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May Feature
**LEMONVILLE
GROUP OF ARTISTS**
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On The Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville
is the Monthly magazine of the Town
townofws.ca/otr

MAY

No.40 | 2020

**SPECIAL COVERAGE
COVID-19**

**Analysis & Response
Business Resources
Where to Find Info**

Keeping Spirits Alive

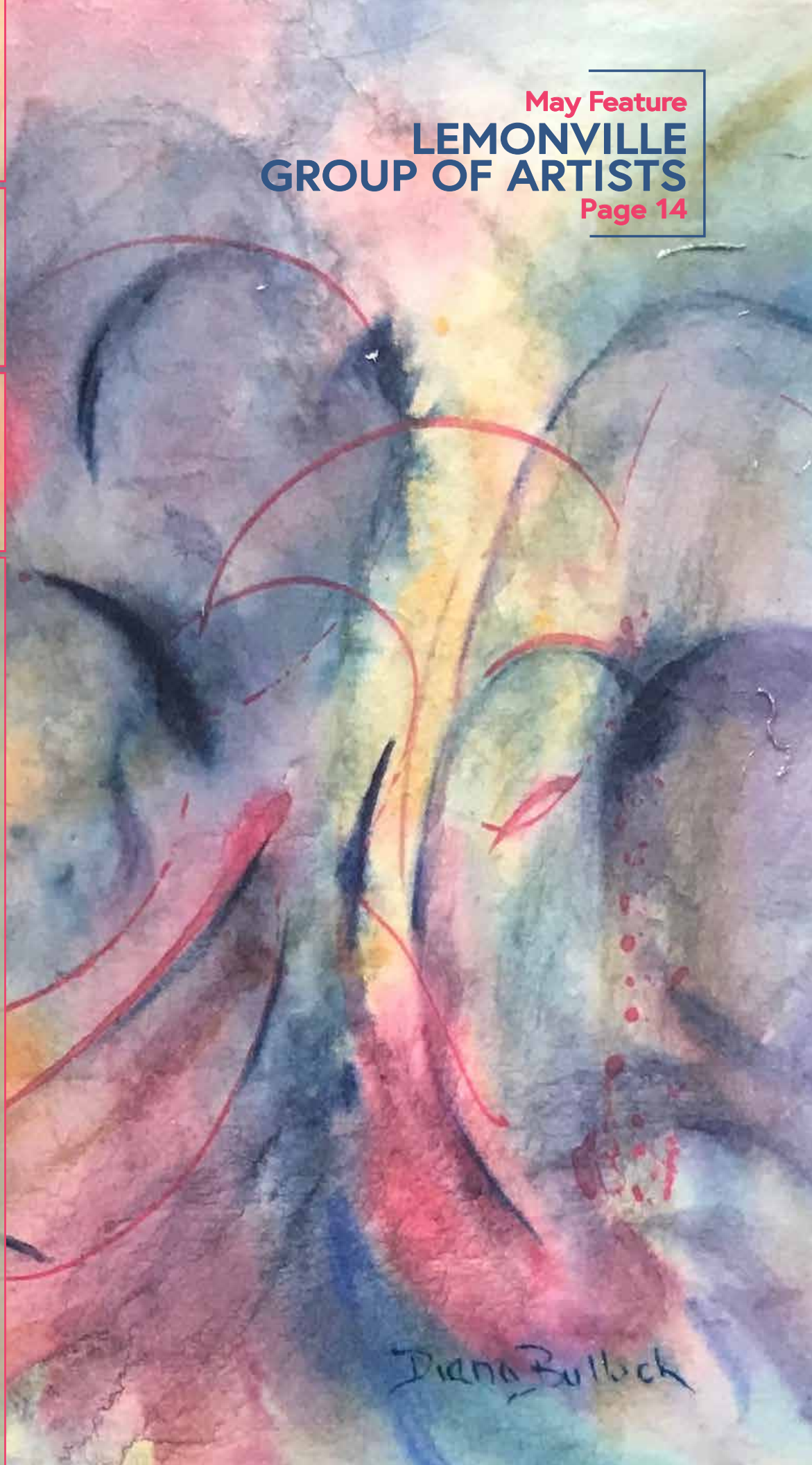
COLUMNS

**Millennial Matters
Giving Back
From Where I Live
Sports Town**

ISSN 2563-058X



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Diana Bullock



Monica Gennaro of Beke Design has been busy social distancing at her bench, with silver and gemstones. This piece is one for Spring 2020. For more information, see www.bekedesign.com

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.

