

TR T O

JUNE

No.41 | 2020

**Businesses
During COVID-19**

**Artist
Showcase**

Developments

**L4A
Who and What**

COLUMNS
Millennial Matters
Giving Back
From Where I Live
Sports Town

ISSN 2563-058X



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**MAYOR LOVATT &
MIKE PRIESTMAN**

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PKG
RESPONDS
Pg 12



A cute mutt nibbles a ball at Muttz with Mannerz. See story and interview with Corey McCusker and other business adapting to disruption, starting on [PG.4](#)



FROM THE EDITOR

On the Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville (OTR) is the Monthly magazine of the Town. The purpose of it is to communicate with residents, promote local businesses, support agriculture, develop tourism and, most importantly, build community.

In this issue you can peruse photographs of art and development, read candid interviews with local businesses, and catch-up with our distinguished columnists. [\[i\]](#)

David Tuley, Editor | david.tuley@townofws.ca

Town wants your Highway 48 opinions

New Blue Box program responsibilities, construction at Main & Baker Hill, coming soon

Glenn Jackson, Contributor

This is a monthly column summarizing recent Whitchurch-Stouffville Council decisions. Subscribe to our eNewsletter for more detailed information: eepurl.com/cKPNg9

Highway 48 Visioning Study. The Town wants your opinion about how the Highway 48 corridor south of Main Street should be developed.

The public consultation, as part of the *Highway 48 Visioning Exercise*, focuses on the land roughly bounded by Stouffville Road to the north, McCowan Road to the west, 19th Avenue to the south, and encompassing the Smart Centre lands and Dickson Hill in Markham.

Town Council heard a presentation from the project's consultant, *the Planning Partnership*, at the May 19 meeting which outlined the consultation process and the timelines.

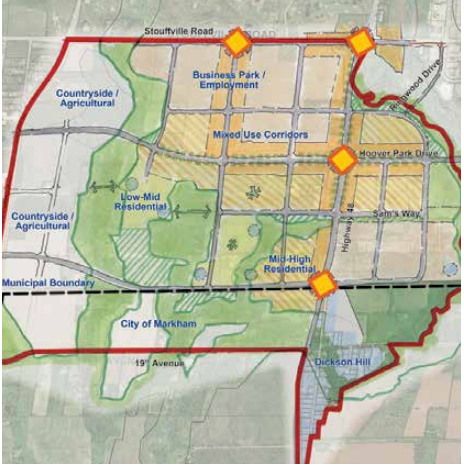
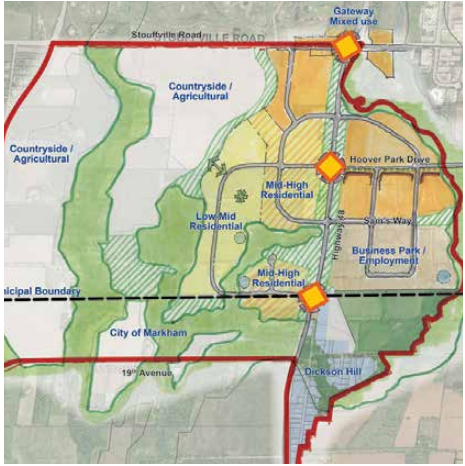
The presentation outlined three "Visioning Options" of how the land could be developed for future use. It outlined the planning considerations in the area and a high-level analysis of other laws and Plans that govern its use.

The three options that were presented (see graphics to the right) explore different scenarios for street patterns, natural heritage enhancements, parks and green space allotments and various land uses.

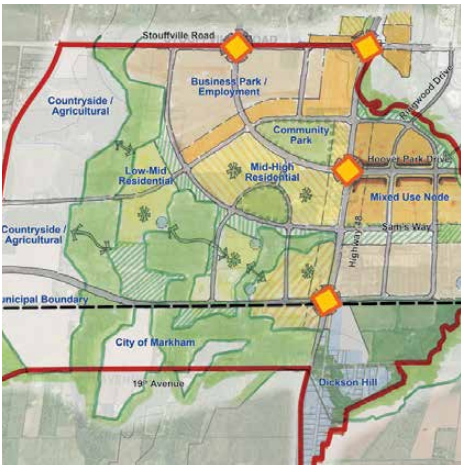
Option 1, as presented, suggests Hoover Park Drive to be the "main street" as it extends west of Highway 48 into a mid- and high-rise residential community. Extensive green space and parkland would extend to McCowan Road to "form a natural boundary and transition to the surrounding countryside." The vision does not suggest any road connections McCowan Rd.

Option 2 suggests Hoover Park Drive should extend to McCowan Road through a 'mixed-use' neighbourhood with a combination of residential units and retail storefronts. The streets would be pedestrian oriented and laid out in a grid system with two outlets on McCowan Road and three outlets on Stouffville Road.

Option 3 features a 'radial grid' of streets bending through the neighbourhood. Hoover



ABOVE/RIGHT: The Town is looking for public input regarding three visioning options for the Highway 48 corridor. Council received a presentation on May 19 outlining three possible scenarios for the long-term development of the land south of Stouffville Road, east of McCowan Road. Citizens can offer their opinion until June 5 at cometogetherws.ca/Highway48



Park Dr. and Sam's Way, for instance, would both extend from Highway 48 and curve up to Stouffville Road. 'Mixed-use' land would be primarily located close to the Stouffville Road/Highway 48 intersection creating a neighbourhood "framed by green space and focused around parks."

Both Options 2 and 3 suggest extending Ringwood Drive down to Hoover Park Drive.

The Town has created a highly-detailed downloadable survey for citizens to fill out and submit to the Development Services Department. There is also an online version that can be submitted electronically. The surveys are open until June 5.

More details about the project, including the surveys, can be found on the project's webpage cometogetherws.ca/Highway48.

Blue Box Transition. On August 15, 2019, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks began the transition of the management of Ontario's Blue Box program to the producers of paper products and packaging.

The Blue Box program will transition to full producer responsibility in phases over a three-year period, starting January 1, 2023

and ending December 31, 2025. By December 31, 2025, producers will be fully responsible for providing Blue Box services across the province.

It is expected that the full costs of operating the program will be paid for by producers once transition occurs. Council, at the May 5 meeting, approved a transition date of December 31, 2025 for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Construction Soon at Baker Hill. Council, on May 5, removed the 'Holding Symbol' from lands at the corner of Main Street and Baker Hill Blvd., paving the way for the construction of homes starting as soon as this summer. [\[i\]](#)

COUNCIL MEETINGS:
Under the current COVID-19 situation, meetings are generally 1 p.m. every other Tuesday via teleconference. Detailed information at townofws.ca/COVID19
Listen live: townofws.ca/mlivestream.
Live tweets: [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall)

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New Photography:
Cover - Joelle Segal; Muttz and Developments - Dennis Hristovski



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L4A.CA Who and What?

So many businesses have come out of the woodwork to sign up for L4A.ca. Many of them, you probably didn't know existed because these are home-based businesses. All have amazing websites.

- **BELICIOUS PRODUCTS.** West of Ballantrae, they produce wildflower honey, comb honey, lip balms, iced honey, and more. See beliciousproducts.com
- **PERENNIAL PETALS.** East of Gormley is a small boutique flower farm offering cut flowers, workshops and unique container arrangements. See perennialpetals.com

- **DAISY TAM MUSIC THEORY & PIANO.** In Stouffville, Daisy is an RCM certified teacher offering music theory and piano lessons by way of ZOOM. See daisytam.com
- **PETE'S PRO LANDSCAPING AND PLOW.** In east Stouffville, is a family business that specializes in decks, fences, and interlocking. See petespro.business.site
- **DUKU.** At Musselman's Lake is a professional one stop shop for all your renovation, engineering and construction needs. Projects range from remodeled kitchens and bathrooms, to new builds and commercial. See duku.ca

COREY McCUSKER

Muttz with Mannerz

Muttz with Mannerz opened on December 19, 2019 after struggling for 11-months with contractors and renovations. As a new business to be hit with COVID-19 was tough and challenging, but, "We overcame so many challenges last year we knew we could get through this. I feel it will be a good 12 months before we are operating at full capacity and it's ever evolving as we are revamping and creating new programs and services for our clients," said owner Corey McCusker.

