

OTR

OCTOBER 2024 • NO. 84

TURNING UP THE VOLUME IN VANDORF

Kevin Ker, Alberta Bentivogli, and Lou Tucci invest in Stouffville's music scene with a beautiful historic venue.

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 Stouffville

The Last Scoop

Saying farewell to the Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop

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Brierbush Babies

New book to bring Stouffville memories to life

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This year's list of talented artists and creators

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Photograph on cover by Dennis Hristovski. Photo on p. 3 by Katrina Robert. Photo on p. 17 of Bogartown Schoolhouse by Valeria Mitsubata. Photo below from Facebook.

LAST MONTH IN STOUFFVILLE:

Stouffville residents gathered in Memorial Park to walk and run for the annual Terry Fox Run on Sept. 15.



FROM THE EDITOR

The ice cream is melting at Musselman's Lake. After 18 years, George and Irene Karpouzis will be closing The Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop on Thanksgiving weekend (page 3). Be sure to pay them a visit and get your last scoop!

On the other end of the spectrum, local rock stars Kevin Ker, Lou Tucci, and Alberta Bentivogli are opening Harmony Hall (page 10). This concert venue will open to music fans on October 19th in the former Vandorf Community Hall on Woodbine Ave. Time to rock out!

Anyone who spends any time on Facebook knows about the group Brierbush Babies. Even though you had to have been born at Stouffville's Brierbush Hospital or had a parent who was, the stories and memories shared there from bygone Stouffville are second to none. Meet Wendy Forfar, the site's creator, and learn about her journey to bring all those memories to her new book, *Boomers Time Capsules: Short Stories from a Small Town* (page 13).

Enjoy your read and happy Thanksgiving!

Glenn Jackson, Editor-in-chief
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A Community Served with Kindness

SAYING FAREWELL TO THE COOLEST LITTLE ICE CREAM SHOP by Michaela Ray



For nearly two decades, The Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop in Musselman's Lake has been more than just a place for sweet treats—it's been a community cornerstone. Located in Cedar Beach Resort, its story began when George Karpouzis and his wife Irene were asked by their neighbour and park landlord, Kyle Jenkins, to take over the business. What started as a simple convenience store quickly transformed into a bustling ice cream hub, bringing smiles to both locals and visitors.

"People are always happy when they're buying ice cream," George reflects, recalling the joy of serving scoops to the

community. As Musselman's Lake evolved, so did the shop. Once one of the largest candy stores in the GTA, the arrival of Fishbone across the street in 2014 and the area's natural gentrification prompted George and Irene to adapt. The shop became a boutique, showcasing local artists and small businesses, turning it into a hub for local craftsmanship.

Through all the changes, one thing stayed the same: George and Irene's love for the community. "It's easy to reciprocate kindness when the community is so kind," George proudly shares. Many regular customers visited the shop multiple times a week, and bonds with the community grew deep. George fondly recalls the daily excitement when school buses passed, filled with kids shouting hello as they eagerly awaited their next ice cream fix.

One of the highlights of running the shop has been the dedicated staff, some of whom worked with George for over seven years. They became like family, sharing laughs and memories that made the shop so special. George also cherishes working alongside Irene, one of his greatest joys. Their team played a key role in creating the welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere the shop is known for.



ABOVE: (Left) George has received hundreds of birthday cards every year from people in the community. (Right) George strikes a pose with musical artist Shawn Desman after serving up some ice cream. Photos from the Shop's Facebook.



"It's easy to reciprocate kindness when the community is so kind."

- GEORGE KARPOUZIS

The shop will close its doors for the final time on Thanksgiving Day, marking the end of an era. As a farewell gesture, George and Irene will continue their tradition of offering free ice cream cones to anyone who stops by on Monday, October 14th, while supplies last. It's a fitting tribute to a business built on kindness, community, and, of course, ice cream.

Among the shop's lasting legacies is a handwritten sign that has hung above the door since day one. Written by Irene, it simply reads, "Be kind to one another"—a motto George and Irene have lived by for 18 wonderful years. Though they're ready for retirement, the memories of The Coolest Little Ice Cream Shop will endure long after the last scoop is served.

The Balanced Bouquet: Stouffville Florist's Signature Touch

by Cassandra Papas

Newly nestled on the eastern stretch of Main St., Stouffville Florist has flourished under the guidance of Jodi Laye, who took over from the retiring owner Kim Everson, founding owner since its conception in 1984. Jodi is a former bank manager, and her transition to floristry might seem unexpected, yet her background in numbers perfectly complements her passion for florals and plants. For Jodi, each bouquet is an equation where symmetry, proportion, and ratios play a pivotal role, reflecting her unique approach to floral design.

Jodi's fascination with the mathematical beauty of nature is evident in every arrangement. She draws inspiration from the Fibonacci sequence, where flower heads often develop petals in patterns. This natural alignment with mathematical principles underscores the symmetry and asymmetry found in Jodi's creations.

Floral design is an art that marries various components: line, form, texture, space, pattern, colour, size, and fragrance. The principles of proportion, balance, dominance, rhythm, contrast, and unity are central to Jodi's work, with scale, focal points, repetition, accent, and depth adding further layers of complexity. These principles, steeped in mathematical foundations, allow Jodi to craft arrangements that are both visually stunning and structurally sound.



ABOVE: Owner Jodi Laye is bringing her new space to life with house plants, gifts, greeting cards and a soon to come flower bar. Photo by Dennis Hristovski.

In her two years at the helm, Jodi has found her footing and is eagerly transforming Stouffville Florist into more than just a flower shop. Her vision includes her store being a one-stop gift shop for the community and visitors, perfect for those last-minute needs or special occasions. Under Jodi's guidance, Stouffville Florist is where the beauty of nature meets the precision of mathematics, creating a harmonious blend that resonates with all who visit.

Visit stouffvilleflorist.com or drop in at 6420 Main St.

NOW OPEN IN STOUFFVILLE by Tom Horsley

Hair Reigns Supreme at Empire Fadez



Amir Khan celebrated the opening of his new barbershop, Empire Fadez, on August 25th, complete with free haircuts, food, and drinks. He was surrounded by his family, friends, new and existing customers, Mayor Iain Lovatt, and Councillor Sue Sherban. Mayor Lovatt even took a seat in the chair and received a picture-perfect haircut!

Amir has created a modern and welcoming shop with a unique vibe and plenty of services. In addition to haircuts, Empire Fadez offers beard trims, shaves, mustache trims, and braids. Amir has a passion for cutting hair and customer satisfaction—and it shows.

Experience the difference at Empire Fadez, located at 11737 Tenth Line, Unit B, seven days a week. Check out the talented barbers and book online at empirefades.com/stouffville

Renova Dental: Where Smiles Begin

Be prepared for an exceptional experience at Renova Dental. Dr. Parisa Tavakoli has created a unique dental office in a spa-like setting. You will be amazed with their serene and relaxing atmosphere. Stouffville's newest dental office celebrated its grand opening on August 28th, with Mayor Lovatt and Councillor Rick Upton in attendance.

Dr. Tavakoli and her staff offer personalized treatments for your whole family with a warm and friendly approach. In addition to standard dental cleaning and checkups, a suite of comprehensive services such as Invisalign, braces, teeth whitening, dentures, orthodontics, kids dentistry, and much more are available. Renova Dental is committed to your complete oral care.