The April print edition of OTR was cancelled because life was changing too fast. I actually thought that Canada Post would stop delivering mail (!). Instead, we produced four Digital Editions of OTR, which were more timely for the flow of information and programs.

The monies allocated for the April edition were re-allocated to fund new business initiatives, including a the development of a local business website named L4A.ca "Everything Stouffville". OTR was launched to help the business community - we are happy that this happened in its absence.

This issue of OTR features an excerpt from the Lemonville Group of Artists' Virtual Exhibition, in place of their annual show and sale (cancelled). I arranged to buy my favourite piece already.

I adopted a family through the Mayor's Community Care Network - it is a great program! Let's make sure that everyone who needs help knows that it is available. Be safe and support your local business community. (U)

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

Council agrees to new Farmers' Market

Water rate decreases, Main Street affordable housing update topics of recent meetings

Glenn Jackson, Contributor

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

Farmers' Market. After much discussion, Council approved, in principle, with moving forward with a new Downtown Stouffville Farmer's Market.

At the April 21 meeting, Council asked Town staff to study the idea of setting up a market in the downtown area and to investigate possible partnerships with the private sector and community-based partners in its long-term management.

In order to potentially relaunch a revitalized Downtown Farmer's Market, staff hosted a Farmer's Market Focus Group on February 24, to which key local and regional representatives were invited.

The goal of the meeting was to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the past markets and to determine if there was local and regional support for a reimplementation. The group concluded that with a change of focus, location and date, a local market had the potential to flourish and thus contribute to the revitalization of the downtown core by drawing local and regional tourism.

No timeline was set; however, staff will present to Council their ideas after the current COVID-19 pandemic situation concludes and the Province lifts social distancing limitations.

For more information about the Farmers' Market, and the Report that was tabled to Council, visit bit.ly/2KupByA

Ward Boundary Review Coming.

The Town's current ward boundaries were established in 2009 with a goal of recognizing the impacts of growth in different parts of the community and its impacts on political representation. As part of the study, it was decided that the wards would be reviewed again after three elections have been held. Therefore, it is time to review them again.

Council, on March 3, approved the study and authorized staff to hire an independent expert



ABOVE: A new Downtown Stouffville Farmers' Market was approved, in principle, by Town Council on April 21. Town staff will now investigate the possibility of private sector, and community-based partnerships and report back to Council with ideas after the province lifts COVID-19 restrictions.

in municipal government who, in consultation with the Town Clerk and the Mayor, will decide if the Town needs new ward boundaries, and if so, what they are.

Water Billing Dispute Policy. At the March 3 meeting, Council approved a *High Water Consumption Credit Policy* which would provide financial assistance to qualifying residential customers that experience an unusually high water consumption charge because of leaks.

The policy provides for an adjustment that is 50% of the excess between the high-water bill and the average water bills in the past. The amount of relief is based on the water rate in effect at the time of the high-water consumption and can only be used twice in a 10-year period. More information at townofws.ca/waterbills

Water Rate Decrease Approved. At the April 21 meeting, Council decreased the 2020 water and wastewater billing rates.

The new rates, effective immediately, are \$2.1825/m³ for water, and \$2.9979/m³ for wastewater (sewer). They represent a combined 7% decrease over the previously-approved rates. The new rates are retroactive

back to March 15 and a credit will be reflected on residents' next water/wastewater bill.

Main Street Affordable Housing Update.

York Region Housing gave an update to Council on March 3 about the 3.7 acre affordable housing complex proposed on Main Street near Palmwood Gate (5676 Main St.).

According to York Region Housing, the complex will have 97 rental apartments of which 63 will be 1- bedroom, 27 will be 2-bedroom and 7 will be 3-bedroom units.

At the time of the presentation, York Region Housing said the demolition of the existing buildings would begin in the summer/fall of this year. It is unknown if these dates will, or have been, affected by the recent COVID-19 situation.

