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NOVEMBER 2025 NO. 91

A STOUFFVILLE MAGAZINE

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 Stouffville

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From the Editor

Welcome to the November edition of *On the Road*... finally!

We had to wait out a postal strike but you are holding in your hands the first edition since August. Yes, I finally finish my hike up the Ninth Line on page 35.

We have two special features this month: a fitness and wellness section by Cassandra Papas on page 13 and a special holiday event guide on page 25.

You also get to meet Stouffville author Bruce Smith on page 4 and Stouffville's legendary CFNY DJ Dave Booth on page 6.

Barring another postal stoppage we will see you again in December with our annual *Year in Review*.

Happy holidays!

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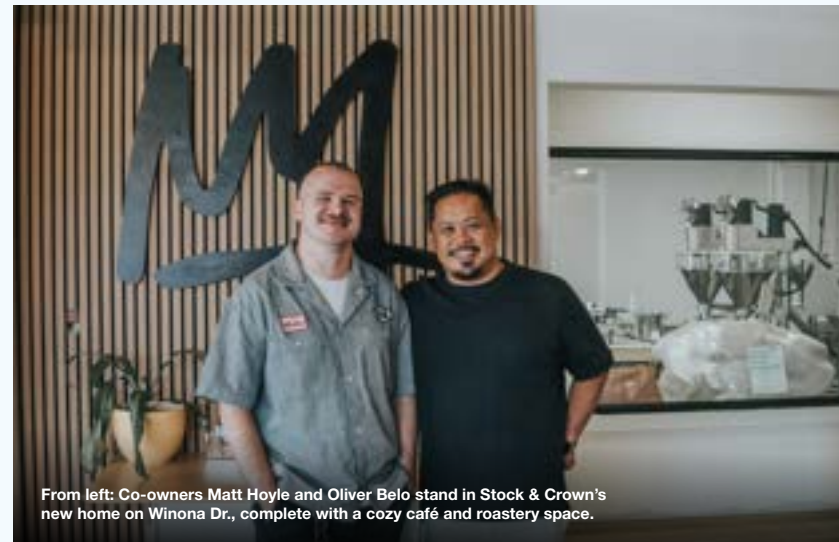


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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Great Coffee for All People

by Katrina Robert



From left: Co-owners Matt Hoyle and Oliver Belo stand in Stock & Crown's new home on Winona Dr., complete with a cozy café and roastery space.

Wake up and smell the coffee at the home of Stouffville's newest roastery-café, Stock & Crown. Located on Winona Drive, the space is airy, bright and minimalist in aesthetic, buzzing warmly with the hum of the espresso machine and lively with conversation.

Stock & Crown began five years ago as a venture between friends, focusing on roasting coffee and creating an accessible brand strategy – “Great Coffee for All People.” What started as a small garage operation has expanded into cafés, restaurants, grocery stores and now their very own café-roastery space.

Matt Hoyle, co-owner and head of coffee at Stock & Crown, explained how running a business through the pandemic challenged their ability to grow a community. Now that they have a location, they are glad to be able to connect with people face-to-face.

Matt has worked in coffee for 12 years in cafés, roasteries and pop-ups with a mobile coffee cart around the GTA. But, the opportunity that changed the trajectory was with Stouffville's beloved Main Street Bakehouse, where he worked for about three years.

Mayor Iain Lovatt was one of the original owners of the Bakehouse, and Matt vocalized his gratitude for his time working there. “That was the first coffee job where I felt a sense of purpose –

where I was in a position to train and educate other people to have a voice that meant something,” Matt said. “I was very eager to become a student of coffee because of that role, so I’m very thankful for that era of my life, and for Iain, because if it weren’t for that opportunity, I don’t think Stock & Crown would be here today.”

You might see some familiar faces from the Bakehouse; some of the staff belong to the same Belo family, but this is a whole different operation. “It feels like a familiar space,” says Matt, “but somewhere that can grow and flourish in its own new way.”

Stock & Crown's menu is intentionally simple, allowing their freshly roasted coffee to shine.

Want to try something new? A unique coffee experience is the “One and One”: a double shot of espresso, split into two glasses, one with equal parts milk and espresso, and the other, espresso alone. It gives you two expressions of the same thing.

Something Matt encourages people to try is to have a little bit less milk in their coffee to explore the flavour – a cortado is a great choice.

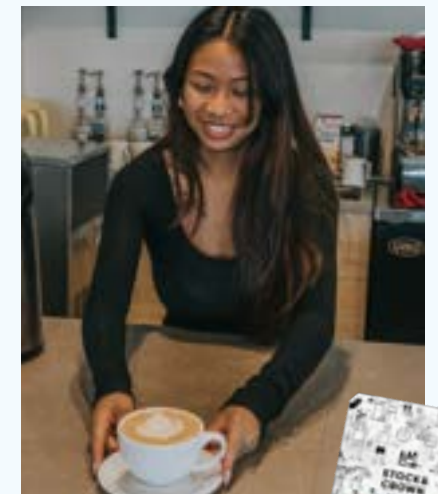
As a roastery, Stock & Crown focuses on ethical sourcing and traceability, building relationships with sustainable farmers in places like Colombia and

Nicaragua. Matt and the team go through the process of testing roasts, fine-tuning until they reach the desired roast profiles.

You can purchase a bag of coffee in-store – Day Dreamer is their most popular roast, a medium roast espresso that holds up well with milk or black. They offer five staple roasts plus an ‘Origin Series’ option that rotates seasonally. Their website also includes a coffee bean subscription if you want delicious brews delivered right to your door.

Sometimes coffee culture can feel pretentious, but Stock & Crown aims to create a welcoming sense of community. They’re passionate about education and human connection, with dreams of hosting tastings and community events in the future. Matt hopes that Stock & Crown will be a dependable spot for the connection of the town.

Be sure to visit – there is plenty of space for people to bond around a cup of delicious coffee in their new space. Look out for news on their grand opening event in the near future. ☕



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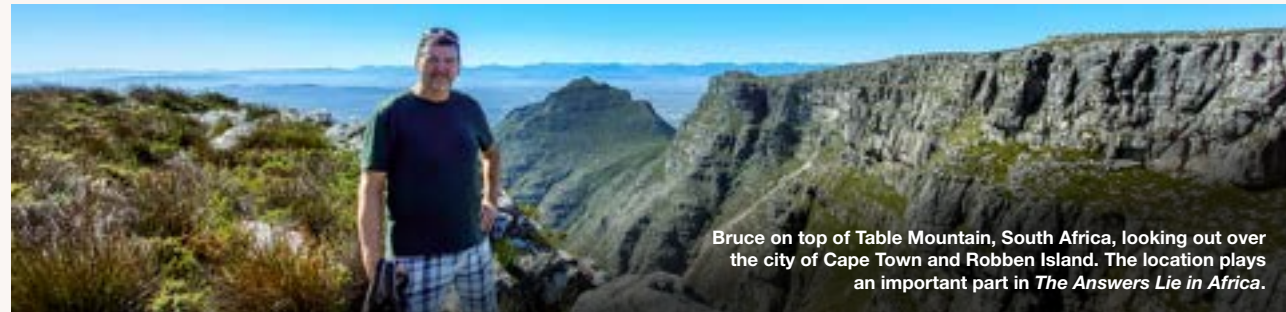


PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATRINA ROBERT

Next Stop: Novelist

Stouffville resident Bruce Smith set out to explore Africa in retirement—and came home an author.

by Hayley Langdale



Bruce on top of Table Mountain, South Africa, looking out over the city of Cape Town and Robben Island. The location plays an important part in *The Answers Lie in Africa*.

It all began with a train ride across the African landscape. In 2023, Bruce Smith and his wife Susan finally set off on a long-awaited journey through South Africa and Zimbabwe. After three years of pandemic-related delays, the couple was eager to reconnect with the world beyond Stouffville's borders. If you've lived in Stouffville for a while, Bruce may already be a familiar face. He chaired the town's beloved Santa Claus Parade for over two decades and continues to volunteer with Susan at the local food bank. Now in retirement, he's stepped into an entirely new role: novelist.

Their travels, from Cape Town to Victoria Falls aboard the legendary luxury Rovos Rail train, formed the real-world foundation for the fictional journey in *The Answers Lie in Africa*. Like Bruce and Susan, the novel's protagonists, Fiona and Karl, follow a similar route. But while their itinerary mirrors the couple's roadmap, the story delves far deeper: into legacies of long-buried truths and emotional reckonings that span generations. Bruce didn't anticipate that their adventure would inspire his debut novel, a story steeped in generational secrets, rediscovery, and the haunting question: Can you ever truly escape your past?

"We were in a town called Kimberley, a place famous for its diamond mines," Bruce recalls. "Back in the late 1800s, it was the heart of South Africa's diamond rush. The mine's been closed for more than a hundred years now, but standing there, looking down into that massive pit, I started imagining what life must've been

like back then. The fortunes made, the fortunes lost."

As Bruce stared into the vast, silent remains of a once-booming mine, uncut fragments of a story began to flicker in his mind, shimmering with potential, waiting to be shaped and polished into something meaningful. "That moment really stuck with me," he says. "When we got home, I was semi-retired and then fully retired, so I finally had time. I started writing down little ideas, not intending to write a book. It just kind of... started happening."

When the couple returned to Stouffville, Bruce's writing journey began quietly. After retiring from a long career in the food industry, managing engineering and maintenance teams, he found himself with spare time to devote to lifelong appreciations for puzzles, language, and storytelling.

"At first, I wrote just for fun," he says. "I didn't tell anyone, not even my kids. It wasn't until the story started to take shape that I let others in." Over the next 18 months, Bruce worked on his manuscript scene by scene, slowly chipping away

at it until he hit what he calls a "tipping point" – a moment when the story felt real enough to finish. From there, he fully committed.

"There comes a time in all of us," Bruce reflects, "when we wonder how much our past defines who we are. Writing this helped me explore that. And I hope one day my grandkids read it and see a side of me they didn't know before."

Bruce worked with a professional editor to refine the narrative. His son-in-law, a graphic designer, brought the cover to life using photos Bruce had taken during the trip. The result is a gem of a novel, now available on Amazon and to borrow from the Stouffville Library.

If there's one thing that Bruce wants readers to gain from the story, it's an appetite for adventure. He and Susan are already planning their next adventure: a 2026 trip through Vietnam. "Travel always opens you up," Bruce says. "It challenges you, makes you ask new questions – and sometimes, it gives you the answers you didn't even know you were looking for." 🌿

"Travel always opens you up. It challenges you, makes you ask new questions."

- Bruce Smith



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📍 @brucesmithwrites

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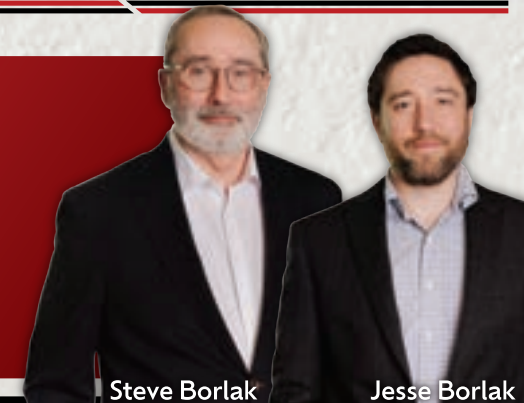


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ROCK AROUND THE BLOCK

LEGENDARY TORONTO DJ, DAVE “DADDY COOL” BOOTH, SPINS THE QUIETER LIFE IN STOUFFVILLE

by Glenn Jackson

It was the fall of 2004. My then-wife and I had just moved into our matrimonial home in east-end Stouffville. We were settling into the quiet neighbourhood as new homeowners.