OTR interviewed Corey in February for the April edition. "We've been tracking Corey's progress since 2018," said Economic Development Officer Dave Tuley. "Corey was finally in at a stage of development where she was comfortable - ready for the public." Then things changed.

March 14, 2020

Muttz with Mannerz closed the Grooming Salon, cancelled all socialization playdates and the dog training group classes. "We kept our doggy daycare open for essential workers and front-line staff, as we were able to after inquiring with the government," said Corey.

Muttz had to lay off their Groomer, Receptionist and Dog Trainers, plus one daycare staff. Despite the hard work and investment, rent relief was barely in the cards. "We requested rent relief on March 15. The Landlord agreed to defer our April 1 rent to April 15. We are still following up with them to see if they will be able to take advantage of the rent relief program announced by the Government," reported Corey.

Federal relief programs have these made a difference for Muttz. "Thank God! We have taken advantage of the \$40K loan and the wage subsidiary for our one remaining employee. This has been so helpful," she said.

Resiliency

Muttz with Mannerz has shown great resiliency. No human clients could enter the facility, so they picked up dogs at the curbside, and this will remain in place until all is clear. Corey started a weekly educational puppy series and shared it on social media and email to help those new puppy owners. She also posted important tips such as potty training, crate training, how to deal with biting and

nipping, etc.

"Both myself and our Educational Manager, Diane Purser, are developing a puppy education portal for our website now. Our groomer, Kelli Gillis and I did a video series to help our clients groom their dogs at home and provided the tools and techniques needed," said Corey.

"The training we offered in daycare for the puppies and dogs made us realize how our services added so much value because we customized it to each dog not just the entire pack," she said.

The Muttz facility has enabled them to provide highly interactive games and training to those dogs that need it - not only physically inside, but also virtually.

Looking Forward

Muttz with Mannerz is being especially positive, considering they were forced to close as soon as they opened.

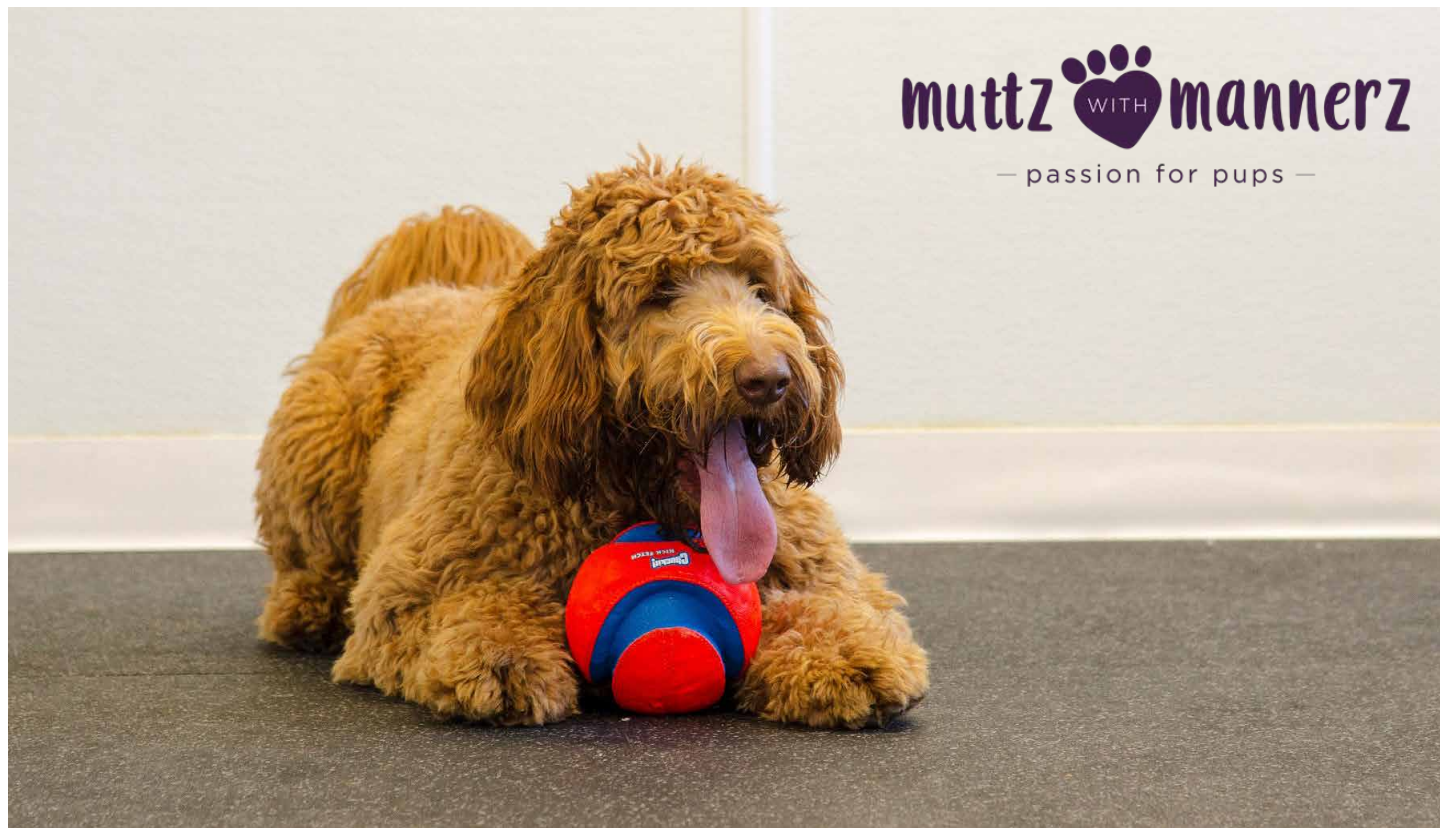
"I've learned more valuable ways to enrich our daycare to provide even better service to our clients. We will be adding fitness programs through our enriched daycare down the road.

Our groomer has revisited her offerings and will be providing specialty grooms." Kelli took courses to ensure the grooming salon is COVID-19 safe.

"We always valued our diverse team and the enhanced knowledge within it. COVID-19 has allowed many of us to gain more knowledge via virtual training and courses offered so we will be even better than before."

"Our clients appreciate the value that we provide to them especially the daycare and grooming services and we want to continue to exceed their expectations and provide a safe, clean place to care for their pets," concludes Corey.

This is not the interview or article that OTR was expecting to write just a few short months ago; however, Muttz remains a good story to



MELODIE BISSELL

Plan to Protect

Melodie saw the opportunity - a lack of consultants in the abuse prevention field. After writing a policies and procedure for a charity she was Executive Director, she saw an opportunity to share best practices with other not-for-profits and community agencies, and decided to start a solo, small home-based business. The new business was named Plan to Protect and was incorporated in 2006. Melodie moved to Stouffville eight years ago.

But, the 'solo' didn't last - she found that the service was needed, and the demand was high. The business has grown at a pace from 10-25% every year. Plan to Protect now has 12 staff, plus 30 contract National Trainers and Coaches across Canada and United States.