Located at 6284 Main St., Renova Dental is open seven days a week. Schedule an appointment at renovadental.ca



175-year-old Building Receives Zoning Amendments

Council Allocates Water and Sewer Capacity

by Glenn Jackson

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

Water and Sewer Capacity

York Region provides water and wastewater servicing to local municipalities, including Stouffville, and assigns capacity based on forecasted development. The Town is then responsible for allocating this service to active development applications to ensure that approvals do not exceed capacity.

On September 11th, Council received a report mentioning that since November 1st, 2023, the Commissioner of Development Services has allocated the equivalent of 3,735 persons for water and sewer servicing.

During the last York Region capacity assignment, Stouffville was allocated capacity for 5,876 people on the York-Durham Sewage System. The Town anticipates several development planning application approvals prior to the next assignment in 2025, mostly located along Main St., and in proposed subdivisions.



ABOVE: The property at the southwest corner of Main St. and Tenth Line, with a 175-year-old house that once belonged to the Town's first European settler Abraham Stouffer and businessman Edward Wheler, recently received several zoning amendments that could allow for six apartment units to be added.

Main and Tenth

At the September 11th meeting, Council approved a zoning by-law amendment for a mixed-use building on the southwest corner of Tenth Line and Main St. The proposal includes retaining the existing building and adding to the western portion.

The amendment will permit an apartment building comprising of six units and eight parking spaces.

The existing structure on the property was built in 1850, and maybe as early as 1846, when Edward Wheler purchased the property from Abraham Stouffer. In 1854, Wheler sold the property to Hiram Yake, who converted the house into a hotel. With the decline of business in this part of Town in the 1870s, the hotel was converted back into a family dwelling. It remained in the Yake family for 114 years.

Community Starts With You

Stay informed at Town Council meetings!

 Town Hall: 111 Sandiford Dr., Stouffville
Or tune in virtually at townofws.ca/CLivestream

 Wednesdays at 1 PM

 Fact Sheets are available at Town Hall and are also posted on townofws.ca/councilcalendar prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 16
- November 6
- November 20
- December 4

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Stouffville Sharks Win Provincial Softball Title by Susan Tucker



ABOVE: Stouffville's U13 Sharks softball team poses with their medals to celebrate their provincial win in North Bay.

The U13 Stouffville Sharks team, part of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association, won big in North Bay a few weeks ago. Yes, they are Ontario champs! They had an incredible season resulting in 27 wins and only one loss—certainly a team well deserving of a provincial title.

The team is made up of 14 talented, spirited, tenacious, and mentally tough girls that played their hearts out all season. They had some close calls, but always remained composed and supportive of each other to maintain a strong presence. Supported by a proud complement of volunteer coaches and team personnel, the Sharks have made their mark!

Team members include Chloe Ginn, Chloe Wong, Jamie Laxamana, Yvonne Hoxey, Brooklyn Stutley, Mia Ramlill, Keira Tan, Havee Bouwmeister, Olivia Barrington, Sophie Lee, Cara Kwong, Julianne Tran, Olivia Gaunt, Scarlett Dela Cruz. Coaches include Ivan Tan, Ian Ramlill, Jason Laxamana and Marcus Kwong. Team staff are Chris Lee, Sarah Tan, and Dennis Hoxey. Sponsors were York Mobility Rehab Plus and Coady's Fishing Company.



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Stouffville Lions Club Gives Towards Accessible Playground

Mayor Iain Lovatt and members of Council received a \$40,000 donation from the Stouffville Lion's Club on September 9th. The funds will be going towards the purchase of accessible playground equipment at the new park located at 401 Baker Hill Blvd. Photo by Audra Bradbury.





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Fun for a 'Ghoul' Cause



Be sure to visit 145 Chambersburg Way during the spooky month of October to make a donation to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank. The best day for a visit is Halloween when you can see the scary display in all its glory!



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A LABOUR OF LOVE:

Three Visionaries Breathe Life into the Music Scene in York Region

by Cassandra Papas

In the village of Vandorf, the once-silent walls of the nearly forgotten Vandorf Community Hall have begun to hum with new life. Harmony Hall, as it's now called, has been reimagined into a home for creativity, live music, and shared experiences. Behind this extraordinary transformation are three individuals with passion, dedication, and belief in each other. Kevin, Lou, and Alberta have breathed new life into the space and are determined to bring it back to the community.

At the centre of this transformation is Kevin Ker, who has dedicated his life to music. Kevin's career spans more than 20 years, during which he has nurtured countless connections, organized events that have left enduring marks on the community, and given music a home in the hearts of so many. From pulling together an 18-day, 24-hour concert that raised over \$90,000 for 17 charities in 2017, to cultivating music festivals like Wintersong that have brought warmth and culture to the streets of Stouffville, Kevin has always understood that music is more than sound. It is a community.

Kevin's personal touch can be felt in every corner of Harmony Hall, starting with its name, chosen to honour his daughter, Harmony. He curated the space with an eye for detail, scouring Facebook Marketplace for antique finds that lend the hall a unique charm. Rich,

TOGETHER, THEY'VE TURNED WHAT WAS ONCE A SIMPLE COMMUNITY HALL INTO A CULTURAL HUB THAT WILL SERVE VANDORF AND BEYOND FOR YEARS TO COME.



ABOVE: (From left) Lou Tucci, Alberta Bentivogli, and Kevin Ker sit in the lounge at Harmony Hall to plan a full schedule of events and programs. Photo by Dennis Hristovski.

ambient lighting fixtures bathe the hall in warmth, while a three-foot golden disco ball hangs from the ceiling—a playful nod to the hall's creative spirit. Every detail has been thoughtfully chosen, creating a luxurious and inviting environment. "It's a space that feels like home," Kevin says with pride. "And that's exactly what we wanted to build—a place where people feel comfortable."

And then there's Alberta Bentivogli and Lou Tucci, a true power couple. For more than 15 years, Alberta has believed in Kevin's vision and passion. When the opportunity came to transform the old

Vandorf Community Hall, Alberta and Lou knew it was time to make that vision real and they embarked on this journey as partners with Kevin. Alberta's excitement is palpable, her belief in the project matched only by her dedication to seeing it thrive. "I get goosebumps when I talk about it; the possibilities for this space are so exciting, and I'm so happy to be a part of what this will bring to artists all around the GTA," Alberta explains.

Alberta, Kevin, and Lou have an immense passion for what Harmony Hall can bring to people. Alberta and Lou are more than just passive supporters of the project. Whether it's coordinating the logistics, overseeing renovations, or rolling up their sleeves, they're ready and willing. "I've always believed in Kevin and what he's trying to do," Alberta says. "But this—this is something more. We're building a place where people can come together, where creativity can thrive. It's a space where anyone can belong."

The transformation of Harmony Hall in just ten weeks is nothing short of a labour of love. This transformation was made possible by Kevin's passion for music, Alberta's unwavering commitment, and Lou's deep connection to music and artists, given his background as a musician. Together, they've turned what was once a simple community hall—used for plays, concerts, and village fundraisers—into a cultural hub that will serve Vandorf and beyond for years to come.

What makes Harmony Hall so unique, though, is not just its rich history, but its

"WE'RE BUILDING A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN COME TOGETHER, WHERE CREATIVITY CAN THRIVE."

— ALBERTA BENTIVOGLI

promise of the future. The Hall isn't just being brought back to life as it was; it's being reimagined with a staging area that can host around 210 people, along with a lounge and full-service bar that also features a fun partnership with local brewery Muddy York. From live music to workshops, theatre to community gatherings, Harmony Hall will be a space where artists and audiences alike can feel at home.

