



JUNE 2026 NO. 95

On the Road

A STOUFFVILLE MAGAZINE

Memorial Cup comes to Stouffville

Local standout Jack Pridham lifts the coveted CHL championship trophy with the Kitchener Rangers

 Stouffville

For the Birds

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From the Editor

Summer is here and the time is right... for reading *On The Road!*

This issue has everything you need to plan your summer in Stouffville with the family. Our complete events guide can be found on page 16 and the complete 2026 Strawberry Festival schedule and map is on page 26. Michaela Ray also has a chat with the organizers of this summer's Chariot Festival on page 12.

Also, I had the chance to meet Rob Fockler of Musselman's Lake to check out his collection of birdhouses, and Cassandra meets Riley Rogers, the creative mind behind Downtown's new urban plaza.

Enjoy this issue, and more importantly, enjoy the summer!

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King Cole Ducks Marks 75 Years: From Stouffville Farm to Global Table

by Cristina Liu



Sisters Debbi Conzelmann, Jackie Fisher, Robin Kelly, and Patti Thompson, granddaughters of King Cole Ducks founder James Murby, are celebrating 75 years in business at the Warden Ave. farm.

This year, King Cole Ducks celebrates an extraordinary milestone, 75 years in business, marking a journey that began as a small family farm in Stouffville and has grown into Canada's largest duck producer, with customers around the world.

What has remained constant over those decades is not scale, but spirit. Built across four generations, King Cole has always operated on what can best be

Cole Ducks focused on quality and accountability through its unique "egg-to-plate" approach. By keeping nearly every stage of production in-house, from raising the ducks to processing and product development, the company maintains complete oversight of its operations. This full integration allows for consistency, responsiveness, and trust, whether serving a local retailer or an international client.

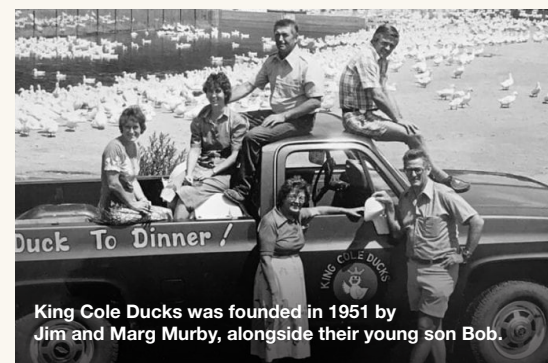
have made duck more accessible and appealing, helping the company expand into new markets and dining experiences.

The company's growth has mirrored Canada's own diversity. As new communities brought different culinary traditions and tastes, King Cole Ducks adapted, introducing products inspired by global cuisines and building strong relationships within multicultural markets.

Despite its international reach, King Cole Ducks has never lost sight of its roots. The company remains deeply committed to its Stouffville community, prioritizing local partnerships, supporting nearby suppliers, and hosting events that bring people together. Even as it exports to markets across North America, Asia, and beyond, its foundation

Today, as Canadian food products enjoy a strong reputation internationally, King Cole Ducks continues to expand abroad, exporting to multiple countries while maintaining its reputation for quality and care.

Today, King Cole Ducks proudly calls itself a "75-year-old startup", still learning, still innovating, and still committed to the farm family. From a local Stouffville farm to tables around the world, its journey is proof that staying true to your roots can take you anywhere. 🦆



King Cole Ducks was founded in 1951 by Jim and Marg Murby, alongside their young son Bob.

described as a "farm family" mindset. Employees, suppliers, and partners are treated as an extension of that family, with relationships and respect at the heart of every decision. This people-first philosophy continues to guide the company as it evolves, ensuring growth never comes at the expense of its values.

From its earliest days, King

remains firmly planted close to home.

Innovation has also been critical to its longevity. Recognizing that traditional duck products could be intimidating for some consumers, King Cole invested in a development kitchen and processing facility to create ready-to-cook and fully prepared offerings, from duck wings to smoked duck breast. These innovations

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KING COLE DUCKS

King Cole Ducks

15351 Warden Ave.

For more details, including products and visitor hours, call 800-363-3825 or visit kingcoleducks.com

Memorial Cup Champion Thankful for Hometown Support

Jack Pridham's future will now go through the University of Denver, Tampa Bay Lightning

by Jim Mason

Please issue Jack Pridham an excuse slip so he can take the rest of the summer off.

The 20-year-old from Stouffville experienced a whirlwind of lifetime hockey milestones during a few weeks this spring.

Pridham's near non-stop lifting of trophies should count as multiple gym days:

- He won the Memorial Cup with the Kitchener Rangers on May 31st, thanks to a 6-2 victory over the Everett (Washington) Silvertips in the final played in Kelowna, B.C. It was the third Canadian Hockey League championship for the Rangers (est. in 1963). His parents, Sue and Brandon, the former Toronto Maple Leafs executive, were shown in the stands during the TV broadcast. (Jack's family and friends from Stouffville stayed with the family that billeted him during his two seasons playing Jr. A for neighbouring West Kelowna.

"Their support means the world to me," he said. "They've obviously been with me since Day one of this journey, and I wouldn't be here without them."

- Pridham won the Ed Chynoweth Trophy as the tournament's leading scorer after recording five goals and nine points across four games. He was also named to the tournament's All-Star Team.

- Pridham's NHL signing rights were traded the next day, from the Chicago Blackhawks to the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Blackhawks drafted the forward in the third round (92nd overall) of the 2024 NHL Draft.

- One day later (June 2nd, for those keeping track at home), there was more trophy time as Pridham, and his mates were paraded through downtown Kitchener to a victory celebration in front of thousands of fans in the city square.

"There are so many fans here who have poured all their support into our

team," Pridham told *OTR* from Kitchener. "Not only this year. You look back after getting to meet season ticket holders from years way back and realize it's pretty special."

- More? During the OHL awards presentations at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto on June 3rd, Pridham was awarded the Leo Lalonde Memorial Trophy as the league's Overage (born in 2005) Player of the Year. He led the Rangers with 46 goals and 90 points in 65 regular-season games and was also named to the league's third all-star team. In the playoffs, Pridham had 17 points in 19 games as the Rangers won their fifth OHL title.

- Somewhere in there, Pridham found time to commit to play with the defending NCAA champs at the University of Denver – he had been committed to Boston University – next season and shaved off an impressive playoff beard

Next? Pridham will attend Tampa Bay's development camp with Kitchener teammate and Memorial Cup/OHL MVP, Sam O'Reilly in late June.

In between training sessions, he'll be given a day or two to celebrate with the Memorial Cup.

If Jack's windfall wasn't enough news for the Pridhams:

His lone sibling, older sister Olivia, graduated from McGill University during that eventful week and is working in Toronto. She played four seasons of varsity hockey at the Montreal school. As



Stouffville's Jack Pridham recently won the Memorial Cup and the Ed Chynoweth Trophy as the tournament's leading scorer. The next day he was traded to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

an assistant captain in her final season, she studied industrial relations.

"I'm so proud of her," Jack said.

Jack, three, and Olivia, five, first played on a team coached by their dad in the house league of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association.

Is Jack Pridham the first resident of Stouffville to win the Memorial Cup? *OTR* couldn't locate any others.

"That's pretty cool," Pridham said.

Other Stouffvillians have played in the tournament, including Keith Acton (Peterborough Petes, 1978), Cory Tanaka (Belleville Bulls, 2008), Jamie Wise (Mississauga St. Michael's Majors, 2011) and Zach Roberts (Guelph Storm, 2019) 📧

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BUILDING BIRDS A NEW HOME

Rob Fockler builds birdhouses designed for quiet backyards, patient builders, and birds that know what they like.

by Glenn Jackson

You can't really miss them. Surely, they are the most colourful things at Musselman's Lake.

As you drive north on Ninth Line and are just about to crest into the last little hill before the blue waters come into view, two houses on the left catch your eye.

Both have fences lined with small wooden birdhouses in every colour, arranged one after another like their own quiet little neighbourhood.

Some are painted bright; some are left natural. A few sit perfectly straight, while others lean slightly, as if they have settled into place over time. Most days, there is no one standing beside them, no sign urging you to stop. They are simply there, waiting to be noticed.

Behind them, just steps back from the road in the house on the left, is Rob Fockler.

For Rob, building birdhouses was never part of some grand plan. It wasn't a lifelong trade or something he set out to turn into a business. It started the way many good ideas do, with something simple that didn't quite work.

"On my birthday, my wife bought me a birdhouse kit," he says. "Made out of plywood. I put it together... and it fell apart within a year."

That was enough to get him thinking.

