

Taking a tour of the festive Christmas tree
farms of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Pg. 9



 Stouffville

A Culinary Celebration

A taste of Italy coming to
Stouffville Junction

Pg. 6

Go Leafs Go

Stouffville's many ties to the
Toronto Maple Leafs

Pg. 13

'Tis the Season

What to see and do in Stouffville
this holiday season

Pg. 15

CONTENTS

3	NEW BUSINESS	23	ROAMING AROUND
4	REMEMBRANCE	25	IN THE COMMUNITY
6	SPOTLIGHT	27	BUSINESS NEWS
9	FEATURE	29	TALES FROM THE Q
13	SPORTS TOWN	30	COUNCIL CORNERS
15	HOLIDAY EVENTS	31	COMMUNITY NEWS

LAST MONTH IN STOUFFVILLE:

Good Lovelies performed at 19 on the Park's Opening Night Reception to kick off the 2024/25 Concert Series.

FROM THE EDITOR

Andy Williams said this is "the most wonderful time of the year." With Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Lunar New Year, Pongal, and numerous other celebrations in the coming months, he was not wrong. If you are looking to help plan family outings during this time, this issue of OTR is for you!

Not only is there a six-page holiday event pullout, but contributing writer Hannelore Volpe takes us back to fond memories of family trips to the ol' Christmas tree farm on page 16. Grab your saw and get to one of Stouffville's five farms offering you and the kids the chance to make memories that will last a lifetime.

Check out Downtown Stouffville's new coffee shop, shawarma restaurant, and barbershop on pages 3 and 27. Then, get ready for a taste of Italy with a new restaurant opening in December at the Stouffville Junction on page 6.

'Tis the season to give, as well. Find many ways you can contribute to your community this time of year by checking out page 20.

The next issue of OTR comes out in February, but check your mailbox in December to find the Town's annual Year in Review.

Joyful and triumphantly yours,

Glenn Jackson, Editor-in-chief
Corporate Communications Manager, Town of Stouffville
glenn.jackson@townofws.ca

Photograph on cover by Casey Cunningham. Photo above by Valeria Mitsubata. Photos on p. 3 by Katrina Robert.

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BOLD COFFEE AND MOTORCYCLES ON MAIN

BACK ALLEY MOTO CAFÉ OPENS IN DOWNTOWN STOUFFVILLE by Susan Tucker



Back Alley Moto Café is the new java joint in town, located at 6393 Main St., just a smidge west of Park Dr. Owner and Stouffville resident, Paul Dutra, has been in the coffee business for many years, offering up his expertise and special proprietary blends of carefully selected beans from around the world.

Paul's love of motorcycles is the theme behind this newly renovated space, complete with a decommissioned 1962 Triumph in the window. Paul has a varied background from working in sales, to building custom motorcycles, to coffee aficionado and now café owner. Throughout his changing career, his love of a satisfying coffee has always remained, ever searching out where the best cups of java could be found.

His café has been open since September of this year and still has a few things to come, as ideas are always presenting themselves. You can stop in for a piping hot cup of coffee and/or any of the specialties that can be made from coffee beans – espresso, latte, Americano – he and his staff will whip you up something delicious. Enjoy a selection of fresh Portuguese pastries, as well as unique sandwiches, and a few surprises still to be finalized.

You may have seen his coffee trailer popping up at events around Ontario – mostly car and motorcycle events – where he would serve up his finest blends to the crowds. He has four blends at the moment, and you can pick up bags of beans anytime. Café Racer is a blend of beans from two countries and is his light roast. Then comes Chopper, a three-country blend, his medium roast. Over to the medium dark roast called Bobber, again from three countries but different from the Chopper countries. To round out the bunch is his E-bike dark roast decaf, a single origin roast.

A new dark roast is coming soon and will be called Scrambler, so watch for that if you're a dark roast fan. While you may see flavours noted on the bags, that is to indicate the type of taste you'll get from that blend, but there are no flavour additives, just straight up 100% pure coffee beans.

Back Alley Moto Café is open Monday through Friday, 7 AM – 7 PM, and Saturday and Sunday 7 AM – 3 PM. Tell Paul you read about him here! Go back regularly to see what's new and enjoy delicious coffee and treats, and don't forget to pick up beans to take home. For the month of December, be sure to try out their tasty holiday drink—the Candy Cane Dirty Chai Latte!

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



TOP: Owner Paul Dutra sits with a freshly poured latte as he welcomes customers into his new café at 6393 Main St.

Honouring the Remarkable Life and Service of Aurelia Smith

Long-time Stouffville resident received Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003

Stouffville's Aurelia Smith was known for her unwavering dedication to her community and country. A proud Veteran of World War II, she served with distinction in the Women's Royal Canadian Navy Service (Wren) as a Lead Wren. Her journey began with basic training in Galt in 1942, after which she was posted to Halifax. Her commitment to duty and excellence shone brightly throughout her service, and she received her Honourable Discharge in 1945, marking the end of her wartime contribution but the beginning of a lifelong commitment to service.

After the war, Aurelia returned to Stouffville and quickly became a cornerstone of the community. On February 9th, 1953, she became a charter member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Stouffville Legion, a role she would hold with pride for the rest of her life. Serving multiple terms as President, she led with compassion and strength, and as the Convenor of the annual Blood Donor Clinics for an incredible 30 years, she demonstrated her dedication to helping others. Her life membership in the Auxiliary until her passing in November 2021 is a testament to her long-standing commitment.

Aurelia's passion for community service extended well beyond her work with the Legion. She served as a Stouffville Public School Board member, where her contributions helped shape the future of education. Recognizing the importance of connecting and supporting the Town's older residents, she helped establish the Stouffville Silver Jubilee Club. Now known as the Stouffville 55+ Club, this is a space for seniors to engage, connect, and thrive. Her love for local history also led her to assist with the creation of the book *Stouffville History 1877-1977*, preserving our heritage for future generations.

As an Executive member of the Stouffville Business and Professional Women's Club, Aurelia championed the advancement of women in the workforce. She also served as a Deputy Returning Officer during municipal elections, ensuring the democratic process ran smoothly. In her role



ABOVE: World War II veteran, community leader, and lifelong champion of service, Stouffville's Aurelia Smith helped establish the Silver Jubilee Club (now 55+ Club) and was a charter member of the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary. Photos courtesy of the Stouffville Legion and Smith family.

with the Stouffville Cancer Society, where she was once the Co-Convenor of Special Events, Aurelia tirelessly worked to support those affected by cancer.

Aurelia was married to Walter Smith for 60 years. Walt became a volunteer firefighter in Stouffville in 1948 and served as Fire Chief from 1958 until his retirement in 1986.

In 2003, her exceptional contributions were recognized when she received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, an honour fitting for a woman who gave so much to both Stouffville and Canada.


Aurelia Smith's legacy is one of selfless service, dedication, and love, and she will always be remembered as a true pillar of the Stouffville community.



Lest We Forget

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

Sunday, November 10th	Monday, November 11th
Stouffville Cemetery	Ceremony at 10:55 AM
12118 Tenth Line	Stouffville Legion Branch 459
Ceremony starts at 1 PM	150 Mostar St.
	Light lunch to follow in the Branch



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A TASTE OF ITALY

at Stouffville Junction

by Michaela Ray



A new restaurant is set to open at Stouffville Junction, located at Main St. and Edward St., blending authentic Italian flavours with the rich history of the Town's landmark building. Founded by experienced restaurateurs Marco Sargian and Roberto Staiano, this venture is more than just a dining experience—it's a culinary celebration of both northern and southern Italy.