For the founders, it's this future that excites them the most. "We're not just building a venue," Alberta says. "We're building a future. A future where young bands can perform without needing to travel downtown. A future where artists can showcase their work in a space that feels intimate and close to home, as well as a space that allows for so many other uses, opportunities are endless!" Kevin chimes in with, "we'd love to hear what the community wants and needs; we can adapt the space to so many different uses."

Alberta and Lou are residents of Musselman's Lake and owners of

Watercolour Mediterranean Restaurant in Unionville. They have long invested in the local community, and Harmony Hall is an extension of that commitment—a way to give back to the place they call home.

There is something profound about standing in a space that once echoed with the laughter and songs of a bygone era. The Hall, built in 1921, was once the stage for village plays, concerts, and fundraisers that brought the community together. Now, Harmony Hall is not just about reclaiming the past—it's about creating a new future. A future where art, music, and community come together in a space built with love, care, and an unwavering belief in the power of connection. Kevin, Alberta, and Lou have created more than just a venue—they've given a revived heartbeat to all of York Region and beyond.

Harmony Hall is already planning an array of exciting events, from live performances by reputable touring acts to musical theatre, comedy, and workshops designed to inspire creativity and connection.



ABOVE: Vandorf Community Hall, originally built in 1921. Photo provided by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre (accession number R2006.002).

The grand opening is on October 19th, with doors opening at 7 PM. The evening will feature thrilling live performances by surprise acts and DJ sets from Brendan Canning, a founding member of Broken Social Scene, hHead, and By Divine Right. It's an event you won't want to miss! Tickets will be available to purchase online and at the door for \$50. Stay tuned for their event schedule at harmoniymusichall.ca



GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
DOORS OPEN 7 PM
ADMISSION: \$50

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LEFT: The vibrant, newly renovated Harmony Hall, ready to welcome the community on October 17th. Photo by Eryn Roberts.

Spooktacular Fun Awaits at Halloween in Civic Square!

Oct 26

On Saturday, October 26th, from 11 AM to 3 PM, Civic Square will transform into a haunted hub of Halloween activities for all ages. Everyone is invited to dress up in their favourite costumes and join in on the fun. Trick-or-treating will be available at select Main St. businesses, while supplies last.

This family-friendly event will feature a life-sized pirate ship, face painting, a spider maze, as well as activations from Latham Art Centre and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library. 19 on the Park will also be a part of the event with Halloween-themed programming inside! Whether you come as a creepy creature, a wicked witch, or a superhero, there will be plenty to enjoy.

Halloween in Civic Square offers a memorable experience and the opportunity to bring the community together for laughter, excitement, and a little bit of fright! Be sure to mark your calendars and join us on October 26th.



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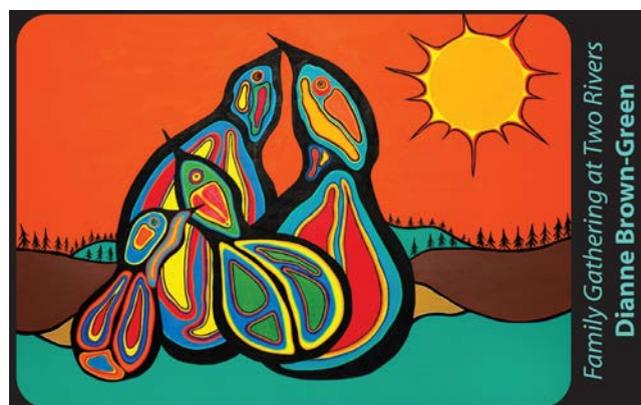
by Babin Sakthithasan

This September, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library is thrilled to offer a limited edition library card that features *Family Gathering at Two Rivers* by artist Dianne Brown-Green. This one-of-a-kind card will be available for a limited time, allowing you to exchange your current library card, or get a new library card if you're not yet a member. Bring a piece of local art into your everyday life beginning September 26th.

In honour of our commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library is dedicated to promoting awareness of Indigenous culture, language, and knowledge. This initiative deepens connections to local Indigenous art and offers artists a platform through digital storytelling.

By celebrating Indigenous art and culture, we aim to foster cultural learning, strengthen community bonds, and honour the rich heritage of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

These limited edition Library Cards are available while supplies last, available for pick up at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 2 Park Dr. For more information, please email info@wsplibrary.ca



Dianne Brown-Green (pictured left) is the artist whose work *Family Gathering at Two Rivers* is featured on the limited edition library card. Photograph by Molly Steels.

BRIERBUSH BABIES AND BEYOND

New Book to Bring Stouffville Memories to Life by Julia Jackson



ABOVE: A once bustling hospital, Brierbush stood at Main St. and Spring St. in Stouffville. Courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Archives (991.043.128)

It's 4 a.m. and Wendy Forfar is on her couch like most other days, ready to begin her labour of love. With a laptop balancing on her knees, she begins the morning on Facebook, scouring the group she created for recent comments and activity.

You may have heard about the very exclusive Brierbush Babies group, which Wendy created, monitors, and ensures only those born at Stouffville's Brierbush Hospital join. That's right—Stouffville was once home to a hospital, right on Main St.!

Wendy's story really begins there, where she was born premature at only six months, weighing a mere five pounds. It was a close call for herself and her mother, Flora. Though very early, Flora was told by Dr. Button that if the baby was not delivered immediately, her and the baby may be lost due to placenta previa. With not enough oxygen, her skin was tinged blue, and her head was full of red hair — Wendy fondly jokes that she was the first Smurfette.

Thanks to the quick action of Dr. Button and the staff at Brierbush Hospital, Wendy was born, as was her love for her birthplace. Such fond memories include growing up on 40 acres on Aurora Sdrd.

This included both sides of Aurora Sdrd., between Ninth and Tenth Line, almost to Island Lake. Their home was a hobby farm with horses, a billy goat, and even a monkey.

Her father, Bruce Forfar was a successful contractor, building many homes in and around Stouffville. Having such a strong connection to the town she called home, Wendy wanted to create a list of all the babies who were born at the same hospital she was born at, and where her mother once worked. With Facebook at her fingertips, she began the Brierbush Babies group on January 15th, 2020. This was perfect timing in her eyes, as the Covid-19 lockdown soon followed and people were in search of connection more than ever.



ABOVE: Then and now. You may recognize Wendy Forfar from 1969 when she won Posture Queen, or from her active posts on Facebook's Brierbush Babies Group.

Many within the group are farmers and shift workers who are up first thing in the morning checking in on the group that quickly grew to over 500 active members. Wendy is up just as early, engaging with all comments, asking fun questions, and always digging deeper to get to the stories that help make connections from the shared Stouffville upbringings. Making associations like this has created the sense of family, despite any separation caused by distance and time.

"There exists this immediate, palpable connection for someone you have never met but were proud to say they were born at Brierbush, too," Wendy explains. "It is as if you were part of a large family, and they were just one member you hadn't met yet. This has been a common experience among us for as long as I can remember. Ask anyone born there and see if their heart doesn't skip a beat to know you know the special place they were born."

“ Thanks to Facebook and Brierbush I have had a chance to read about so many I grew up with.

— Mina Montroy, member of Brierbush Babies Facebook group

There is unbelievable participation, with a constant flurry of conversation and reminiscing. This continues daily, especially with Wendy's daily posts celebrating birthdays and welcoming new members. She also shares the somber news of the passing of one within the community, and the details about funerals and celebrations of life. There were close to 1,500 births at the hospital, and though they may not know exactly how many, the members continue to work tirelessly to add to the list and make sure it is accurate, all while connecting with relatives of Brierbush Babies on Facebook.