ADJUSTING THE SIZE

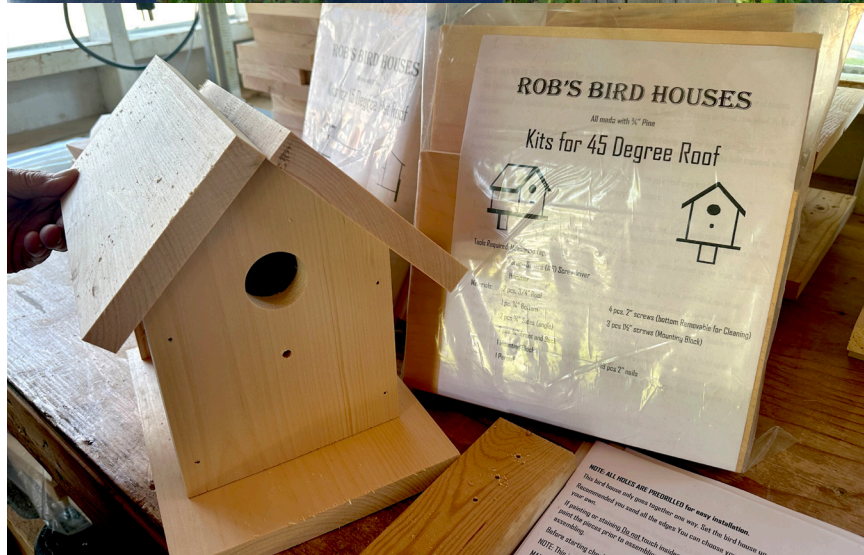
The problem with that first birdhouse was not just that it didn't last. It was how it functioned.

"The birds would go in, and it was hard for them to get back out," Rob explains. "So, I started making them smaller. Changing things."

From there, the work came naturally. He began adjusting the size, reworking the base to allow cleaning,



Along with the traditional 15- and 45-degree roof birdhouse kits (bottom), Musselman's Lake resident Rob Fockler (above) also sells wooden faces with solar-powered eyes that light up at night (right).



and experimenting with stronger wood. The plywood gave way to solid material. The designs became simpler and more practical. There is nothing flashy about them, nothing unnecessary, just small improvements made one piece at a time.

"Now I make them so they come apart, so you can clean them," he says. "You have to clean your birdhouse."

There is no formal plan pinned to the wall, and no step-by-step process documented anywhere.

"I got wood from a friend," he says. "Sometimes I glue it together, clean it up, cut it to size. It's what I've got."

The houses that come out of that process are simple, sturdy, and built for a purpose. That purpose is not decoration. It is use.

LIKE A BIT OF PRIVACY

Ask Rob about what matters most in a birdhouse, and he does not talk about colour or style. He talks about where it sits and how it feels to the birds themselves.

"Birds like a bit of privacy," he says.

It is something he has learned by watching what happens after the work is done. The houses that sit close to the road tend to stay empty. The ones placed further back, where it is quieter, are the ones that get used.

"You put them out front, too noisy," he says. "They won't use them."

Over time, those small observations have shaped everything he builds. The size, the placement, even the way he talks to people who stop by. It becomes less about selling an object and more about helping it find the right place.

"They need somewhere quiet," he says. "That's the thing."

For a while, the birdhouses were simply something to do. A way to pass the time and keep his hands moving.

"You know what it is?" Rob says. "Something to do, Glenn. Better than sitting in a chair all day."

After retiring last year, that time opened up even more. He started building more houses and placing them along the fence so people could see them as they passed. There was no real strategy behind it, no marketing plan, just a row of birdhouses growing slowly over time.

And then, eventually, people stopped.

"When I started putting them out," he says. "That's when people stopped."

Some slow down out of curiosity. Others stop with a purpose. Most simply want to take a closer look.

"Not a lot, not all the time," Rob says. "But people do stop."

Selling the birdhouses has never been about turning a profit. Still, there is a practical side to it.

The kits, with the pieces cut and ready to assemble, sell for about \$25. The finished houses, painted and assembled, go for about \$45. Rob breaks it down in his own straightforward way.

"I tell people, that's five bucks to sand, five bucks to put it together, two coats of paint," he says. "I don't make no money."

He says it plainly, without complaint. At one point, he tried charging more, but it didn't work.

"I tried selling them for \$35 for the kit," he says. "Nobody bought them."

So, he adjusted the price to where people would say yes.

"You got to keep it where people will buy them."

EYES LIGHT UP

Alongside the birdhouses, Rob has started making other small pieces. Wooden faces that hang along the fence, some with solar lights that come on at night.

"They light up," he says. "Eyes light up."

Like the houses, they began simply. An idea seen elsewhere, adapted, and improved until it fit his own way of working. It is the same process repeated. See something, try it, and make it better.

None of it feels complicated to him. It is just another thing to build.



Without advertising, birdhouses slowly find their way into the world. One person tells another. Someone stops once and remembers. A car passes by and then comes back the next day.

"I had one lady buy one," Rob says. "Then she came back to get another."

Moments like that carry more weight than any sign could. It is enough to know the work is going somewhere, even if that somewhere is just across town.

A SIMPLE REASON

When asked why he chose birdhouses instead of something larger or more elaborate, his answer stays simple.

"They're small," he says. "You can put them anywhere."

A table needs space. A larger project demands room and planning. A birdhouse can fit into a corner, onto a fence, or into a backyard that has just enough space for one more thing.

"They are easy to place and easy to live with. They do not take over," he says.

Back along Ninth Line, the fence continues to hold its quiet collection. Some will be taken home. Some will stay where they are. Some will end up tucked into a backyard, doing exactly what they were built to do.

For Rob Fockler, that is enough. "It gives me something to do," he says.

And sometimes, that is all a good project needs to be. 🌿

BIRDHOUSE KITS 4 COULTICE DRIVE, MUSSELMAN'S LAKE

Rob sells two types of kits: One with a 15-degree roof and one with a 45-degree roof. Both unfinished kits are \$25. Despite his address being 4 Coultice Dr. at Musselman's Lake, his driveway is off Ninth Line. He can be reached at (905) 640-1506. "But I don't have a cell phone. If I don't answer, leave a message."

PHOTOS BY GLENN JACKSON

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A Walk of Heart and Hope for Roni Antonroy

by Ruby Vasanthan



"People are going through so many different things, and we don't know it until they speak up," he says. From supporting families in hospitals to giving back internationally, including a deeply meaningful trip to their family's village in Sri Lanka, the foundation carries Roni's spirit forward. "He lives within me. He sees everything I see and feels everything I feel," Brian says.

On July 11th, that love comes together at Memorial Park in Stouffville. This walk is about community, compassion, and showing families they are not alone. To show up is to carry his spirit forward.

Officer Roni Antonroy was, first and foremost, someone who lived to protect, serve, and care for others. That was not just his job as a York Regional Police officer. It was who he was at his core. To those who loved him, Roni was joy in its purest form. He was the kind of person who made you feel seen, who made you laugh when you needed it most, and who carried himself with a strength that never demanded attention.

What makes his spirit so powerful is not just how he lived, but what he lived through. From a heart transplant as a baby, to cancer, to kidney failure, Roni faced more in his 20s than most people do in a lifetime. Yet you would never know it. He showed up smiling. He showed up for

others. He showed up believing, always grounded in faith, saying, "God's got me."

Even through hospital stays and unimaginable challenges, he was thinking about when he could return to duty and continue serving his community. That was his purpose. And in many ways, he is still fulfilling it. After his passing in 2024, stories began to surface of lives he protected and changed without ever speaking about it himself.

For his brother Brian, that loss reshaped everything. What could have broken him became purpose. Through the Roni Heart & Hope Foundation, Brian has built a growing community rooted in love, mental health awareness, and reminding people to reach out.



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Student creativity on display at St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School

On May 6th, St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School proudly marked Catholic Education Week with a beautiful, nature-inspired art show showcasing the creativity and talent of its students. Families, staff, and community members gathered to experience artwork inspired by the beauty of God's natural world.

Students explored both visual art and music, using colour, texture, sound, and imagination to express their sense of wonder and appreciation for the world around them. From vibrant landscapes

and wildlife to thoughtful interpretations of the changing seasons, each piece reflected a spirit of curiosity, gratitude, and faith.

"The art show was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate faith, creativity, and community while recognizing the many talents of our students," said principal Tania Paniculam. "We are incredibly proud of their thoughtful work and grateful to everyone who helped make the event such a meaningful success."



Connor Cadaret Keeps Following His Coaching Dream

Former Stouffville Clippers, Spirit coach is an eye-in-the sky with the OHL East champion Barrie Colts



Stouffville native Connor Cadaret at practice with the 2026 Ontario Hockey League Eastern Conference champion Barrie Colts at the Sadlon Arena in Barrie.



by Jim Mason
jimason905@gmail.com

By all accounts, Stouffville's Connor Cadaret should have been living the dream.

Armed with a degree in economics from McMaster University and a securities certificate, he worked as a client advisor at RBC.