No one else in Canada provides the same service. "Our biggest competitor is inaction - not doing anything - a criminal record check is not enough to protect an organization or a volunteer from false allegations," says Melodie. "Insurance companies include exclusionary clauses for organizations - no coverage for abuse." So, we help organizations meet the demands of insurance companies to qualify for the coverage.

Essentially, Plan to Protect helps provides best practices for abuse prevention and vulnerable sector protection. They equip a team with effective and customized policies, procedures, and training, with the goal to make your community a safe one. They routinely serve camps, schools, day cares, clubs, retirement facilities, churches, or any other organization that works with the vulnerable sector.

The Phones Stopped Ringing in March

"We noticed the change immediately. We sent our staff to work from home. Our phones stopped ringing. Long time members of Plan to Protect are having trouble paying their member invoices. They are being more cautious about discretionary services," recounted Melodie.

Thankfully, they haven't had to lay anyone off and hope they won't have to. They found an opportunity to serve a community that is now doing programming with children and youth online.

"Engaging with people during COVID-19

using online tools poses the risk of increasing the pandemic of child abuse, that we have been fighting for many years. The pandemic of child abuse has already impacted 25% of our global population. It doesn't mean we don't fulfill our mission and vision through online engagement, but we must adhere to a high standard of protection. To meet the current need, we held webinars on how to do online engagement safely and drafted a complimentary policy statement for agencies to use. We have distributed this to close to 400 organizations. So even though this has not generated revenue for us, we are trusting that we are able to meet a need during COVID-19," said Melodie.



Melodie Bissell, President and CEO
Plan to Protect®

To date Plan to Protect's sales have dropped by 40%, but they have a significant amount of overdue accounts. They applied for and received a government loan of \$40,000 and intend to apply for the 75% wage subsidy.

Plan to Protect occupies two units on Ringwood Drive. "One of our landlords offered to postpone our rent payment, while the other landlord has not returned our calls. We do not qualify for rent subsidy, so we will continue to pay rent and hopefully be able to keep both units," reported Melodie.

Looking Forward

Reflecting on the future, Melodie says, "If

we survive, I believe it will be only because of many answered prayers, and the amazing commitment of our clients and members that want to help us survive this. We are already an online business, so we did not have to pivot a lot; however, we did increase our online marketing."

When asked how she thinks it will take until business returns, Melodie fumbles for an answer: "This is so hard to say as we are still in the midst of it. If we could go back to work by the end of May it will take us six months, but all of our clients are Not-for-Profits and Charities and they have really been really impacted by COVID-19." [1]



MOE DAFER

Code Ninjas

I met Moe Dafer at a Stouffville Chamber event late last year. He outlined a concept for a new business he planned to launch in Stouffville: Code Ninjas Stouffville.

Code Ninjas is the world's largest and fastest-growing kids coding franchise, with hundreds of locations in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

In their centers, kids learn to code while building their own video games. They gain problem solving, critical thinking, and STEM skills in a fun and inspiring environment.

Moe acquired a lease on two units at 6601 Main Street, near Stouffer Street and Summitview Public School. He had invested close to \$500,000 in the units by the time he had them finished.

Code Ninjas scheduled a soft opening for March 31 and Grand Opening on May 2. In fact, Moe had started ramping up for his Code Ninjas launch back in August with Facebook posts: "Your kids will have a blast building video games while learning coding, math, logic, and problem solving - Opening March 2020."

Weekly social media posts continued - "Your kids will have a blast building video games while learning coding, math, logic, and problem solving," and, "65% of today's students will end up in careers that don't exist yet."

At the Santa Claus Parade, Moe gave out free 30-minute sessions. Then in January, Code Ninjas Stouffville was proud to be one of the sponsors for the Wintersong Music festival.

In February, Moe held four open houses at Latcham Hall. Construction was progressing well, and on March 6, he announced the Summer 2020 Camp Schedule.

But then, things were turned upside down. In-person education had to stop.

Revenues Down 100%

Although Moe was forced to abandon the idea of revenue. Instead, he provided free online coding sessions for members, an online virtual Egg Hunt on Minecraft for Easter, and he set up VIP servers for Kids from Stouffville and the surrounding areas to play Roblox in a monitored online environment on Saturdays and Sundays.

"Our last sale was on March 9. Not a single email or signup came afterwards. And it is totally understandable," said Moe.

His Landlord has agreed to hold off depositing rent checks for April, May and June, "But he wants the full amounts on July 1. So, it is like delaying payments. I appreciate his help on this. He is also willing to look into the commercial rent support once all the points are clear," said Moe. "But at the end of the day, I am still paying the same amount with no income."

Since Code Ninjas Stouffville is a startup, he did not qualify for any federal relief programs besides the 75% wage subsidies, which he applied for on May 4, and hopes to get it.

Looking Forward

Looking into his crystal ball, Moe says, "Social distancing seems to be here to stay for a long period (hope I am wrong), we will be readjusting our space to fit less and have greater distance between stations. We are also sourcing all the protective gears along special sizes for the young ones. Adding online will stay for now and will be adding online for older ages on a one-on-one basis."

He tries to remain positive, but like a lot of people, has some fears - "Without a vaccine, there won't be a return to normal. This is a silent enemy. After a vaccine, I do believe a year will be needed for recovery, taking into consideration our long winters."

For now, there's no stopping Moe, he has launched online registrations. [1]

Registration Open



\$60 or \$100 inclusive of taxes!



Option 1:
One 30-minute session
per week for 4 weeks
for \$60

Option 2:
Two 30-minute sessions
per week for 4 weeks
for \$100



Kids have fun, parents see results®

VINNY BAHRI

East Side Mario's

Just before Christmas 2018, East Side Mario's returned to Stouffville at the corner of Mostar & Main. At the helm is Vinny Bahri. Vinny is young and intelligent. He was raised in Scarborough where his family operated a restaurant for 18 years.

Vinny attended University of Toronto to earn a degree in Health, with complimentary emphasis in Anthropology and Biology. He married a teacher at the York Region District School Board named Leena Tanna. Leena enthusiastically helped in the restaurant at the front of house on weekends; they have had a baby since.

A little over one-year later, East Side Mario's was doing well in Stouffville, employing around 35 people.

Then Came March 17

"We decided to close the dining room on March 17 because it was clear that the COVID-19 pandemic was a serious public health issue," said Vinny. "East Side Mario's across Canada, in conjunction with our head office Recipe Corporation, felt that it was the appropriate and responsible action to help with preventative measures and social distancing. We decided to remain open for pick-up/takeout and delivery with a limited menu."

When asked how he felt about the whole matter, Vinny said, "Like many Canadians, I felt very anxious and worried about the spread of COVID-19 and wanted to do anything to help prevent the spread by taking appropriate measures at our restaurant to protect our guests and staff. On a personal note, I have a young baby boy at home who is only 6 months old - staying safe was my number one priority."

Vinny was forced to lay off 95% of their staff once the dining room was closed. There simply wasn't enough work or sales to support the staff. Currently, they operate with five team members working on alternate days. Vinny is at the restaurant every day working at the pick-up/take out counter.

"We have lost 90% of our revenue as our dining room closing was vital to our business model. We are trying to make ends meet with pickup/takeout/delivery and our online partners Uber Eats, Skip The Dishes and Door

Dash," reported Vinny. "On the weekends, I have been doing deliveries personally as well to the Stouffville area when drivers aren't available."

"Unfortunately, our landlord has not done anything yet to help our restaurant in terms of the rent. We probably have one of the highest rent structures in the town. However, I feel that they are waiting for more clarity on the recently announced Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program," said Vinny.