If the plan holds, construction will begin in the winter or spring of 2021. For more information, including how to apply for subsidized housing, please visit york.ca/housing. (U)

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/cmlivestream. Live tweets: [@ws_townhall](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall)

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ACTIVITY FIX

Need more activity in your day? Well, there's plenty available. Here are some of the listings in L4A.ca:

- **Crossfit Crux** is offering daily at home challenges and online workout classes;
- **Fight Fitness** is offering a free 6 week online transformation program;
- **Abotti with Antonietta** has two daily Zoom classes;
- **Stouffville Yoga Life** offers online courses that are easy to follow and understand;

- **True Path Yoga** has online classes that will inspire connection, during these trying times;
- **Zumba Fitness** offers Zumba and Zumbini classes online;
- **Anytime Fitness** has training videos and live daily workouts available on FB page
- **Impact Dance Company** offers live dance classes on Zoom!
- **York Dance Academy** is keeping their dancers aware of activity happening everywhere.

PART 1

Backwards & Forwards

The scramble began in the second week of March – school closure announcements, events being postponed, and business travel curtailed. The next week was worse – office spaces began to close, March Break cancellations, and governments began to speak daily. In the 3rd week, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a new bailout package every day, while Premier Doug Ford issued the first Essential Businesses List, and Mayor Iain Lovatt focused on supporting local businesses and urging for physical distancing habits. This is when most of the retail businesses in Whitchurch-Stouffville shut their doors and restaurants let go most of their staff, and when communities worldwide shuttered parks, public spaces and programs.

By March 19, the Maple Syrup Festival, Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival, Maple Fest, Jane's Walk, WS Community Prayer Breakfast, Stouffville Home & Lifestyle Show and 19 on the Park events had been cancelled, while the Mayor's Dinner & Chamber Business Awards, and Markham-Stouffville Hospital Gala were postponed. A couple weeks later, the Travel Expo, Stouffville Dash for Diabetes, Lemonville Group of Artists Annual Show and Sale, Lifelong Learning Events and Doors Open W-S were also cancelled.

The Dark Side of Pandemic

By the time Doug Ford had released his second list of Essential Businesses, the economy had been flipped upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nationally, The Conference Board of Canada states that In the second quarter of this year, "The decline in GDP is forecast to hit a staggering 25 percent in annualized terms," while Statistics Canada estimates that March will be "The largest one-month decline in GDP, since the series started in 1961."

The Conference Board further forecasts that there will be recorded 2.8 million job losses in March and April due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of April



Daily words with (from top) Prime Minister Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, and Mayor Iain Lovatt.

16, over 2 million Canadians applied for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), hoping to be provided with an assistance of \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

Provincially, the Conference Board projects that Ontario "will lose 572,000 jobs in the second quarter and see its unemployment rate rise to 13.5 percent."

These statistics are about productivity and employment, but the end result is often an instability in food security.

Earlier this month a study by PROOF, an interdisciplinary research program investigating household food insecurity in Canada, found that one in eight households across the country is food insecure. "This represents 4.4 million people, the largest number recorded since Canada began monitoring food insecurity," the report said. The Daily Bread in Toronto, one of the country's largest food banks, saw use at its main location spike 53 percent over March and April.



An early photo taken by a local resident and posted to a community Facebook site; he questioned the point of isolation without distancing. The photo was later used by Mayor Lovatt to urge the community to maintain physical distance.

The Bright Side of Food Insecurity

If you scan WS Food Bank Facebook site (www.facebook.com/wsfoodbank), one can see that every other post is another thank you to the business community. They have really stood up, despite being down themselves. Some have donated food and medical supplies, while others have donated thousands of dollars. The businesses are from every sector, and are both large and small: Stouffville RBC, Birkett Hassard, Annina's, Primal Attitude, Stouffville Toyota, Stouffville



Anand Date, Former Chair of the Whitchurch Stouffville Food Bank, receiving donations.

Winners, Tipperary Care Fund, Mon Sheong Foundation, Ballantrae Golf Club Community, Prime Liquidators, The Meat Merchant, Glen (a baker), Red Bulb and Reesor's.