But something was missing for the kid who grew up playing a ton of rep hockey for the Stouffville Clippers, including winning two Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships.

"When I went through university, I didn't really realize how much I would miss being a part of a team and being involved in hockey," he told *OTR* from his home in Stayner. "As soon as I graduated, I knew I wanted to give back to the community."

So, Cadaret, now 32, kept the day job and joined the coaching fraternity back home with the WSMHA in 2016.

His time with the Clippers culminated in a run to the OMHA U16 AA finals, which were cancelled by COVID. He was named the recipient of the WSMHA's Steve Wright Memorial Award that spring as its coach of the year.

He'd go on to be the WSMHA's rep team development advisor/competitive program coordinator for two years. Plus, there were two stints with the Stouffville Spirit Jr. A team: one year as video coach and, in the 2020-2021 season, the year cancelled by the pandemic, as an assistant.

That's when he changed up his life, big time.

"I decided to try and give it my

"I decided to try and give it my everything and jump in full time with coaching... it might look crazy to others, but it was just the passion that I had." - Connor Cadaret

everything and try to jump in full time with the coaching," he said. "I think it would look crazy in other people's minds. But it was just the passion that I had, and I wouldn't have been able to do it without all the support from my family and my parents.

"They supported me when I needed it, because you're not making a whole bunch of money when you're in this industry."

The grandson of CFL legend Russ Jackson followed his dream and served as an assistant or associate coach for a single season with Jr. A teams in Cobourg, Bonnyville, Alberta, and Collingwood, where he won the Centennial Cup national championship with the Blues in 2024.

He moved up the ladder that fall, signing as an assistant coach with the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League.

He's the eye in the sky during games with the defending Eastern Conference champions in Barrie.

"I'm watching from above and radioing down anything I see from the opponent or from us to our assistant coach on the bench, and then we can implement the necessary adjustments."

And just like in the NHL, he's also looking for goaltender interference and offside on opposition goals.

On non-game days, Cadaret runs drills at practice and conducts video sessions and one-on-one meetings with players.

During the offseason, Connor, his girlfriend Jessica Hannan, and their dog, Brewer, enjoy unplugging by camping. He also works at a golf course in Collingwood and runs summer sessions for players.

Wes Wolfe, the then head coach and GM in Cobourg, hired the young assistant in 2021 after Cadaret reached out on X/ Twitter.

"Immediately, I was just so impressed with how intelligent he was, his viewpoint on the game, how progressive he is and how detailed and prepared he is," Wolfe said.

"He drove from Stouffville to Coburg every day and treated it like a full-time job. He invested everything he had, and then some, into it."

Wolfe, an assistant coach with the Erie Otters of the OHL for seven years over two stints, moved to the pro ranks a year ago. Cadaret considers Wolfe, an assistant himself with the Reading Royals in the ECHL, his mentor.

"Connor really impressed me, and it's been really cool to see his progress as he's climbed up the coaching ladder," said Wolfe from his summer home in Niagara.

Long-term, Cadaret hopes to "coach at the highest level that I can get to."

"I want to get back onto a bench just so I can develop that side of my coaching at this level. I think it's where I'm at my best. I can be the calm in the chaos during the game, notice things and be able to suggest the right things at the right times."

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IN THE SPIRIT OF CELEBRATION

by Michaela Ray

Stouffville to host Toronto-born ISKCON Chariot Festival on July 25

For more than 50 years, the vibrant sounds of drums, music and celebration have marked Toronto's annual ISKCON Chariot Festival. What began in the city in 1972 as a cultural and spiritual procession has grown into one of the largest celebrations of its kind in North America, drawing thousands of people together each summer through food, music, service, and community.

Now, that same spirit is finding a home in Stouffville.

This July, ISKCON Stouffville will host its second annual Chariot Festival at Memorial Park, building on the momentum of a first-year event that surprised even its organizers with the warmth of the community response.

For the volunteers behind the festival, the event is about far more than a parade or a celebration. At its heart, they say, it's

about creating connection.

"We wanted to bring the same feeling we experienced in Toronto to Stouffville," said one organizer, recalling the first time he and his wife attended the downtown festival a few years ago. "People from every background were singing, dancing, sharing food and simply enjoying being together. We looked at each other and said, 'This is the kind of community we want to be part of.'"

That experience stayed with him. After moving to Stouffville and becoming involved with ISKCON locally, the idea slowly began to take shape: what if they could create something similar here; something welcoming, family-friendly, and rooted in togetherness?

The idea was born during a brainstorming session in early 2025. None of the organizers had experience running

a large-scale festival. Most work full-time careers and volunteer their evenings and weekends to support the community. Still, within six months, the group transformed a conversation in a living room, into a full-scale public event.

"We were nervous," one organizer admitted with a laugh. "We kept asking ourselves, 'Can we really do this in a small town?' But everything just started falling into place."

Last year's festival drew families, seniors, children, newcomers and longtime residents alike. Curious park visitors wandered over after hearing music or seeing the chariot procession move through Memorial Park. Many stayed for hours.

Organizers remember seeing children getting their faces painted while seniors relaxed under the pavilion listening to music. Families lined up together for a free vegetarian meal served fresh on-site. Others participated in yoga, meditation, or cultural activities throughout the afternoon.

What stood out most, they said, was how naturally people connected.

"It never felt forced," one volunteer explained. "People who had never met before were sitting together, eating together, pulling the chariot together. There was this feeling of openness and joy."

That sense of inclusivity is central to the festival's purpose. The event is completely free, from admission to performances to meals, a tradition ISKCON communities have upheld around the world for decades.

Organizers say removing financial barriers is intentional.

"We want everyone to feel welcome," one volunteer said. "Whether someone

comes for the music, the food, the performances, or simply out of curiosity, there should be something for everyone."

The festival has also become an example of the kind of grassroots community-building that defines Stouffville itself. Organizers spoke often about the support they received from residents, local leaders and Town staff during the planning process. They recalled volunteers showing up early in the morning to help move tables and benches, neighbours sharing the event online without being asked, and attendees returning months later wanting to become involved themselves.

One moment that stood out to organizers happened after last year's festival, when a local resident posted photos of the event and free meal offerings in a community Facebook group. The post quickly gained attention and brought even more families to Memorial Park that afternoon.

"We didn't know who the person was," one volunteer said. "They just genuinely wanted others to experience it too. That meant a lot to us."

This year's festival is expected to grow significantly, with more volunteers, expanded programming and increased outreach across York Region and Durham. Organizers say they are doubling their food capacity and expect to serve approximately 2,000 fresh meals throughout the day.

The event will once again feature the signature chariot procession, the symbolic centrepiece of the celebration. Traditionally known as "Ratha Yatra," the procession represents unity, service and shared purpose.

"There are many ropes, but everyone is pulling in the same direction," one organizer explained. "That's what community feels like."



PHOTO BOTTOM LEFT: DENNIS HRISTOVSKI | OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF ISKCON STOUFFVILLE

Others who attended as guests returned months later asking how they could volunteer.

"We started with around 30 volunteers," an organizer said. "This year we're close to 100."

For the ISKCON Stouffville team, that support has become one of the clearest signs that the festival is resonating beyond their own community.

"This is success for us," one organizer said. "Not just attendance, but seeing people feel connected, welcomed and happy. If someone leaves smiling, feeling uplifted, that means everything."

Looking ahead, organizers hope the Chariot Festival becomes a lasting part of Stouffville's summer identity alongside beloved community events like Strawberry Festival and Ribfest.

"We want people to remember Stouffville as a place where communities come together," one volunteer said. "A place that celebrates culture, kindness and belonging."

The 2026 ISKCON Stouffville Chariot Festival takes place July 25 from 11 AM to 5 PM at Memorial Park and will feature live music, cultural performances, yoga and wellness activities, face painting, vendors, community booths and a free vegetarian feast for all attendees in what organizers hope becomes a lasting tradition for the community. 🍽️



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The Hidden Burdens of Healing: What Patients in Stouffville Face

by **Susan Tucker**
 OTRtipoff@outlook.com

In the quiet communities of Stouffville and surrounding York Region, a cancer diagnosis or the need for ongoing medical treatment represents far more than a medical challenge. For many residents, it becomes a gruelling test of resilience, finances, and family logistics. While Ontario's public healthcare system covers core treatments, the "hidden costs" like parking, transportation, childcare, and time management create barriers that can feel insurmountable for patients and their loved ones.

Markham Stouffville Hospital serves as a vital hub for many in our area, offering a wide range of medical services, including chemotherapy, radiation planning, and dialysis. Yet even local care demands repeated visits that disrupt daily life. For cancer patients, treatment often involves weeks of radiation or regular chemo sessions. Dialysis patients typically attend three sessions per week, each lasting several hours. These are not one-off events but ongoing commitments that reshape entire family routines.