LEFT: A turkey dinner held for staff in October 1953 in celebration of burning the Hospital mortgage. Courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Archives (991.043.086)

It takes a lot of focus and work, yet Wendy says, “it is a delight to help. It is my way of saying thank you to the hospital, and to some of the staff who are still living.” She also shares how special it is for so many people to come together regardless of status, spirituality, beliefs, or politics. It speaks volumes that four years after the Brierbush Babies’ inception, Wendy continues to have people from Stouffville request to be accepted to the group.

It is incredible how Brierbush Hospital was only operational from 1933 through 1979, yet formed the beginnings of such strong bonds. Much can be contributed to the gentle and caring staff and volunteers who once walked its halls.

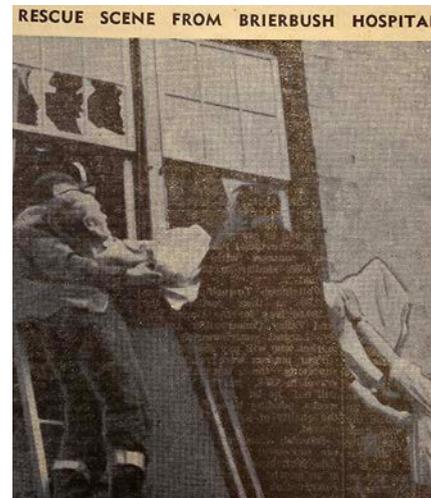
An active community hospital, Brierbush was a place of help and relief for many in Stouffville. Through the years, it grew to offer medical treatment for illnesses from pneumonia to strokes, minor surgical procedures like tonsillectomy and dental extractions, administering anesthetics, home to x-rays, and more.

This began as a simple two-storey brick house built in 1875 by Edward White on the parcel of land north of Main St. at the intersection of Spring St. Stouffville Reeve, R.P. Coulson, later owned the home.

It was in 1925 that the property nickname was born, when A.J. Ward purchased the home with intentions to expand to 12 rooms, a barn, hen house, fruit orchard, and garden. With a love for flowers, he planted a barberry hedge

around the property, and it became known in town as “The Briarbush” (later changed to Brierbush).

After being empty for some time, Edwin R. Good and his wife, Myrtle, moved their nursing home from 96 Church St. to Brierbush, renovating it to be a four-bed nursing and maternity home in 1933.



ABOVE: A Stouffville Tribune news article from 1952's fire at Brierbush Hospital, where patients were rescued from second floor windows.

Brierbush Hospital was licensed in 1934 by the Government of Ontario, and on October 8th, 1933, the first baby was born. There were an astounding 19 births and no deaths of mother or child in the first year of operation.

With such a stellar record, demand grew in 1935, leading to a granted 12-bed

license. Continual growth led to the establishment of its own ambulance service in 1936 and the hospital became equipped with a sterilizer, operating table, new fracture equipment, and more. Nurses slept in a cottage behind the hospital, with buzzer service from each bed to the nurses’ rooms.

In 1939, a new wing opened complete with a large dormitory, new beds, nursery, washrooms, and large hallways. Yet another wing was added in 1942 for a kitchen and dining space, more nurse quarters, and accommodation for 25 patients. By 1943, it was the second largest in York county.

After Mr. and Mrs. Good retired, nurses Ella M. Malcolm and Martha Robson became the new owners and converted it to a private hospital complete with small operating room and x-ray facilities. In 1951, they reported another remarkable record of 131 births and no deaths.

A fire broke out on the second floor in 1952. Stouffville firefighters were at the rescue, saving over 20 patients by carrying them down ladders from second storey windows. Incredibly, former Fire Chief Walt Smith rescued his own grandfather from the fire in addition to two mothers and three infants. Brierbush survived the fire, and continued as a hospital and later a critical care nursing home.

By 1975, the owner at that time, Ella Malcolm, had to make the decision to sell due to the extensive renovations that were required in order to bring the hospital up to modern standards and fire safety requirements. With the development of a new subdivision, Brierbush was demolished in 1977.

Dr. Petrie delivered the last baby born at Brierbush on August 6th, 1964. Wendy invited him to join the Brierbush Babies’ Reunion in 2022, where he gave a speech to the over 100 people in attendance. It is also his book that preserves so much of the history of the hospital, which is now part of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum’s archives.

What are some of your favourite memories from childhood? Do you remember the local spots where you spent long summer days on the beach, bowling, and jumping into a swimming hole? What was it like growing up in Stouffville, and what did it look like?

Wendy captures all this and more in her upcoming book *Boomers Time Capsules: Short Stories from a Small Town*. Stories from the community that she has lovingly collected over the years will be featured, even some about donkey baseball—yes, baseball with donkeys! Accompanying the many stories will be paintings of Stouffville landscapes and landmarks by local artists Margaret Grandison and Ray McNeice.

“There is so much material, I may have to write a sequel!” Wendy explains with excitement. There will be many fun histories captured in one place through family recollections and many familiar names within Stouffville.

As if this were not wonderful enough on its own, Wendy will also be publishing a companion workbook with corresponding chapters to stories in the book, with lined pages and pockets to add pictures, articles, and memorabilia. What a heartwarming way for anyone from Stouffville, or anyone who lived on the outskirts of a busy town, to connect with family and collect stories to pass on for generations to come.

Wendy is driven to write and share this book “to help those with dementia, because remembering candy shops, cars, and swimming holes helps with memory. When you get to the story it brings you back to childhood and makes the memory alive again.”

To say that Wendy Forfar is a kind and caring individual would be an understatement. She goes above and beyond to instill a sense of Stouffville spirit within all of us, giving the wonderful gift of bringing people together. Wendy is an inspiration, full of heart and dedication, helping people tell their own stories.

Did you grow up in Stouffville during the Baby Boom? SUBMIT YOUR STORY

Interested in having your story in the book? Send it to wendy@boomerstimecapsules.com before December 1st! You can also connect with Wendy Elaine Forfar by sending her a friend request on Facebook.

Wendy is also calling out for support from individual donors and local businesses. Be memorialized in the book *Boomers Time Capsules: Short Stories from a Small Town* as a contributor! Learn how you can be a part of this rich history at boomerstimecapsule.com

Preserving Brierbush Hospital's Legacy

While installing a commemorative plaque in 2017 at the site at Main St. and Spring St., Town staff uncovered the footings to the columns that once stood tall, welcoming all to Brierbush Hospital. This happy surprise began plans to further honour this important part of Stouffville history through the reconstruction of the columns where they originally stood. Watch for updates at townofws.ca

The Dedicated Staff of Brierbush Hospital

1933–1979

Staff:

Marion Williams
Ann Erman
Paul Boadway
Doris Ressor
Walter Brown
Cameron Meabry
N. Wilson
Betty Kennedy
Ella Malcolm
J. Grimley
Lydia-Ann Cressman
Ethel Rae
Mrs. Lanoreaux

Doctors:

Dr. John Button
Dr. S.S. Ball
Dr. Donald J.R. Petrie
Dr. Ira A. Freel

Owners:

Mr. & Mrs. E.R. Good
Frank Malcolm
Ernie Austin
D. Reid
Mrs. Manthau

List courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum archives.





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HISTORY REVIVED: Bogarttown Schoolhouse Reopens After Restoration

by Brandi Pickering

The Town celebrated the reopening of the newly restored Bogarttown Schoolhouse with a ribbon cutting event on Saturday, September 21st at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre.