Local food businesses have stepped up support services as well, such as Firehouse Subs who have made food donations to front line workers at Markham-Stouffville Hospital and to the homeless from Blue Door shelter that is currently staying at the Best Western in Newmarket. Early on, Stakeout Dining Room & Lounge donated prime rib dinners to those in need.

To further aid with food security issues, the Town announced The Stouffville Community Care Network. "We have received countless emails, messages and phone calls from people in

our community who want to help in one way or another," said Mayor Lovatt, "this webpage connects residents in need of assistance safely and easily with those nearby who are willing to lend a hand."

From grocery store and pharmacy pick-ups to hot meal delivery or just a friendly phone chat, this Network webpage can make the connections through a safe and secure platform to other community members wanting to assist. If you or someone you know needs assistance or willing to provide help to our vulnerable residents, please register your interest at www.townofws.ca/communitycarenetwork. "This is how our community pulls together, put their heads together and bring ideas to life to assist each other when help is needed most," said Lovatt.

Beyond receiving food, there is now assistance for growing local food too. Eva Greff, local resident and CEO and Founder of NewSpring Energy has launched a community seed exchange. "Our local food system is really fragile. With the unfolding of a global pandemic, we will feel the pinch this year. Not to mention the anxiety everyone is feeling. I started the Seed Exchange boxes to give hope and a bit of 'control' in this chaos," she said.

"It is important we start really paying attention to where our food comes from (I am not talking here grocery stores) and support local food movements starting with urban gardens to local, small scale farmers. The absence of a local farmer's market in Stouffville is a huge problem now. We need to step it up," added Greff.

Seed Exchange Boxes are in the following locations: Meat Merchant on Main St., Hummingbird Hub, Metro (Customer Service desk) and Ballantrae Food Mart on Highway 48 (in veggie section). She encourages everyone to take the seeds they need and share any extras they may have. Join Seed Exchange – Stouffville Area group on Facebook to find out more about Seed Exchange Boxes. If you have any loose seeds you would like to share, you can reach Greff at eva@tofoodmarket.ca and she will pick them up.

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Eva Greff has launched a community seed exchange.



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A Silver Lining?

When the economy shrank by an unprecedented amount in a short period of time, some economists jumped into a disheartening discussion about the differences between recessional and depressional economies. CBC Radio asked, “Is it a depression, a recession, a great recession? Or somewhere in between?” David Rosenberg, founder of Rosenberg Research said, “You start talking about numbers like negative 30,



Reesor's Market & Bakery (above) on West Main in Stouffville introduced Online Ordering and Curbside Pickup, while Starks Barber Company (right), a relatively new startup Downtown, was forced to shut down when Premier Ford released the first list of Essential Businesses.

negative 35, negative 40, then I think that classifies as a depression.” Rosenberg pointed out that the Great Depression lasted for 12 years, and the government was very reluctant to get involved, which is not the case this time.

A recession is typically viewed as six months of economic decline while a depression is seen as a downturn that lasts years. Current predictions are

leaning more towards the former than the latter, but that can make it no less grim.

The Conference Board of Canada is predicting a more robust recovery in Ontario as compared to some other provinces like Alberta, which is looking at something between a long recovery and doomsday. “As measures in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 are eased, Ontario’s economy will resume growth in the second half of the year and into 2021 with GDP growth hitting 6.0 percent next year,” predicted the Conference Board.

But Canada’s big banks are not as optimistic. Benjamin Tal, the Deputy Chief Economist for CIBC, takes a grimmer view than most, “Things will get much worse for Canada’s economy before they get better.” As reported in the Financial Post, “Tal’s call for a recession

has now evolved into one forecasting a deep recession where GDP contracts by six percent in the second quarter of 2020 and another three percent in the third quarter before starting a slow rebound. The unemployment rate will rise as high as 7.5 to eight percent and translate to a loss of about 400,000 jobs while bankruptcy rates rise by 40 percent.”