Parking fees add up quickly. At Markham Stouffville Hospital, rates are \$4.50 per 30 minutes, with a daily maximum of \$19.25. For a patient undergoing daily radiation over six weeks, that could mean hundreds of dollars, which can create significant outlays for households already strained by reduced work hours or lost income.

In response to this burden, the Stouffville Market has launched a meaningful community initiative. They are actively donating hospital parking passes to support local patients and have invited the broader community to participate. Generous neighbours and businesses can contribute by donating funds; e-transfers are welcome at thestouffvillemarket@gmail.com. Cash

donations are also accepted in person at the market and at 2 downtown businesses: Francis & Meyer and Redefined Finds. Every contribution helps provide much-needed passes directly to families facing repeated hospital visits, turning local solidarity into practical relief for those undergoing treatment. This grassroots effort highlights the spirit of Stouffville, neighbours looking out for one another during life's toughest chapters.

Transportation compounds the issue, especially for those needing specialized care at Toronto hospitals like Princess Margaret or Sunnybrook. From Stouffville, the GO Transit Stouffville line runs to Union Station, but connections add time and cost. For seniors or those feeling unwell post-treatment, navigating buses, trains, and walks in all weather, particularly during harsh Ontario winters, can become exhausting. Many rely on family drivers, pulling spouses or adult children away from work, or pay for rideshares that quickly escalate costs.

Time management and family responsibilities create another layer of strain. Parents undergoing treatment must juggle appointments with school schedules, extracurriculars, and childcare for younger children. A morning dialysis session might require arranging before- and after-school care, potentially at an extra cost if the family isn't available. Cancer patients dealing with fatigue and side effects often struggle to maintain household roles, leading to added stress on partners who may need to reduce hours or use vacation time. Grandparents or extended family frequently step in, but this isn't always possible, especially in smaller or newer households.

The emotional toll deepens when patients feel like burdens. Patients describe the physical effort of getting to and from treatment, worrying about delays, and the guilt of relying on others. One missed appointment due to

transportation issues can affect health outcomes, yet the logistics of reliable rides remain challenging in our growing but still semi-rural community.

These hidden costs extend beyond dollars. Lost wages from time off work, gas for frequent trips, meals grabbed near the hospital, and even incidental expenses like comfortable clothing for long waits all accumulate. Ontario offers some supports, such as potential subsidies through organizations like the Kidney Foundation for dialysis transport or tax deductions for medical travel over certain distances. Cancer patients may access limited assistance via the Canadian Cancer Society or local programs, but many fall through gaps, especially middle-income families ineligible for full social supports.

Hospital treatments at Markham Stouffville and Uxbridge Cottage Hospitals save and improve lives, but the full journey involves more than medicine. Recognizing and addressing these hidden costs helps ensure families can focus on healing without undue financial hardship. Local initiatives remind us that community care extends beyond hospital walls. Shining a light on these costs and celebrating community efforts that help is essential to ensure that patients receive medical treatment without destroying their financial future.

Thank you to the brave cancer warriors I met with for sharing their stories with me while writing this article. In a world full of battles, we can help one another by offering kindness and support. 🙏



Make a Difference

Donate a hospital parking pass today and support local patients through treatment. Contributions can be sent via e-transfer to thestouffvillemarket@gmail.com or made in person at the market.

2026 Summer Events



Events marked with the Stouffville logo are Town-led events.



Events marked with a star are *Stouffville Celebrates* events, presented by City Park Homes.

CITY PARK

JUNE 25

Country on the Patio



7:30 PM 19 on the Park Theatre

Featuring the Beresfords. York Region fan favourites Shannon and Brendan Beresfords bring their 4-piece band for a night of country-rock classics and chart-topping originals.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/patioseries

JUNE 26-28

Strawberry Festival

19 Memorial Park

This free 3-day event will include various delicious food, amazing market vendors, incredible main stage entertainment, and community activities for all ages.

Town of Stouffville // strawberryfestival.ca

JUNE 27

Rock 'n Roll Classic Car Show

9 AM - 2 PM Main Street

The Village of Stouffville lights up as the Rock 'N Roll Classic Car Show brings 100 classic cars, live music, family fun, patios, and downtown specials to Main Street.

The Village of Stouffville // discoverstouffville.ca/events

JUNE 28

Stouffville Open Mic

1 PM Harmony Hall

The Stouffville Open Stage is a free, long-running GTA open mic where artists connect, perform, and grow.

Harmony Hall // harmonymusichall.ca



Patio Series



Canada Day Fireworks

JULY 1

Game On Stouffville: Round of 32 Game



4 PM Memorial Park

Feel the excitement, share the passion, and experience every goal, save, and nail-biting moment together. Wear your red and white, bring your friends, and let's cheer loud enough to be heard across the globe!

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/gameon

JULY 1

Canada Day Fireworks



Event starts at 5 PM • Fireworks begin at 9:30 PM

19 Memorial Park

Bring your friends and family, pack your picnic blankets, and join us for a Canada Day celebration on Wednesday, July 1 2026!

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/canadaday

JULY 9 - AUGUST 27 (THURSDAYS)

Youth Roller Skate Nights



6 PM - 9 PM Memorial Park Multi-purpose Trail

The Youth Advisory Working Group (YAWG), in collaboration with SUSO Skate Co., is launching 12 free community roller skating events every Thursday at the Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Trail.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/rollerskate

JULY 11

Walk for Roni

9 AM - 2 PM 2 Park Dr

Join us for the Walk for Roni 4K, an event dedicated to honouring Roni's legacy while raising crucial funds for Heart Transplant Program at SickKids Hospital. Registration required.

Roni's Heart & Hope Foundation // ronisheartandhope.org

JULY 11 & AUGUST 8

Summer Fun Bingo

9 AM - 2 PM Stouffville Legion

Join us for an afternoon of fun and games at our FUN BINGO! in the clubroom. Get ready to shout "Bingo" as you join your friends and have fun. We have bingo dabbers if you forget. 18+ Years Old | \$10 for 3 plays | \$20 for 9 plays

Stouffville Legion // stouffvillelegion.ca

JULY 12

Keep Moving, Stouffville

19 Stouffville Arena & Connell-Franklin Track Park Track

Keep Moving, Stouffville is a community fitness event on July 12 at the Stouffville Arena track featuring introductory run, yoga, spin, HYROX, and functional strength sessions led by local fitness partners, along with vendors, giveaways, and a welcoming atmosphere designed to encourage people to try new ways to stay active. Registration required.

Stouffville Run Crew // move.stouffvilleruncrew.com

JULY 14

Backstage Sessions (Industry Night)

7 PM Harmony Hall

Backstage Sessions is a free monthly music-industry hang at Harmony Hall where musicians, promoters, and creatives connect, collaborate, and swap ideas.

Harmony Hall // harmonymusichall.ca

JULY 15 - SEPTEMBER 2

Live On Main New Weekly Music Series



7 PM 6240 Main Street

Head downtown every Wednesday night through September 2 for live music in Stouffville's new Urban Plaza! Check the website for the musical lineup.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/liveonmain

Discover Your Stage:

A Season of Music at 19 on the Park Theatre

By Jane Taylor

Live music has the power to change lives. Sometimes it's intentional, marking the on-sale date for a favourite artist, and sometimes it's the unexpected discovery of a performer whose music stays with you long after the final note.

This year, we invite you to Discover Your Stage at 19 on the Park Theatre, through a nine-show series in the heart of downtown Stouffville.

As we continue shaping the artistic direction at the theatre, many of the shows in this season's lineup were inspired by moments shared right here in our community. During this past season's Wintersong Festival, I stepped into Saints on Main and heard The Young Novelists for the first time. Their contemporary folk-rooted harmonies and beautifully crafted arrangements stayed with me, and I knew immediately I wanted to bring them to our stage. I booked their full band for March 2027, and just days later, they received a JUNO Award nomination.

Our programming is also inspired by the community experiences we share. The award-winning Stouffville event, Symphony Under the Stars with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, was a highlight, and that collaboration has grown into a new offering: Serenades and Sweethearts, an intimate small-ensemble concert coming in February to 19 on the Park Theatre.

We've also seen firsthand how M. John Kennedy captivates families with his performances of Robert Munsch stories. When he shared that he was developing a new show, A Mighty Mess of Munsch!, it felt like the perfect addition to our March Break lineup.

And because East Coast music brings a joy all its own, the series opens with award-winning quartet Rum Ragged, sharing glorious tunes from the outports of Newfoundland.

These are just a few of the nine shows now on sale for the 2026-2027 season. We look forward to welcoming you as the house lights dim, the first chords ring out, and you discover your stage.