Steeped in history, S.S. No. 3 Bogarttown, built in 1857, served as a schoolhouse for 112 years until its closure in 1969. Referred to as the ideal little red schoolhouse, this structure is more than just a building—it's a living testament to the story of rural schools in 19th Century Whitchurch-Stouffville. In 1970, the Township of Whitchurch purchased the schoolhouse and following the amalgamation of Whitchurch-Stouffville in 1971, the schoolhouse was reopened as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

"Thanks to the dedication of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Staff Working Group, we have successfully restored the 19th-century classroom to preserve its original features, including the beautiful pressed-tin ceiling and historic slate boards," said Commissioner of Community Services, Rob Braid. "Visitors can step back in time and experience what rural Ontario schools were like well into the 20th century."

"This schoolhouse is not just a piece of architecture; it's a cornerstone of our community's identity," said Mayor Iain Lovatt. "Bogarttown has become a beacon for preserving and celebrating our local heritage. The new exhibit not only celebrates the history of rural education in the former Whitchurch Township but also draws meaningful connections to life in modern Whitchurch-Stouffville."

The Bogarttown Schoolhouse Heritage Restoration Project was funded by The Rural Economic Development Program of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. For more information visit townofws.ca/museum

Weaving Community and Remembrance into Every Stitch

by Susan Tucker



The Clock Tower Poppy Project is an ongoing initiative to create a beautiful display to remember, honour and pay respects to our fallen soldiers and those serving in our military. It is located on our clock tower in the heart of downtown Stouffville during the month of November. Any and all new knit or crochet poppies are welcomed.

Learn more, explore pictures of the decorated clock tower, and find patterns for making the poppies at bit.ly/3tRxXui. If you'd like to be part of this amazing project, or support the work of our incredible crew of handcrafters through financial donations, email stouffvillepoppies@gmail.com



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Mixed Media and Acrylic
at **Studio 1**



David Clubine
Watercolours at **Studio 4**



Monica Gennaro
Sterling Silver and Gold
Handmade Jewellery at **Studio 2**



Margaret Grandison
Watercolours, Acrylics
at **Studio 7**



Fred Hummel
Watercolours, Printmaking,
Oils, Stone Sculpture at **Studio 3**



Ed Keith
Pottery & Clay Artist
(Raku Potter) at **Studio 3**



Latcham Art Centre
Public Art Gallery
at **Location 8**



Lauren Lucas
Stained Glass & Woodcrafts
at **Studio 11**



Jane McLellan
Painted Glass and Felted
Wool Mittens at **Studio 6**



Ray McNeice
Watercolours, Acrylics
at **Studio 7**

Shiva Moghaddasi
Pottery and Textiles
at **Studio 10**



Kirsty Naray
Glass, Metal, Fibre, WC,
Alcohol Ink at **Studio 5**



Sarah Porter
Kiln-formed Glass
at **Studio 4**

Simon Ng
Acrylics, Oils, Inks, Charcoal,
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Gayle Temple
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Building the Budget: The Role of Strong Mayor Powers and Community Engagement

by Brandi Pickering

This year, the Town of Stouffville is inviting residents and business owners to participate actively in the Town's budget process. We believe that informed and engaged community members are key to creating a budget that truly reflects our Town's needs and priorities. Our next step on the journey is understanding the role that you can play in the budget process under Strong Mayor Powers.

In August of 2023, Stouffville was among 21 municipalities across Ontario granted Strong Mayor Powers. The goal is to streamline decision-making, particularly around major issues like housing, infrastructure, and the annual budget. These powers give the mayor enhanced authority to set priorities and guide the Town's vision more directly,

including leading the development of the municipal budget.

Under this system, while the mayor plays a pivotal role in setting the strategic direction for the budget, the detailed work remains in the hands of our municipal staff. Town staff, who are experts in various fields such as finance, public works, recreation, and fire and emergency services, are tasked with building the budget according to the mayor's outlined priorities. The result is a comprehensive plan that reflects both the mayor's direction and the operational needs of the municipality.

The draft budget is currently being prepared by staff and will be presented to Council for consideration in November. We invite residents to

engage in the budget process by taking the 2025 Budget Priorities Survey and attending a budget engagement meeting on Thursday, October 17th, 7 PM at Town Hall. This is your chance to understand budget items being proposed for 2025 and ask questions about the budget process and priorities. Your voice matters in shaping the Town's future. To take the survey, visit townofws.ca/budgetsurvey and please join us for the budget engagement meeting. Let's work together to ensure our budget reflects the needs and values of our community.



Take the survey at townofws.ca/budgetsurvey

York University's YSpace Driving Innovation Throughout GTA

YSpace, York University's pan-university hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, is a catalyst for business transformation and growth across the Greater Toronto Area. By building a vibrant community of innovators, YSpace fosters collaboration among students, entrepreneurs, government representatives, and industry leaders to drive positive change.

YSpace has supported over 300 ventures that have created nearly 600 jobs and generated \$72.4 million in revenue in the last year alone. As a centralized resource hub, YSpace provides entrepreneurs at all stages with the mentorship, network, and support needed to turn ideas into successful ventures.

YSpace operates three physical hubs and offers more than 20 hybrid programs, from scaling innovative technologies and agri-food businesses to diversity-focused initiatives like ELLA for women-led businesses and the Black Entrepreneurship Alliance (BEA) for Black-led businesses. The ELLA Express program, powered by Desjardins, is a year-round program helping pre-revenue businesses build a solid foundation for growth. You do not have to be a York University student or alumni to engage with any of our programs.

YSpace's Founder Fundamentals program, a 12-week workshop series, equips new and early-stage entrepreneurs with essential skills in Business Plan Writing, Digital Marketing, Finance, and Legal Basics. Participants who attend at least nine of the 11 workshops earn a YSpace York University Certificate of Completion. Other programs, including the Technology



York University's YSpace has been a catalyst for business transformation and growth across the GTA. Over the past year they have supported over 300 business ventures that have created nearly 600 jobs and generated \$72.4 million in revenue.

Incubator, Food and Beverage Incubator, and ELLA Incubator, help founders validate and scale their innovative ventures.

To ensure entrepreneurs get the right support, YSpace offers free one-on-one Idea Consultations, guiding them through the innovation ecosystem and matching them with the right programs. No matter where entrepreneurs are on their journey, YSpace is a community partner and essential resource, helping them turn ideas into reality.

Find out more about YSpace's programs by emailing them at yspace@yorku.ca and start your idea consultation today!