Then one day, there was a knock at the door. I opened it to a dignified, middle-aged gentleman with a trimmed, full white beard.

“Hi, I’m Dave!” he said in a very projecting, resonant British accent. I introduced myself and he said, “I’m your neighbour across the street.”

We exchanged pleasantries, and then he asked me if I had a scanner. I said yes, and he asked for a favour. He pulled out an envelope with an old black and white photograph, probably taken in the 40s or 50s.

“I would like this photo scanned, but I don’t have a scanner.” I was happy to oblige. I looked at the photo, and it appeared to be an older jazz or blues musician.

“Also, do you have email?” he asked. I said yes, and he asked me if I could email the scanned image. Of course I can, Dave.

He handed me a piece of paper with the email address on it and said, “Thank you very much. I will pop by tomorrow and pick up the picture. I don’t expect you to do this for free. I am happy to pay.” I definitely said no to that request, and he left.

I shut the door and glanced at the email address. It was the editor of *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Recently, Dave and I were enjoying a coffee at a local café and I reminded him of that story. Neither one of us could remember who the musician was, only that he had just passed away. Dave told me the reason *Rolling Stone* called him that day was because he was one of the few people in the world who owned a photo of him.

Being an avid rock ‘n’ roll fan, I thought this was amazing – wow, I have a neighbour who owns rare music memorabilia sought out by the world’s most renowned rock magazines.

Captivated by the loud music

As the years passed and I got to know Dave better, I realized there was a greater story to be told – a story about a young British kid enthralled by the music he was hearing on his radio. The sounds of Jerry Lee Lewis and Bill Haley were writing his youthful soundtrack, and he wanted more.

“Music came into my life when I heard *Rock Around the Clock* in the movie *Blackboard Jungle*... I hadn’t heard loud music before that,” he said. “The loudest music we could hear was from the local jukebox in the coffee shop.”

On that coffee shop jukebox was Canada’s Ronnie Hawkins.

“I went to Bradford University to learn how to become a draftsman,” Dave recalls. “But in my spare time, I would go to the record store – and back in those days, an EP had four songs and shiny covers. They caught my eye.”

“One day I bought a Roy Orbison record and a Howlin’ Wolf EP.”

“The Howlin’ Wolf was music from outer space. It was blowing my mind. Little Richard. Fats Domino. Gene Vincent. Eddie Cochran.”

“But being from England, I wasn’t aware of the music that led up to that rock ‘n’ roll,” he said.

The teenager, captivated by the loud music, needed to be part of the scene. So, at the age of 20, Dave boarded a boat and sailed to Canada in search of that musical magic.

Dave was born in a small town just outside Harrogate, Yorkshire, England, in 1940. His neighbours had emigrated to



Waterloo, Ontario, in 1959, and he stayed in touch with them.

“They said there were lots of jobs there. So, I spent seven days on the boat with two suitcases and \$52,” he remembers. “I spent three days throwing up until someone told me brandy would settle my stomach.”

Pestered a disk jockey

He landed in Montreal and then took a train to Kitchener-Waterloo. “I had a job the next day at Eaton’s.”

Eaton’s, obviously, wasn’t his dream. He wanted to be in the radio business, and he was having trouble finding that in Kitchener. He ended up in Toronto, living off hamburgers, buying records, and pretty much broke.

“I remember hearing Ronnie Hawkins on the jukebox in the coffee bars back home in England,” Dave said. “So, when I moved to Toronto, I found him playing at Le Coq d’Or Tavern on Yonge Street.”

“It was a strange setup, one side was men only, on the other side was ‘ladies and escorts’ and in the middle was Ronnie on a stage. In his band was Robbie Robertson on guitar, and on drums was Levon Helm.”



Top: Dave “Daddy Cool” Booth spinning records in the basement of his east-end Stouffville home. His record collection topped 16,000 at one time with countless LPs, EPs, CDs, photos and other rock and blues memorabilia. Left: Dave’s early 70s days at Kitchener-Waterloo’s CHYM FM.

That lineup morphed into Levon and the Hawks, with Rick Danko, Richard Manuel and Garth Hudson, and then into The Band.

“I got to know Ronnie quite well over the years; we got along famously,” Dave mentions. “It’s funny because it all started with that jukebox in England.”

Dave then ended up in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Northern Québec. He became a military policeman and, of course, managed the Forces’ radio station.

“When I was in Québec, I discovered a radio station in Nashville called WLAC,” he said. “I used to sit in my car and tune in to listen to blues overnight. I think they were 100,000 watts.”

After three years in Québec, he found himself back in Kitchener begging for a job.

“I pestered a disk jockey at CKCR named Jack Schoon. I bugged him to death, and eventually he made me a deal,” he recalls. “He said he needs someone to clean the studios, wash and wax the floors and take out the garbage. In exchange, he gave me an hour on air at 1 a.m.”

Dave was now “Big D,” and his rhythm and blues show was called “Big D with R and B.”

“I had no idea what I was doing – no one had shown me what to do. I was in front of a professional console with two turntables for the first time.”

The show then expanded to three hours, but he made the mistake of asking for money. “They said no, then, for some reason, the show ended.”

CKCR was then bought out and became CHYM. “When the ownership change happened, I pitched them. And I was accepted.”

Borrow a case of beer

His radio dream was starting to come true at CHYM, but it took a giant leap when he was asked to emcee a concert in Kitchener by an up-and-coming British band who had just released their debut album – Led Zeppelin.

“It was their first tour, and they had just played the O’Keefe Centre (in Toronto) a couple of nights before. They left the stage after a longish show, and the crowd was going crazy, but they wouldn’t do an encore.”

“They didn’t phase me, so I went back and said, ‘Guys, this may be small town, but I think these guys deserve an encore.’ And they went back out and did another

15-20 minutes.”

“I chatted with them, and I think I did an interview with them, but it wasn’t too long – I didn’t know much about them.”

“A lot of people remember me for emceeing that one particular show.”

Dave’s show, which aired on Saturday nights, was a rock show where he mixed in some blues records.

“I then started playing the blues at the end of the show, and at some point, I became known as ‘Daddy Cool.’ When I played rock, I was Dave Booth; when I played blues, I was ‘Daddy Cool.’”

The Daddy Cool moniker stuck for the rest of his career.

All the music Dave played was his own records. His collection at the time hovered around 6,000 albums and 10,000 singles.

“We were lucky in Waterloo with a great promoter. He would book both Wilfred Laurier and the University of Waterloo. I saw Supertramp for the first time in Waterloo, I emceed the Johnny Winter show.”

“Alice Cooper and his band came back to our house after their show,” he said. “I had to go to my neighbours and borrow a case of beer.”

PHOTO (LEFT) SUPPLIED BY DAVE BOOTH (RIGHT) BY DENNIS HRISTOVSKI



Top left: Dave interviewing B.B. King in Stratford, ON, August 1973.
Top right: Dave and B.B. King, late 1970s, Toronto.
Above: Booth (left) with Link Wray (centre) and Dave's childhood hero, Ronnie Hawkins, early 1980s at Toronto's El Mocambo.

"I just invited them back and they said yes, rather than go back to a hotel," he recalls. "Alice was a fantastic guy."

KISS played at Wilfred Laurier University in September 1974.

"It was their first tour - and I was playing them on my show because I actually liked it - and it was so basic the drummer was on a platform and behind the curtain was a front-end loader, and it lifted the drum kit up, but not smoothly. It sort of jerked up. But they were a hot band."

"There were so many concerts in Kitchener-Waterloo, with two universities. They came on weekdays."

Household names

In 1976, Daddy Cool's reputation would become legendary. He was approached to join a new radio station starting in Brampton called CFNY (now 102.1 The Edge).

"They let me play whatever I wanted; no one hassled me."

Things changed after a few years at CFNY when management started telling Daddy Cool what to play. Dave didn't last long after that and quit. That's when Dave started to focus on management.

"In 1979, I started to manage the

Bopcats, a Toronto-based rockabilly band," Dave said. "We released an EP and two LPs."

The original lineup included vocalist Sonny Baker, lead guitarist Jim McTaggart, bassist Pat Flynn, and drummer Teddy Fury. Later, they were joined by guitarist Jack de Keyzer and bassist Zeke Rivers replaced Flynn.

Jim McTaggart currently lives at Musselman's Lake.

Dave was also promotions manager for the Battered Wives and Joe Segarini.

Dave's Showtime record label also produced a single for a duo from North Toronto Collegiate called The Hi-Fi's. The record didn't do much, but they would become household names across Canada years later.

"They wanted to move to the States, and I didn't have the money or the staff to continue," Dave said.

The Hi-Fi's Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor moved to New York City, met keyboardist Bob Wiseman, moved back to Toronto and formed Blue Rodeo.

Daddy Cool's legend lived on in the Toronto music scene after he re-joined CFNY in the 80s, after working things out with management. He finally called it a day in 1988.

Entering a museum

In 2002, Daddy Cool and his wife, Elaine, moved to Stouffville.

"We had looked at moving out of Toronto to places such as Aurora, but Stouffville had two things going for it: no parking meters and the Earl of Whitchurch pub had Tetley's beer on tap."

Dave and I shared time together when we both had a show on Stouffville's local community radio station WhiStle Radio. Dave's Jukebox aired once a week for many years.

Walking down to Dave's basement is like entering a museum. I will go out on a limb and say you have never seen a larger collection of LPs, EPs, CDs and rock photos. The shelves and filing cabinets are jammed. Dozens of autographed photos line his walls with artists you would only dream of meeting.

On the floor sits a box of his reel-to-reel interviews - a treasure chest of Rock and Blues history featuring Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Guy, and Mitch Ryder - soon bound for the Library of Congress in the U.S.

Two years ago, while I was helping him organize his MP3 collection (yes, he has that too!), he was packing up boxes for sale. A four-song EP on a table caught my attention, and I asked him what that was.

"That is an original 1954 British release of *Rock Around the Clock* on Brunswick Records," he answered. "Autographed by Bill Haley."

I asked him if he was selling it. In words I can't print in a magazine, he essentially said 'Heck no. It's one of my most prized possessions.'

I told him if he ever changed his mind, I would give him whatever he wanted for it.

Since that day, Dave has sold most of his collection, but he still frequents local record shows with hopes of passing on the rest.

Awkward spot

A couple of months after we chatted about the Bill Haley EP, I go back to his place and he says I've "put him in an awkward spot." He hands me the EP and says I want you to have it - as a gift. I was speechless.

"You have been a great friend over the years, and I know you would take care of it," he said.