Single tickets are now on sale. Save 15% when you buy 3 or more shows! For more information visit townofws.ca/concseries

JULY 16

Brain Health Workshop

Stouffville Legion

Gain personalized brain health insights, connect with others, and access tools and resources to support your cognitive wellness by attending this workshop.

Stouffville Legion // stouffvillelegion.ca

JULY 17

Symphony Under the Stars

7 PM - 10 PM

Memorial Park

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and experience an evening of classical and contemporary music with a live orchestral performance beginning at 8pm in Memorial Park.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/symphony

JULY 23

Party Rock on the Patio

7:30 PM

6240 Main Street

Featuring the The Slime Dogs. Stouffville's favourite party rock band gets the crowd hopping with covers from Chappell Roan to Journey to Neil Diamond, and everything in between.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/patioseries

JULY 24

Movies in the Park: Zootopia 2

7 PM | Movie at sundown

Memorial Park

Join us in Memorial Park for an evening of outdoor entertainment the whole family can enjoy. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and settle in for a screening of popular family films under the stars.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/mitp

JULY 25

Chariot Festival (ISKON Stouffville)

11 AM - 5 PM

Memorial Park

Join us for a vibrant celebration of joy, culture, and community as the divine chariot rolls through Stouffville.

ISKON Stouffville // iskconstouffville.com/events



For more community events, visit discoverstouffville.ca/events

JULY 26

Vinyl Night

7 PM

Harmony Hall

Vinyl Night at Harmony Hall is a laid-back monthly gathering for music lovers, collectors, audiophiles, and anyone who appreciates the experience of listening to records together.

Harmony Hall // harmonymusichall.ca



Stouffville Ribfest

AUGUST 7-9

Stouffville Ribfest

Memorial Park

A free three-day festival packed with award-winning ribs, local craft breweries, diverse food trucks, a vibrant marketplace, a dedicated kids zone, and live entertainment all weekend long.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/ribfest

AUGUST 8

Wheatus

7 PM

Harmony Hall

Wheatus, the band behind the hit "Teenage Dirtbag," is coming to Harmony Hall for a special one-night show featuring fan favourites in an intimate, high-energy setting.

Harmony Hall // harmonymusichall.ca

AUGUST 9

53rd Annual Antique & Classic Car Show

11 AM - 4 PM

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

This event offers classic cars, music, food, children's activities, performances, and the opportunity to explore the Museum's historic buildings, exhibit spaces, and the beautiful Vandorf Community Park.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/carshow

AUGUST 13

Moonlight Madness

5 PM - 9 PM

Main Street

Moonlight Madness brings summer-night energy to the Village of Stouffville, with local shopping, artisan vendors, sidewalk sales, and a lively open-air downtown experience.

Village of Stouffville // discoverstouffville.ca/events

AUGUST 13

Endless Summer on the Patio

7:30 PM

6240 Main Street

Grab your Hawaiian shirts and enjoy the best of surf rock with the Beach Party Boys.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/mitp

AUGUST 14

Movies in the Park: Hoppers

7 PM | Movie at sundown

Memorial Park

Join us in Memorial Park for an evening of outdoor entertainment the whole family can enjoy. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and settle in for a screening of popular family films under the stars.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/mitp



Movies in the Park

AUGUST 16

Ashley MacIsaac

7 PM

Harmony Hall

Ashley MacIsaac brings his legendary fusion of traditional East Coast fiddle music, rock energy, and virtuosic musicianship to Harmony Hall for a rare and intimate concert experience in Vandorf/Stouffville.

Harmony Hall // harmonymusichall.ca



Stouffville Ribfest

AUGUST 29

Stouffville Legion Golf Tournament

10 AM

Stouffville Legion

Golf + Cart + Prizes with a Steak Dinner (+1 guest for additional charge) \$100.00 per player. Contests include: Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Putting! Registration: Payable Before Tuesday, August 18, 2026. Sign up/pay in the legion clubroom.

Stouffville Legion // office@stouffvillelegion.ca

SEPTEMBER 12

Fire Hall Open House

10 AM - 2 PM

Fire Station 5-1

Come meet your local firefighters and community partners while enjoying a day packed with fun and learning. Explore the station, try hands-on activities, and discover how to stay safe.

Town of Stouffville // townofws.ca/fire

SEPTEMBER 12

Markham Stouffville Cruisers Motofest

10 AM - 4 PM

Memorial Park

Motofest 2026 is back for a full day of free admission, great entertainment, door prizes, food trucks and so much more.

Markham Stouffville Cruisers // markhamstouffvillecruisers.com

SEPTEMBER 20

Terry Fox Run

1 PM - 3 PM

Memorial Park

The Terry Fox Run in Stouffville brings our community together to honour Terry's legacy and support vital cancer research. Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome to walk, run or roll at their own pace. Registration required.

Terry Fox Stouffville // terryfox-stouffville.ca

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Bridging the Gap: From Expectation to Experience



by **Pranita Sabarigirinathan**
townofws.ca/YAWG

Although teenage years may seem too early to begin preparing for the future, personal growth, and development often begin long before adulthood. Many students wait for the “perfect” opportunity to gain experience, build confidence, or become involved in their communities. Those opportunities are usually created by stepping outside of one’s comfort zone and getting involved. Through volunteering and part-time employment, youth can begin developing the skills and mindset necessary for future success while also gaining a better understanding of their interests and abilities.

To start, it is important to understand that in both workplace and volunteer settings, intrapersonal skills are just as important as academic achievement. Characteristics such as emotional intelligence, self-reflection, adaptability, confidence, resilience, and decision-making are essential in both educational and professional environments. These abilities determine how individuals communicate with others, solve problems, and respond to challenges. Although academic achievement remains important

for full-time employment, success is often determined by a person’s ability to apply these skills in real-world situations. Youth who actively participate in their schools and communities often gain a stronger sense of independence and preparedness because they learn how to manage responsibilities, interact with different people, and adapt to unfamiliar situations.

Another important aspect to understand is that failure is a natural and necessary part of growth. Many students hesitate to participate because they are afraid of making mistakes or not reaching success immediately. However, setbacks often provide valuable learning experiences that contribute to improvement and resilience. I had to overcome and persevere through the obstacles to gain valuable experiences that continue to support me. Searching for opportunities to get involved and make a meaningful impact in the community was difficult at first, but the sense of accomplishment made the effort worthwhile. A lesson I’ve learned from all these experiences is that every challenge teaches important lessons about persistence, adaptability, and self-improvement. Pushing through interviews, long waits, and occasional uncertainty taught me that determination

and resilience truly pay off in the long run. Rather than viewing rough times as a reason to stop trying, youth should recognize them as an important step toward long-term growth and achievement.

In communities such as Stouffville, there are many opportunities for students to become involved and gain meaningful experience. Volunteering with local organizations, participating in school clubs, and youth programs all contribute to personal growth. While these opportunities may seem small at first, they help students develop important transferable skills that extend far beyond academics. For example, volunteering encourages teamwork, empathy, and communication, while leadership programs teach responsibility, time management, and reliability. Similarly, extracurricular activities such as athletics or debate are extremely beneficial for strengthening leadership and collaboration skills while exploring personal interests.

Ultimately, preparing for the future is not about possessing immediate expertise or having every detail planned out right now. Instead, it is about developing the willingness to participate, learn, and grow through experiences. By becoming involved in communities early, youth can build confidence, strengthen essential life skills, and better prepare themselves for future opportunities. Bridging the gap between expectation and experience begins when youth choose to take initiative and actively engage with the world around them. 📌



Designing Community:

How a Young Stouffville Resident Is Helping Reimagine Main Street

by Cassandra Papas

Before construction fencing goes up and the first pieces of the Urban Plaza begin to take shape on Main Street, the future space already exists vividly in the mind of 23-year-old Riley Rogers.

He sees families carrying coffee across the street and settling into shaded seating on a summer morning. Teenagers gathering after school, couples listening to live music in the evening, children moving between games and community events, and residents lingering downtown just a little longer than they normally would.

More than anything, he imagines connection.

"It's almost like a place of refuge," Rogers says. "A designated spot for families, groups of friends, older couples, younger couples, just somewhere people can go and enjoy being part of the community."

That vision is now becoming reality.

The Town of Stouffville is moving forward with plans for the Urban Plaza at

6240 Main Street, adjacent to the Village of Stouffville mural. The project will transform an existing parking area into a vibrant public gathering space complete with flexible seating, shaded areas, greenery, performance space, interactive amenities, and room for seasonal programming and events.

What many residents may not realize, however, is that the concept behind the plaza did not come from a large consulting firm or outside design agency.

It came from a local student who simply asked if he could help.

For Rogers, the project began not as a municipal contract but as a passion project.

Born and raised in Stouffville, Rogers grew up immersed in the community, playing hockey first with the Clippers

and later with the Stouffville Spirit, where he served as assistant captain in his final junior season. Today, while completing his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph, he also runs Dorman Property Services, a landscaping company he launched in 2022 that already services roughly 125 clients, many of them within Stouffville.