Marco Sargian, a head chef with many years of experience, hails from Casale Monferrato in northern Italy. Known for his masterful balance of flavour, Marco has worked in acclaimed restaurants across Europe and Canada, including the Michelin-starred Don Alfonso. His counterpart, Roberto, a general manager and certified sommelier with over two decades of expertise, brings his southern Italian roots from Capri to the table. His time at world-class restaurants such as La Capannina has earned him recognition in the industry,

and his contributions to Buca in Toronto have only cemented his reputation. Together, they aim to recreate an authentic Italian dining experience, reflecting the diversity of Italian cuisine. One of the key figures behind the project, explains, “We wanted to find a community that would appreciate the authenticity we bring. Stouffville is a thriving and growing community, and its diverse culture makes it the perfect fit for a restaurant like this.”

Why Stouffville Junction?

The team behind the restaurant was drawn to the historic Stouffville Junction, a building with deep roots in the town's development. Originally constructed in the 1860s at the northeast corner of Main St. and Edward St., this site once served the bustling Toronto & Nipissing rail line, allowing local goods to flow to Toronto.

Thoughtfully restored in 2020, the building, previously the Mansion House, now stands as a testament to Stouffville's rich heritage, perfectly blending old-world charm with modern-day conveniences. When Marco and Roberto discovered the space at Stouffville Junction, they saw an opportunity to fulfill their dream of creating an Italian restaurant that felt as authentic as their own Italian heritage. The space has been designed with a combination of warm textures, banquet and regular seating, and stone and light features to complement the structural elements of the historic building.

Culinary Excellence from North to South

The menu at the restaurant reflects the varied and rich landscape of Italian cuisine, showcasing dishes from both the northern and southern regions of Italy.



“We want to bring the full range of Italy’s rich culinary tradition to the Junction,” says Marco. “My passion for authentic Italian food is reflected in our diverse menu and influenced by my experiences in Italy and elsewhere in the world. We are thrilled to bring our flavours representing northern and southern Italy to Stouffville.” Diners can expect a menu that includes handmade pasta and sauces, pizza made with fresh dough and ingredients, grilled meats and fishes, as well as game dishes. Authentic regional flavours will be represented, along with a few innovative, fusion-inspired dishes that blend traditional tastes with a modern twist.

A Restaurant That's More Than Just Food

The restaurant itself has been designed to offer three distinct dining experiences. At the heart of the establishment is a beautiful bar area, perfect for grabbing a drink with friends. Adjacent to this is the main dining room, which features natural light, wooden accents, and a warm, welcoming ambiance. There's also a private dining room that can seat up to 16 people, offering the perfect space for special occasions or intimate gatherings. These dining experiences allow for friends and family to come together in distinct ways to accommodate every reason for dining out. The Junction is also designed to cater to business functions as well.

One of the standout features of the restaurant is its impressive wine wall. Showcasing over 600 bottles of Italian wine, the wall acts as both a divider between the private dining area and the main room and as a focal point of the restaurant’s design. The wine collection promises to be a masterpiece, a celebration

of Italian viticulture, and visible from all parts of the restaurant.

A Touch of Italian Hospitality

In addition to Marco and Roberto, the team includes Leonardo Bottone, a customer experience consultant who splits his time between the Amalfi Coast and Toronto. Leonardo, who has spent years perfecting the art of guest relations at world-renowned Italian establishments, has played a crucial role in bringing Italian hospitality to Stouffville. His expertise ensures that the customer experience at the restaurant will be just as authentic as the food.

Their goal is to make every guest feel like they’ve stepped into a little piece of Italy. From the interior design to the menu to the hospitality, they’ve thought through every detail to make sure the experience is unforgettable.



TOP LEFT: Owners Marco Sargian and Roberto Staiano stand in front of Stouffville Junction at 6162 Main St. Photo by Kira Hassard. TOP AND BOTTOM: Realistic renderings of the dining space show luxurious spaces with stylish details for people to come and experience the beauty of The Junction.

Looking Ahead

With the restaurant set to open in the coming months, excitement is building within the community. For the ‘tre amici’ this is more than just a business venture. It’s a passion project that brings together years of experience and a deep love for Italian food and culture. As Stouffville continues to grow and develop, this new addition to the town’s culinary landscape is sure to become a beloved spot for locals and visitors alike. From the warm ambiance to the carefully curated menu, this new Italian restaurant is set to offer a dining experience unlike any other. “We’re thrilled to be a part of Stouffville’s future while honouring its past,” the team explains. “This restaurant is our way of bringing a little bit of Italy to this beautiful community.”



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FEATURE | ON THE ROAD 9

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THE HUNT FOR THE Perfect Tree

DISCOVERING STOUFFVILLE'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS

by Hannelore Volpe • Photoshoot by Casey Cunningham

Bringing home the most magnificent tree they can find at their local Christmas tree farm is a tradition and a delight which many families in Stouffville look forward to every year.

Some people are new to the whole tree farm experience like the small boy who accompanied his parents to the Gerencer Family Tree Farm last year. He couldn't wait to help his dad cut down that tree. The little one scrambled out of the car, firmly holding his little toy saw.

A local couple brought their baby boy to Tufford's Tree Farm to begin an annual tradition, and now that baby is 44 years old!

Along with Gerencer and Tufford's, two of the longest running operations—Horton Tree Farms and the Vivian Plantation—and the MacPherson Christmas Tree Farm, are gearing up for this year's Christmas tree season in Stouffville, offering a wide variety of short and long needle trees.

However, you will no longer be able to go to the Middleton Tree Farm. In business since 1985, its owners have decided to retire.

As well as providing memorable Christmas experiences, many of these farmers also helped to reforest our municipality.

At Horton Tree Farms, the Horton brothers, Hal, Bert, and Brian, run the farm their parents, Keith and Joy Horton, bought in 1961. They started out by pruning

the trees already growing there, “so they would be looking more like a Christmas tree than a Charlie Brown tree,” said Hal Horton with a chuckle. Then they started planting for the cut-your-own operation. At one time the Hortons had several farms including an apple orchard and an outdoor educational centre, and the maple sugar bush which continues to this day. Back then, with visitors to the sugar bush, the Christmas tree farm and the apple orchard, “We had 600 buses between the three seasons,” Hal Horton noted.

With heritage buildings such as a log barn and maple cabin and something called a monkey tree, Horton Tree Farms has been the location for several commercials and movie shoots and there are lots of settings for memorable photos when visitors get their tree. The farm offers hot chocolate, a bonfire, and tree baling. Your canine companion, on a leash, will be welcomed too.

They also owned Magic Hill farm on Ninth Line from 1979, which closed just a few years ago.

“We planted trees there and turned it into a tree farm from a gravel pit,” Hal Horton said proudly. “In 1979 there wasn’t a tree on that property.”



became so high they had to be cleared from roadways by plows.

But now as you drive along roads such as McCowan Ave. or Hwy 48 past these majestic forests, you’ll notice the trees are in evenly spaced rows. Many of them are the red pines and white pines still standing from when they were planted between the 1920s and 1960s, to help anchor

down the soil. There are even some of the original trees planted in 1924.