OTR reached out to Fieldgate Commercial, the leasing representative and one of the owners of Vista Park Place plaza. No comment was received by press time. Dozens of new businesses in this plaza face a similar challenge.

"We really need assistance from our landlord to help us survive, and hopefully they will reach out soon with some good news," said Vinny.

Vinny is looking at a huge amount of overhead, but he remains committed to the Stouffville community and tries to be positive.

"Our sales volumes have slightly increased over the past month, as more guests are aware we are open for pickup/takeout and delivery, but have remained flat. Many residents in town are still afraid of the pandemic and are staying home away from any restaurants. However, we are looking forward to Mother's Day and hopefully having a busy weekend," said Vinnie.

He recently applied to the wage subsidy program to help offset some of the payroll expenses over the past month. However, these are better suited for companies that are fully operational. The wage subsidy can only help so much when only 5 employees remain on staff and sales remain flat.

Looking Forward

Looking into his crystal ball, Vinny said, "I really feel that the hospitality industry has been one of the hardest hit industries in Canada, and many restaurants won't re-open or will have to return in altered state. East Side Mario's will continue to weather the storm as we anticipate opening our dining room in July possibly."

He believes that their dining rooms will

only be open at 50% capacity and have strict measures in place to protect our guests and staff.

Looking forward, "I feel that the restaurant business won't return to pre-COVID growth levels for at least 6 months to possibly 2 years. Many families in town still may have some fears, which are justified, even once Ontario opens back up. Time can only tell what lies ahead, concluded Vinny." ⁽¹⁾



Vinny Bahri and Leena Tanna, Owners
East Side Mario's



JAY REESOR

Reesor's Market & Bakery

Reesors have lived and farmed in the Markham and Stouffville area since their arrival from Pennsylvania in 1804. Since then, many generations of their family have been growing and providing food for the region. Jay Reesor remembers his first farm marketing lessons as a child, picking sweet corn and then selling it at the side of our gravel road (see photo below).

"I began my own farm business career in 1984, five years after completing my crop science degree from the University of Guelph. In that year I had the opportunity to farm my Uncle Harold Heise's farm at Leslie Street and Elgin Mills Road in Markham," recalled Jay.

"In 1985 another small farm became available with a house, barn and 22 acres at Ninth Line and Elgin Mills Road. This is where our current farm market operates. In 1986 we built a very modest, little shed as a market to keep us out of the wind and dry from the rain. Over the years we have gradually added more space to our market," said Jay.

In 1995 freshly baked bread and pies were introduced at their farm market. The baking component kept growing, which led to opening Reesor Farm Kitchen on Ringwood Dr. in Stouffville in 2004. "In addition to great baking, we also began to offer delicious tasting entrees as well, not just during the Reesor Farm Market's summer season, but year-round," recounted Jay. The little Kitchen grew and in 2013 they moved the retail store to 5758 Main Street, renaming it Reesor's Market & Bakery, while retaining the bakery in Ringwood.



Guy Farintosh, Art Reesor, Jay Reesor, and dog named Goldie. Young entrepreneurial farmers along Warden Ave., circa 1966 or 67.

A Spring Surprise

Once the pandemic emerged in Canada, providers of food and groceries had to implement new protocols at a rapid pace. Simply being listed as an 'Essential Business' was only a small hurdle. "Everything began to change for us in mid-March. We began by requiring that all of our customers use hand sanitizer that we provided before they entered our store. From there it moved to physical distancing, enhanced sanitizing procedures, plexiglass screens at checkout, limited numbers of customers in the store, employee health checks, etc.," said Jay.

Very early on Reesor's closed their eat-in Café, but apart from that, they adjusted business on the fly as new information from Health Canada and York Region Public Health became available. "It felt like every day required us doing something different as a precautionary measure in these difficult times," reported Jay. "Along with closely following the daily government briefings, we learned from other businesses and I'm assuming other businesses learned from us, good techniques to keep everyone safe. Our biggest adjustment was creating our online store (shopreesors.ca) so people could safely shop from home and then choose a store front pickup or home delivery option."

More or less, Reesor's has the same number of employees that they had pre-COVID-19. Some of their team had underlying personal health risks, so there were some temporary layoffs. "We look forward to having each of them back at some point in the not-too-distant future," said Jay.

Reesor's Market is one of the lucky few that can report a landlord that has been nothing but supportive. "I know that my landlord wants to be helpful if necessary and allowed us to do some extraordinary things in these extraordinary times. This included allowing us to park our big truck outside our store to be able to offer curbside pickup."

They are also one of the few lucky businesses not to report losses. With in-store sales and new services such as delivery and curbside pickup, their sales are actually up. Jay reports that entree chefs have been kept really busy - customers want easy to prepare meals at home since dining in at our amazing

local restaurants has not been possible. Reesor's have not used any of the other government programs for relief, although they probably qualify.

Looking Forward

Looking into his crystal ball, Jay said, "I don't believe that we will go back to the old normal for a longtime. Personal distancing and extra care in public settings will remain the new normal. As a business we have to adapt to the new normal to keep all of our staff and our customers healthy."

"These have been really extraordinary difficult times for many local businesses. Operations that thrive on bringing us together, like restaurants and coffee shops, businesses that help keep us active and fit, and those that provide the extras in life have been particularly hard hit. When you have to close your doors - how do you pay your rent and keep your employees? These are truly heartbreaking times for too many local businesses. I am optimistic that we will continue to keep our doors open as we all need to eat. We have also learned some new things and for the foreseeable future will continue to offer curbside pickup and delivery in our community through our online store, shopreesors.ca."

Jay closed with, "I have had the good fortune of working with a lot of great people in our business during these crazy COVID times. All of our staff deserve a lot of credit for their extra hard work and dedication. But I would like to do a shout-out to our amazing kitchen staff. These wonderful people have worked really hard to keep themselves safe and our store supplied with the things that our customers need and want. They considered themselves family and committed to stay healthy and work together as a team every day, to provide bread, soups, entrees and salads for our community." ⁽¹⁾

Reesor's
MARKET & BAKERY

Whitchurch-Stouffville

Artist Showcase

Brigitte Granton
An award-winning artist who paints vibrant Canadian landscapes in oil paint. Although formally trained in biology, she was introduced to painting at an early age by her artist father. Her paintings can be found in galleries and in private and corporate collections throughout the world.
brigittegranton.com

Tara O'Connor
An abstract acrylic fluid artist and experiments with resin. Her vibrant colour choices speak on her travels to Australia and South East Asia. Miss O'Connor enjoys creating unique paintings, charms, necklaces and house décor for any special occasion. Tara O'Connor is open for commissions.
taraconnorartist.com

Deborah Watts
Originally from Thunder Bay, Deborah has worked with recycled items and fabrics for many years. Creating one of a kind garden statues and teaching sculpting workshops with fabric has become her passion. Using an environmentally friendly fabric hardener, wire, and recycled fabrics her creations are enhancing gardens across the region.
deborah0825.wixsite.com/mysite

Victor Molev
Born in Nizhny Novgorod (Russia) in 1955. He graduated from architecture faculty and worked as an architect and theater set painter. He participated in numerous exhibitions (both solo and general) in Russia, Israel, Europe and Canada. His works can be found in private collections throughout Europe, United States, Australia, South Africa, Canada, Japan, and Israel. He works in surrealist and neorealism styles. Recently, he has drawn a lot of portraits of historical figures and popular icons, musicians and actresses. His oeuvre is a reflection of his sub- and semi-conscious, nevertheless, it is rooted in his daily experiences.
victor-molev.pixels.com