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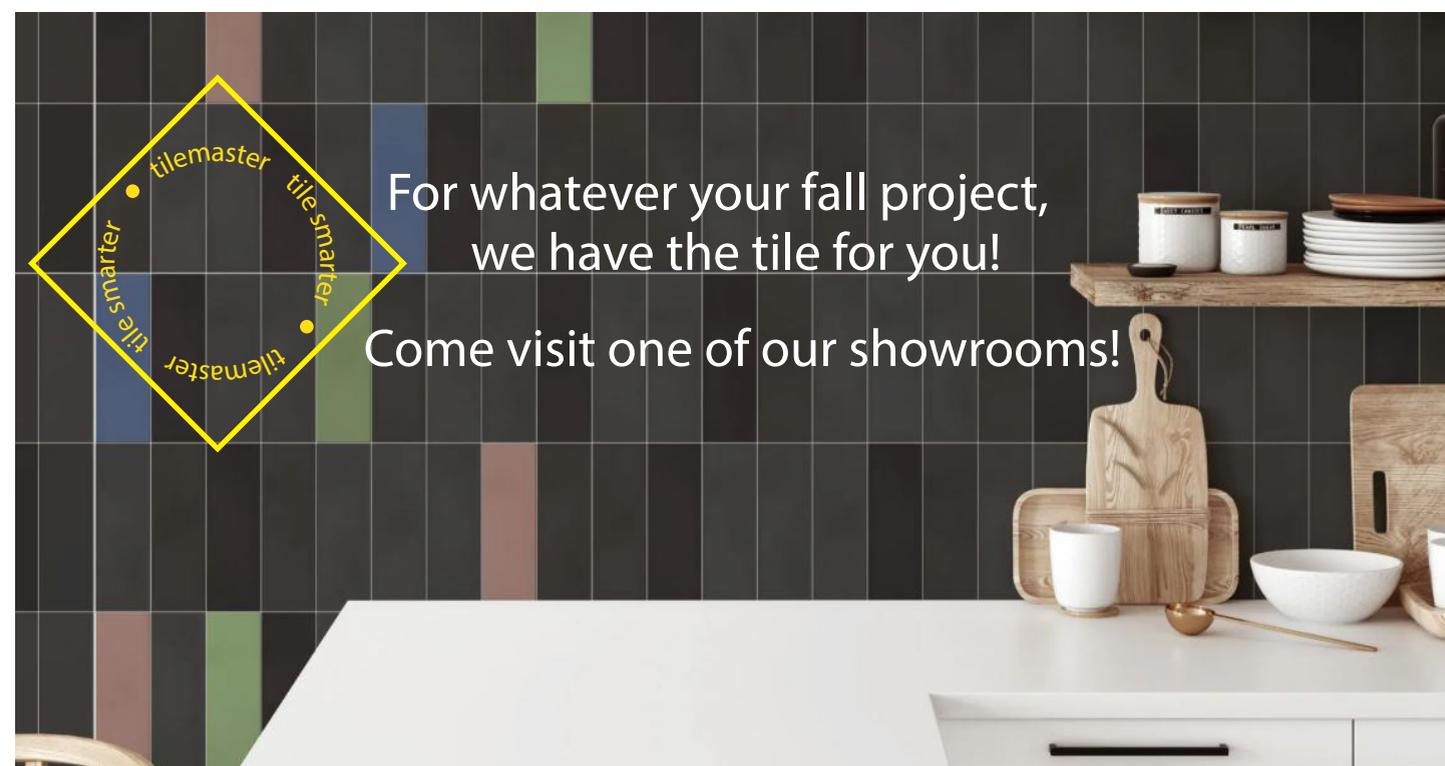
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ROAMING AROUND with Jim Thomas



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An Amazing 'Treasure'

I'm not a devoted book-reader. This may seem strange coming from one who's been part of the print media for more than seven decades, but it's true.

To my admitted guilt, I seldom cross the entrance to our Town's spacious library, home to unlimited materials of unread texts.

Why this missing link? It's all because my exclusive interest is and has been related to newspapers like the *Toronto Star* and our Town magazine, *On the Road*. They tell me all I need to know.

Until now.

Several weeks ago, while serving as a greeter at my church, a stranger approached. Her handshake was firm and her smile radiant.

"Pardon me," she said, "but I plan to publish a book and I'd like you, and others from here and elsewhere to play a part."

"How important a part?" I asked.

"Provide one or maybe two stories," she replied. "If they're in keeping with my chosen theme, I'll fit them in."

Wow, what an opportunity. I immediately jumped onto the bandwagon and offered my services. But first, I requested her name, address, and phone number. She immediately responded.

"I'm Suzanne Wilkinson," she said, "but Sue or Susan will do. I reside at Parkview Village."

Later, at the conclusion of worship, she handed me her business card that read "Rev. Susanne Wilkinson," a retired minister.

I learned that in a few months her book, entitled *Embraced by God's Love and Light*, would make its public appearance. I was one of the first to acquire a copy. Believe me, it's a masterpiece with one of my two stories, after editing, a part of its 210 pages. What an honour.

Appropriately hand-signed by its author, the book now holds a prominent place in our home. A proud possession.

So interesting is the content, Jean and I are now preoccupied in second readings, with more likely. It's just that good!

As proof of anticipated writings to follow, the introduction is sure to inspire interest. It reads:

"This book is dedicated to my family, near and far. May their souls grow heartily, and their spirits soar with fruitful joy. And may they find true hope in the living God through His Son Jesus Christ."

This, in itself, provides encouragement to read on.

However, before probing deeper into the content, allow me to update the fascinating accomplishments of the writer.

Rev. Susan Wilkinson is a native of London, Ontario. It was here she graduated from the Victoria Hospital School of Nursing, University of Western Ontario.

Following 20 years spent on the staff of several Toronto hospitals, Suzanne enrolled in Tyndale University and obtained her ministry degree. This service also spanned 20 years. She then spent an additional 14 years raising a family. She and husband David are the proud parents of two sons and two grandchildren. Suzanne currently holds Canada's longest volunteer service record with the Canadian Cancer Society. She and David moved to Parkview two years ago. "I'm happy there," she says.

Suzanne is a world traveler, visiting countries as far distant as Hawaii, Bermuda, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, the British Isles several times, and across Canada. On such occasions

she traveled with her family, sometimes on tours and often singly.

Looking back, she selects Australia, New Zealand, and Holland as three favourites, "but each has its own unique charms," she says. "I have unforgettable memories."

In Antigua, she contributed to the building of a long-term care facility but honestly admits experiences in the ministry have aided her outreach into the community and with neighbours.

It was while attending a Billy Graham Crusade in Toronto that Suzanne embraced Christianity. She was 16 at the time. However, this enthusiasm didn't end there. Book-publishing became a new-found interest with her initial narrative now in the hands of many readers. It's considered a fascinating 'gem'. A re-run is anticipated this month.

What makes Suzanne's book so unique is the fact it includes blessings in life experienced by many people, "individuals who acknowledge God," she says. A total of 54 within the Stouffville area submitted stories.

"I didn't do it to raise money," says Suzanne, "only to praise God."

"The potential for a sequel is not just a passionate hope but an exciting possibility," she concludes.

Readers may purchase her book *Embrace by God's Love and Light* on Amazon or by emailing rev.swilkinson@gmail.com

It's a keeper.



A TASTE OF THE GARDEN IN EVERY BITE

There's something truly magical about walking into your garden, picking a perfectly ripe tomato from the vine, eating it right there or making it part of a delicious homemade meal. Growing your own tomatoes connects you to the earth and seasons, but the real reward comes in the kitchen, where these garden gems can be transformed into rich, flavourful soups and sauces.

Why Tomatoes are Perfect for Cooking

Tomatoes are the quintessential garden ingredient for home cooking. Their bright acidity, natural sweetness, and meaty texture make them the perfect base for a number of dishes, from light summer salads with cherry tomatoes to hearty winter meals with Roma, plum or heirloom's. Fresh tomatoes have a depth of flavour that simply can't be replicated with store-bought.

When tomatoes are at their peak, and I have a lot, one of the best ways to use them up is making them into soup or sauce. These dishes allow the tomato's natural flavours to shine, and when paired with fresh herbs, garlic, and olive oil, the result is an incredibly satisfying meal.

Homemade Tomato Soup

There's a reason tomato soup has been a comfort food for generations. The combination of fresh tomatoes, garlic, and herbs creates a rich, velvety soup that warms you up. The beauty of homemade soup is its simplicity—it relies on the natural flavours of the tomatoes, making it the perfect dish to showcase your homegrown produce.