Today, it hangs framed on my living room wall as a reminder that Daddy Cool had a greater story to tell. 📺

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Mike Robinson's Home Town Remembers Him So Well

32-year-old died tragically while on a golf vacation in Wisconsin Sept. 24.



by Jim Mason
jim.mason905@gmail.com

Mention the name Mike Robinson in Stouffville this fall and the beautiful stories flow.

Not to mention the tears.

The 32-year-old died tragically while on a golf vacation in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin September 24th. A Wisconsin man is awaiting trial for first-degree reckless homicide in connection with the shooting.

Mike was a Stouffville kid through and through. He graduated from local schools and his hometown minor hockey association to play major junior, university and pro pucks.

"Salt of the earth" and "charismatic" are just a couple of the many superlatives his brother and sister, Jacob and Ryley, have heard so often this autumn in describing their sibling.

"I knew that, in the daily calls that Mike made to me," Ryley said in an interview with OTR. "But I'm still in shock knowing that so many other people felt that way, too."

The Robinson kids and their parents, Josie and Rob, heard it at the standing-room-only funeral mass and lengthy visitation for Mike; the personal condolences sent their way and the massive outpouring on social media.

Most were from people the popular family knew.

But this story was far beyond that. Mike's name and that of his beloved hometown of Stouffville went worldwide.

The family of late NHLer Johnny Gaudreau took note. They know the pain the Robinsons are dealing with firsthand and reached out.

Johnny and his brother, Matthew, were killed by an alleged drunk driver while cycling in their native New Jersey, on the eve of their sister Katie's wedding last year.

Likewise, Ryley Robinson was scheduled to be married this fall. Her wedding was postponed, naturally.

Her fiancé, Chris Jarrett, was suiting up for a men's league hockey game in Stouffville in October. Another player reached out in the dressing room, telling Chris of the positive influence Mike had on his own son as an instructor at



Bushwood Golf Club on Reesor Rd.

One of many testimonials.

Mike played on the Stouffville Spirit team that won the franchise's only Ontario Junior Hockey League championship in 2012, a title the 30-year-old Jr. A team had never achieved before. General Manager Kenny Burrows calls "Mikey" the "ultimate late bloomer" who went on to play in the Ontario Hockey League, at Ontario Tech University and professionally in the U.S. and Europe.

Spirit players are wearing stickers on their helmets commemorating Mike's life this season.

Mike Robinson was a lot of things to a lot of people: son, brother, athlete, friend...

Most recently, the title became 'Dad.' Mike and his wife Rachel, who were living in Pennsylvania, had a baby girl, Farrah.

"A lot of new fathers can be fumbling. Not Mike," said Ryley, recalling how naturally her brother took to parenthood.

"He had devoted his life to his daughter," Jacob told OTR.

"He was my best friend ... honestly, he was my everything. He was my little brother, but I looked up to him every single day," Jacob told reporters. "I want his name to be remembered for the absolute amazing young man that he was and how loved he was."

The Town of Stouffville lowered flags at the two community arenas for a week starting on September 26 in his honour.

In Stouffville, Mike Robinson will be remembered. 🇺🇸

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Mike was a devoted family man, as seen pictured (second from right) with his parents and siblings alongside Santa Claus at Markville Mall.

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MORE THAN MOVEMENT

BY CASSANDRA PAPAS

THE PEOPLE AND PLACES
POWERING STOUFFVILLE'S
WELLNESS SCENE

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Stouffville is quickly becoming one of the region's **brightest hubs for health and active living.**

Over the past few years, Stouffville has welcomed big, well-equipped gyms while also embracing a wave of smaller niche studios. Together, they've created a fitness landscape that is diverse, personal, and rooted in something deeper than workouts. At its heart, Stouffville's wellness community is about connection, care, and living well for the long run.

I've been a four-to-five-times-a-week gym goer for over ten years, and in that time, I've stepped into a lot of different spaces. Few feel as special and connected as the ones I've found here in Stouffville. Fitness isn't only about lifting heavier or running faster. It's about the small but important things that keep us thriving. Building strength so you can carry your

groceries in one trip. Flexibility to reach the top shelf without a second thought. Balance so you feel steady on your feet. Core strength so standing up from a chair feels effortless. Even something as simple as grip strength to open a stubborn jar tie back to movement. These are the things that add up to independence, confidence, and joy in everyday life.

URBAN STRENGTH PHOTO BY SARAH AMELIA

THERES A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO MOVE AND THRIVE

Follow along to the spaces, stories and people behind the movement showing that fitness is more than just exercise. It's longevity, connection and commitment. When I started exploring the fitness spaces around town, I noticed right away how different they all were in style and focus. But the deeper I went, the more I saw a common thread: every space was built on care. Walking into each studio, I was greeted with warmth and encouragement. It didn't feel intimidating. It felt welcoming, like each place had its own way of saying, "You belong here."

For some, wellness might mean stepping into a bustling strength and conditioning gym where the energy is contagious. For others, it's the quiet calm of a heated yoga class, the mindful focus of Pilates, or the careful attention of a physiotherapy-based gym floor. Each space in Stouffville offers its own pathway to better living, but all share the same goal: helping people feel stronger, healthier, and more connected.



THE 1920 ROOM
Stouffville's newest fitness spot offers expert guidance in a supportive space.

THE 1920 ROOM STRETCHING ALL THE WAY TO BALLANTRAE

3 FELCHER BLVD. @THE1920ROOM

When Allyson (Ally) Rinneard opened The 1920 Room this past July, she had one goal in mind: to create a space that felt like a second home. Not just a place to work out, but a place where people could show up, feel welcomed, and belong. Tucked into 3 Felcher Boulevard, in Ballantrae the boutique Reformer Pilates studio is moody, elegant, and intentionally designed, but at its heart, it's about people.

Alison has worked in Stouffville for years and always knew she wanted to open something local. After often clocking 70-hour work weeks, she found herself turning to Pilates for balance and

clarity. During a trip to Nashville, she met an instructor whose warmth and presence left a lasting impression. That experience became the seed for what she wanted to build: a space that offered both strength and softness, community and calm.

Today, The 1920 Room has four instructors, each bringing their own style and energy. Classes are curated for all levels, and over a hundred clients have already come through the door, and Ally is most proud of the community that's starting to form. "It's been amazing to see people get to know each other," she says. "It's what I always hoped for."

She's also paying close attention

to who's coming through the door. Surprised, and thrilled, by how many men are enjoying Pilates, she sees it as a reminder of how versatile and inclusive the practice really is. She recently added classes for those aged 60 and older, making sure everyone has a space where they feel safe and supported.

Looking ahead, Ally is planning to host wellness workshops focused on women's health in collaboration with a local naturopath. At just 31, she's poured her heart into creating something meaningful for Stouffville, a space where movement meets belonging, and where every body is truly welcome.

URBAN STRENGTH
CARRYING A LEGACY OF STRENGTH AND COMMUNITY

38 INNOVATOR AVE. UNIT 10 @URBANSTRENGTH.STOUFFVILLE

Urban Strength first opened its doors in February 2020, just weeks before the world shut down. What could have been the end of a dream became instead the beginning of a resilient, close-knit community. At just 24 years old, founder Danielle DeFerrari (featured on this edition's cover) leaned on her family and her vision to create a space that wasn't just about fitness, but about people showing up for one another.

That vision was deeply shaped by Danielle's mother, Anna DeFerrari. Anna was the heartbeat of Urban Strength, a steady presence whose warmth, kindness, and belief in others gave the gym its spirit. In August 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer, Anna passed away. Yet her legacy continues to live on in every class,

every laugh, and every cheer that fills the space. Urban Strength is, in many ways, Anna's gift to the community: a place where everyone is welcome, supported, and celebrated.

Coaches walk alongside members to demonstrate every movement, offer modifications, and ensure that no matter your experience level, injury, or background, you can take part. This isn't about leaving so sore or discouraged that you don't want to come back. It's about showing up, together, day after day, and getting stronger as a community.

From yoga and Pilates to glutes and core, arms and abs, strength and conditioning and now HYROX training, Urban Strength offers variety, but what makes it difference is its people. Just off

the beaten path on Innovator Avenue, you'll often see members running the block, cheering each other on. The first class is always free, with a two-week trial for \$39.

Urban Strength is a living legacy, proof that strength is not just measured in muscles, but in the way a community carries each other forward.

"IT'S ABOUT SHOWING UP, TOGETHER, DAY AFTER DAY, AND GETTING STRONGER AS A COMMUNITY."

- DANIELLE DEFERRARI



URBAN STRENGTH PHOTOS BY SARAH AMELIA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 1920 ROOM

FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH TRAINING

📍 30 INNOVATOR AVE. #10

📷 @TEAM.FST

When I sat down with Dave (photo right) from Functional Strength Training (FST), I had a feeling the conversation would be a good one. He was sipping from a Golden Girls mug, which told me right away that this wasn't going to be your typical "serious gym" chat.

Dave has been a sports RMT and coach for over 20 years. In January 2020, he opened FST with a vision of creating a bridge between strength coaching and sports therapy. Today, FST is an award winning clinic offering a combination of RMT services, a small but mighty team of coaches, and two amazing chiropractors; one with extensive knowledge of movement patterns

and rehabilitation and the other who is one of the only practitioners in Canada certified with a Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Neurology Board, specializing in concussions.

FST offers classes, open gym hours, and one-on-one coaching, plus community events like a February powerlifting meet open to all. I'm even tempted to sign up, because why not try something new and challenging? Dave calls it a "you versus you" environment, where judgment is left at the door and everyone is supported. What matters most is helping each person work toward their own unique goals, while building confidence, strength, and a true sense of belonging.



THE NOCK ACADEMY

📍 10 COMMERCIAL ST.

📷 @THENOCKACADEMY

If you've wandered down Main Street in Stouffville, chances are you've felt the energy coming from The Nock Academy. The bright, cozy studio, run by husband-and-wife team Nicky and Gareth Nock, (photo left) is a space not only to stretch and sweat but one built on community, resilience, and a shared love of movement.

Their story began during the height of COVID. Janice the previous owner of Nature's Gifts now Corner Spa and Wellness invited Nicky to use her space for "just a week" of classes. One week turned into two, then into a steady rhythm that grew into something much bigger. Before long, Nicky and Gareth had carved out a space of their own, right in the heart of downtown.

Originally from the UK, both Nicky and Gareth brought their passion for fitness across the pond when they moved to Canada. Nicky, with more than two decades of teaching experience, leads yoga and Nock Lift strength training. Gareth, her partner in life and business, focuses on Pilates,

personal training, and the day-to-day nuts and bolts that keep the studio running.

When I first walked into The Nock Academy, I noticed how quickly strangers struck up conversations before class. It felt less like a gym and more like a gathering place.

Step inside and you'll find yoga, Pilates, strength and conditioning, barre, TRX, and core training, but you'll also find intention, kindness, and community spirit. "Stouffville is such a wonderful town that still wants to support local," Nicky says. "The businesses here really cheer each other on. We all want to see each other succeed."

With registered massage therapy and other treatments available, plus virtual and on-demand classes that grew out of the pandemic, The Nock Academy offers a full circle of wellness. But at its heart, it's simple: a place where everyone is welcome, and where you always leave feeling just a little bit better than when you arrived.