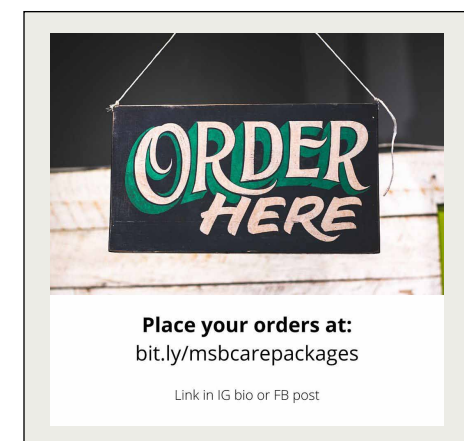
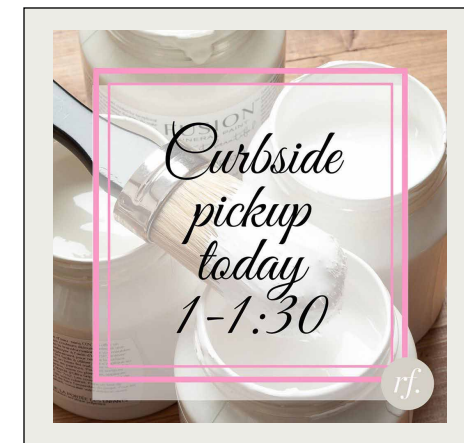
The above timeline is what’s stopping Tal from invoking the possibility of a depression. “The term,” Tal said, “is only used appropriately when there appears to be no end in sight to an economic downturn,” reported the Financial Post.

People could change their approach toward savings and spending after this crisis, according to David Rosenberg. “Because the one thing that we found out is that nobody had any cash on hand. So, the old saying about saving up for a rainy day. Well, all of a sudden, we had



not just a rainy day. We had a hurricane and there is no cash to draw from.”

Consumer behavior could also be semi-permanently modified. “Even before COVID-19, there was a clear divide in performance between physical retailers and e-commerce,” reports the Conference Board of Canada. “Online sales were experiencing double-digit growth while sales at bricks and mortar



stores were at a standstill.”

“In the current environment, developing an online presence for physical retailers has moved from a need-to-do to a matter of survival. This is not a short-term imperative. With consumers now learning new behaviours and habits, social distancing will drive a shift in buying patterns that will outlast the COVID-19 crisis. The capacity being built now will improve with time as businesses test what works and what doesn’t—but it won’t be mothballed. The Amazon effect trained consumers to expect a breadth of products available at their fingertips with lightning-fast fulfillment and delivery. The COVID effect will also ingrain new habits. The proverbial genie is out of the bottle and there is no going back,” stated the Conference Board.

By mid-April, Amazon started to allow third-party sellers to ship “non-essential” items to their warehouse again. “Amazon is quietly telling us that things are slowly getting better. So that’s good news... third party sellers, many of whom are small businesses, can start selling again,” wrote Gene Marks for Forbes.

So, what is the silver lining? “Perhaps it is more a message than a lining,” says Town Economic Development Officer David Tuley. “We can celebrate that we do not look to enter another Great Depression; however, it looks to be a slow recovery and there’s a clear message to our small business community, especially retailers and crafters that are Downtown and Ringwood – every indicator is that your business model needs to change. The Town is working rapidly to assist them with this change,” concluded Tuley. [1]

Many businesses that have continued to operate have been quick to innovate. Early on, Redefined Finds in Downtown Stouffville introduced DIY craft kits, curbside pickup, garage delivery and live video (top), while Born Again Shabby Chic by Denise in Ringwood switched gears from furniture refinishing to producing inspirational messages on sticky-back (middle).

Many restaurants, cafes and small grocers, like Main Street Bakehouse (bottom), The Smokery and the Meat Merchant developed special menus for pickup or delivery, while larger chains, such as St. Louis and Freshii, added a small menu of grocery items to their offerings.

PART 2 Local Businesses in the Wake of Pandemic

Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) conducted a business impact survey at the end of March to assess the early business impacts caused by business disruption. It showed that a quarter of small businesses didn’t think they could pay April’s commercial lease or mortgage payments.

The survey also found that the hardest-hit sectors include: Hospitality; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; and, Personal Services. In Whitchurch-Stouffville there are 266 businesses within the hardest-hit sectors as identified by CFIB, or 26.8% of our total business mix. Additionally, the Town has been concerned about the well-being of other identified at-risk sectors, such as Retail Trade, Healthcare & Social Assistance, and Educational Services, which account for another 28.5 % of the business mix, or 283 businesses.