So, what does it take to raise that tree from seedling to the arboreal splendour you hoist onto your car? I got a small inkling when I talked to Lynn Stuart of the Vivian Plantation: she was out standing in her field, holding a chain saw in one hand and a pruning shear in the other. As well as pruning and weeding and hoping the seedlings don’t dry up when it doesn’t rain, farmers cope with the insects that want to munch on your trees. And it’s certainly not a one-season harvest. According to the Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario website “...a tree is harvested only after ten years” and “90% of the farm must remain in trees all the time.”

The Vivian Plantation offers visitors hot apple cider and a bonfire. Garlands and boughs are also available. When you cut your tree or buy one pre-cut, you can bring a picnic to enjoy at the tables scattered throughout the picturesque plantation and take a photo at their self-portrait location. Dogs on a leash are welcome.

A Walk Through the Woods

Tufford’s Tree Farm is a small family tree farm which has been in operation since 1965. In the beginning, the owner, Blake Tufford, sold the existing trees and when it came time to plant more he was guided along by “a local tree farmer at our church,” he recalled.

About 20 years ago, the farm was home to a “very well-behaved white Percheron horse to pull the trees out of the woods for people,” he said. Now it is people

power. Because it is a smaller property, people cutting their trees will “have a pleasant, short walk through the woods,” noted Mr. Tufford, who now partners with his children, David and Elaine, to run the farm. He was pleased that all of the 400 trees they planted this year grew “because of the nice rainy season” earlier in the year and pronounced it an excellent year for the trees.

There’s a safe toboggan hill for the kids and an open fire to gather around.

Wagon Rides and Hot Chocolate

MacPherson Christmas Tree Farm has been selling Christmas trees since the 1980s with the cut-your-own operation added in 1988 on their 40-acre property.

They, like many other tree farmers in the area, noticed the effects of COVID in a unique way. There was actually a shortage of Christmas trees during those years. That’s because so many people wanted to get out of the city and do something socially distanced, explained owner Don MacPherson.

“We had at least a 35% increase in tree sales during those years and that resulted in a shortage for a time,” he added.

With some relief he said, “This is the first year we will have enough trees.”

He runs the farm with his daughter and her husband, and other family members.

The farm offers wagon rides, hot chocolate, and scavenger hunts for the kids. They’ll bale your tree and have hot dogs and sausages for sale to enjoy around the bonfire. A special bake sale will be on during the season with 100% of profits being donated to the Hospital for Sick Children.

Bring Your Own Sled

The Gerencer Tree Farm run by Steve and Maria Gerencer has been in business for around 30 years and they started



ABOVE: Blake Tufford and his daughter Elaine of Tufford’s Tree Farm, St. John’s Sdrd., just east of Highway 48. Photo by Katrina Robert.

selling cut-your-own Christmas trees about ten years ago.

“We have sleds for the kids to be pulled on—or the cut trees,” she said. “A lot of people bring their own sleds.”

Maria Gerencer delights in seeing people come to the farm each year who really get into the festive spirit. She particularly remembers a couple who brought along their little baby and two small dogs. All three were dressed in similar festive outfits.

Last year she noticed two couples with a tarp. After they had chosen their trees, they laid them on the tarp, each person grasped one corner, and they slid those trees right along to their car.

Many older people show up for their tree right when the farm opens for the season, she has observed. They want to enjoy their Christmas tree for some time before they fly south for the winter.

The Gerencer Tree Farm offers hot chocolate and candy canes, and Ms. Gerencer will also be baking cookies for visitors coming to cut their tree.

Cheerful seasonal planters and other greenery are for sale as well.

Local Tree Farms

Gerencer Family Tree Farm

12681 Kennedy Rd.
416-841-0489

Horton Tree Farms

5924 Slaters Rd.
905-888-1738

MacPherson Tree Farm

17422 Hwy 48
905-717-0499

Tufford’s Tree Farm

5578 St. John’s Sdrd.
905-640-2548

Vivian Plantation

16721 Hwy 48
905-473-3537



ABOVE: Don MacPherson of MacPherson Tree Farm, Hwy 48 just south of Davis Dr. Photo by Katrina Robert.

Why Christmas Trees?

Cut-your-own Christmas tree farms developed after farmers began buying land in the northern part of Whitchurch-Stouffville and planting trees to augment

the ones already growing there. Why Christmas trees? “Nothing else would grow here,” stated Lynn Stuart, who runs the Vivian Plantation, a three-generation business, which her family purchased in 1947. Her dad, William Grose, known by all as Earl, planted their property in red pines in the 1950s, before putting in Christmas trees in the ‘50s and ‘60s. He also helped neighbouring farmers, Clifford and Kenneth Hollidge, in their planting efforts. In 1924, the latter’s property had become the Hollidge Tract—the first tract of land reforested under the Ontario Agreement Forest program, whereby local governments could purchase these sand-swept properties to be planted and managed by the provincial government. Other tracts came on board and together they developed into the York Region Forest we know today where people come to enjoy the peaceful nature around them in the forest which is spread over 2,500 hectares (just over 6,000 acres). It also features accessible paths and a variety of programs.

These lush forests and the Christmas tree farms are a far cry from the sandy wastelands that resulted after a century of clear cutting. Logs were taken out via the railway station at Vivian, Ms. Stuart noted.

With no tree roots, the sandy soil began to blow away. Sometimes the sand dunes



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GOTTA BE-LEAF: STOUFFVILLE'S CONNECTION TO TORONTO'S NHL TEAM GOES WAY BACK

From George Armstrong and Bob Hassard, to Keith Acton and Brandon Pridham

There might not be enough of a connection to mount 'Home of the Toronto Maple Leafs' signs at the entrances to town.

But Stouffville's link to those lovable NHL Leafs goes way back.

The late George Armstrong called the then village home during the 1950s. Long before Hwy 404 even thought about extending this far north, Armstrong rented the home of Stouffville's Helen and Bob Hassard and family, and commuted to Maple Leaf Gardens while good buddy Bob was playing in the American Hockey League. Neighbours

and Main St. merchants alike fondly recall interactions with Armstrong.

Hassard was on the 1951 Toronto squad that won the Stanley Cup.

Armstrong, the Leafs captain for 13 seasons, won four cups.

Bill Root, Ken Wregget, Mark Laforest, and Chris Kotsopoulos lived in Stouffville while playing for the Leafs during the late 1980s. Their homes were along the Millard Street-Hemlock Dr. corridor, back when that stretch of pavement was the northern border of the community.

Wendel Clark lived in an estate subdivision west of Ballantrae during his second stint in blue and white.

Stouffville's own Brad May played for the Leafs in 2008-09, near the end of his 18-year NHL career. A Stanley Cup champ with Anaheim in 2007, Brad and daughter Samantha competed on CTV's Amazing Race Canada this year.

Another hometown boy of 1,000-plus NHL games, Keith Acton, was an assistant coach with the Leafs for nine seasons. Acton, who also played in the NHL for 15 seasons, is now a Stouffville town councillor and restaurateur.

Six degrees of Stouffville? Bob Hassard coached Keith Acton during the 1960s when the Stouffville Arena was located on Park Dr., on what's now parkland across from Latcham Hall.