Balancing university coursework with six-day work weeks and long hours on job sites is no small task, but Rogers speaks about both with the kind of clarity that suggests he found his direction early.

"I always knew I wanted to be some sort of architect," he explains. "But I didn't want to do buildings."

Landscape architecture - the discipline focused on designing outdoor spaces that blend functionality, sustainability, infrastructure, and human experience, turned out to be exactly what he had been searching for.

Landscape architects often shape the spaces people move through every

day: parks, trails, plazas, streetscapes, campuses, and public gathering areas. In growing communities, especially those spaces play an increasingly important role in creating opportunities for connection and civic identity.

For Rogers, that idea felt personal.

"I've lived in Stouffville basically my whole life," he says. "My parents are here. My future kids will probably live here one day. It's nice to know I can have an impact on the town I actually care about."

The opportunity emerged during his second year of university while he was preparing a portfolio for internship placements. Rogers approached Mayor Iain Lovatt with a simple offer: if there was a public space in town that could benefit from ideas or conceptual design work, he would volunteer his time.

What happened next moved faster than he expected.

Within days, conversations turned into meetings. Soon, Rogers found himself sitting in the mayor's office, presenting early renderings and discussing the future potential of Main Street.

"It caught me off guard how supportive everyone was," he says. "Usually, you think these things move slowly, but they really cared about the project."

Rather than approaching the assignment purely as an academic exercise, Rogers began thinking carefully about how people actually experience downtown spaces.

What makes someone stop and stay?

What encourages interaction?

What makes a public area feel welcoming rather than transactional?

"We already have the amenities on Main Street," he explains. "The plaza is more about creating somewhere people can bring those experiences together."

The result is a design intentionally built around flexibility and accessibility. Modular seating shaded gathering areas, performance space, greenery, and interactive elements are all designed to support multiple uses and age groups throughout the day and across seasons.

"It's not really one specific feature I'm most proud of," Rogers says. "It's the overall idea that the space is meant for

everyone."

That emphasis reflects a broader movement in urban design and landscape architecture toward what planners often refer to as "placemaking", designing public spaces that foster social interaction, local identity, and community well-being.

As Stouffville continues to grow, projects like the Urban Plaza become opportunities to create shared spaces where residents can gather without expectation or cost.

"There are patios and places you can pay to sit," Rogers says. "But this is just somewhere you can go with friends or family and feel welcome."

He points to larger cities like Toronto, where thoughtfully designed public spaces often become the heart of neighbourhood activity. In his view, Stouffville is now beginning to invest in similar ideas while still maintaining its small-town character.

The plaza also aligns with broader downtown revitalization efforts currently underway in Stouffville, contributing to a vision of Main Street that is more pedestrian-friendly, community-focused, and culturally active.

For Rogers, one of the most meaningful aspects of the experience has been learning how civic projects actually move from idea to implementation.

While some features shown in the original renderings may evolve, Rogers views that as part of the design process itself, an opportunity to see how an initial idea can be shaped through collaboration into a space that ultimately serves the community's needs.

In school, many of the work centres around drafting and conceptual design. Working with the Town introduced him to the realities behind the scenes: permits, council processes, budgets, public considerations, and the balancing act between creativity and practical

limitations.

"It was my first time really understanding all the legalities and logistics involved," he says. "You don't always see that side in school."

At the same time, he says Town staff encouraged him to stay creative while helping guide the project realistically.

Now entering the next stage of both his education and his business, Rogers hopes to continue growing his company while remaining rooted in the community that helped shape him. Long-term, he envisions expanding his work beyond residential landscaping and eventually participating in larger public construction and design projects.

But even now, there is something meaningful about driving through town and recognizing the spaces he has already helped shape.

"I'll drive around and see properties I've worked on," he says. "It's nice knowing you're doing work on places you genuinely care about." That same mindset ultimately sits at the heart of the Urban Plaza itself.

While the physical space will bring new seating, events, and activity to downtown Stouffville, the story behind it reflects something equally important: what can happen when communities make room for young people to contribute their ideas.

For Rogers, the experience reinforced a lesson he now shares with other students trying to find ways to stand out or make an impact.

"No one's ever going to criticize you for trying to help your community," he says. "If you care about something, just do it."

Asked to describe the future Urban Plaza in three words, "vibrant," he says. "Inclusive. Fun."

Soon, those ideas will no longer exist only in renderings. They will become part of Main Street itself. 🌱



While the final plaza may differ in some details, these renderings (above and opposite top) reflect Riley Rogers' original vision for the space.

RENDERINGS BY RILEY ROGERS

"It's almost like a place of refuge... just somewhere people can go and enjoy being part of the community." - RILEY ROGERS



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JUNE 26 - 28

Memorial Park

Event Hours

Food & Beverage Marketplace

Fri: 5 PM - 10 PM
Sat: 9 AM - 10 PM
Sun: 9 AM - 6 PM

Carnival Rides Festival Pub

Fri: 5 PM - 10 PM
Sat: 9 AM - 10 PM
Sun: 9 AM - 6 PM

Sandy Stronach Red Berry Cafe Information Booth

Sat: 11 AM - 5 PM
Sun: 10 AM - 5 PM

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2026 Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival!

Returning to the Strawberry Festival after 20 years away is a true homecoming for me. Having served as a volunteer in the past, it is an absolute privilege to step into the role of Chair this year and work toward bringing back some of the fondest, most well-loved traditions that have defined this event for generations.

An event of this scale is built on the dedication of incredible individuals. I would like to extend my deepest, most sincere gratitude to our outgoing, long-time volunteers—specifically Mike Burns and Nela Hunter. Mike and Nela have poured their hearts and souls into keeping this Festival moving forward year after year. While volunteering is a massive commitment that isn't always easy, it is profoundly rewarding. On behalf of the entire community, I wish them the very best in their next chapters. I would also like to recognize the 2026 Festival Committee volunteers and all the volunteers that will be helping this weekend as we all know it takes a village to put on something of this size.

My hope is as you explore the grounds this weekend, you will notice some exciting changes. We are thrilled to bring back the traditional Marquee Tent, which will host the return of the hilarious Yuk Yuk's Comedy Show! This setup offers a fantastic new experience, allowing everyone to escape the summer heat and sun while enjoying the top-tier entertainment our committee has worked so hard to put together.

We are also incredibly proud to recognize and thank the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville as our new key partner. Their vital support is helping us elevate this event into a premier experience for the entire York Region.

While we are welcoming back many classic favorites this summer, this is just the beginning of a fresh chapter as we build toward an even bigger and brighter future.

I hope you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors thoroughly enjoy everything that makes our community so special. Let's celebrate the unique charm of living "country close to the city."

See you at the Festival!

Sue Sherban

Chair, 2026 Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival Committee

FRIDAY

JUNE 26

Events

Batter Up! Weekend Baseball Action Stouffville Yankees U8 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM Baseball Diamond

Festival Opening Ceremonies 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Festival Marquee

Festival Opening Ceremonies

Kick off the Strawberry Festival with an evening of celebration featuring the Town Crier Brian Mangubat, Honour Guard, National Anthem, cultural performances, and community recognitions including Citizen of the Year, Sports Person of the Year, Music Town Ontario, and the Gladys Clarkson Stouffville Bakes Award.

Activities

Roll with Us - Skating Reimagined 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Multi-Purpose Trail

Performances

Kendall Lily 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Festival Marquee

Yuk Yuk's (Ticketed Show) 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM Festival Marquee

Gladys Clarkson Stouffville Bakes Award

Show off your baking in the Gladys Clarkson Pie and Jam Competition. Drop off entries at Latcham Hall on Thursday, June 25 from 4 to 6 PM. Judging takes place Friday morning, with winners announced at the Opening Ceremonies.

Rock 'N Roll Car Show

Main Street comes alive with the Rock 'N Roll Car Show featuring the Markham Stouffville Cruisers, music by DJ OldSkool, classic cars, great food, and local shopping. Fun for all ages.