Juliana Sanguinetti
She is an accountant by profession and a self-taught artist who began painting 7 years

ago. She uses acrylic on canvas or wood, occasionally mixing other media such as pen or oil pastel. She is inspired by blue skies, sunshine, the ocean and the vivid colours and patterns in nature.
[@juliana_sanguinetti](https://www.instagram.com/juliana_sanguinetti)

Jacob Whynot
Jacob is passionate about Art in the Park and displaying his unique and custom wood pieces for others to enjoy. He is a red seal carpenter that turns live edge and reclaimed wood into one of a kind art. Every piece is one-of-a-kind.
whynotdesigns.ca

Antje Gagne
Antje's passion for pottery began in her homeland of Germany. She completed an apprenticeship at a salt-glaze pottery in Stadtlohn and studied Art and Design in Dortmund. Upon her arrival to Canada she studied Graphic Design at Canadore College. For a decade, Antje apprenticed at a pottery in Muskoka. She opened her studio in 2000 eventually relocating to Tiny Township - near the shores of the spectacular Georgian Bay - where she maintains a studio and show room at her home.
potterybyantje.ca

Alan & Alsa Wong
A-Designs Jewelry is a home-based operation operated by Alan & Alsa. This collaboration between technical skills and artistry has enabled the couple to develop a portfolio of functional yet stylish products. They use a wide array of materials and incorporate their skills to make sure every piece is unique and of the highest quality.
adesignsornamentco.com

Steve Silverman
A native of Toronto, Canada, Steve Silverman is an award-winning fine arts photographer with a keen and unique artistic vision. His love and appreciation of black and white photography is reflected in his dramatic landscapes and engaging cityscapes.
monochromevision.com

Jax Nasimok
Jax Nasimok is a young Wildlife Photographer

who focuses on highlighting Ontario's wildlife. He runs the small business Wild Ontario Photography to sell his photography mainly in the form of matted and framed prints. He has also won multiple awards for his photography, including third place in Stouffville's Art in the Park in 2019.
wildontariophotography.bigcartel.com

Emma Wigglesworth
She is a macramé and fabric artist living in Durham Region. Using all Organic & Fair-Trade materials to create 100% handmade goodies for the home. Her love for greenery and natural materials can be seen in all of her modern macramé creations.
[@anxiousladycrafts](https://www.instagram.com/anxiousladycrafts)

Bev McLaren
Bev McLaren creates unique wire wrapped jewelry items using semi-precious stones, pottery, copper and silver filled wire.
rusticpath.etsy.com

Krista Sweet
She is a passionate craftswoman who has been creating hand-made treasures for over 25 years. She has always been interested in pottery and began her journey with a two-hour lesson that turned into 'create just one more piece!' Each item is functional, unique and one of a kind.
[@Ks_creations_pottery](https://www.instagram.com/Ks_creations_pottery)

Brian Reynolds
Brian's love of photography started at age 9 while on family vacation to England capturing castles and spectacular landscapes with a Kodak Instamatic 100. He studied creative photography at Humber College, worked many years at Canada's largest photographic chain, and taught creative photography at Durham College. Currently residing in Stouffville, he enjoys sharing past and current images highlighting many with inspirational quotes aimed at encouraging others to be the best they can be.
blurb.ca/ebooks/594942-reason-to-smile

ONE ARTIST TO BE SHOWCASED EVERY OTHER DAY IN JUNE

Starting June 1st, we will feature an artist every other day for the whole month!

Art in the Park needed to be cancelled but we didn't want that to stop you from seeing some of the amazing artists that would have been there!



Brigitte Granton



Tara O'Connor



Deborah Watts



Victor Molev



Juliana Sanguinetti



Jacob Whynot



Antje Gagne



Alan & Alsa Wong



Steve Silverman



Jax Nasimok



Emma Wigglesworth



Bev McLaren



Krista Sweet



Brian Reynolds

L4A.CA
EVERYTHING *Stouffville*

■ Keep an eye on L4A.ca for special coverage



Part of doing business is giving back.

As a 49 year family run business with their headquarters right here in Stouffville, PKG Carry Goods is known for producing high quality practical carry solutions, currently available in 35 countries around the world.

As COVID-19 began forcing uncertainty and stress on everyone both personally and professionally across communities large and small, the family-oriented team at PKG wondered what they could do to help. They quickly and easily aligned to the idea of using their unique position of having direct access to cut and sew manufacturing partners to produce personal face masks to help be part of a solution.

The idea didn't come without reservation however. Would building non-medical face masks seem too self-serving or opportunistic? As an independent business facing pandemic-related challenges like so many others, would a shift in this direction take up the much needed resources required to support the future planning of the company at time when they're needed the most? As the team discussed the options and implications, the phone calls and emails began coming in. It would seem retailers, distributors and consumers were reaching out to PKG to see if they could or would produce such a product. Hearing stories of how customer demand was emerging and that there was a significant lack of availability, any concern quickly turned to a sense of obligation and pride that they were in a position to provide help.

Efforts moved quickly to their design team to begin tech packs and enlist their cut and sew partners to begin the process of sampling and then manufacturing a range of re-usable, non-medical face mask for adults and children.

The end result is a range of personal 'etiquette' masks, which are available now on their website (storefront pick-up is available) and through their distribution network of partners. So far, the product has been met with appreciation with new colours and additional designs being planned for future.

The new found demand has surprisingly allowed PKG to contribute to a solution in these uncertain times, while also offering a product to a consumer base in need.

In addition to offering reusable masks, PKG has also proudly donated 1,500 non-medical disposable face masks to the town for use by other local businesses who begin to open their doors and are looking for assistance. With a quick call to Mayor Iain Lovatt's office, the masks are being provided to essential workers and businesses in hopes that this small gesture can make a big difference in the community.

If you're an employer or employee in the York region and are in need of disposable, non-medical masks, please contact PKG at info@pkgshop.com and they'll do their best to assist you.

If you are interested in purchasing re-usable PKG 'Etiquette' face masks for personal use, you can visit www.pkgshop.ca/collections/etiquette-masks. Masks come with filters and are currently sold in black or grey for adults and blue or pink checker for kids and come in sets of 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50.



PERSONAL ETIQUETTE MASK

Progress is steady in Stouffville's west end at Sandiford Drive and Hoover Park, Mon Sheong Foundation is building a new long-term care facility. There is a very long waiting list for long-term care beds. When completed, it will be employing over 1,000 people, ranging from nurses to housekeeping to administrative staff. The facility is being built in two phases, and when complete there will be 4 buildings, 3 of which are 6 stories and the other is 11. In total there will be 1,235 beds.



Progress is being made in the restoration of the former Mansion House Hotel, built in 1879 by its first owner Elijah Miller and originally served businessmen travelling by train. It had been an upscale hotel, able to accommodate 75-100 guests.

The completed building will have an addition on the east side. The finished product is proposed as Stouffville Junction: Community-Convenience-Hospitality. It is an exciting project for Downtown Stouffville and the community overall. The Stouffville Junction will be the subject of an in-depth article in OTR in the near future.



Millennial MATTERS

with CASSANDRA PAPAS



Long-winded prose most definitely has a place, but is that place in the past? Keep up to date with this new #OTR feature that will consist of lists and succinct information for those busy millennials. Millennials are the generation that includes those born between 1980 and 2003 and are probably still living in their parents' basement.