- 2 lbs of ripe tomatoes (heirloom or plum)
 - 1 onion, finely chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 4 cups vegetable or chicken broth
 - Fresh basil leaves to taste
 - Salt and pepper to taste
1. Heat olive oil in a large pot. Add the chopped onion and garlic, cooking until they're soft.
 2. Add your chopped tomatoes and simmer for about 10-15 minutes.

3. Pour in the broth, then bring the mixture to a boil before reducing to a simmer for another 20-25 minutes.
4. For a creamy, smooth texture, I carefully transfer the soup to a blender.
5. I then put the soup through a strainer to remove any skin or seeds left behind.
6. Season with salt and pepper, fresh basil. Serve with a slice of toasted bread or grilled cheese.

The flavour of homemade tomato soup is unlike anything you'll find in a can. The sweetness of the tomatoes comes through clearly, balanced by the savoury notes of garlic and broth. If you grow basil in your garden as well, it makes the perfect fresh garnish for a dish that tastes as fresh as the garden itself.

Homemade Tomato Sauce

Whether you're topping a plate of spaghetti, spooning it over homemade pizza, or layering it in lasagna, a rich and flavourful tomato sauce is a kitchen essential. Using tomatoes straight from your garden gives the sauce a depth and brightness that jarred sauces simply can't compete with.

- 3 pounds of fresh plum/roma tomatoes, seeded, peeled and chopped
 - 1 onion, finely diced
 - 3 cloves garlic, minced
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1 tablespoon tomato paste
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Dried or fresh oregano and basil to taste
 - If you like a smoky flavour you can add a dash of smoked paprika
7. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan. Add onion and garlic, cooking until soft and translucent.



Contact Dave Mills: david@stouffville.com

8. Add tomato paste.
 9. Add the chopped tomatoes, simmer over low heat for 30-40 minutes.
 10. Season with salt, pepper, oregano, fresh basil toward the end.
 11. For a smoother sauce, you can blend it or leave it chunky for a rustic texture.
- One of the best parts of homemade tomato sauce is its versatility. You can make it your own by adding a variety of herbs, spices, or even vegetables like bell peppers or carrots.



Beyond the flavours, cooking with homegrown tomatoes brings an added layer of satisfaction. There's a sense of pride that comes with knowing that you've nurtured something from seedling to harvest, and now, it's nourishing you and your family. The time you've spent watering, weeding, and caring for your plants pays off in every bite. Growing tomatoes is a rewarding experience, but it's in the kitchen where the real magic happens. Enjoy.

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Contact Bruce Stapley: bstapley@sympatico.ca



Funding for Health Care Needs

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS THE KEY TO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION'S SUCCESS

According to an old adage, it takes a village to raise a child. It could also be argued that it takes a community to allow a hospital foundation to grow, and nowhere is that more apparent than with the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Foundation (MSHF) as the area it serves continues to experience unprecedented growth,

Having completed a \$56 million expansion campaign in 2014 that allowed the Markham-Stouffville Hospital to double in size, the MSHF set out in 2018 to raise a further \$150 million. The cash infusion will result in the building of a new four story 200,000 sq. ft. Ambulatory Centre as well as a leading Academic Community Health Centre. It will also enable the hospital to invest in vital equipment, expanded Emergency Department diagnostic services, enhanced cancer care, and a dedicated Child & Adolescent Mental Health Centre. When it is all completed, the hospital will be able to use the space formerly used for these facilities to expand as needed in the longer term.

"I think Markham-Stouffville Hospital is very special, and it's because of the

community that we serve," says Suzette Strong, who has served as CEO of MSHF since 2007.

She traces the community's involvement back to 1967 when Stouffville philanthropist Art Latcham donated the 50 acres on which the hospital would eventually be built in 1990. "We would not be here today if it were not for his vision. This land was all cornfields north of the city then. Now look at the community we serve, it's incredible how much it has grown." Mr. Latcham's picture is on display in the Hospital's main lobby beside the story about him, along with a list of the community donors who raised the \$5 million to open the health facility's doors.

Ms. Strong says it is up to the Foundation to keep the community in the loop as to funds that have been raised to help their hospital keep up with the ever-increasing demands on health care and services. "We're the youngest community hospital, and thus the youngest foundation in the province - we're only 34 years old. So, we need to tell the community about all that has been done for the hospital, to communicate the hospital's needs and expertise so that the people understand the importance of the fundraising we do. That is what I think inspires them to donate to the Foundation."

The sense of community is also felt within the walls of the hospital. "Our care specialists, the people who work here, they choose to be here, they love this community. It's their hospital too, and they know that the community owns it," said Ms. Strong.

Of all the projects the Foundation has set out to fundraise for, the proposed \$3.1 million Child and Adolescent Mental Health unit is particularly important to Ms. Strong. This six-bed space will provide timely access to care close to home for youths in crisis while expanding associated outpatient services to support long-term recovery. "We were one of the first hospitals to raise money for mental health care 17

years ago", said Ms. Strong. She credits MSH Chief of Psychiatry, Dr. Rus Sethna, for getting the ball rolling. "Dr. Sethna and his team went out and talked to the community about the work we were doing because the people needed to know they can come and get help."



ABOVE: Suzette Strong has served as CEO of the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Foundation since 2007.

Looking ahead, Ms. Strong says the needs of the hospital are only going to continue to increase as the community grows even bigger. "There are always more needs than the Foundation can fund." With government funding basically limited to staffing, overhead and contributions to bricks and mortar on bigger projects, it is incumbent on the Foundation to come up with innovative ways to be sure the funding is there when needed. "The Foundation is now planning for the future in addition to annual needs. For instance, in the past year, we started an endowment fund which is now up to \$7.5 million."

Ms. Strong encourages people to visit the Foundation website msh.on.ca and to follow the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Foundation on Facebook and Instagram to better understand why it is so important to donate.

LEADING THE WORLD'S LARGEST YOUTH HOCKEY ORGANIZATION

'Put-up-or-shut-up' moment got future OMHA president Peter Harmsen 'in the game' 30 years ago

Minor hockey dad Peter Harmsen didn't like some of what he saw when his son was playing in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association.

Three birth year's worth of kids were skating together in the youngest age grouping of the house league.

The older and more gifted kids dominated. Others didn't see the puck let alone touch it at the Stouffville Arena.

"I guess it was put up or shut up time," he said with a hearty laugh 30 years later.

The next season, Harmsen joined the WSMHA as a house league convenor.

Fast-forward to today and he's president of the largest youth hockey organization in the world.

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association has nearly 100,000 participants playing at the U6-U21 age groups across much of Southern Ontario.

Harmsen has steadily moved up the ranks of the youth hockey world.



ABOVE: Stouffville's Peter Harmsen is president of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and its 100,000 participants. Photo credit: Kevin Sousa/Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

He'd served on the local association's executive before being named president of the regional York Simcoe Minor Hockey League.

Before being acclaimed president of the OMHA at its annual meeting in Richmond Hill in June, Harmsen was a regional director and vice-president of the association.

Fifteen years after son John graduated from minor hockey - "my girls were into horseback riding," he said - Peter happily puts in 40-hour weeks in the volunteer post with the OMHA.

"I just love the game of hockey," said the retired Toronto Police Service Detective who grew up with the sport in Brantford. "And I want to interest as many people as possible in the game so they can enjoy it, too."

Stories of out-of-control minor hockey parents and coaches are legendary, and conflict and resolution are part of Harmsen's portfolio.

"I try to be as up front with people as early as possible," he said of his strategy. "But on the whole, it's really a great group of people."

Harmsen's wife Susan, a popular Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville employee passed away in 2020. His three children live out of town, but Harmsen remains a resident loyal to this community.