SATURDAY

JUNE 27

Events

Strawberry Festival Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Latcham Hall

Rock 'N Roll Car Show with the Markham Stouffville Cruisers 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Stouffville Village Main Street

3 on 3 Boys Youth Basketball Tournament 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Leisure Centre Outdoor Basketball

Totally Toddlers 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Picnic Pavillion

The Ultimate Spelling Bee 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Festival Marquee

Rubber Duck Races! 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM Memorial Park Burkholder Bridge
 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Batter Up! Weekend Baseball Action Stouffville Yankees U8 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM Baseball Diamond

Junior Jam 2:45 PM - 4:30 PM Festival Marquee

Activities

Picnic in the Park 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Ball Diamond Outfield

Bird House Building 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Picnic Pavillion
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Face Painting Station 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Memorial Park Tent
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Kids Activities/Craft Station 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Picnic Pavillion
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Create your own Epic Photo Opportunity 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Latcham Hall Red Berry Cafe

SATURDAY (CONTINUED) JUNE 27

Performances

Brian O'Sullivan	8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Latcham Hall
Tom Pullin	9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Latcham Hall
Tom Bishop's Wild West Show	11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	North of Picnic Pavillion
	1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	
	3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	
Harriet Chung Performing Arts	11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Festival Marquee
Drumin	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	West of Vendor Market
Isabella Hoops	12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Picnic Pavillion
	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	
The Magic of Aaron Matthews	12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	Picnic Pavillion
	2:15 PM - 2:45 PM	Festival Marquee
Doo Doo the Clown	12:45 PM - 1:15 PM	Festival Marquee
The Stouffville Academy of Music and Dance	1:15 PM - 2:00 PM	Festival Marquee
Vyami School of Fine Arts	4:45 PM - 5:30 PM	Festival Marquee
The Hand Me Downs	5:45 PM - 7:00 PM	Festival Marquee
UK Calling	7:30 PM - 9:15 PM	Festival Marquee



SUNDAY JUNE 28

Activities

Create your own Epic Photo Opportunity	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Latcham Hall Red Berry Cafe
Picnic in the Park	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Ball Diamond Outfield
	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	
Kids Activities/Craft Station	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Picnic Pavillion
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	
Bird House Building (While Supplies Last)	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Picnic Pavillion

Events

3 on 3 Girls Youth Basketball Tournament	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Leisure Centre Outdoor Basketball
Pet Prom	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Franklin Park
Strawberry Social	2:00 PM	Outside Festival Marquee
WSSA U15 Girls Stouffville Sharks Fastpitch Showcase	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Baseball Diamond
WSSA U21 Girls Stouffville Sharks Fastpitch Showcase	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Baseball Diamond

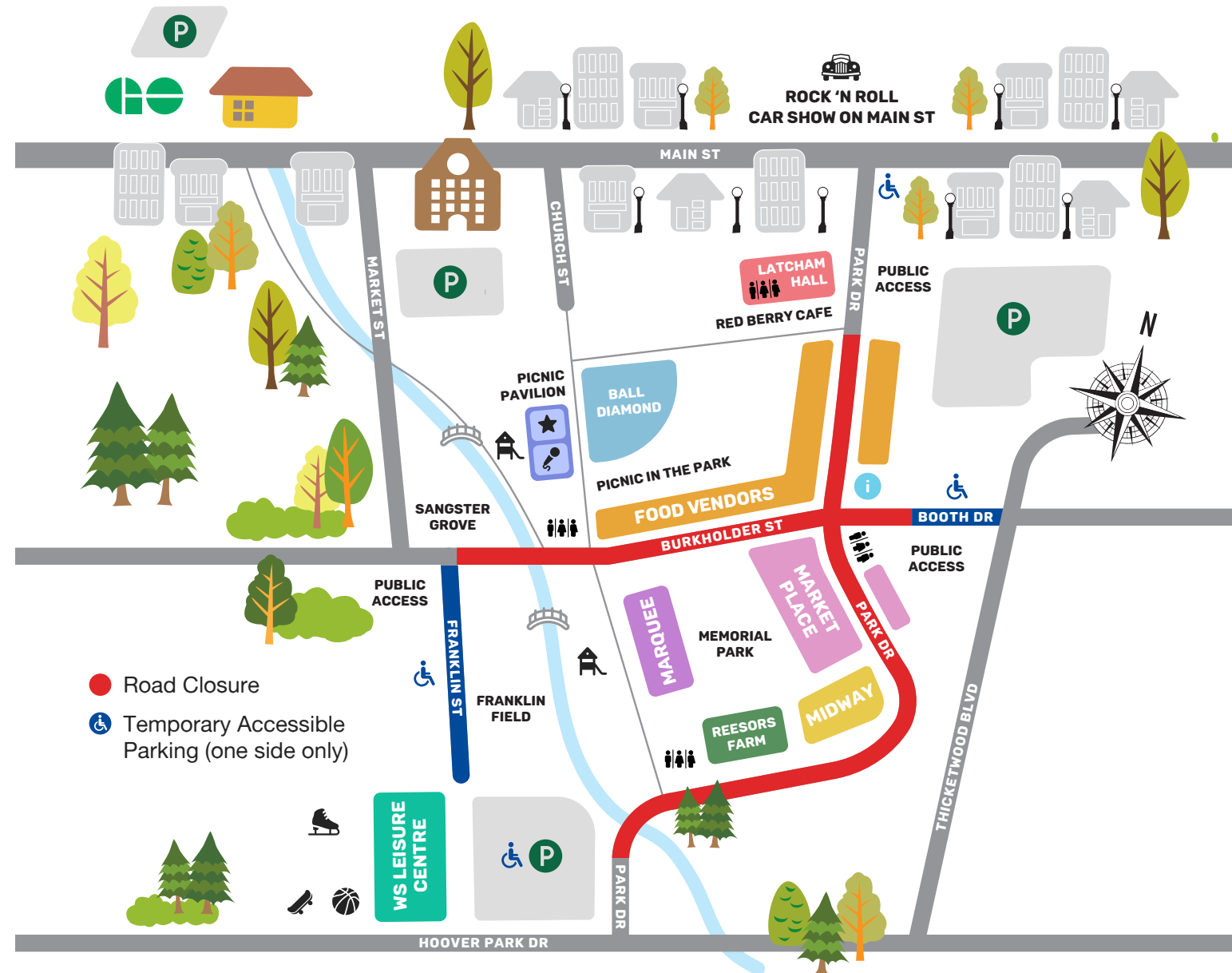
Performances

Doo Doo the Clown show	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Festival Marquee
	12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	Picnic Pavillion Stage
Myung's Taekwondo Stouffville	11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Festival Marquee
Isabella Hoops	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Festival Marquee
The Magic of Aaron Matthews	1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Picnic Pavillion Stage
Men of Note Male Voice Choir	1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Festival Marquee
Ken Nilsen	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Festival Marquee
The Amy Experience	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Festival Marquee



FESTIVAL MAP 2026

JUNE 26 - 28 • Memorial Park



- Road Closure
- ♿ Temporary Accessible Parking (one side only)

- P** Parking
- i** Info Booth
- ♿ Washrooms
- 🍌 Food Vendors
- 📍 Marketplace
- 🎡 Midway
- 🎪 Marquee
- 🌳 Reesors Farm
- 🏠 Picnic Pavilion
- ★ Kids Zone
- 🎤 Festival Stage
- 🏠 Latcham Hall
- 🏟️ Playground
- ⚾ Ball Diamond
- 🏠 Leisure Centre
- 🏈 Skatepark
- 🏀 Basketball Courts
- 🏃 Multi-Purpose Trail
- 🚗 Rock 'N Roll Car Show (Saturday Only)



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THANK YOU!

Whitchurch-Stouffville is blessed to be a caring, generous, and deeply supportive town. Time and again, our local businesses step forward to strengthen the fabric of our community—quietly, faithfully, and wholeheartedly.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Prayer Breakfast, held each year on the Thursday before the May long weekend, is no exception. We are truly grateful for the businesses who partnered with us this year. Their kindness, sponsorship, and commitment made it possible for us to gather, pray, and uplift our leaders, our neighbours, and our town.

Below is a list of the wonderful businesses who supported us. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each one for helping make this year's Prayer Breakfast a blessing to our entire community.

NORTH TORONTO CREMATORIUM, CHAPEL RIDGE FUNERAL HOME, MOLLER INSURANCE, O'NEILL FUNERAL HOME, HIGHLAND HILLS FUNERAL HOME, STOUFFVILLE MARKET, ANISH AK, RE/MAX REALTOR, TIM HORTON'S STOUFFVILLE & UXBRIDGE, STOUFFVILLE TOYOTA, NORTON MCMULLEN LLP, REMILY JEESON, ALLSTATE INSURANCE, SCS CONSULTING GROUP LTD., ALLEGRA STOUFFVILLE PRINTING, ALTERNA SAVINGS CREDIT UNION, DIGITAL CONSULTANTS, KPD SIGNS, LINDY'S FLOWERS, REESOR'S MARKET & BAKERY, STATION CREEK GOLF CLUB



Our speaker for next year

Rev Dr Andrew Stirling, Author
Global Speaker, Canadian Bible Society
Ambassador and IndyCar Chaplain

WSPRAYERBREAKFAST.COM

[@STOUFFVILLEPRAYERBREAKFAST](https://www.instagram.com/STOUFFVILLEPRAYERBREAKFAST)

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

AN UPDATE BY GLENN JACKSON

90% of Main St. Design Completed

In May, the project team, led by Accardi Engineering Group, reached a significant milestone by completing and submitting the 90% design package for the Main Street Revitalization project. This submission included all major project components, including municipal infrastructure, streetscaping, electrical, lighting, and public realm improvements. The team has continued working closely with the Town and project partners to review the design and prepare for the final stages of project development.