March 2020 has turned out to be a month like no other in Canada’s economic history,” said Ted Mallett, CFIB’s vice-president and chief economist. “Small business sentiment has never been this low... including during the 2008 and 1990 recessions.”

Surveys Gone Viral

In the wake of a fast-changing economic environment, every business organization, municipality, county, region, province, state and nation has launched a business survey in order to assess the impact. The Stouffville Chamber of Commerce launched a business survey in March, and shortly after the Town partnered with the Northern 6 Communities of York Region to launch another survey.

Some of the frontrunners to release full community results were BC Chamber of Commerce, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Victoria

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Tech Sector, Toronto Region Board of Trade, Greater Houston Partnership, Orlando Economic Partnership, East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance (Arizona), and techUK. Together, these surveys have gathered the opinion of 12,196 businesses.

In general, these surveys concluded that an average of 87% of businesses have reported being impacted by the pandemic, while 45% report layoffs, and 25% have closed their businesses, either temporarily or permanently.

Further, 75% of businesses in BC reported a significant negative impact, 57% have canceled business events in Edmonton, 67% report reducing activity in Toronto, 41% said that they could survive the slowdown/shutdown for only 1 to 4 weeks in Houston, and 39% reported they have enough cash to survive up to 8 weeks in Orlando.

The Best Positioned

Surveys revealed that the Tech Sector has not only survived the initial impact of COVID-19, but has started to thrive. “Already, e-commerce predictions for 2020 have been exceeded, with lockdowns around the world forcing consumers to shop big online instead of in the shops,” reported *The Times of Israel* (26 March 20). “Netflix traffic has hit an all-time high, with demand so massive that the tech company has had to reduce the streaming quality across its platform to support larger audiences. Cloud platforms are supporting the workloads of millions of workers who have retreated to their homes to work remotely until this all boils over, and video meeting platforms like Zoom are absolutely booming.”

The Victoria Tech Sector found that 90% of employees are now or were already working remotely, 77% have had no reduction in staffing levels, and 40% expect to return to a greater headcount than before the crisis once this has ended.

Similar results were gleaned from techUK: “...Only 10% had seen their businesses ‘heavily’ impacted. This speaks to the resilience within the tech sector... the vast majority (92% of respondents) were able to take

meetings virtually, 90% of businesses who responded by ending all non-essential travel and almost half of those responding (48%) had instituted remote working from staff.”

Further, techUK reported that, “This level of flexibility speaks to the many tools technology companies employ on a day to day basis that has smoothed this transition and allowed companies to introduce social-distancing and remote-working measures quickly. These tools include but are not limited to: Collaboration software, Cloud storage and Conferencing facilities. Similarly, the culture within our sector – one that allows greater flexibility has allowed tech firms to respond in an agile and dynamic way.”

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, “The Tech Sector accounts for 30 businesses and 849 employees,” says Town Economic Development Officer David Tuley. “High Tech”, as it is often referred to, is spread across numerous broad sectors including Information, Services, and Manufacturing. “We have some stellar companies,” says Tuley, “like Wolf Advanced Technology, Scentroid, Teva, Cesaroni, Bizzzone, AcceInfo, 4GL Solutions, and Infomaxium – yet, they account for a minority of our overall economy.”

Our Business Mix

York Region recently released 2019 Employment Survey results. “It has always been a useful resource for job and business numbers,” said David Tuley. “But now, it is also useful if we are looking for an industry involved in critical processes - processes that can be converted for the development of medical supplies or hand sanitizer.”

The Survey results pointed to some favorable trends (pre-pandemic), with an Employment Growth of 6.6%. Additionally, it provides great insight into our business mix and business size).

97% of the businesses in Whitchurch-Stouffville have less than 100 employees, while 82% have less than 20 employees. According to StatsCan, any business with less than 100 employees is considered a “Small Business”.

Therefore, Whitchurch-Stouffville’s

economy is overwhelmingly being driven by small business enterprises. 75% of these businesses are involved in the “services-producing” sector, which is higher than the York Region average of 72%.