They Have 20/20 Vision

They say hindsight is 20/20. The elusive 'they' is anyone who's come out the other side of any major life event or transition. I remember being an angsty 16-year-old and my mom asking me "Seriously Cassandra, what in the world is so hard at 16?" and to my dismay she was actually expecting an answer. I stammered and replied "ugh, you don't get it, Mom. The world is on my shoulders. I have to know all the answers and I need to know them NOW or my life is ruined." Obviously, I was wrong about that but it's how I felt. It's also how I felt at 19 and 25. Maybe, we're always feeling like

the world is on our shoulders, but we don't realize it's actually not.

In attempts to gain some perspective for other Twenty-Somethings out there I reached out to some of the elusive 'theys' who have the 20/20 vision. Here is some of their wisdom:

"Hug your mom. Call her every day and listen to her when she says your boyfriend sucks."

"TRAVEL, TRAVEL, TRAVEL. You don't even know what you want out of life until you're at least 30. Don't do things to follow societal expectations"

"Don't get married. Don't have kids. Save your money. Date!! But don't settle. Work on you and stay connected with your friends and try to invest in property early." (this was advice from my mom and I'm slightly offended)

"Wear sunscreen every freaking day. Drink more water, especially when drinking alcohol. Hangovers get worse as you get older. Find an exercise routine(s) you like and make it a habit. Take yourself on a solo vacation at least once. Save more money than you think you should."

"Be confident in who you are and how you look because no one pays as much attention to your flaws as you do, save as much money as you can, start investing in your retirement, if your friends think a guy is wrong for you they're probably right, don't spend all your time working, work will always be there, travel as much as you can! Good friendships may require work but they're worth working for, wear sunscreen, exercise, don't settle for the wrong guy, there is no rush for marriage and kids, call your grandparents and don't do things because you feel obligated, only do what makes you happy."

"Take care of your skin and stay away from credit cards!"

"Have kids young you want to be able to get on the floor and play with your kids and have lots of energy for them."

"Ask for the raise. Ask for the promotion. Apply for that job you don't think you're qualified for. If anybody offers you an amount of money, ask for more. If somebody makes you uncomfortable at work, say something. If somebody makes you uncomfortable somewhere else, say something. Moisturize."

"You're in the prime of your life! I think

most people in their 20s don't even realize that. You do so much changing in your 20s, probably the most than in any other decade. Be open to change and don't let anyone hold you back. Work hard and save some money because as you get older, there's less room to save and more things to do!"

"Be into yourself, follow your interests – the more comfortable you are with yourself and the more you develop interests, the more interesting you will be. The important thing is for you to be good with you first. Be the best you and you will be a magnet for people who admire you! Don't wait for someone to do things with – you go! And lastly, don't be afraid to "eat the frog"! Even if you have delayed doing something because it is going to be too hard, too unpleasant, too scary, just sit down and take a bite out of it – make a start, and the rest will be much easier."

All of this feedback means that you are able to reflect and think about how things might have been different if there was a little more perspective during some pivotal moments. Your life doesn't begin and end in your twenties, you have decades to make mistakes and fix them. Will this stop the average person from thinking their invisible and not wear SPF or from being too intimidated to travel and ask for promotions? Probably not. When you receive advice, you take it and make as many smart decisions you can with the information you have. Should you save your money? Yes. Should you take care of your body? Yes. After all that wisdom I think the best advice I received back was, "Don't be afraid of living. Make mistakes, you don't need to know all the answers just allow your path to form." At any age all we can do is the best we can with the resources, information and feelings we have in that moment.

Give yourself a break. The world wasn't on my shoulders at age 16, it's not on yours at age 23 and it's not even on yours at age 45. Each decade offers new opportunities and new perspectives and you're probably doing the right things; but you should definitely call your mom. (I)

CONTACT Cassandra Papas, cassandra.papas@townofws.ca
INSTAGRAM @CPapoose

Giving BACK

with DAVE MILLS



Removing Shock From the Headlines

It goes without saying that we are living in unprecedented times right now. There is so much uncertainty all around us. From employment, education and the economy we are all living our lives unsure of what is to come. Usually I write about giving back, whether it be an organization or a person I try to stick to the same theme and similar message. While speaking with David Tuley we discussed changing it up for this edition and write something about the real estate market, it's current state and what the future looks like. As much as it goes against why I write in the OTR, I agreed. With so much false information out there and the media pushing out the shocking headlines this is a good opportunity to add some clarity to the topic.

When our favourite news channel reports on the economy or in this case real estate it is important to understand what is being reported. Real estate market stats for the Canadian Market vs an Ontario Market vs a GTA Market can be drastically different. I will break it down and then focus a little on the Stouffville area.

As you might have noticed there are not as many for sale signs on lawns, that is because we have low inventory, low inventory can mean we are in a sellers' market, but with COVID-19 that puts a whole new twist on things. There has been a dramatic decline of both sales and new listings and essentially sellers and buyers have hit pause, which has stalled the market.

We are seeing 25-year lows and we have

never seen these numbers before for April and yet we are in a stable market.

You might ask what is keeping the market stable?

A key factor is both sales and listings are down, if it was a demand issue where we saw buyers pull out of the market, we would have a lot of inventory and see downward pressure on prices. Since sellers are not currently listing and buyers have cooled on purchasing, supply is still balanced, and we are not seeing the downward pressure on home prices.

As a whole the real estate market, depending on where you live, is down between 50 - 60% in transactions, whether that be sales or new listings, but prices have relatively stayed stable. There are of course other variables. Not to complicate things - it is important to remember that property values have not plunged like some reports have indicated.

We did have a hot February and first half of March across the GTA and prices are down about 10% from February. That being said in February sellers were getting multiple offers. In that type of market sellers were getting more than the home was worth.

Today when you are receiving one or maybe two offers you will see slightly lower prices than you did a few months ago. Part of the decline in the market can be attributed to a fewer number of luxury homes selling and a larger number of homes selling under a million. That would skew the average price lower.

Now to talk about Stouffville in general. From April 2019 to April 2020 prices are actually slightly higher at approximately 2.2% increase year over year. From January 2020 to April 2020 prices are up approximately 6.7%. These numbers may be different depending on the type of house, neighbourhood and price range they are in, the point is home values have not plummeted.

Another interesting stat is the average days a listing is on the market. Houses are not sitting around as long as you might think. The average days on the market has dropped, taking fewer days to sell a home in the Stouffville area. Looking ahead it will be interesting to see who jumps back into the market first, buyers or sellers and how that

will impact the balance we currently see in the market.

When analyzing the current state of affairs some economists like to point out that we are in a health crisis. There is no economic driver or broken financial system that got us here, it is a pandemic that has created a financial crisis but the fundamentals for our economy and housing market remain strong.

In summary things are not as bad as they may seem from a real estate point of view. Some experts believe there could be another real estate boom and it may be sooner than we think.

They predict prices could rise soon, construction has fallen, inventory is low, yet demand is rapidly rising. Things are changing faster now than ever, and no one has a crystal ball to be able to predict what will happen over the next few months.

I hope this helps bring some clarity, Take care and stay safe. (I)

CONTACT Dave Mills, david@stouffville.com



From WHERE I LIVE

with BRUCE STAPLEY



Local financial advisor offers reassurance amid pandemic uncertainty

While ensuring social and physical distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic is of primary concern to leaders like Stouffville Mayor Iain Lovatt all the way up to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Matt Roncadin's priority has involved helping Town residents keep in touch with the realities of their long-term financial plan.

Matt, a former Chair and executive member of the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, is a financial advisor with Edward Jones here in Stouffville. As such, he has been called upon to calm the frayed nerves of investors fearing for the safety of their nest egg.

"What a wild ride the last few months have been, and it looks like we've got a few more wild months ahead of us," Matt said during a recent properly distanced interview. "Dealing with the effects of the Coronavirus on financial markets is very important at the moment."