Work also continued on Main Street's streetscape enhancements and stormwater runoff features. The proposed Meeting Lounge area near O'Brien Ave. and the surrounding public space improvements have been further refined. Additional elements such as decorative lighting, banners, seating areas, landscaping, and public art opportunities continue to advance as the vision takes shape.

The project team has remained actively engaged with all utility agencies, as well as both Metrolinx and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), to support ongoing permitting and approvals. Meetings and coordination efforts are helping ensure the project remains aligned with all agency requirements and continues progressing toward construction.

Another important milestone was achieved with the completion of the contractor pre-qualification phase. With support from Accardi, the Town has reviewed submissions and narrowed the list of qualified contractors who will be invited to participate in the next phase of the procurement process.

Overall, May's efforts focused on advancing the project through the 90% design milestone, continuing agency coordination and permitting activities, refining key streetscape features, and preparing for the upcoming contractor bidding phase.

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

Get project updates

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

STOUFFVILLE'S 2027 BUDGET

Building a better budget | Together

Budgeting isn't just about dollars and cents - it's about the parks we play in, the roads we drive on, the events we enjoy and the services we rely on. That's why we want your input to help shape Stouffville's 2027 operating and capital budgets, so they truly reflect what matters to the people who live and work here. Whether you're passionate about numbers or simply love your neighbourhood, there's a way for you to get involved.

We're Making It Easy to Have Your Say



Online Budget Hub

Explore townofws.ca/budget, full of tools to help you learn about the budgeting process and ways to influence budget decisions.



A Three Minute Survey

can we make this stand out a bit: for a chance to win a \$100 Local Business Gift Card. Find our in-person budget survey at local hot spots like community centres, the Library and Town events or online at townofws.ca/budget



Pop-Up Booths

Chat with our friendly budget team at Strawberry Festival (June 27th), Library Discovery Day (July 4th), and Moonlight Madness (August 13h).



Get Social

Keep an eye on the Town's social channels for quick ways to share your thoughts and stay in the loop on all things Budget 2027.

So, What Happens With Your Ideas?

Every comment, idea and vote helps shape what's next. Your feedback will help refine the budget during the review process in September and October. We will share a "What We Heard" report summarizing the feedback. A final engagement report will be published in February 2027, detailing public feedback and its impact on the final 2027 budget. We'll take everything you share and use it to help guide budget decisions for the coming year and beyond.



By participating in the budget process, you help shape Stouffville's future. We value your input and look forward to building a better community together.

townofws.ca/budget

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Zoning changes could reshape Ringwood

Council also receive updates on fire hydrant snow clearing and Ballantrae servicing limits



by Glenn Jackson
glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

Ringwood Planning

Two zoning amendment applications for lands at Stouffville Road and Highway 48 in Ringwood were introduced through staff reports at the June 3rd public meeting, each proposing a different approach to development on adjacent sites.

For the southwest portion at 5061 Stouffville Road, the applicant is seeking Official Plan and zoning changes to allow a high-density, mixed-use development on a 2.85-hectare portion of a larger agricultural property. The proposal includes five residential towers and a standalone daycare, totalling 1,332 units with a mix of condominium and rental housing. No at-grade commercial uses are planned. The proposal requires redesignation of lands currently identified as Significant Environmental Area and rezoning to permit increased height and density, and reduced parking standards.

In contrast, the northeast portion proposal by City Park Homes replaces a previously approved high-density concept with a lower-density plan. It would permit 176 townhouse units and a commercial block intended for a future hotel and restaurant. Proposed amendments include reducing minimum building heights, allowing townhouses throughout the site, and removing a planned public road in favour of a private condominium road network.

Both applications are at the public consultation stage, with feedback to inform future staff recommendations.

Hydrant Snow Removal

Council received a June 3rd report examining whether snow clearing around fire hydrants could be added to the Driveway Windrow Snow Clearing Program. The Town does not currently provide this service, and property owners are responsible for keeping hydrants visible and accessible. About 479 households were enrolled in the program



A recent public meeting report outlined an application that includes five residential towers and a standalone daycare, totalling 1,332 units with a mix of condominium and rental housing at the intersection of Stouffville Road and Highway 48.

in winter 2025–26, with roughly 50 hydrants identified.

Staff found the service could be added to existing operations through the contractor using manual labour, but this would increase service time and require contract changes. Costs are estimated at \$60 per hydrant per event, or about \$48,000 annually. While the service would support accessibility and emergency response, staff note existing winter pressures and recommend maintaining current service levels due to budget impacts.

Councillor Upton Training

On June 3rd, Council received a report confirming Councillor Rick Upton has completed his required remedial training following findings from the Integrity Commissioner's December 3, 2025, report.

Councillor Upton arranged and paid for the training with an external facilitator. Three sessions were held on April 28th, May 4th, and May 11th, 2026. The report concludes that the training requirement has been fulfilled, with no financial, communication, or intergovernmental impacts identified.

Service Capacity in Ballantrae

On June 3rd, Council received the Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake Servicing Capacity Update report for information, outlining current and future servicing capacity constraints. The existing serviced population is 6,213,

leaving capacity for approximately 17 additional people (about five units) within the approved limit of 6,230. While the system can technically support up to 6,703 people, storage limitations prevent expansion beyond the current cap.

York Region has initiated a long-term feasibility study to identify infrastructure solutions to support growth. In the interim, development beyond capacity may proceed using private or communal servicing, while Town staff continue to collaborate with the Region on long-term servicing options. 📄

COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Wednesday, September 16 – 1 PM

Next Public Meetings:

Wednesday, September 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.

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STOUFFVILLE VOTES 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Notice of Nomination Day

Thinking of running for municipal office? Nomination appointments are available until August 20, 2026, and on Nomination Day, August 21, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. No nominations will be accepted after 2:00 PM.

Pick up a nomination package at the Municipal Office, or visit stouffvillevotes.ca for candidate packages, election information, and appointments.

stouffvillevotes.ca

MUSEUM

Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Awards

Nominations open through July 11

Celebrate outstanding conservation, adaptive reuse, and built heritage restoration in our community.

townofws.ca/heritage

53rd Annual

Antique & Classic Car Show

Aug. 9 | 11 AM – 4 PM | Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

Southern Ontario exhibitors showcase antique and classic cars at this free, family-friendly event with food, demos, and more.

townofws.ca/carshow

Exhibits

Your Museum adventure awaits all year long, with engaging exhibits to spark your curiosity every time you visit!

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

New Columbarium at Stouffville Cemetery

A new columbarium is now available at Stouffville Cemetery, offering cremation interment niches with personalized plaques. In-ground cremation and land burial lots are also available.

townofws.ca/cemeteries

Agritourism Strategy

Take the survey by June 30

From farm visits to local food experiences, tell us what agritourism should look like in Stouffville.

townofws.ca/agritourism

RECREATION

Roller Skate Nights

Jul. 9 – Aug. 27 | Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Trail

YAWG and SUSO Skate Co. are hosting eight free roller skating nights, with all-ages and youth-only sessions. Free admission and skate rentals are available, funded by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Legacy Fund.

townofws.ca/rollerskate

Summer Camp 2026 Registration

Spaces are still available in summer camps, including recreation, swimming, sports, arts, museum, theatre camps, and more.

townofws.ca/camps

19 ON THE PARK THEATRE

Discover Your Stage: 2026–27 Series

Tickets and packages on sale starting June 4. Enjoy a vibrant new season of live events close to home, including comedy, family entertainment, East Coast music, holiday classics, country-roots performances, and more.

townofws.ca/concertseries



The Patio Series

The beloved free outdoor concert series returns to Main Street Stouffville with music, community, and summer fun. Concerts start at 7:30 PM.

Country on the Patio: The Beresfords | Jun. 25

Enjoy country-rock classics and chart-topping originals from the popular York Region brother-sister team and their five-piece band.

Party Rock on the Patio: The Slime Dogs | Jul. 23

A high-energy night of party rock favourites, from Chappell Roan to Journey and Neil Diamond, and everything in between.

Endless Summer on the Patio: The Beach Party Boys | Aug. 13

The ultimate beach party featuring surf rock and Hawaiian shirts. Come early for the Village of Stouffville's Moonlight Madness.

townofws.ca/patioseries

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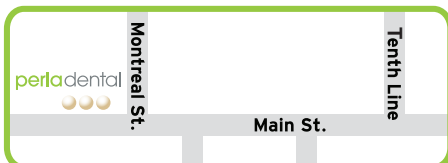
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