Bob's son, Bill, was selected by the Leafs in the 1974 NHL Draft.

Today, Brandon Pridham, a former Stouffville Clipper who still lives locally, is an assistant general manager with the Leafs.

SportsTown

with JIM MASON



Contact Jim Mason: jimmason905@gmail.com

Jesse of Sportsnet

Add the name Jesse Fuchs to the list of sports media figures who live in Stouffville.

You've seen him: Jesse is all over Sportsnet as an anchor, reporter, and host.

Jesse, his wife Nikolle and daughter Sophie have called this place home since 2015. He's on X @jesse_fuchs

Going Swimmingly

The Stouffville Swim Club prides itself on steady improvement.

Competitors with the club, which is based out of the Stouffville Leisure Centre pool, received official notification it is doing just that. Twice.

The club was recently presented the "Most Improved Female Team" award for both the Winter and Summer Ontario Festivals, the provincials in their sport.

These were no small feats.

Seventy-eight teams qualified for and competed at the winter championships. For the summer festivals, 90 teams took part.

The winter female team included: Hillary Chan, Annabelle Chau-Colaco, Ellie Chen and Kennedy Mauro. For the summer championships, Hillary, Annabelle, and Ellie were joined by Kate Ding.

For more on the club, go to stouffvilleswimclub.com

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ABOVE: Stouffville's Bob Hassard hoists the Stanley Cup. Photo courtesy of the Hassard family.

markets & gifting

Harvest Market Craft Show & Sale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH • 10 AM - 7 PM
Springvale Church

Come support local with over 80 vendors, workshops, café, live entertainment, Beavertails, and more. Check out all the excitement at Springvale's 10th Annual Harvest Market.

Christmas Market & Café

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH • 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.

Beyond Craft Show & Sale

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
19 on the Park

This juried show and sale in support of Latcham Art Centre features handcrafted work from artisans across Ontario. The event begins with an opening reception and sale on Thursday, from 6 PM to 9 PM. The sale continues on Friday and Saturday, from 10 AM to 9 PM, and concludes on Sunday, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Visit 19 on the Park to support local artisans and discover unique, handcrafted treasures.

latchamartcentre.ca/events

Stouffville Holiday Market

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 7 - 10 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH • 1 - 10 PM
6240 Main Street & Civic Square

Celebrate the holidays with our largest winter event of the season! The event will feature a local artisan vendor marketplace, magical lighting displays, food and beverage, horse drawn carriage rides, Santa Claus, and more. In addition, live musical entertainment will happen throughout the weekend.

townofws.ca/holidaymarket

SHOP LOCAL

Strengthen your community, and support small businesses.



Christmas Holiday Sale

DECEMBER 7TH &
DECEMBER 8TH • 11 AM - 5 PM
Holy Theotokos Convent

Joyous Light Candles will be hosting their Christmas Holiday Sale and invite you to join them. Need gift ideas? Come and see all the new candle designs and holiday décor. Along with the candles, indulge in Greek pastries and other baked goods and homemade jams.

thehtc.ca

Care and Share

33 Ringwood Dr.

Celebrate Thriftmas at MCC Care & Share Thrift Shop! This season, enjoy amazing deals on new items, antiques, collectibles, and more. Find everything you need—holiday décor, clothing, DVDs, and more—all at great prices. Proceeds support Mennonite Central Committee's relief efforts. Visit MCC Care & Share at 33 Ringwood Dr., open six days a week, with weekly 75% off sales. For details, follow on social media or contact 905-640-1410.

mccthriftontario.com/stouffville



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YEAR'S GIVEAWAYS!

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29 & 30 NOV	STOUFFVILLE HOLIDAY MARKET TIME: FRI: 7-10 PM SAT: 1-10 PM LOCATION: MAIN STREET	
7 DEC	STOUFFVILLE SANTA CLAUS PARADE TIME: SATURDAY AT 6 PM LOCATION: MAIN STREET, FROM NINTH LINE TO PARK DRIVE	
15 DEC	TTG'S 9TH HOLIDAY MARKET TIME: SATURDAY FROM 12-4 PM LOCATION: STOUFFVILLE LEGION	

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIALS FOR ALL UPCOMING EVENTS AND MORE!

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special events

2024 HOLIDAY GUIDE

Christmas Bazaar

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH • 9 AM - 12 PM
St. James Presbyterian Church

A warm welcome awaits! Enjoy Santa’s tea room, craft table, silent auction, and shop for baked goods and frozen meals.



Willowgrove’s Christmas on the Farm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD • 10 AM - 4 PM
Willowgrove Farm

Enjoy guided tours and festive activities for the whole family, including country crafts, nativity reenactments, and an I Spy Christmas room. End your adventure around a campfire with Christmas songs and hot apple cider (for purchase). Tickets: \$15 per person; children under two are free.

willowgrove.ca

Christmas Tree Lighting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 7 - 7:30 PM
Civic Square

Join Mayor and Council in front of the clock tower for a dazzling evening as we light up the Stouffville Christmas tree—keep an eye out for Santa Claus too!

townofws.ca/treelighting

Santa Paws

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST • 1 - 3 PM
Muttz With Mannerz

Families and furry friends are welcome for fun times. Special guest Santa Paws will be there for photos with you and your pup. Visit vendors and leave with treats for both humans and dogs.

muttzwithmannerz.com

Santa Claus Parade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH • 6 PM
Main Street

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

townofws.ca/parade

Santa Visits the Museum

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH • 12 - 4 PM
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

Santa is visiting the Museum! Enjoy family fun with Santa, wagon rides, holiday crafts, and a tour of festive historic buildings. \$10 per child. Adult chaperone free. Registration required.

townofws.ca/museumevents

New Year’s Eve Fireworks

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST • 6 PM
Memorial Park

Bring the family to Memorial Park on New Year’s Eve to celebrate the year’s end! Join your neighbours on December 31st for an exciting evening of entertainment and fireworks starting at 7 PM.

townofws.ca/nye

VISIT OUR
HOLIDAY MARKET
AND ENJOY LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

Flip to pg. 15 for
more info.

a night out

2024 HOLIDAY GUIDE

Holiday Trivia Night

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH • 7 - 9 PM
19 on the Park

Let the games begin! Back by popular demand at 19 on the Park, enjoy a fun-filled night of trivia, prizes, and door prizes. Gather friends for friendly competition. Cash bar available. Registration required. Ages 18+.

townofws.ca/events

Sonshine & Broccoli:
Live for the Holidays!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH • CONCERT AT 3 PM
19 on the Park

This eccentric and interactive pop-rock show for families and kids is not to be missed! JUNO-nominated duo Sonshine and Broccoli captivate with music that has positive messaging and reassurance at its core. Registration required.

townofws.ca/concertseries

Sultans of String: Christmas Caravan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH • CONCERT AT 7:30 PM
19 on the Park

Three-time JUNO nominees and three-time CFMA winning ambassadors of musical diversity, Sultans of String takes audiences on a world of music tour with Christmas Caravan! This genre-hopping show expands the traditional notion of Christmas music. Registration required.

townofws.ca/concertseries

Men of Note

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST • 2:00 & 7:30 PM
Christ Church Anglican

Join the choir for their annual Christmas Concert, A Season of Light. Music Director Heather Williams, accompanist Courtney Britton, soprano Susan Ryman, and guest cellist Sarah Noble will lead them from “Shepherds Watching Flocks” to “Sparkle Jolly Twinkle Jingle.”

menofnote.com

TICKETS FOR
OUR CONCERT
SERIES ARE NOW
AVAILABLE

Visit townofws.ca
to learn more.

religious events at Stouffville United Church stouffvilleuc.ca

Living Christmas Nativity

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH • 7 PM

Living Nativity brings the story of the first Christmas to life with narration, song and a live donkey. All are welcome in the Stouffville United Church garden at the corner of Church St. North and Duchess St. Hot chocolate and cookies shared following the presentation. Donations for the Stouffville Food Bank accepted. A shuttle ride will be available from the parking lot at 6240 Main St. starting at 6:15 PM.