TOP: PHOTOS COURTESY OF FST, BELOW LEFT: PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NOCK ACADEMY

OXYGEN YOGA & FITNESS BRINGS THE HEAT TO STOUFFVILLE

📍 15 RINGWOOD DR. UNIT 1

📷 @OYFSTOUFFVILLE

On April 7, 2025, Oxygen Yoga & Fitness (OYF) officially opened its doors in Stouffville with a warm welcome, literally. The studio launched with "Karma Week," inviting residents to try out classes for free.

Every class at OYF is heated to about 36 degrees using infrared technology, designed to mimic natural sunlight. The heat helps improve circulation, speed muscle recovery, and support detoxification, while creating an energizing environment for both yoga and yoga-fitness fusion classes. Sessions range from 45 minutes to an hour, led by certified instructors, many of whom live locally.

The heart of OYF Stouffville is owner

Stephanie Harrington. Her journey began after COVID at the Whitby location, where she discovered not only the benefits of heated yoga but also friendships and a sense of community that helped her move past social anxiety. What started as a personal practice grew into teaching, and after two years as an instructor, Stephanie made the life-changing decision to leave behind her 20-year career in insurance to open her own studio.

Now with nearly 300 members, OYF Stouffville is already adding new energy to the town's diverse wellness scene. For newcomers, Stephanie recommends trying a few classes to ease into the heat, starting with their popular "10 days for \$10" trial.

OXYGEN YOGA & FITNESS



F45 STOUFFVILLE TEAM TRAINING, LIFE CHANGING

📍 200 MOSTAR ST.

📷 F45_STOUFFVILLE

If you've driven down Mostar at Hoover Park, you've probably noticed F45 Stouffville, the red, white, and blue fitness hub that's been buzzing since opening its doors in 2023.

The magic of F45 is in the name: 45 minutes of functional training that merges strength, cardio, and HIIT into efficient, high-energy workouts. No mirrors, no egos, just results.

Coaches bring energy to every session, guiding and motivating

members like true teammates. The vibe is supportive, almost electric, and you really do feel like you're moving as one with the group. Members often celebrate big milestones together such as 100, 200, even 300 class anniversaries and the sense of community is as strong as the workouts.

From themed sweat sessions to holiday parties, F45 Stouffville is a place where people show up on their best days and their toughest ones, knowing they'll leave stronger, lighter, and proud.



STOUFFVILLE IN MOTION, TOGETHER

Stouffville's wellness spirit isn't limited to studios and gyms. Local clubs bring runners, cyclists, and fitness enthusiasts together, whether on the trails, at Memorial Park, or even around the Ninth Line track. Running clubs are also gaining momentum, with the Stouffville Run Club growing each day as part of the broader running movement happening everywhere. Community events like the Stouffville 5K, now in its fourth year, and the annual Terry Fox Run remind us that movement can unite us for a greater cause. Altogether, these experiences are shaping Stouffville into more than just a place to work out. They're creating a culture rooted in wellness, joy, and connection, one where everyone can find their place.

OTHER FITNESS SPOTS IN STOUFFVILLE

Beyond the feature studios, there are plenty of other places to get moving in town.

LEISURE CENTRE

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📍 2 PARK DR.
➡️ TOWNOFWS.CA/FITNESS

GOODLIFE FITNESS

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📍 5775 MAIN ST.
➡️ GOODLIFEFITNESS.COM

ANYTIME FITNESS

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➡️ TEALFITPRO.COM

RE:FORM PILATES

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📍 200 MOSTAR ST. UNIT A102
➡️ REFORMPILATESINC.COM



LEVEL UP SPORTS

FITNESS FOR KIDS AND YOUTH

Wellness in Stouffville isn't just for adults. Families will be glad to know there are several local studios and programs designed especially for kids and young athletes, offering safe, structured, and fun ways to get moving. These programs are helping the next generation learn that movement is not only about performance, but about fun, confidence, and healthy habits for life. 🏀

HYPERDRIVE ATHLETICS

📍 @HYPERDRIVEATHLETICS 📍 155 MOSTAR STREET, UNIT 9

PIVOT FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

📍 @PIVOTFUNCTIONALFITNESS 📍 200 MOSTAR ST. UNITS A-122/123

LEVEL UP SPORTS

📍 @LEVE1UPSPORTS 📍 200 MOSTAR ST. UNITS A116/A117

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEVEL UP SPORTS

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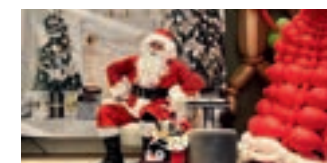
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SANTA CLAUS
PARADE**

LOCATION:
STOUFFVILLE MAIN STREET

14
DEC

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HOLIDAY MARKET**

LOCATION:
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
150 MOSTAR ST, STOUFFVILLE



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Stouffville

Commemorating Local Veterans

New Main Street banners and the Aurora-Whitchurch-King War Memorial celebrates 100 years

October marked the beginning of a season of remembrance for Stouffville's fallen veterans with the installation of newly refreshed veteran banners along Main Street on October 1st and the re-dedication of the Aurora War Memorial, formerly known as the Aurora-Whitchurch-King War Memorial, on October 3rd.

In 1925, the Town of Aurora, Township of Whitchurch, and Township of King came together to memorialize those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War. The Aurora-Whitchurch-King War Memorial was constructed that same year and remains a focal point of remembrance at what is now known as the Aurora War Memorial Peace Park. Over the decades, the memorial has expanded: in 1960, the Altar of Sacrifice was added to honour those who perished during the Second World War, and in 2023, a Korean War memorial was introduced to acknowledge those lost in that conflict.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the original memorial, the three municipalities once again united in remembrance. A collaborative project was launched that included updated veteran banners, an on-site exhibition and a commemorative rededication ceremony. This initiative honoured not only those who gave their lives in service, but also those who contributed to the memorial's creation in 1925.

On October 3rd, dignitaries, municipal representatives and community members gathered at the memorial site to commemorate this milestone. The event was supported by both the Aurora Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385 and Stouffville Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459. A poignant reading of all 71 names of the fallen from Aurora, Whitchurch and King was followed by wreath-laying ceremonies. Dignitaries from federal, provincial and municipal levels paid tribute, reflecting on a century of remembrance and gratitude.

A new on-site exhibition, In Their Memory: The Story of the Aurora-Whitchurch-King War Memorial, delves into the origin of the memorial and the legacy of the Aurora War Memorial Peace Park. On display until November 12th, the exhibition will then transition into a travelling display and an online version, ensuring wider accessibility.

As part of this initiative, the Town of Stouffville took steps to honour all residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville who died during World War I, World War II, the Korean War and



during training and peacekeeping missions. In collaboration with an expert panel comprising Heritage Services staff, local residents and a representative from the Stouffville Legion, 58 veterans were identified. The banners are currently displayed along Main Street until November 13, with digital slideshows available for viewing at Stouffville's Town Hall (111 Sandiford Drive) and the Stouffville Legion, Branch 459 (150 Mostar Street). Individual biographies of each commemorated veteran are also available online at townofws.ca/weremember

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum hosted a downtown walking tour on November 2nd, titled Where They Walked: Stouffville's Veteran Stories, which offered residents a chance to learn more about local heroes.

This joint initiative underscores the enduring spirit of cooperation among neighbouring municipalities and reflects their shared commitment to preserving local history and honouring those who served. Through these thoughtful efforts, the legacy of Stouffville's veterans will be carried forward for generations to come.



PHOTOS COURTESY STOUFFVILLE LEGION BRANCH 459

Probus Club of Stouffville: Get Connected, Stay Connected

by Cassandra Papas



Join the Probus Club of Stouffville

2nd Thursday of each month (10 AM - noon)

Royal Stouffville Golf & Country Club

stouffvilleprobus.ca

MEMBERSHIP:
\$60 annually

Every October, Canadians take a moment to celebrate National Seniors Day on October 1st, a day to recognize the vital role seniors play in our communities. Here in Stouffville, one of the best examples of that contribution can be found in the Probus Club of Stouffville, a thriving group where fun, learning, and fellowship are at the heart of everything they do.

Founded in 2014, the club has grown to nearly over 200 members. Members have access to a wide range of social groups such as movie/book clubs, golf, walking group, bridge, bid euchre as well as seasonal highlights including the summer BBQ, a picnic in August, a car rally in September, and a festive Holiday Luncheon in December.

At its core, the Probus Club is about connection. Co-presidents Bob Lane and Doris Chiu explain why that matters so much.

"One of my favourite things about the club is that we really feel like we contribute to the community," Bob says. "As we get older, loneliness can be a huge issue."

Doris adds, "That's why our club is so special, it really gives people the opportunity to stay active and engaged."

The club also offers exciting day trips and multi-day adventures. This fall, members will enjoy outings to local and Toronto's theatres, Stratford, and Agawa Canyon, as well as a multi-day trip to London and Paris. Looking ahead, there's even a Caribbean cruise planned for 2026. In addition, inspiring guest speakers bring thought-provoking talks on everything from artificial intelligence to Alzheimer's awareness, resilience, and Canadian history.

The Probus Club is guided by a dedicated management team, but the real magic comes from members themselves, whether that's volunteering to organize an event, leading a small group, or simply sharing laughter and stories at a meeting.

So, as we marked National Seniors Day this October, the Probus Club of Stouffville reminds us that staying active, engaged, and connected doesn't just add to the joy of life, it enriches the community for everyone.



WHITCHURCH STOUFFVILLE PRAYER BREAKFAST
Building Community Through Faith

THANK YOU

Most of us know what a caring helpful town we live in, we have businesses who support so many of our activities, we want to thank them. The Whitchurch Stouffville Prayer breakfast, held each year the Thursday before the May long weekend is no exception. Below is a list of these wonderful businesses who supported us:

- Prizm Print & Signs
- Reesor Market Bakery
- Rouge River Farms
- SCS Consulting Engineers
- Shawarama Daddy
- Home life real estate
- Stouffville IDA
- Stouffville Market
- Stouffville Toyota
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- Centerpiece Flowers
- Chapel Ridge Funeral Home
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- Highland Hills Funeral Home
- KPD Signs
- Lindys Flowers
- Moller Insurance
- North Toronto Crematorium (Facility Sponsor)
- Norton McMullen LLP
- O'Neill Funeral Home
- Photon Media & Rentals

Our committee wishes to say a huge thank you to all these folks. We also want you to know, **we are on Instagram, Facebook and we have a website wsprayerbreakfast.com.** We hope the community supports them.

Next year our speaker is going to be **Chris Tompkins** a camp director.

Save the Date:
May 14, 2026,
7-9am



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Be a Part of the Cure

Stouffville Medical Research Institute Seeking Volunteers

by Susan Tucker



The Stouffville Medical Research Institute with three founding members Dr. Nima Mirtorabi, (back row, left) Dr. Sarah Barclay (back center) and Dr. Doug Wu (back row, second from right).

The Stouffville Medical Research Institute (SMRI) has been quietly operating in town for seven years under the watchful eyes of the three founding members and doctors at Stouffville Medical Centre: Dr. Nima Mirtorabi, Dr. Sarah Barclay and Dr. Doug Wu. The clinic motto, "Local Roots. Global Reach", is a powerful representation of how the clinics they are involved in are locally run with results that affect the worldwide population.

