-friendly Halloween fun, costumes and activities. Participating businesses will hand out candy from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM while supplies last, so bring your treat bags!

townofws.ca/halloween

MUSEUM

PA Day Workshop: Monster Lab

Oct. 26 | 10 AM & 1 PM | Ages 4-12 | \$

Step into the Museum's spooky science lab for bubbling brews, glowing goo, experiments and a craft. Save \$5 when registering for Monster Lab and Trick or Theatre.

townofws.ca/museumevents

The Paranormal Seekers: Ghost Tour & Investigation

Oct. 30 | 7 - 10:30 PM | Ages 16+ | \$

Explore the Museum after dark with The Paranormal Seekers during an intimate paranormal investigation featuring an equipment demonstration and refreshments.

townofws.ca/museumevents

Worthy: The History of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps

Open until Dec. 19 | FREE

Presented by the Canadian Tank Museum, this exhibit explores the history of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps and its founder, Major-General Frederic Franklin Worthington.

townofws.ca/exhibits

Beyond Blue & White: Wedgwood Designed for Canada

Open until Dec. 19 | FREE

Discover more than 40 Canadian-themed Wedgwood artifacts on loan from King Heritage & Cultural Centre and explore the iconic British ceramic maker's expansion into Canada.

townofws.ca/exhibits



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

UPCOMING EVENTS!

**BUYER'S
SEMINAR**

OCT 15

**SELLER'S
SEMINAR**

NOV 5

I LOVE STOUFFVILLE
**BOARD
GAME NIGHT**

EVERY FRI @



**MOVIE
NIGHT**

**OCT 18 - 6PM
NOV 20 - 7PM
DEC 30 - 6PM**



IMRAZ RAMANI

CLHMS, RENE, SRES, PSA, SRS



REALTOR

416-890-3226
www.ramanisells.ca

RE/MAX EXPERTS. INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED. NOT INTENDED TO SOLICIT
BUYERS OR SELLERS CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT WITH A BROKERAGE.

CONNECT WITH ME



**YOUR FAVOURITE
DOOR
KOCKER**



@getrealwithramani



Professional Painting & Home Refinishing in Stouffville



*Specializing in Commercial and Residential
Repaints, Cabinet Refinishing, and Texture Removal.*



@ward_home_repair

Text (647) 490-4795

www.wardpainting.ca

Email Chase@wardpainting.ca

**SCAN FOR
MORE INFO!**



perladental.ca



**Direct
Insurance
Billing**

Keep Your Little Monsters

smiling!

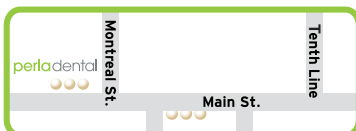
HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Treat your little monsters to a healthy smile.
Book their next checkup and cleaning today!

Now Accepting

CDCP

Canadian Dental Care Plan



STOUFFVILLE

6668 Main St.
Stouffville ON L4A 7W9
stouffville@perladental.ca



Schedule now

**Scan QR Code or
Call 905-591-6668**

www.perladental.ca