“The Ballad of Bethlehem” Christmas Cantata

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND • AT 10:30 AM SERVICE

The Ballad of Bethlehem is a timeless story of God’s love, directed by Daniel Mehdizadeh and performed by the Stouffville United Church Choir and Friends. Pepper Choplin brings the timeless story of Christmas alive with David Meece’s touching, powerful song as the recurring theme, tying the work together.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH • 7 PM

Join the annual candlelight service that features Christmas carols, scripture readings, and prayers on this holy night to celebrate Christ’s birth. Music by Daniel Mehdizadeh in the beautifully decorated sanctuary.

for the foodies

Annual Open House *Velvet Sunrise*
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH • 9 AM - 4 PM

Enjoy complimentary tastings of the holiday coffee blend, The Nutcracker, Lisa’s holiday treats, and their specialty latte. Discover Velvet Sunrise’s roasting process and learn about your coffee’s origins.
velvetsunrise.ca

Christmas Community Lunch *Stouffville United Church*
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH • 12 PM

Stouffville United Church is hosting a special Christmas Hot Lunch foster community with warm food, shared stories, and laughter. All are welcome; donations appreciated.
stouffvilleuc.ca

Duck The Halls! *King Cole Ducks*
DECEMBER 14TH - DECEMBER 23RD

Visit Ontario’s only farm-fresh duck store on the north side of town. Enjoy duck samples from 11 AM – 3 PM, including spring rolls, pâté, and smoked duck! A chef consultant is available for holiday meal planning. Open daily, 9 AM – 4 PM.
kingcoleducks.com



TRY A CANDY
CANE DIRTY CHAI
LATTE AT BACK
ALLEY MOTO CAFE

Flip to pg. 3 to
learn more

Fickle Pickle Christmas Bash
DECEMBER 14TH
Fickle Pickle Restaurant

Join the restaurant for their 1st Annual Christmas Bash, featuring delicious food, seasonal music, and a visit from Santa. Fun for the whole family! For more information and to reserve your table, call 905-640-5707.
ficklepicklerestaurant.ca



2024 HOLIDAY GUIDE

DINNER PARTIES
& CATERING

Mulligan’s on Main

Now booking Christmas parties. Combine your holiday party with free live music every Saturday night, 8 PM - 12 AM. Call 289-612-3003 to book.
mulligansonmain.pub

AGI Kitchen & Wine

Now accepting reservations for holiday season parties. AGI Kitchen & Wine provides an inviting and intimate atmosphere for all to enjoy! For reservations, contact 905-591-0108.
agikitchen.com

Christina Cooks
Catering Company

Christina Cooks Catering Company is a full-service, award-winning catering company with over 20 years’ experience. They specialize in coming to your home or venue and cooking on site, and provide a fun, exciting, and memorable guest experience.
christinacookscatering.com

crafts & workshops

2024 HOLIDAY GUIDE

Wine and Paint Night

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH • 7 - 9 PM
Latcham Art Centre

Unwind with a brush and a glass in the vibrant studio! An instructor will guide you as you grow your painting skills. Supplies provided. Registration required.
latchamartcentre.ca

Family Paint Night

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH • 7 - 8:30 PM
Latcham Art Centre

Join our Van Gogh-inspired Family Paint Night for a fun, creative activity celebrating nature’s beauty. No experience needed, all materials provided. Registration required.
latchamartcentre.ca

Kids Night Out Holiday Gift Making

NOVEMBER 29TH & DECEMBER 6TH • 6 - 8PM
Crock A Doodle Stouffville

Kids ages 5+ will enjoy a creative night painting a special gift, decorating a gift bag, and having pizza, while parents get two hours off! \$35 per child. Pre-registration required.
crockadoodle.com/stouffville

Messy Christmas

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 5:30 PM
Stouffville United Church Auditorium

All ages are welcome to enjoy crafts, games, food, friendship, and faith! Join for Christmas-themed activities, a meal, and celebration stories and songs. Registration required.
stouffvilleuc.ca/messy-church

LIBRARY EVENTS wsplibrary.ca

Children’s Movie Matinées

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND • 3 PM
Arthur Christmas
MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH • 10:15 AM
Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Holiday Storytime

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD • 10:15 - 10:45 AM
Join us for stories, songs, and rhymes to kick off the holiday season! Free for all ages.

Makerspace Celebrates

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH • 11 AM - 4 PM
Enjoy hands-on projects in our Makerspace. From custom New Year’s hats to flashy cards, we have tools for every celebration.

Christmas Craft

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH • 4 - 5 PM
Create a Christmas craft to gift or cherish for years. Ages 7-12. Registration required.

DROP-IN CRAFTS

Christmas Craft Drop-In

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM (0-23 MONTHS)
11:15 - 11:45 AM (2-4 YRS)

Kwanzaa Craft Drop-in

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23RD • 10 AM - 12 PM

Hanukkah Craft Drop-in

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH • 10 AM - 12 PM

VISIT
BEYOND
CRAFT SHOW
& SALE

Flip to pg. 15 for
more info.

giving back



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 18th and will benefit the Stouffville Lions Club and Food Bank, spreading holiday cheer to local families in need.

townofws.ca/parking

Christmas Dinner Wish

Stouffville's Christmas Dinner Wish returns on December 22nd. Prepared by Good Food Impact they will be offering a traditional turkey dinner for those in need of a warm meal and company. Volunteers are welcome to help make the event special. For details or to volunteer, email stouffvillechristmasdinner@gmail.com. Location details will be shared on the Town's social media soon. Celebrate the spirit of community this holiday season!

townofws.ca/christmaswish

Stouffville Lions Toy Drive is Back!

Spread cheer by donating new toys until December 18th 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

FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS

Flip to pg. 25 to learn more about how you can help.



Fill A Purse

DEADLINE DECEMBER 1ST

Support the Fill a Purse for a Sister Campaign by donating purses filled with personal care items for women in crisis. Drop-off locations are available in Stouffville and across York Region—find specific locations on the website below. Suggested items include shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products. As the campaign nears its tenth year, your donations continue to make a meaningful difference for women in need.

fillapurseforasistercampaign.ca

Christmas Shoe Boxes

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 18TH
Stouffville Memorial Christian Church

Stouffville Memorial Christian Church is filling Christmas Shoe Boxes to be shipped to underprivileged children around the world through Samaritans Purse Canada. You can participate in this Christmas outreach by contacting the Church at 416 803-6253 or stouffvillechristianchurch@gmail.com. Boxes need to be filled and returned by November 18th.