What are clinical trials? They are research studies in which participants (either healthy or with a specific disease or condition) volunteer to test the safety and effectiveness of new medical approaches, medications, devices, etc. Such studies are crucial for advancing medical knowledge and developing new treatments for various conditions. They are used to test dosages and determine the optimum amount of treatment for the condition being studied.

Clinical trials are highly regulated

and closely monitored at every step in the process by Health Canada and other regulatory bodies to ensure safety and unbiased, accurate information. Trials can be performed for various health issues. Some examples of health issues that SMRI has been involved in include research on diabetes, allergies, COPD, weight management, COVID-19/flu vaccines, live vaccines, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, asthma, and pediatric studies. The length of each trial is dependent on various factors set out by the pharmaceutical company issuing the study, it could be a few months or last as long as five years. All participants are compensated for their involvement in these trials.

Trials are run at clinics and universities worldwide, ensuring a diverse cross-section of the population is involved to produce accurate results. The clinics themselves are also closely monitored by regulatory bodies that visit regularly to review and analyze results. 📌

Discover ongoing and upcoming studies at smri.ca

📞 647-619-2637 ✉ stouffvillemedicalresearchSMRI@gmail.com

BUSINESS OPENINGS

New in Town

Party Jollof 234

6252 Main Street | partyjollof234.com

Downtown Stouffville has a unique new restaurant. Experience the authentic and rich flavours of Nigerian cuisine right here in Stouffville at Party Jollof! Some of the specialties include jambalaya rice/pasta, grilled tilapia with coleslaw and Nigerian soups. The official ribbon cutting ceremony was held in June. Drop by to experience delicious food with friendly service. They are conveniently located in the heart of Stouffville Village at 6252 Main St.



Foxglove Books

6258 Main Street | @foxglove.books

A new chapter has opened in Stouffville Village with Foxglove Books. This cozy corner located inside Redefined Finds invites readers to slow down, explore, and get lost in stories. From bestselling novels to children's favourites and hidden gems, there's something for every kind of reader. Cozy and welcoming, Foxglove Books is the perfect spot to discover your next great read or find a thoughtful gift. Step into their space at 6258 Main St.





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markets & gifting

2025 HOLIDAY GUIDE

Harvest Market Craft Show & Sale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH • 10 AM - 5 PM
Springvale Church

Come support local with over 85 vendors, workshops, café, live entertainment, Beavertails, and more. Check out all the excitement at Springvale's Annual Harvest Market. You won't want to miss it!

springvale.org

Willow Wonderland: Holiday Market 3.0

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
& SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH • 11 AM - 5 PM
Willow Springs Winery

Willow Wonderland: Holiday Market 3.0 is coming back to Willow Springs Winery, so save the dates and grab tickets online because prices will go up at the door when the event starts! With over 4,000 guests in attendance last year, this dog-friendly holiday event will have even more tails and toasts than last year!

markhamdogalliance.ca

Christmas Market & Café

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH • 10 AM - 3 PM
Christ Church Anglican

This annual event includes a small volunteer-run café with soup, sandwiches and desserts, a gift and crafts market with local vendors, home-baked goods, a book sale, and a boutique of donated gently used items.

stouffvilleanglican.ca

Beyond Craft Show & Sale

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH -
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
19 on the Park

A handcrafted, boutique craft show and sale located in the beautifully restored 19 on the Park Theatre in downtown Stouffville.

latchamartcentre.ca

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Strengthen the
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support small
businesses.

Christmas Holiday Sale

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH & SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 7TH • 11 AM - 5 PM
Holy Theotokos Convent

Celebrate the season at Joyous Light Candles' Christmas Sale. Find new candle designs, festive décor, and perfect gifts – plus enjoy homemade Greek pastries, baked treats, and jams made with love.

thehtc.ca

Stouffville Holiday Market

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST • 5 - 9 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND • 11 - 7 PM
6240 Main St. & Civic Square

The largest winter event of Stouffville's season will feature a local artisan marketplace, magical lighting displays, food and beverages, Santa Claus, and more. Live musical entertainment will take place throughout the weekend.

townofws.ca/holidaymarket

12 Days of Christmas Savings

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH -
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
Corner Spa + Wellness

Guests can enjoy daily festive offers at Corner Spa, featuring exclusive discounts, seasonal treatments, and giftable packages perfect for holiday pampering or thoughtful giving.

cornerspaandwellness.ca

The Stouffville Christmas Market

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH • 9 AM - 2 PM
6240 Main St.

Join the festive atmosphere where the magic of the holidays comes to life. Wander the aisles filled with creative artisans and foodies, each sharing their best to delight everyone.

thestouffvillemarket.ca



VISIT OUR
HOLIDAY MARKET
AND ENJOY LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

Flip to pg.25 for
more info.

45th Annual Victorian Tea

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
11:30 AM & 1:30 PM
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

A delicious taste of Christmas past, featuring a traditional catered tea and a festive tour of the Museum’s buildings. \$32 per person. Registration required.

townofws.ca/museumevents

Merry Munsch-mas

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH • 11 AM
19 on the Park

Kick off the holiday season for the whole family with a fun-filled and zany storytelling play featuring four treasured Robert Munsch tales: *Sounds Like Christmas*, *Finding Christmas*, *I Have to Go!* and *Thomas' Snowsuit*. Performed by actor M. John Kennedy (Fireside Munsch) with warmth, humour and fun-filled audience engagement; perfect for all ages. Tickets required.

townofws.ca/concertseries

Santa Claus Parade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH • 6 PM
Main St.

Celebrate the season as a cavalcade of lights, floats, bands and more will make its way down Historic Downtown Main St. The parade starts at 6 PM at Ninth Line and heads east on Main Street all the way to Park Drive.

townofws.ca/parade

Breakfast with Santa

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH • 9 - 11:30 AM
Ladies Auxiliary Legion 459

Guests can enjoy a classic breakfast spread for \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under, while little ones share their Christmas wishes and take photos with Santa. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item – such as hot chocolate, honey, or shampoo – for donation to the Stouffville Food Bank, stouffvillelegion.ca

Santa Visits the Museum

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH • 12 - 4 PM
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

Santa will visit the Museum for a festive day of family fun, including a visit with Santa, horse-drawn wagon rides, tours of historic buildings decorated for the holidays, and holiday craft-making. \$15 per child. Required adult chaperone free of charge. Registration required.

townofws.ca/museumevents



16th Anniversary Open House

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 9 AM - 4 PM
Velvet Sunrise

Velvet Sunrise is celebrating its 16th anniversary and invites the community to join the festivities. An Open House will be held on November 29th from 9 AM to 4 PM at the roastery located at 100 Ringwood Dr. #8, Stouffville. Guests are invited to enjoy complimentary tastings of the holiday coffee blend, The Nutcracker, traditional holiday cookies, and the yearly specialty latte. The event also offers an opportunity to explore the behind-the-scenes roasting process and learn more about the origins of the coffee.

velvetsunrise.ca



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Visit townofws.ca
to learn more.

Mayor & Council’s
New Year’s Eve Levee & Skate

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
4 - 6 PM SKATING TRAIL • 6 PM MEMORIAL PARK
Memorial Park

Ring in the New Year with Mayor and Council for an evening of celebration, skating, and fireworks! Enjoy a family-friendly skate at the Skating Trail from 4-6 PM followed by food trucks, fiery entertainment, and free hot beverages (while supplies last) in Memorial Park from 6-7 PM. Fireworks start at 7 PM.

townofws.ca/nye

FESTIVE NIGHTS OUT

Ladies' Night

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH • 5 - 8 PM
Main St.

Ladies’ Night in Downtown Stouffville invites friends to enjoy shopping, dining, entertainment, prizes, and exclusive deals from 5 to 8 PM. Tickets are \$15, with proceeds supporting the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.

discoverstouffville.ca/events

Còig - An East Coast Christmas

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
CONCERT AT 7:30 PM
19 on the Park

Celebrate the season with one of Atlantic Canada’s premier Celtic supergroups for the first time on the 19 on the Park stage! Còig’s festive concert experience features spirited renditions of timeless Christmas classics, dazzling instrumentals, and high-energy original tunes.

townofws.ca/concertseries

Magical Christmas Dinner Bash

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
Fickle Pickle Restaurant

Indulge in a delicious Christmas dinner, prepared with the spirit of the season in mind and enjoy a variety of holiday tunes. Then maximize this experience with having a special visit from Santa. Seating 6:30 - 8:30 PM To reserve your table call (905) 640-5707.

ficklepicklerestaurant.ca

LIBRARY EVENTS wsplibrary.ca

Children’s Movie Matinees
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH • 11 AM
The Best Christmas Paegent Ever
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST • 1:30 PM
Disney Princess: A Christmas of Enchantment

Holiday Storytime (30 minutes each)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH • 10:15 AM
Hanukkah Storytime
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD • 10:15 AM
Christmas Storytime
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH • 10:15 AM
Kwanzaa Storytime



Christmas Craft
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH • 10:15 - 10:45 AM
Celebrate the season by making a craft to give as a gift or keep and cherish each Christmas for years to come. Ages 0-4. Registration required.

Hanukkah Craft
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH • 4 - 5 PM
Come learn about Hanukkah and make a craft to celebrate the season.

Kwanzaa Craft
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH • 2 - 3 PM
Learn about Kwanzaa while making a fun craft to celebrate the holiday.

Paint with Santa
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH • 11 AM - 1 PM
Crock-a-Doodle Stouffville

Santa is coming to Crock A Doodle! Holiday spirit shines bright during a morning of festive fun. Kids can paint their own cocoa mug, cookies-for-Santa plate, or holiday treat bowl, and enjoy time with Santa for a visit and photo. All ages are welcome.

crockadoodle.com/stouffville

Kids Night Out: Gift Making

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH 6 - 8 PM
Crock-a-Doodle Stouffville

Drop the kids off for a night of holiday gift-making fun! Kids ages 6+ will fa la la la love a creative night out painting a special gift, enjoying pizza for dinner, and having fun... while parents get 2 hours to yourself!

crockadoodle.com/stouffville

Seasonal Cedar: A Sustainable Ornament Workshop
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH • 10 AM - 12 PM
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

Celebrate the season with a hands-on holiday experience! Join the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for a cozy morning of crafting and heritage. Enjoy a guided tour through the Museum's historic buildings, beautifully decorated for the holidays, then learn about native cedar species as you create your own eco-friendly ornament with step-by-step instruction.

townofws.ca/museumevents



Workshops by Perennial Petals
Perennial Petals Farm

Get into the holiday spirit with a series of hands-on workshops designed to spark creativity and connection. Whether you’re crafting with friends or starting a new seasonal tradition, each session offers a fun, relaxed atmosphere and plenty of personal guidance. Using fresh evergreens, natural accents, and festive materials, you’ll create one-of-a-kind decorations to bring warmth and cheer to your home all winter long. All materials are included, and no experience is necessary. Each workshop runs in a small group setting (minimum 3, maximum 8 participants) to ensure everyone receives individual attention. Registration is required.