He leads the WSMHA's Kids First Fund, which has provided financial assistance for local children who want to play hockey since 2011. And he's the driving force behind the introduction to skating and hockey programs run at the Stouffville Arena the past two winters.

"I've got friends from B.C. to Nova Scotia through hockey," he said. "But Stouffville will always be home for me."

SportsTown

with JIM MASON



Contact Jim Mason: jimmason905@gmail.com

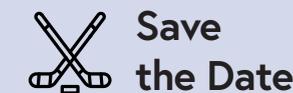
Remembering Jimmy

Jim Davis, an ultra-popular, lifelong Stouffville resident died suddenly four years ago. He was 53.

His legacy lives on through The Jimmy Classic, a golf tournament that has brought family and friends together the past two summers. The event at Sleepy Hollow Country Club has raised a combined \$37,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Thirty-four groups, up from 30 in 2023, took part August 17th - two days after Jim's birthday. Those spots sold out within days of being offered.

"We cannot express the amount of joy we get from seeing all his closest family and friends together and will forever be grateful for all the love and support we have received," the Davis family said in a statement. "Jim was an amazing man who could light up any room, and we know he is happy looking down on us, especially on that day seeing everyone laughing and sharing fond memories of him."



Next year's Jimmy Classic will be played on Saturday, August 16th.



COMMUNITY NEWS

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COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Agendas for Council and Public Meetings will be available for review on [townofws.ca/council](https://www.townofws.ca/council) at 12 PM the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Council Meetings:
 Wednesday, October 16th – 1 PM
 Wednesday, November 6th – 1 PM
 Wednesday, November 20th – 1 PM

Upcoming Public Meetings
 (if required):
 Wednesday, October 16th – 7 PM
 Wednesday, November 6th – 7 PM
 Wednesday, November 20th – 7 PM

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

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

Follow all council meetings on Whitchurch-Stouffville's official council X account [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall).

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

MORE INFO:
[townofws.ca/council](https://www.townofws.ca/council)

WESTFIELD ESTATES NEIGHBOURHOOD LAND USE STUDY

The Town is undertaking a Land Use Study to develop a vision and plan for the Westfield Estates Neighbourhood, which generally comprises the lands within the Cam Fella Boulevard, Aintree Drive, and Asbury Park Court area. The Study will assist the Town in planning and evaluating potential future redevelopment applications within the neighbourhood, while ensuring the adequate provision of infrastructure, community services, facilities and parks for existing and future residents.

A Public Open House is being held on October 2nd, 2024, at 6 PM at Town Hall – Ringwood Room (111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville) to introduce the study and to present background information. Visit our website for further details: [townofws.ca/westfield](https://www.townofws.ca/westfield) and sign up for our newsletter to receive study updates.

PARKS PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Join us on October 17th at 6 PM at 19 on The Park (19 Civic Ave. Stouffville) to learn about the Town's draft Parks Plan. As the Town grows, a Parks Plan is being prepared that will guide the development of a well-connected network of parks, trails, and open spaces to support a vibrant and healthy community for all residents and visitors. The Parks Plan will result in a revised Parkland Dedication By-law which will establish updated requirements for developers to provide parkland as part of new development in the Town.

Visit our website for further details: [townofws.ca/parkspan](https://www.townofws.ca/parkspan) and sign up for our newsletter.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 8th – 14th
 This year's National Fire Prevention Week theme, "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You," highlights essential steps to ensure smoke alarms are effective in protecting you and your loved ones. Stay informed by following us at [facebook.com/wsfes](https://www.facebook.com/wsfes)



STAY CONNECTED WITH STOUFFVILLE!

Join us on social media to stay up to date, get involved, and celebrate our vibrant community!

Facebook:
 /TownofStouffville
 /StouffvillePlay
 /WSFES
 /wsplibrary

Instagram:
 @TownofStouffville
 @StouffvillePlay

LinkedIn:
 Whitchurch-Stouffville

X:
 @townofWS
 @ws_townhall

RECREATION

Stouffville Card Show – Free Event!
 Don't miss the Stouffville Card Show on October 19th, from 10 AM – 3 PM at the Leisure Centre Gymnasium! Browse and trade a wide variety of cards including Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, vintage and modern sports cards. Free admission with a suggested food bank donation! [townofws.ca/cardshow](https://www.townofws.ca/cardshow)

Seniors Active Living Fair – Free Event!
 Join us at the 55+ Club on October 17th, from 10 AM to 3 PM at 6240 Main St. for a day of health and wellness! The first 150 registrants will receive a tote bag and BBQ ticket. Enjoy live cooking demos, a health and wellness trade show, workshops, fitness demos, and "try-it" classes.

19 ON THE PARK

2024/25 CONCERT SERIES

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

Opening Night Reception featuring Good Lovelies
 Oct. 3rd, 8 PM

Yuk-Yuk's On Tour
 Nov. 15th, 8 PM

Sonshine & Broccoli: Live for the Holidays!
 Dec. 15th, 3 PM

Sultans of String: Christmas Caravan
 Dec. 20th, 7:30 PM

Yuk-Yuk's On Tour
 Feb. 7th, 8 PM

Fireside Munsch
 Feb. 16th, 11:30 AM

Kuné: Canada's Global Orchestra
 Mar. 15th, 11 AM

Leisa Way's Opry Gold: The Kings and Queens of Country
 May 16th, 7 PM

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

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

19 ON THE PARK PROGRAMS

Introduction to Salsa
 Sept. 24th – Nov. 19th*, Tuesdays from 7 – 8 PM. Ages 18+, \$105
 *no class on Nov. 12th

Bollywood for Kids
 Sept. 24th – Nov. 12th, Tuesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Ages 6-12, \$105

Curtain Call Youth
 Sept. 29th – Nov. 26th, Sundays from 12 PM – 1:30 PM. Ages 12-17, \$108

Trivia Nights
 Oct. 10th, Nov. 7th, Dec. 5th
 7 – 9 PM. Ages 18+, \$8.85

Register at [townofws.ca/active](https://www.townofws.ca/active)

MUSEUM

Creepy Crafts
 Oct. 19th, 12:30 PM – 2 PM
 Ages 3-10, \$10 per child. Required adult chaperone free of charge.
 Get into the Halloween spirit with this registered program! Participants will

enjoy all things creepy with staff-led crafts and science experiments, including pumpkin painting and mask making. Pre-registration required online at [townofws.ca/active](https://www.townofws.ca/active) using barcode 34014.

PA Day: Elves in the Workshop
 Nov. 15th, 8 AM – 5 PM
 Ages 6-12, \$72 per child.
 Calling elves of all kinds! Head out on a holiday traditions tour of the heritage buildings, decorate seasonal cookies, and get crafty to start the festive season. Pre-registration required online at [townofws.ca/active](https://www.townofws.ca/active) using barcode 34015.

44th Annual Victorian Tea
 Nov. 16th, 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM seatings
 All ages, \$30 per person.
 A delicious taste of Christmas past, featuring a traditional catered tea and a festive tour of the Museum's buildings. Please call 905-727-8954 or email wsmuseum@townofws.ca to book your seating.

NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Killing the Indian in the Child: Generations Lost
 Oct. 12th, 2024 – June 28th, 2025.
 Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM
 Presented by the Legacy of Hope Foundation and the Department of Canadian Heritage, this exhibit describes the impact of the residential school system on Indigenous children and their families.

Please note: This exhibition contains difficult subject matter that may be disturbing to some. Free admission.

TO LEARN MORE:
[townofws.ca/exhibits](https://www.townofws.ca/exhibits)



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