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Forever St. Nick

Here comes Santa Claus!

Yes, kids, St. Nick will soon be on his way, led by a red-nosed Rudolph and his eight spirited reindeer – Dasher, Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

Catch all the Christmas magic in shopping malls, parades, schools, and churches while you wait for him to take flight aboard his sleigh from his residence with the energetic elves in the North Pole.

Christmas Eve is a long trip, making so many house calls, and there are a few things you can do to welcome him. First, place a plate of cookies on a table near your tree, along with a glass of milk. During so long a journey, Santa's likely to be hungry and thirsty. Should you have a fireplace, leave the milk and cookies nearby, where they're sure to be seen.

Next, do as Mom and Dad say and go to bed early.

Believe me, sleeping won't be easy. With so many hoped-for gifts going through your mind, just say a little prayer and close your eyes. Morning will come sooner than you think.

Then what?

At sunrise, go to the bedroom window or peak out the front door and look for sleigh tracks. If there's no snow on the ground,

check out the grass for hoof prints. For sure, if the milk and cookies are gone, you know your house hasn't been missed.

For me, living on a farm, I was always sure to see sleigh tracks or hoof prints, It was then I knew Santa had come and gone. What a joy!

As said, Christmas on a farm was, and, for some, still is, far different from Christmas in town. Where I now live, in Stouffville, it's common for some families to open gifts on Christmas Eve. But not in the country where Dad will likely have cows to milk, chickens to feed and eggs to gather. Mom too will be busy cooking goose or turkey for dinner. But first came breakfast—oatmeal porridge, toast and jam. Then, and only then, was it gift-giving time. What a pleasure, despite the fact hand-outs were limited to one contribution per child. This was sufficient.

One year I received a toy fire truck and another year a second-hand pair of skates. Each was what I wanted, so Santa obviously read my note.

We never had to look far for a Christmas tree. Dad simply would cut the top from one of many trees lining our driveway. We were the first of all neighbours to enjoy Christmas tree lights. Trouble was, if one light went out, they all went out. This was discouraging.

Initially, the celebration date was established as December 6th but later changed to December 25th where, in the words of one historian "we were given the greatest gift of all."

Santa Claus has a rich history, starting with St. Nicholas, a generous 4th-century bishop. His legend spread through Dutch tradition as "Sinterklaas," evolving into the Santa we know today. Santa, with his red suit, sleigh, and flying reindeer, brings joy to children worldwide on Christmas Eve, delivering presents to those on his "nice list." His story was cemented by the famous 1823 poem *A Visit from St. Nicholas* and continues to inspire holiday magic today.

Merry Christmas!

Holiday cheer is celebrated worldwide in diverse and joyful ways. In Mexico, Las Posadas reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph. In India, Diwali, the Festival of Lights, spreads joy through fireworks and sweets. China's Lunar New Year features dragon dances and red lanterns. Across cultures, holidays unite communities through music, feasts, traditions, and a shared sense of gratitude and joy.

Correction:

In last month's article, "An Amazing Treasure," Sue Wilkinson's email address was written incorrectly. Her email address is rev.swilkinson@gmail.com

Where to Find Santa Claus in Town This Holiday Season

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| NOV 29 | Christmas Tree Lighting
Civic Square
7 - 7:30 PM |
| NOV 29 & 30 | Holiday Market
Civic Square and 6240 Main St.
Fri: 7 - 10 PM / Sat: 1 - 10 PM |
| DEC 7 | Santa Claus Parade
Main Street
6 PM |
| DEC 14 | Santa Visits the Museum
14732 Woodbine Ave.
12 - 4 PM, \$10 per child |

Visit townofws.ca/events for more info.





Give a Bear Necessity to Show You Care

Brighten someone's holiday!

Give the gift of **Bear Necessities** to someone in need and support the purchase of life-saving equipment that government funding doesn't cover.

Lift someone's spirit by gifting a huggable teddy bear, a cozy newborn sleep sack, or a plush blanket to keep patients warm and comfortable.

This **Giving Tuesday**, December 3, your contribution matters even more! For every Bear Necessity you buy, a **SECOND** patient at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital will receive a bear hug.

Special thanks to Trifuno Sales Inc. for their incredible generosity in matching donations up to \$50,000.



Markham Stouffville
Hospital Foundation

Support at [LifeSavingGifts.ca](https://www.lifesavinggifts.ca)

Help a Neighbour by Supporting Your Local Food Bank

Stouffville Food Bank has been feeding Stouffville since 1990. The food bank is open for clients to pick up food on Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 AM – 12 PM.

Donations can also be dropped off Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 AM – 12 PM.

Open select Sundays 1 – 3 PM for both client pickups and donations.

Visit the website at [wsfoodbank.ca](https://www.wsfoodbank.ca) for more information.

Smiles and Full Plates at the Stouffville Legion

Visit the Stouffville Legion on November 23rd for the first annual Smiles and Full Plates fundraising benefit, organized by local resident Charlie Doucette, to support Stouffville Food Bank. Doors open at 2 PM. Come out and enjoy live entertainment, door prizes, raffles, snacks

and drinks. Tickets available in advance and at the door for just \$10, with proceeds going to help those most in need in our community. Don't miss this chance to support Stouffville families while having a great time! Give back to your community while celebrating the season of giving! Visit the event page on Facebook or email smilesandfullplates@gmail.com for more information.

Pharmacy Launches Essential Kits for Food Bank Donations

Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy and Medical Clinic is thrilled to announce their partnership with the Stouffville Food Bank. As part of this initiative, Well Plus has curated essential kits containing some of the most requested personal items, now available for purchase in-store.

By adding one of these kits to your bill at checkout, you can make a direct impact on the lives of friends and neighbours who may be struggling. Every kit purchased will be delivered to the food bank, helping to provide essentials to those in our community who need them most.

Drop by to support your local drug store, Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy, at 5402 Main St., Unit 5, make a small contribution, and help uplift our community one kit at a time.

"Together, we can help ensure that everyone has access to the basics."

– WELL PLUS PHARMACY TEAM

PORTRAITS OF GIVING 2024 by Brandi Pickering

Portraits of Giving (POG) honours York Region leaders and individuals who embody social responsibility, showcasing those who inspire and give back to their communities. Contributions are celebrated through a series of photography exhibits and receptions across various municipalities. Each honouree is featured with a personalized portrait and story highlighting their philanthropic efforts by program creator and photographer, Karen Merk of Merk Photography.

Joe Lyons-Rising, the founder of Data Gives Back, is a living example of the power of personal experiences to drive philanthropy. Inspired by his own childhood trauma of parental suicide, Joe and his wife Carly launched the company during the pandemic, a rare approach for a new business. They've committed 25% of their revenue to support grieving children and families through Seasons Centre, where Joe is also an Executive Grief Ambassador. They also serve as

co-founders of Arts Café Stouffville, a vibrant space that encourages local artistic expression and collaboration, making a lasting impact on the cultural fabric of our community.

Lifetime Achievement Honouree, Harry French, is known for his extensive philanthropic work. Harry has consistently supported local initiatives, earning widespread respect and admiration, especially in his role as a former President



2024 Lifetime Achievement Honouree, Harry French.

with Stouffville's beloved Strawberry Festival. Harry's experience in numerous professional roles has leveraged his skills to promote sustainable business practices and foster community collaboration. Recently, he received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Citizen's Medallion and Community Award for his extensive volunteer efforts.