*Prices do not include HST

perennialpetals.com/workshops

WOODEN WINTER SLEIGH WORKSHOP \$85
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH • 4 - 6 PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD • 12 - 2 PM

WINTER WREATH WORKSHOP \$95
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD • 4 - 6 PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH • 4 - 6 PM

URN INSERT WORKSHOP \$65
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH • 4-6PM

GNOME WORKSHOP \$59
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 11-1PM

VINTAGE TRUCK WORKSHOP \$90
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 3-5PM

CHRISTMAS SLEIGH WORKSHOP \$65
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH • 12-2PM

religious events *at Stouffville United Church* stouffvilleuc.ca

Living Christmas Nativity
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH • 7 PM

The Living Nativity brings the story of the first Christmas to life with narration and song. All are welcome in the Stouffville United Church garden. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available following the presentation. Donations for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank will be accepted at this event.

Community Lunch
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

Community Lunch, held in the Davis Room, offers an opportunity to build community over a table with warm food, shared stories, and laughter. All are welcome, and donations are appreciated.

Christmas Cantata
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH • 10:30 AM

A Celebration of Christ’s Birth by Larry Mayfield and Derric Johnson is a stunning cantata featuring classic carols like *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*, *O Holy Night*, and *We Three Kings*. Directed by Daniel Mehdizadeh, it is performed by the Stouffville United Church Choir and Friends.



Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH • 7 PM

The Annual Candlelight Service features Christmas carols, scripture readings, and prayers to celebrate Christ’s birth. Music will be performed by Daniel Mehdizadeh in a beautifully decorated sanctuary.



Toys for Tickets

The Linda Mainprize Toys for Tickets program is back in Stouffville. From December 1st through 15th, residents can donate new toys in lieu of parking ticket fines. Suggested items include unwrapped toys, non-perishable food, and gift cards for teens. Donations are accepted at 111 Sandiford Dr. until December 17th and will benefit the Stouffville Lions Club and Food Bank, spreading holiday cheer to local families in need.

townofws.ca/parking

Christmas Dinner Wish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST • DOORS 4:45 PM, DINNER 5 PM
6240 Main St.

Adults in Stouffville who may not have a family Christmas feast to attend on Christmas Day are warmly invited to join Santa for a festive dinner. Enjoy a delicious meal, friendly faces, and the true spirit of the season – sharing joy and togetherness with our community. Registration required.

facebook.com/StouffvilleChristmasDinner

Smiles and Full Plates

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 2 PM
Stouffville Legion

Join us for the 2nd Annual Smiles and Full Palates Fundraiser in support of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank. Enjoy live music in a Battle of the Bands, raffles, and prizes – all donated by generous local businesses. Tickets are \$10 and include a chance to win a door prize. Available at the door or by email.

smilesandfullplates@gmail.com

Lions Toy Drive is Back

Spread cheer by donating new toys until December 17th at the Town Office, Fire Station, or at many locations in Stouffville. Cash donations can be dropped off at the Town Office or e-transfer to Lions Club at donations.stouffvillelions@gmail.com. Families in need can apply for assistance until December 10th. Follow Lions Club of Stouffville Facebook Page for updates.

stouffvillelions.ca





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Grateful patient Steven Fenster
with daughter Mira Fenster



Grateful patient
Areej Hussain

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Here comes Santa Claus



by Jim Thomas
thomas-jim@rogers.com



St. Nick will wave to hundreds from atop a float during the December 6th Main St. parade. He'll also come down many chimneys and be welcomed into many homes on Christmas Eve.

So, what about Ms. Claus? She's already here and has been for several years. Her name is Rochelle D'souza.

Not since my arrival, more than a half-century ago, have I met anyone more deserving of a gift-giving reputation. And not just personal wraparounds but offers of personal assistance extending over an entire community. We're so fortunate.

Born in Bombay, India, one of eight in the family of Roch Thomas and Mildred D'souza, Rochelle later obtained her secondary school and university degrees. For a period of eight years, she served as head mistress and primary class teacher at Don Bosco Public School. She speaks both English and Hindi.

At age 25, Rochelle, accompanied by her husband, left India to reside in Abu Dhabi where daughter, Negrecia, now of Calgary, was born. For Rochelle and close friend Diane Leke, Mississauga and Richmond Hill were their next stops.

So why here, she was asked? "I'd

never heard of Stouffville," she explains, "but I learned of a new seniors residential development called Northern Gate. We checked it out; immediately loved it and decided it would be where we'd want to live." The year was 2008.

Although already a university graduate, this accomplishment was not enough for Rochelle. At age 50, she completed a course at Scarborough's George Brown College, an experience that's resulted in completing some of the most colourful posters often displayed around Stouffville.

While activities within the community have interested Rochelle, two organizations, the 55 Plus Club and the Royal Canadian Legion, remain prominent. "They're my passion," she notes.

On a request from then Legion president Judy Bond, Rochelle accepted the position of Public Relations Officer and has remained an executive member for the past 14 years.

Enthusiasm displayed by Rochelle has attracted couples of all ages to continually fill the Legion Hall for dinner, dances, barbecues and concerts. The convenience

of her computer and OTR has enabled her to spread the word around town and beyond.

Nor have her ambitions gone unrecognized by all three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. Two of the most prized mementos are the King's Coronation Medal presented by MPP Paul Calandra and the Community Impact Award provided by Mayor Iain Lovatt. Both hold prominent places in her home.

So, what's next on Rochelle's busy agenda? She plans to write a book, the title and content of which have yet to be determined. "I need a bit of a push," she says. At this point, it's a New Year's resolution.

"They're my passion."

Rochelle D'souza reflects on her long-standing dedication to the 55 Plus Club and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Meanwhile, she's currently preparing a lengthy gift list that will soon bring joy to seniors' hearts around town. Thank you, Ms. Claus, and Merry Christmas. 🎅

PHOTO BY GLENN JACKSON

STAINED GLASS CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

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Saturday, February 7, 2026



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Deadline: January 10, 2026
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www.stainedglasscentre.ca

Where to catch Santa Claus this Holiday Season

townofws.ca/events

Stouffville Holiday Market

November 21st • 6 - 9 PM
November 22st • 12 - 5 PM
6240 Main St.

Santa Claus Parade

December 6th • 6 PM • Main St.

Santa Visits the Museum

December 13th • 12 - 4 PM
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

For more festivities, visit the Events section on pg. 25



Men of Note
MALE VOICE CHOIR

PRESENTS A

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of CAROLS**

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COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: COURTNEY BRITTON
SOPRANO: SUSAN RYMAN
GUEST BASS-BARITONE: JONATHAN LIEBICH

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 20, 2025
2:00 & 7:30 PM**

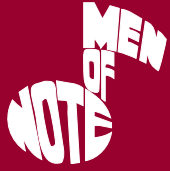
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PHOTO BY CASEY CUNNINGHAM

*On The Road's Glenn Jackson continues
his trek up the Ninth Line in search of
Stouffville's geographic diversity.*

FURTHER ON UP THE ROAD

by Glenn Jackson

THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THE ARTICLE "UP THE NINTH"
PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST EDITION OF *ON THE ROAD*.

Like the community of Bloomington an hour ago, "cottage country's" Musselman's Lake has a lot to offer. And when I say cottage, I mean it. The lake, and the surrounding houses and businesses are straight out of a Muskoka landscape.

Musselman's Lake is named after the Musselman family, who bought land around the lake in 1807. Peter and Jacob Musselman moved from Pennsylvania and settled on the lake's west side.

The area was such a popular summer resort during the late 19th century up to the 1950s that so many services, including Sunday worship and the post office, were seasonal.

Cedar Beach Park, which I will pass shortly on the north side of the lake, became an entertainment hot spot when George Davies Sr. built a pavilion there in 1929. In the 1960s, his son Vern added a 54-acre trailer park, which remains a huge draw today.

Glendale Beach, on the south side, was home to one of the largest dance halls in the county. Originally built near the turn of the century by Edward Baker, the Cedar Glen Park, as it was known, attracted thousands until it burned down on June 11, 1934.

Rebuilt the following year by new owner Fred Coultice, the Glendale Pavilion hosted such bands as Norm Burling and his Orchestra and Ken Carruthers and his Band. It was renovated in 1952 by new owner S.G. Patrick into the third-largest dance centre in Canada.

According to the *Stouffville Tribune*, it could accommodate 1,500 dancers, but the most notable change was the outside. Some 2,500 tons of sand were used to construct a "bathing beach capable of accommodating 6,000 people." Wonder if the sand came from the Oak Ridges Moraine?

The proximity of Musselman's Lake to Toronto made the area a favourite for people running from the law.



TOP: Glendale Pavilion and beach c. 1950. Notice the Ninth Line in background with the rolling hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine and gravel pits in distance. BELOW: Paddling at Shadow Lake.



Among them are the famous bank robbers, the Boyd gang, and Lennie Jackson (no relation...I hope) and his wife Ann Roberts.

The few hundred metres leading to the lake are very hilly. It's coming up on 12:20 p.m., and my planned lunch stop is not far off. But it's sweltering... I need a short break.

I head into Café Lago on the east side of the road. One thing is for sure: I'm not getting a coffee of any kind today!

Behind the counter is Pat. He offers me an espresso. Sorry, Pat, it is not happening, but I very much appreciate your air conditioning.

Outside, I bump into three patrons enjoying the sun with refreshing beverages. We strike up a conversation and chat about why in god's name would anyone walk the Ninth Line! This is life in Musselman's Lake, carefree and relaxing. Just like it has been for over 150 years.

I head on up the Ninth further, and just before I make the turn on the road that leads around the lake, I pass a huge flock of bird houses on the front lawn of a home. After some digging, I found out you can buy a complete bird house or a kit and make it yourself, thanks to a gentleman named Rob. The poster says the bird houses will "last forever."

Today, there is not a lot of development going on around the immediate perimeter of the lake. Other than the political restrictions imposed by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, the primary constraint here is lot size. The lots are so small that development can't really occur with adequate sewage and water requirements. The only new houses on the Ninth around the lake are infill – older houses torn down, new homes built.

It has no drainage

The lake itself is what is termed geologically as a 'kettle lake.' Kettle lakes are formed when a depression occurs under an ice lobe and water accumulates in them. It has no drainage – no rivers or creeks flow into it, nor out of it. It is spring-fed.

I make it around to the north end of the lake to where Cedar Beach Trailer Park is.

On the other side of the road, Fishbone on the Lake and Lolli and Pops attract a steady stream of customers as I sit under a tree and have my lunch and a banana. Check out June's *On The Road* for a feature on the new ice cream shop.

This "cottage country" geographic zone contains a glacial lake, many recreation opportunities, cottages and permanent housing, camping, and tourist attractions, making it one of the most diverse areas in all of Stouffville.

I told you Musselman's Lake is unique in this part of the province.

However, one of Musselman's Lake's hidden gems is literally hidden. As I get up to leave lunch, I continue for another 50 m to find its entrance...

Just north of Fishbone on the Lake restaurant is Shadow Lake. On the east side of the Ninth, Shadow Lake is a private 300-acre property owned by Community Living Toronto. It includes the lake, a natural forest, walking trails and buildings over 100 years old. It offers a year-round facility where individuals with special needs can experience the magic of camp.