Matt points to a glaring statistic as being a big part of what causes investors to feel a little lost in times of financial market uncertainty. "Seven out of 10 Canadians don't have a written financial plan. Which means you may own investments but have no goal in terms of where you'll be in the future or what to do when there is a bump in the road such as the current pandemic."

He claims the current situation comes with several imperatives for all investors. "There are things we all need to do at the moment to address our financial health," adding with a reassuring smile "...don't worry, no masks or gloves needed!"

First and foremost, as with all market-rocking events, don't panic. "While we find ourselves in a place that we have never been before, know that it is ok because in the financial world we often find ourselves in a place that we've never been before... yet the principles stay the same. Decisions based in fear and anxiety aren't our best when we look back on them."

Second, if you don't have a personal plan just for you, it's time to get started. "The work you do today will help ensure you are prepared for all of the unexpected events that life will throw at us in the future. Stop and address where you are today in relation to your goals. For example, retirement is often the most common goal for people. However, the advice is very different depending on how far off your retirement is."

He says it may be necessary to ask yourself hard questions. "Am I confident my plan will help me through hard times? Am I saving enough to reach my goals? Do I know how much I should be saving? Do I know why I am investing?"

Finally, take action. "Interview financial professionals and look for a fit," Matt says,

Matt offers some comforting reassurance to those who worry that the damage done to their investments by the Covid-19 crisis may be irreversible. "The recent market volatility may be attributed more to fear than the forces that usually drive the markets. Ultimately, in the investment arena, facts matter. And if you look beyond the recent headlines, the facts that matter to investors may be far less gloomy than you might have imagined."

He insists this is not the same as the 2008 market crash that resulted from the bursting of the housing bubble. "This is primarily a health crisis, not a loss of confidence in the financial system. While it's quite likely that the Canadian economy will take a meaningful hit in the short term, the overall economic fundamentals were in solid shape before the coronavirus came along."

Matt points out that from the time the markets bottomed out in early 2009 through mid April of this year, Canadian stock prices climbed about 110 percent. "Yet, during that time, we also saw two separate market drops of more than 20 percent, similar to what we're seeing now. These market corrections always feel unsettling, but it's important to recognize that they are actually a normal part of the

long-term investing process."

So how should you respond to the current situation? "Instead of simply selling your stocks in an attempt to cut your losses, review your portfolio to see if it is properly balanced between stocks, bonds and other investments in a way that reflects your goals, time horizon and risk tolerance. Those investors with properly-balanced portfolios are not seeing the same level of decline as those whose holdings are almost entirely in stocks. And while diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help reduce the impact of volatility."



Man with a Plan: Stouffville financial advisor Matt Roncadin stresses the importance of having a financial plan and sticking to it, especially in uncertain times such as the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Matt concludes by advising long term investors that while it may not be easy for them to look at their investment statements today, they are investing for goals that may be decades away. "By keeping your eyes on the distant horizon you'll be less likely to over-react to the news of the day, and more likely to follow a long-term strategy that can work for you." [1]

CONTACT Bruce Stapley, bstapley@sympatico.ca

Karen Cockburn: World's most-decorated Olympic trampoline medalist remains in 'Game'

Karen Cockburn was your small-town rock star. And Stouffville adopted the Olympic celebrity with open arms and hearts.

The headlines:

- A post-2008 Olympics parade was held on Main Street in her honour.
- Town council declared 'Karen Cockburn Day'.
- She ran the 2015 Pan Am Games torch into Memorial Park and gave a speech.
- Karen dropped the puck before a charity hockey game featuring NHLers and media stars in a jam-packed Stouffville Arena.
- If there were keys to this 'city', she'd have multiple duplicates.

The adulation was more than justified. Karen Cockburn is the most decorated trampolinist in Olympic history. In any country. She's a four-time Olympian and three-time Olympic medallist (two silver, one bronze). And she happens to live around the corner.

It all started innocently enough. A friend had purchased a new home in south Stouffville in 2005. Karen bought in, too – as an investment. When the house was ready to occupy two years later, Karen, a Toronto native, was marrying a fellow Olympic trampoline medalist, Unionville's Mathieu Turgeon. (Bronze at the 2000 Games in Sydney, for those of you keeping score at home.)

Impressed from their visits, they moved into the Stouffville new-build. Daughter Émilie was born in September 2013. "We really liked the community and decided to put down roots," she said. Even when they moved up in the real estate market two years ago, they stayed in Stouffville.

The Cockburn Family



(Safe to say, the home's backyard trampoline is one of the few on the planet with two built-in Olympic medalists as spotters.)

"I'm kind of a quiet person, but my neighbours started to figure out who I was," she said of her early days in Stouffville. "It was kind of funny. It was great to have the support of everyone. The parade on Main Street in 2008 is an amazing memory I have. And lots of people just reaching out, too. The letters..."

"Even when I was grocery shopping, people would ask me to stop to talk to their kids and hear their questions. It was nice to feel you could inspire people."

A special moment? "Carrying that torch along Main Street in 2015 and lighting the cauldron with my husband and daughter in the audience and the whole town coming out to support me," she said. "And then to go on to win a medal at those games. It's one of my most favourite times in my sports career."

Cockburn retired in July 2017. The next year she was named Canada's national team director for trampoline gymnastics. She works – largely from home – with national team coaches and the program committees, travels to major events and meets with partners of the program.

"It's a great way to stay active in the sport," said Cockburn, 39, who previously worked for Gymnastics Ontario. "I always wanted to stay in the sport stream workwise. Things are definitely different being on the other side of things but it was an easy transition for me. I'm pretty happy to do a job that I enjoy."

Young Émilie is following in her parents' footsteps, competing in gymnastics – and showing some cool flips on the family trampoline during a photo shoot for this story.

For now. "We're exposing her to lots of things: arts, music, dance," Cockburn said. "She doesn't have to stay in gymnastics. But it's a great foundation sport." Cockburn, who was in Tokyo with the Canadian team for a pre-Olympic test event in December, is working through the postponement of the 2020 Games.

"I can imagine how hard it is being an athlete right now," she said. "For some people, it could mean missing their chance at the Olympics. For others, were they going to retire or will they be in as peak physical

SportsTown

with JIM MASON



condition next year? But everyone's been super positive and they know sport can take a back seat to things like health. And the hope is still alive that it will happen next year."

Cockburn took up the trampoline at age 11. Two years later, she was competing internationally. The Olympic medals in the Cockburn-Turgeon household aren't framed for a reason. Karen hasn't forgotten her roots, still giving of her time, including speaking, medals in tow, to a gathering of Girl Guides at the Shadow Lake Centre in Whitchurch-Stouffville in January.

"I was inspired by Olympians at age 11 or 12," she said. "I know those moments can really set you on a path and really inspire you to do something great. So if I can have that impact on anyone, I like to say yes to those opportunities as much as possible."

Put reigning two-time Olympic gold-medal trampolinist Rosie MacLennan of King City on that list. The training partners teamed together in 2006 for synchro,

"Karen put trampoline on the map for Canada and paved the way for our success. For me, personally, she changed my dream of being an Olympian into a reality," MacLennan told CBC. [1]

CONTACT Jim Mason
jimmason905@gmail.com

THE KAREN FILE

Olympics:

Sydney 2000 – bronze
Athens 2004 – silver
Beijing 2008 – silver

Pan Am Games

2007 – gold
2015 – silver

World championships

Eight medals, including two gold – plus 52 others from World Cups.