2024 marks the 15th year of celebrating and raising awareness of giving. To view the full portraits of this year's recipients, please visit, merkphotography.com/portraits-of-giving



2024 Portraits of Giving Honouree Carly and Joe Lyons-Rising.


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NOW OPEN IN STOUFFVILLE:

Evergreen Hospice



(Left to Right) Jessica Competiello, Jake Mitten, Chris Collucci, Laura Lavallee, Mayor Iain Lovatt, Andrew Patterson, Tricia Stanton, and Nora Jones.

On October 9th, Mayor Iain Lovatt attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Stouffville 55+ Club, where Evergreen Hospice opened a new office. Laura Lavallee, CEO of Evergreen, joined in celebrating the partnership, which provides space for counselling services and programs for club members. This new location means residents no longer need to travel to Markham for support, a meaningful step forward for accessible bereavement care in the community.

KJ Barber Shop



(Left to Right) Mayor Lovatt, Milesh Joshi, KJ, Sumanjot Kaur, Daniel Yantsis, and Councillor Rick Upton.

KJ Barber Shop kicked things off in style on October 3rd, with Mayor Lovatt and Councillor Rick Upton joining the fun. The mayor got a sharp new cut, while Councillor Upton enjoyed a smooth shave.

From deluxe haircuts to facials and hot oil massages, KJ elevates your barbershop experience! Find them at 5917 Main St., Suite 102, ready to receive personalized service. Call 905-642-7160 or visit kjbarbershop.ca to book—your fresh look awaits.

Shawarma Queenz



(Left to Right) Farhad, Dominick, Laila, Behzad, Mayor Lovatt, Parissa, Gurpreet, Melina, Masuda, and Yasmin.

A trendy new takeout spot is delighting Stouffville residents! On September 26th, Mayor Lovatt joined the owners, family, and staff of Shawarma Queenz to celebrate the grand opening of their new location at 6316 Main St.

Known for serving delicious, affordable food, this new gem is sure to become a local favourite. Stop by to experience their warm hospitality and flavourful dishes. Call 905-640-7723 to place your order today.

Swing into Fun at Dream Golf Studio, Stouffville's New Golf Sim



ABOVE: Dream Golf Studio features multiple bays to accommodate two players at a time. Photo from dreamgolfstudio.ca

Dream Golf Studio, now open at 190 Mostar St., Unit B106, brings the thrill of golf indoors, rain or shine! Whether you're a pro or a first-timer, this high-tech playground has something for everyone. With Uneekor Eye XO launch monitors and GSPro software, you'll feel like you're teeing off at iconic courses from around the globe – without ever leaving town.

It's more than just fun and games! Perfect your swing with real-time feedback, or challenge your friends to a friendly match on the cutting-edge simulators. Planning a party? Dream Golf also hosts private events, making it the ultimate spot for golf-themed get-togethers.

The fun doesn't stop there! Join the Virtual Golf League and compete year-round in friendly tournaments. Whether you're looking to improve, connect with fellow golfers, or just have a blast, Dream Golf Studio offers the perfect mix of tech, sport, and community spirit. Swing by and see how they're teeing up a whole new kind of fun in Stouffville!

Men of Note

MALE VOICE CHOIR

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: HEATHER WILLIAMS
 COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: COURTNEY BRITTON
 SOPRANO: SUSAN RYMAN
 GUEST SOPRANO AND CELLIST: SARAH NOBLE


PRESENTS

Season of Light

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024 | 2:00 & 7:30 PM
 CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN, 254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville

TICKETS
 ADULTS \$25
 YOUTHS (12-16) \$10
 CHILDREN (UNDER 12) Free

ON SALE AT
 OUR WEBSITE menofnote.com
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 Corner Spa and Wellness
 North and Co
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 Red Bulb

EMAIL FOR MORE DETAILS:
village@stouffvillechamber.ca

DELICIOUS GARDEN-TO-TABLE STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

As the days grow shorter, gardens overflow with ripe, vibrant vegetables. One of the season's true stars is the humble pepper, whether it's sweet bell peppers, shepherd peppers or the smaller, spicier varieties. If you're lucky enough to have a garden brimming with fresh peppers, there's no better way to celebrate the harvest than by making stuffed peppers. Not only are they nutritious, but they're also versatile and can be filled with a variety of ingredients to suit any palate.

This recipe highlights the freshness of garden-picked peppers, combining them with a savoury mixture of rice, ground meat, vegetables, and herbs. The result is a hearty, wholesome dish that bursts with flavour in every bite. Let's dive into the recipe!

Ingredients:

For a batch of six stuffed peppers, you will need:

- 6 large fresh garden peppers
- 1 lb ground beef or turkey
- 4 sausages, mild Italian works best
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 large garden tomatoes, diced
- 1 cup shredded cheese, cheddar, mozzarella
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley and basil, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

1. Prepare the Peppers

Start by selecting the freshest peppers from your garden. Wash them thoroughly. Slice the tops off each pepper and remove the seeds and membranes inside.

2. Prepare the Filling

In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and garlic, and sauté for about 3-4 minutes, until fragrant and softened.

Next, remove the sausage meat from the casing and mix in with the ground beef. Add the meat to the skillet breaking it up with a spoon as it cooks. Cook for 6-8 minutes until browned. Season the meat with oregano, salt, and pepper.

Once the meat is cooked, stir in the diced tomatoes and smoked paprika and let the mixture simmer for about 5-10 minutes to combine the flavours.

Remove the skillet from heat and stir in the cooked rice, shredded cheese, chopped parsley and basil. Adjust seasoning to taste.

4. Stuff the Peppers

Place the peppers in a baking dish, ensuring they are standing upright. If you've halved the peppers, lay them cut side up.

Spoon the filling generously into each pepper, packing it in until the peppers are full. If you like, sprinkle a little extra cheese on top of each pepper for a golden, melted crust. This time I layered the cheese and filling a few times.

5. Bake the Peppers

Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Pour about half a cup of water or tomato sauce into the bottom of the baking dish to steam the peppers as they cook.

Cover the dish with foil and bake for 25-30 minutes. After 20 minutes, remove the foil to let the tops brown slightly.

6. Garnish and Serve

Once the peppers are done baking, remove them from the oven and let them cool slightly. Garnish with additional fresh herbs or a drizzle of sour cream and serve alongside a crisp garden salad or crusty bread.



Contact Dave Mills: david@stouffville.com

Great Variations

Mexican-Inspired: Use black beans, corn, and cilantro in the filling, and add some spice with chili powder or diced jalapeños.

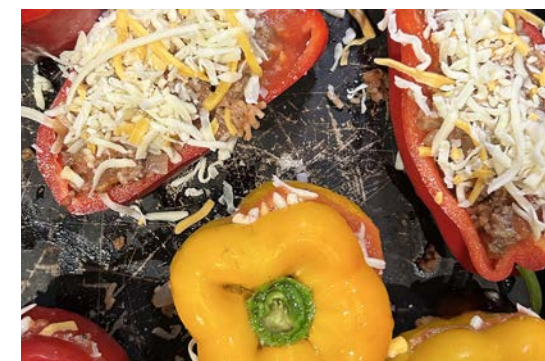
Chili Inspired: Make your favourite batch of chili and use that as the stuffing.