My only visit to the camp was in 2019 as part of Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville. What a beautiful location! I had the pleasure of meeting camp director Gary Ouellette, who in 2020 celebrated 45 years with the camp.

At 1:22 p.m., I leave Musselman's Lake and head north towards Aurora Rd., exactly 9.8 km from where I started this morning. These new shoes are beginning to rub on my toes.

As I approach the intersection, I can see my aunt and uncle's old house on Forfordale Rd., a place we spent lots of summer days in the 1970s and '80s.

The intersection of Aurora Rd. and the Ninth is home to the Community of Churchill, the smallest community I'll walk through today. A hillside church on the Hill family farm explains the origin of the name Churchill. William Hill came to the area in 1812 from Ireland, and generations of his family lived on this farm until 1920.

The Churchill Baptist Church (Churchill Christian Church before 1962), which was recently sold and is currently being renovated into a private residence, stands on the west side beside the Churchill Cemetery. Legend has it that the cemetery contains one of the few metal grave markers in the area.

It is the second, and last, cemetery I will pass today... almost.

As I leave Churchill and continue, I pass the 12th hole to the only golf course I'll see today: Ballantrae Golf and Country Club. Opened just over 20 years ago, this semi-private 18-hole course is one of many throughout Stouffville. I noted it in my notebook as both a tourist attraction and a recreational facility.

Downtown Ballantrae is to the west along Aurora Rd.

Populated by tractors

I am entering (or re-entering) another geographic zone just north of the golf course: agriculture. We passed quite a few farms south of Bloomington, but the remaining 6.5 km left in my trek will be dominated by farms and equestrian centres.

I made a note earlier that near the top of the Oak Ridges Moraine, where the gravel pits were, the sediment was coarse – a lot of gravel. In this part of the moraine, sediment is typically finer with sand and silts, a combination much more conducive to growing crops.

According to the Region of York, there are over 30,000 acres of farmland in Stouffville, representing 23% of the farmland in the Region. The number of farms in Stouffville dropped from 116 in 2016 to 83 in 2021, but the total farmed acreage nearly doubled to 30,682 acres.

As I head toward St. John's Sideroad, I pass Horse Therapy Centre of Canada on my right. The centre, featured in the April 2023 edition of *On The Road*, specializes in equine-assisted therapy and learning services for individuals, families, and groups dealing with a wide range of social, emotional, and mental health concerns.

As I walk past, a large group of kids, with horses roaming the fields, are playing in the hot sun. As I approach St. John's, the landscape is populated by tractors, combines, barns, silos, horses, corn, hay, straw, and, of course, manure. All the common inventory of a prosperous agricultural region.

However, one mustn't forget that agriculture is driven by the perfect combination of physical geography:

the soil texture, drainage, and climate conditions are critical. They must combine in the exact proportions to yield favourable returns. Count your blessings, Stouffville – we have that exact combination.

At precisely 2 p.m., I reach St. John's Sideroad. I am sweating... I rest on the side of the road, literally sitting in a ditch.

It is about this part of the Ninth that I enter geographic region #6: Forest.

Where the sand is

If you recall, in last year's November edition of *On The Road*, Hannelore Volpe wrote an excellent article about Christmas tree farms in Stouffville. Although none technically reside on the Ninth (with the exception of Horton's Tree Farm at Magic Hill), Tufford's Tree Farm is just around the corner from me in the sandy loam of the moraine – perfect for growing evergreens.

White pine and red pine grow very well in sandy soil. And this part of the moraine is pretty much all sand. As you may recall, the Oak Ridges Moraine was deposited through a series of glacial meltwater events.

Recalling my glaciofluvial geomorphology courses, I remember water needs to flow slower than 0.4 metres/second for sand to be deposited (no, I didn't really recall that – but it was the foundation of my thesis). My point being, the further we get from the crest of the moraine, the slower the water flowed, therefore the finer the sediment. As we will see in a jiffy, it gets even finer the further north I go.

Just north of St. John's Sideroad is an entrance to the Hollidge Tract, one of the 24 forest tracts that make up the York Regional Forest. The forest spans over 2,500 hectares and offers more than 150

km of trails.

The York Regional Forest is dominated by white and red pine. These were heavily planted between the 1920s and 1960s to stabilize sandy soils after widespread deforestation. Many of these trees still stand today in evenly spaced rows.

Due to the varying meltwater flow from the ice lobes, much of the York Regional Forest in Stouffville is at an equal distance from the crest of the moraine, where the sand is located.

It is hilly on this part of the Ninth, and I am about to reach the most picturesque intersection in the entire municipality: the Ninth and Vivian Sideroad. I won't spoil it, but look in all four directions the next time you are there.

The end is in sight – literally and figuratively – as Vivian is the last sideroad before Davis Dr., the end of this trek.

Just north of Vivian is the last hill before it flattens out to East Gwillimbury – more farms and less sand.

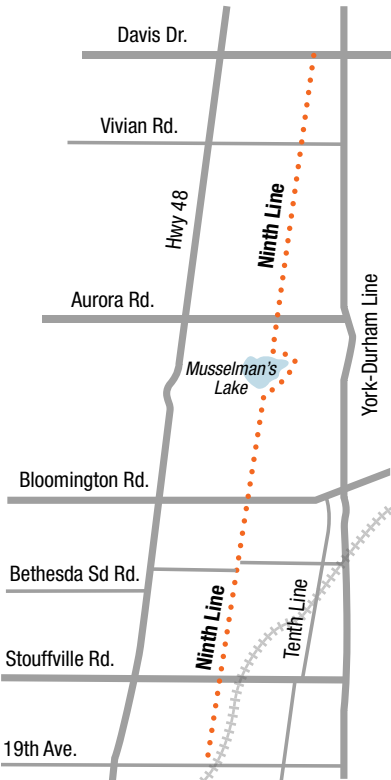
I pass a driveway on the right that conjures more school memories.

Flew to Calgary

As you may recall, this trek on the Ninth Line helped me remember an old story about my milk-carton boat. This story is a bit more emotional.

I fondly recall many of the teachers I had when I was a student at Stouffville District Secondary School. But the one that stood out the greatest was my art teacher, Jane Warren.

I took art with her for three years. She had the perfect knack for teaching something very personal – how to utilize your own creative abilities. On top of that, she was a wonderful person.



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



Cedar Beach campers at Musselman's Lake c. 1930. Photo taken looking north into what is now the parking lot behind Lolli and Pops Ice Cream. Ninth Line in background on right.

TOP AND RIGHT PHOTOS: FRED ROBBINS COLLECTION



In 1999, my mom, who also worked at the high school, commissioned Jane to paint a watercolour of Moraine Lake in the Alberta Rockies as a wedding gift, knowing it was one of my favourite lakes. My mom gave her photos I had taken for her to use.

My mom told me after the wedding that Jane was having trouble using the photos as a guide. Therefore, she flew to Calgary and then drove to the lake and painted it “in person.” All, according to my mom, at no extra cost.

Jane passed away in 2022. The wooden sign on the fence at the foot of

their Ninth Line driveway, simply saying “Warren,” will always be a reminder of what a beautiful person she was.

I continue past the driveway, and I can literally see Davis Dr. in the distance.

At the intersection of Davis Dr. and the Ninth Line once stood the hamlet of Hartman, named after Joseph Hartman, who never lived there. A renovated schoolhouse and a cemetery remain.

I made it. I stop just south of Hartman, rest on the side of the road, and take my shoes off.

In today's trek, I passed a National Park, a major town, five smaller towns, farmers' fields, a moraine, a lake, and a forest. I classify all those “geographic zones” for a total of seven.

In addition, I pass: two seniors' communities, many recreation facilities, a golf course, an airport, three tourist attractions, a winery, many equestrian centers, a trailer park, a summer camp, two gravel pits, a cemetery (almost three), three schools, two schoolhouses, and two churches.

As my feet heal, I ask, “Why did I do what I just did?”

Geography is not just about maps and locations – it explores the relationships

between human societies and their natural surroundings. By examining regions, we gain insights into cultural identity, diversity, economic development, environmental challenges, and political issues.

These distinct geographic regions give Stouffville its character, its identity, and its balance. But try telling my feet that. 🌲

Geographic Zones

- ✔ A National Park
- ✔ A major town
- ✔ Five smaller towns
- ✔ Agricultural (incl. equestrian)
- ✔ Oak Ridges Moraine
- ✔ “Cottage Country”
- ✔ Forest

Tiny Forest, *big impact*

Where nature and community grow and thrive together.

by Hayley Langdale

This fall, a small but mighty forest is taking root in the heart of Stouffville. Madori Park, near the intersection of Millard St. and Winlane Dr., is now home to the Town's first-ever Tiny Forest – a project made possible through a new partnership between the Town of Stouffville, Desjardins, and the national tree-planting charity Trees for Life. Volunteer residents literally got in on the ground floor of this green infrastructure initiative on planting day, playing a hands-on role in bringing the forest to life.

Unlike traditional urban tree plantings, this project is inspired by the Miyawaki method, a proven approach to restoring ecosystems in urban environments by planting dense clusters of native species. Over time, this creates

fastgrowing mini-forests that mimic the layers of a natural woodland, from shrubs to canopy trees. The result is a vibrant outdoor space designed to enhance community well-being, offering opportunities for connection, learning, and engagement with nature.

The Tiny Forest at Madori Park is the first of its kind in Stouffville, but its impact will stretch beyond boundaries of the park. As the forest matures, it will evolve into a welcoming space that enhances the experience for residents and park users, offering shade, seasonal interest, and a sense of connection to the natural world. Just as importantly, it will serve as a reminder of the power of community-led action to address climate change and build resilience.

Dig Into the Details

- 🔑 **Method:** Miyawaki is a dense planting approach that grows 10x faster than conventional tree planting.
- 🌳 **Species:** 150 varieties of native trees and shrubs.
- 💰 **Cost:** The project comes at no cost to the Town, offering a win-win for sustainability and fiscal responsibility.
- 🌿 **Impact:** A vibrant natural gathering place that absorbs CO₂ to improve air quality, reduces stormwater runoff, and lowers local summer temperatures.

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DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

AN UPDATE BY GLENN JACKSON

The Town continues to make steady progress on the next stage of Main Street Revitalization design work with our design consultant, Accardi Engineering. Earlier this summer, Accardi submitted the 30% design package for review. Town staff have now completed their assessment and provided comments back to Accardi Engineering for further evaluation and discussion.

The preliminary design package has also been circulated to Metrolinx to ensure alignment with regional infrastructure planning. In addition, utility agencies with infrastructure located within the project area, such as Enbridge, Rogers, Bell, Telus, Telmax and Hydro One, will be contacted for their input, helping to confirm that the design reflects and protects existing services.

During the summer, a key milestone was reached with the completion of the Stouffville Creek culvert crossing condition assessment. This assessment is currently under review with the Town and in coordination with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to ensure environmental and technical considerations are fully addressed.

Meanwhile, Accardi Engineering is continuing to advance work on a comprehensive water model. This model will be critical in determining the appropriate sizing for the water main and ensuring that future demand is met safely and efficiently.