June 2020 COMMUNITY NEWS

 THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Notice of Council Meetings

Agendas for Council and Public meetings will be available for review at the Municipal Offices, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and on our website at 12 p.m. (noon) the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tues., June 2, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., June 16, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., July 21, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings (if required):

- Tues., June 16, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tues., Sept. 22, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

As the Municipal Offices (111 Sandiford Dr.) are now closed to the public, residents may listen to the meeting live online at townofws.ca/cmlivestream.

Anyone wishing to submit comments, which will form part of the public record, may write to the Town Clerk at clerks@townofws.ca. Anyone wishing to provide verbal comments may be invited to attend the meeting electronically, please contact the Town Clerk at clerks@townofws.ca for more information.

Follow all council meetings on Whitchurch-Stouffville's official council Twitter account @ws_townhall.

Join our Council E-Newsletter at: eeurl.com /cKPNg9 and receive meeting agendas and summary reports straight in your inbox.

Postponed: Decoration Day

The annual Decoration Day Service at Stouffville Cemetery featuring a non-denominational service celebrating the memory of loved ones, traditionally held in June, will be postponed until Fall 2020 due to COVID-19. Updates on a new date will be provided.

In memoriam, donations are gratefully accepted year-round online or at the event. For more information, please contact Stephanie Thomson at stephanie.thomson@townofws.ca 905-640-1910 x 2225

COVID-19 Information

OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

All outdoor recreation amenities are open, with the exception of beaches, playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, Bruce's Mill Conservation Area and school properties. Open outdoor areas may be used by individuals, or a group of up to 5 people from the same household. View our complete outdoor amenity list at townofws.ca/COVID19.

Police and by-law officers are charging people. Fines begin at \$300 and range to \$5000 for repeat offenders. Town trails remain open.

TOWN FACILITY CLOSURES

The following Town facilities remain closed to the public until further notice under the direction of the Province: Town Hall, WS Leisure Centre, WS Public Library, all arenas, all community centres, 19 on the Park, WS Museum, both Fire Halls, SoccerCity and 6240 Main Street (55+ Club).

REFUNDS - RECREATION & PROGRAMS

Due to restrictions, we are redesigning our camp program offerings, including making changes to the maximum capacity per camp, our policies and procedures and our before and after care.

In order to facilitate the registration for this new programming, we have canceled our current programs. All current registrations will be placed as a credit on your WSPLAY account. Residents can use the funds to re-register for our new camps once the registration is open.

We will be sure to provide as much notice as possible for registration once we have firm dates. Residents are asked to call the Leisure Center at (905) 642-7529 for more details.

BY-LAW INQUIRIES

Please send all By-Law enforcement inquiries by phone or email only. By-Law will not be setting up meetings or facilitating tickets in person, however, it can be done by phone, online or email.

Animal Services' calls will be responded to case by case. Our shelter has been shut down to the public therefore we will no longer be able to take in domestic animals. We would like to remind residents to be

extra diligent at this time to ensure that their pets are not at large. Also, if your dog does not have a dog tag it is highly recommended that you purchase one now. Dog tags can be purchased at townofws.ca/dogtags

Parking bylaws are still being enforced. If any residents have any By-Law questions, please call 905 640 1910 (ex. 2229) or Customer Service at (905) 640-1900.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Town continues to accept building and planning applications and customers can drop non-confidential plans and relevant information in the drop-box at Town Hall. Due to construction, the drop-box is now located near the entrance next to the York Regional Police office. All meetings with external clients will be converted to conference calls. We will continue to schedule and conduct building and engineering inspections on unoccupied buildings and inspections that are outside (open-air) only.

For more information about the effect of COVID-19 on Planning Division procedures, and for more detailed information about building permit applications and inspections, please visit townofws.ca/COVID19.

W-S PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library is currently closed, however they are developing plans to resume some specific services. For more information please visit wsplibrary.ca/about/covid-19

Lakeshore Road Construction

Beginning in June 2020, the Town will begin reconstruction of an approximately 120 metre section of Lakeshore Road, Musselman's Lake. The work will occur between 5801 and 5841 Lakeshore Road. Work will include upgrades to underground infrastructure, reconstruction of the road surface, installation of a section of guiderail, and the construction of a retaining wall along the parallel shoreline. Work is expected to last until September 2020. Additional project information and regular updates may be found at cometogetherws.ca/lakeshore

June 2020 COMMUNITY NEWS

 THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Notice of Public Meeting

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING PROPOSED DRAFT
OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND DRAFT
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR
THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Date: May 19, 2020 Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: MS Teams software

Please note: The Town of Whitchurch – Stouffville is closely monitoring COVID-19 development daily. Please be aware that the postponement of this meeting may be required.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will hold a Public Meeting on June 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. by way of a virtual meeting using MS TEAMS to consider and inform the public with respect to Town initiated proposed Official Plan amendment under section 17 and Community Improvement Plan under Section 28 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P13.

In order to participate at the MS TEAMS virtual Public Meeting information and how to connect, please contact Town staff or visit the Town's website, Public Notices page at: <https://bit.ly/36gAfmE> or follow the site map Home/Town Hall/News and Public Notices/Notices or
Join the MS TEAMS virtual Public Meeting at <https://bit.ly/2zCHK24>

THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT of the:

- THE PROPOSED DRAFT COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN for Town wide is to provide financial incentives to eligible applicants for existing commercial businesses and mixed-use buildings, new development of employment lands, mixed-use developments and high-density residential properties as well incentives to improve food security, tourism growth and the provision of rural infrastructure;
- THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL PLAN is to introduce policies that would

enable the establishment of the Community Improvement Project Area boundary to all lands within the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and establish the Town wide Community Improvement Plan, as such no location map is provided; and,

- THE PROPOSED DRAFT BY-LAW is to establish the Community Improvement Project Area boundary.

The proposed drafts will be available on May 25, 2020 for public and stakeholder review, at the Public Notice webpage on the Town's website at <https://bit.ly/36gAfmE>.

ANY PERSON may attend the MS TEAMS Public Meeting and make written and/or verbal representation either in support of or against the proposed by-law, Official Plan amendments and Community Improvement Plan. Any person may send written comments to the Town, via email to the contacts listed under Additional Information above or can call in and provide comments. The dial-in information for the public meeting will be available on the website prior to the virtual Public Meeting at May 25, 2020.

IF A PERSON or PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a Public Meeting or make written submissions (email or regular mail) to the Town before the proposed by-law is passed, Official Plan amendments and Community Improvement Plan are adopted the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal.

IF A PERSON or PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town before the proposed by-law is passed, Official Plan amendments and Community Improvement Plan are adopted the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact the Town staff listed under Additional Information above.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville on the above noted matters, you must make a written or oral submission (email, mail or phone call) contact the Town staff listed under Additional Information above.

DATED AT the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, this 19th day of May 2020.

Museum News

CALLING ALL RESIDENTS OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE!

We're asking that you share your story by completing a journal of your daily life as you navigate through self-isolation and social/physical distancing. You can do this as a family or as an individual. The purpose of collecting this information is to share our experience with future generations.

Please submit your journals any time following the Covid-19 pandemic via email to wsmuseum@townofws.ca or you can mail it directly to the Museum at: 14732 Woodbine Ave, Stouffville, ON L4A 2K9.

LEARNING FROM HOME

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre is committed to providing the community with educational and interactive experiences. Your experience is our priority. That's why we are currently offering curriculum-based, Learn From Home modules. We believe learning is a lifelong journey, and we hope you find enjoyment in these activities!

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO WHILE AT HOME?

We're posting fun stay-at-home activities every Tuesday & Friday on Facebook. Check out our page and follow @WSMuseum



L4A.CA

EVERYTHING *Stouffville*