Tips for Storing and Reheating

If you have leftovers, stuffed peppers store beautifully. Allow them to cool completely before transferring to an airtight container. They'll keep in the fridge for 3-4 days or in the freezer for up to 3 months. To reheat, bake them in the oven at 350°F (175°C) for 15-20 minutes until warm.

Final Thoughts

Stuffed peppers are an excellent way to use up a garden bounty while enjoying a nutritious, comforting meal. Whether you're stuffing them with traditional ground meat and rice, or experimenting with new flavours, the freshness of homegrown peppers adds a special touch to every bite. Enjoy!



Council Approves New Downtown Stouffville Committee

Fireworks Banned; New Community Safety Zones Coming; Speed Cameras to be Installed

by Glenn Jackson

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

Downtown Committee

At the September 25th meeting, Council received a report detailing the history of Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) in Stouffville, providing background information for a potential vote on the re-establishment of a BIA in Downtown Stouffville at the October 2nd meeting.

At the meeting, however, Council approved the formation of a Village of Stouffville Advisory Committee (VSAC) and then on October 16th, Council approved its terms of reference. The Committee will “work to identify opportunities and barriers that contribute or detract from the Village of Stouffville as a vibrant place to live, work and play, while promoting it as a shopping, dining, cultural, and tourism destination through various avenues. The Committee shall act as a strategic advisor to facilitate visioning, planning, and coordination on projects and/or events within the area.”

It will consist of seven members, two of which will be Councillors from Ward 5 and 6. The additional five members of the Committee will be public members, with preference given to the Village of Stouffville business and property owners.

Personal Fireworks

At the October 16th meeting, Council banned the sale and use of personal and family fireworks throughout Stouffville. Staff will draw up the By-law and have Council approve it early next year.

Community Safety Zones

On September 25th, Stouffville Council approved the creation of 11 new Community Safety Zones.

Community Safety Zones (CSZs) have been part of Ontario’s traffic legislation

since 1998 and currently exist in five locations in Stouffville, all on regional roads near schools. This Council decision expands CSZ coverage to 11 additional public and Catholic school areas, including Summitview Public School, Glad Park Public School, and Stouffville District Secondary School.

The zones are intended to enhance public safety, especially for vulnerable road users like children. Fines are doubled for all traffic offences in the designated zones.

Streets identified for expansion include Main St., Millard St., Hoover Park Dr., and others where speeding is a concern. The goal is to establish CSZs as an enforcement and educational tool without physical modifications to the roads.

According to the report, the estimated cost for implementing each CSZ is around \$3,500, which includes signage and pavement markings. Each zone requires approximately 16 signs, and funding will come from the Engineering and Public Works operating account.

Speed Camera Locations

Earlier this year, Council approved a new automated speed enforcement program that will see speed cameras installed throughout Stouffville. At the October 16th meeting, Council authorized staff to pick the number of cameras and their locations based on a “data-driven approach.”

Cameras can only be placed in Community Safety Zones, of which Stouffville has 17 (see previous story). Once the number of cameras is determined, deployment is expected to take a minimum of eight to ten weeks, dependent on locates, hydro hook-ups, and weather. Legislation requires that signage be posted at least 90 days in advance of the cameras going live, informing the public that a camera installation is “coming soon.”

The primary goal of implementing cameras is to reduce traffic accidents and fatalities caused by speeding. The program has been shown to lower speeds, improve traffic flow, and reduce both the frequency and severity of collisions. The system captures and records images of vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit. When a vehicle passes, the system takes a photograph that documents the date and time, location and direction of travel, vehicle speed, posted speed limit, and a unique identifier for the speeding vehicle. This data is used to issue penalties and help regulate traffic.

Parking Meeting

To address residential parking concerns throughout Stouffville, Town staff will be holding a statutory public meeting to address potential changes to the Town’s parking by-law. The date of meeting, at which the public are invited to voice concerns and opinions, has not been set. Check the Town’s website at townofws.ca frequently for more information.

COUNCIL & PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

Upcoming Council Meetings:
Wednesday, November 6th – 1 PM
Wednesday, November 20th – 1 PM
Wednesday, December 11th – 1 PM

Next Public Meeting (if required):
Wednesday, November 6th – 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, please contact the Town Clerk at clerks@townofws.ca for more information.

Listen live: townofws.ca/cmlivestream
Live posts on X: [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall)

COMMUNITY NEWS

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VOLUNTEER TO JOIN THE VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE!

Get involved! The Village of Stouffville Advisory Committee (VSAC) aims to promote the Village of Stouffville through various avenues, identifying opportunities and barriers that contribute or detract from being a vibrant place to live, work, and play. The VSAC will act as a strategic advisor to facilitate visioning, planning, and coordination on projects, issues, and plans within the Village of Stouffville.

The Town is looking for five members from the public to join this new Committee, commencing in 2025.

Interested individuals are invited to apply by Nov. 25th, 2024.

Details available at: townofws.ca/cac

For more information, contact clerks@townofws.ca

UPCOMING STOUFFVILLE CEMETERY CLEAN UP

To ensure that the Stouffville Cemetery remains in a safe and accessible condition for you and your family to have a respectful place to grieve and reflect, the Town will be working to remove memorials, plants, shrubs, and trees that are in contravention of the Town’s Cemetery By-law 2012-059-RE. Please refer to section 4 of the Cemetery By-law for rules and regulations.

For more information, visit townofws.ca/cedeteries

RECREATION

Winter Registration
Keep the whole family active this winter by signing up for one of Stouffville’s inclusive and accessible programs. Winter program registration opens on Nov. 26th at 12 PM for residents. Visit townofws.ca/active to register.

Winter Break Camps
Make the winter break memorable with our exciting day camps! Activities include arts, sports, science experiments, and more. Visit townofws.ca/active to register.

Recreation Volunteer Opportunities
We’re looking for enthusiastic volunteers (ages 14 and up) to share their talents with the community! Opportunities include assisting with sports classes, skating lessons, PA Day camps, and more.

For more details, please email volunteer@townofws.ca

19 ON THE PARK

Eras Night (19’s Version)
Nov. 13th, 6–8 PM, All ages
Are you ready for it? Join us for a Swiftie-themed bracelet-making party at 19 on the Park. Register at townofws.ca/eras

Trivia Nights
Nov 7th and Dec 5th, 7–9 PM, Ages 18+.
Test your knowledge in this exciting trivia challenge with friends. Prizes await the champions, plus door prizes throughout the night! Cash bar available.

To register, visit townofws.ca/trivia

MUSEUM

PA Day: Elves in the Workshop
Nov. 15th, 8 AM – 5 PM
Ages 6-12. \$72 per child.
Get into the holiday spirit with a fun-filled day of crafting, cookie decorating, and exploring festive traditions. Pre-register using barcode 34015 at townofws.ca/active

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

The Museum is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM. We welcome bookings for education programs, group tours, and event rentals.

For more details, contact 905-727-8954 or wsmuseum@townofws.ca

MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Killing the Indian in the Child: Generations Lost
Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM
Until June 28th, 2025
Free admission
Presented by the Legacy of Hope Foundation, this powerful exhibit examines the impact of the residential school system on Indigenous children.

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

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