The next public open house is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026 from 6-8 p.m. at 19 on the Park Theatre, Stouffville.

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

Get project updates

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

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

 **January 29th, 2026**
19 on the Park Theatre • 6 PM

Recycling Changes *Rolling in, December 31, 2025!*

At Home

Residents will begin using wheeled 95-gallon (360 litre) blue recycling carts designed to make sorting easier, cleaner, and more efficient. This transition is part of the province's plan to make recycling more consistent and efficient across Ontario. The rollout marks an exciting change as Circular Materials, a national not-for-profit organization, takes over management of Stouffville's recycling program. Your collection day will stay the same, but recycling will now happen every other week. Be sure to watch for your 2026 Waste Collection Calendar or download the Recycle Coach App to ensure material is placed out on the correct day.

The wheeled carts come with many perks:

- More space for recyclables between pickups
- Lids that close tightly to prevent litter, odour, and pests
- Safer collection for crews who no longer need to lift heavy bins.



Businesses

The Town will no longer be providing waste collection to the following types businesses as of December 31, 2025. Businesses that currently receive curbside waste collection are responsible for arranging private collection as of that date.

Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) Properties

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • Commercial businesses | • Schools, colleges, or universities |
| • Factories or warehouses | • Places of worship |
| • Offices or institutions | • Charities or non-profit organizations |
| • Childcare centres | |

Under new provincial rules, these properties are not eligible for curbside recycling services. Business owners will need to hire a private collection provider for all waste collection streams.

 Visit townofws.ca/waste for more information on upcoming 2026 waste collection updates.

A heartbeat away from home

A cardiac event abroad
led Dr. Henry Solow
back to the hospital he
helped shape.

BY GLYNIS RATCLIFFE

The top of a six-storey waterslide at a resort in a foreign country is an especially terrifying place to experience cardiac arrest. That's where Dr. Henry Solow, a 35-year veteran haematologist-oncologist at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH), was when his heart stopped in January 2025.

Thankfully for Dr. Solow, his son, who was just ahead of him on the platform, heard his father collapse and immediately sprang into action. He performed CPR and then used the resort's automated external defibrillator to bring his father back to life, before brain damage could occur.

THE DOCTOR BECOMES THE PATIENT

Dr. Solow was rushed to a nearby hospital in Nassau, Bahamas, where medical staff confirmed he was no longer in immediate danger. An echocardiogram revealed the likely reason his heart stopped: severe aortic stenosis due to an undiagnosed heart condition called bicuspid aortic valve disease. The local hospital recommended he return to Canada, and he knew exactly where he needed to be.

"MSH is my home," Dr. Solow explains. "I spent 35 years working there, and it's really like family. I knew they would look after me."

Oak Valley Health established a cardiac care partnership with Unity Health Toronto in 2024 that gives patients access to advanced cardiac procedures. With streamlined care and communication between hospitals, community members can go to their local hospital and trust they'll get world-class cardiac treatment.

"Our patient population has grown exponentially, and it's skewing older," Dr. Paul Hacker, Oak Valley Health's Lead Cardiologist, explains. "These partnerships are critical for us to be able to provide care to patients closer to home."

Dr. Solow arrived at MSH by air ambulance at 2 a.m. the following morning, where he was admitted to the Cardiology Unit.

BORN THAT WAY

The aortic valve usually has three leaflets that close after the heart pumps blood into the aorta. Dr. Solow was born with only two, which can lead to a narrowing of the valve (stenosis) and cause the heart to work harder.

DR. HENRY SOLOW stands on the helipad of his trusted community hospital.

Valvular heart disease affects approximately 2.5 per cent of Canadians. While symptoms may be non-existent when the disease is mild, if aortic stenosis develops and remains undiagnosed and untreated, it can lead to stroke, heart failure, blood clots or, as Dr. Solow experienced, cardiac arrest.

Attending cardiologist Dr. Fernandes performed tests on Dr. Solow to ensure he was stable and to confirm the diagnosis. "With this cardiac condition, you have to be very careful with how you administer treatment, because there can be complications if you're too aggressive," Dr. Fernandes notes.

CONTINUITY OF CARE

As part of the cardiac partnership with Unity Health Toronto, Dr. Solow was transported downtown to St. Michael's Hospital for an angiogram, and a stent was inserted in one of his arteries to improve blood flow. A week later, he underwent a transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI), where a replacement valve was inserted through a catheter and implanted inside his existing aortic valve to repair it.

In spring 2025, MSH opened its new Cardiac Device Clinic to service patients with implanted pacemakers. It's part of Oak Valley Health's long-term strategy to advance the hospital's cardiac program in the coming years, says Dr. Hacker.

Dr. Solow continued his recovery from the TAVI at MSH, was released after three days, and returned to work one month later.

"Going from doctor to patient to doctor was nothing," Dr. Solow insists. "I was just touched, because half the hospital came to see me: doctors, nurses from my clinic and other wards, lab staff. It was nothing short of exceptional." ■



DR. FERNANDES was the attending cardiologist when Dr. Solow arrived at MSH.

Speed cameras issue over \$5 million in fines since March

Business registration and new townhouses on Elm Rd. headline meetings



by Glenn Jackson
glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

Speed Cameras

On October 15th, Stouffville Council received a report outlining the details of the six-month-old Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Program. In March of this year, the Town installed eight speed enforcement cameras to help slow drivers down and improve road safety. Four additional cameras were installed on August 15th, 2025. All the cameras were in community safety zones.

According to the report, since the start of the program in March, the twelve cameras have recorded over 1.65 million vehicles driving faster than the posted 40 km/hr limit. In general, the number of vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit decreased over time.

Averaged over the 12 cameras, the 85th percentile speed recorded in April (44 km/hr) decreased from March (47 km/hr). However, it evened out and remained relatively the same from May to September (slightly less than 42 km/hr).

The highest speed recorded during the report period at any camera was 210 km/hr. Except for this outlier, monthly top speeds ranged from 102 to 137 km/hr.

From the program's launch through the end of September, a total of 40,370 speeding tickets were issued. Of these tickets, 7.5% led to screening requests and 0.37% led to hearing requests. 26.6% of overdue tickets have been assigned to vehicle owners' licence plates for recovery during the plate renewal process.

Financially, the program has been successful, according to the report. The cameras generated gross revenue of \$5.12 million. Of this amount, the province of Ontario and the Town of Newmarket received \$2.26 million in administrative and processing fees. Other expenses, including staff and equipment, totalled \$655,000. The total net revenue for the Town of Stouffville from March 17 to September 30 was \$2,191,460.74.

The report indicated that the Town is aware that the province may

introduce legislation to cancel the program. However, given the positive results demonstrated to date, staff recommended that the program continue in its current form until "such time as the province removes the legislative authority to operate it."

Earlier in October, Council approved a motion directing staff to immediately review the ASE program, aiming to conclude it by the date given by the province. Meanwhile, the Engineering & Public Works Department will continue exploring other traffic calming options. It will present recommendations to Council by the end of 2025.

Zoning Amendment on Elm Street

At the October 1st Public Planning Meeting, Council received information about a zoning amendment request on the Ninth Line at Elm Road.

The report detailed an application by The Biglieri Group Inc. (on behalf of Madori Limited) to amend the zoning at 12410 Ninth Line to allow residential development of 20 freehold townhouses across three blocks, accessed by a new public road. The site, located on the northwest corner of Ninth Line and Elm Rd., adjacent to Glad Park School and Elmwood Gardens seniors residence, requires amendments to accommodate the proposed density, setbacks and building height.

Issues identified at the meeting included landscaped and amenity areas, visitor parking, snow storage and the appropriateness of a public road versus a private laneway. Comments from the meeting will be incorporated into a future staff report before Council makes a decision. Further information, including the report, is available on the town's website, townofws.ca

Town Crier

Stouffville has appointed a new town crier. Following Council's direction to have staff find a replacement for previous crier Marcel Bossi who passed away in 2016, a recruitment campaign ran from July to August 2025, attracting 18 applicants. A seven-member panel, including community representatives and a town crier from a neighboring municipality,

selected a successful candidate.

The appointment of the town crier is for a three-year term, with options to renew. The town crier will debut at the Mayor's New Year's Eve Levee on December 31, 2025.

Business Registration

Stouffville Council approved a voluntary Business Registration Program at the October 1st meeting. The program invites all brick-and-mortar businesses in Stouffville to participate, focusing on incentives and a strong communication plan to encourage registration.

The program will create a centralized, public-facing registry to improve business visibility, strengthen communication between businesses and the Town and support local economic development. Registered businesses will benefit from inclusion in a Town-managed directory, enhanced communication during emergencies and community initiatives and access to a comprehensive New Business Guide detailing by-laws, zoning and regulatory requirements.

Participation is voluntary, with no registration fee. It will be a pilot program and run throughout 2026, with ongoing feedback. 📧



COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Wednesday, November 19th – 1 PM
Wednesday, December 3rd – 1 PM

Next Public Meetings (if required):

Wednesday, November 19th – 7 PM
Wednesday, December 3rd – 7 PM

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

Anyone wishing to provide comments may attend the meeting in-person at the Municipal Offices. Contact clerks@townofws.ca for more information.

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talk of the town

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Downtown Revitalization Open House

Jan. 29th, 2026, 6 - 8 PM

Learn about the plans and next steps for revitalizing Main St. Join us at 19 on the Park Theatre to explore what's ahead and share your feedback on the future of downtown Stouffville.

townofws.ca/concertseries



Winter Weather Reminders

Winter weather is on the way. Please drive with care. No on-street parking 2 – 6 AM (Dec. 1 – Mar. 31) or during winter maintenance; permits are void during operations.

townofws.ca/snow

townofws.ca/parking



Water Watch Portal

Be the first to see your household water use, right on your preferred device. Sign up for customized alerts and insights.

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- Access your account info anywhere

townofws.ca/waterwatch

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4 for 3 Fitness & Aquatic Memberships

Dec. 15th, 2025 – Jan. 15th, 2026

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[Leisure Centre • 2 Park Dr.](https://townofws.ca/leisurecentre)



Winter Day Camps

Looking for fun over the winter break? The Town's winter day camps offer a mix of recreation, creativity, and outdoor adventure for children of all ages. Spaces fill quickly – register early!

townofws.ca/camps

19 ON THE PARK THEATRE



Trivia Night

Nov. 27th, 7 PM – 9 PM | 19+ Event

A night featuring a lively, high-energy Trivia Challenge with prizes for top teams and raffle draws throughout the night.

townofws.ca/trivianight



Venue Rentals

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

townofws.ca/19onthePark

MUSEUM



Now Booking 2026 Rental Season

2026 wedding dates are now available. Historic backdrops include Bogartown Schoolhouse (1857), Vandorf Public School (1870), Pioneer Log Cabin (1850), Victorian Farmhouse (1857), and a historic Barn.

townofws.ca/rentals

EXHIBITS

Worthy: The History of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps

Jun. 28th – Mar. 27th, 2026

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

Fighting in Flanders – Gas. Mud. Memory.

Aug. 2nd – Dec. 20th

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

townofws.ca/museum

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