Collectively, the world is starting to assess the potential economic impact as we dig deeper into the COVID-19 economy. Certain business sectors and size classes will be more hard-hit than others. Right now, preliminary literature points to small businesses in the retail and restaurant sectors being the hardest hit. Other studies have indicated that enterprises run by female entrepreneurs are more highly leveraged, and will be duly more vulnerable.

Assistance for Businesses

The Government of Canada has announced multiple assistance programs to help both Businesses and Individuals. Often the announcement is weeks ahead of the implementation, and sometimes the programs have been modified (for the better) prior to availability.

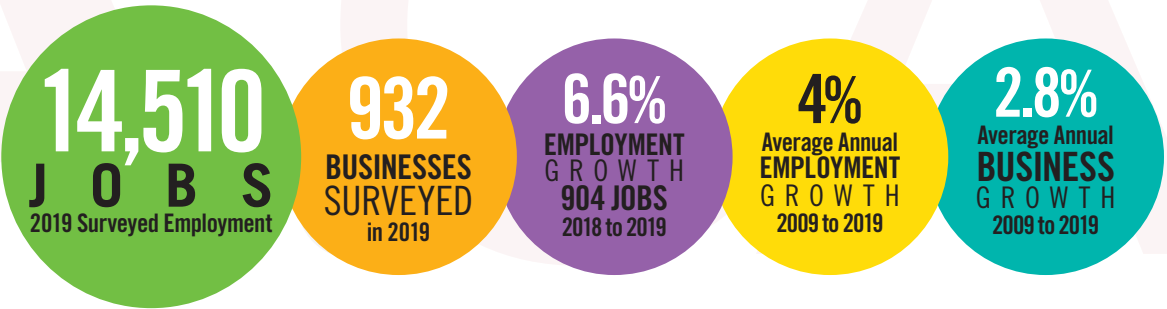
“It has been a real challenge for the business community to keep up with and navigate everything that’s coming at them,” says Tuley. Beginning around March 19, the Town started to list and describe all of these programs on a spreadsheet. This resource has been emailed out to hundreds of businesses, posted the spread to the Town’s website, and included in Digital Editions of OTR. The spreadsheet is updated weekly if there is anything new to include.

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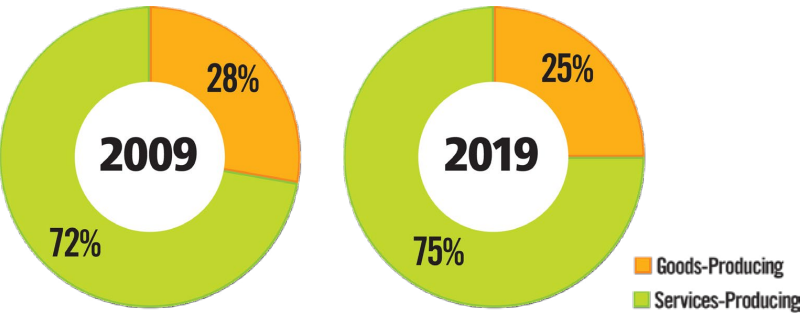
An example of a Town weekly spreadsheet that includes details pertaining to government assistance programs. These have been emailed to hundreds of local businesses and posted to the Town website.

EMPLOYEES	Need Help with Employment Insurance	Instructions	If your employees are directly affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) and they are no Record of Employment (ROE). When the employee is sick or quarantined, use code D (Ill separation (block 16). Do not add comments. When the employee is no longer working the business has closed or decreased operations due to coronavirus (COVID-19), use cc add comments. When the employee refuses to come to work but is not sick or quarantined (Leave of absence), as appropriate. Avoid adding comments unless absolutely necessary.	
	Need Help to Avoid Layoffs	Work-Sharing (WS) is a program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer.	The program provides Employment Insurance (EI) benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. Work-Sharing is an agreement between employers, employees and the Government of Canada.	Service
	Employee Leave Related to COVID-19	Instructions	Employees working in a federally regulated workplace are entitled to up to 16 weeks of leave if they are unable or unavailable to work due to COVID-19. For example, employees may be Quarantined or asked to self-isolate as a result of COVID-19; and, Required to provide care for someone who is sick with COVID-19.	

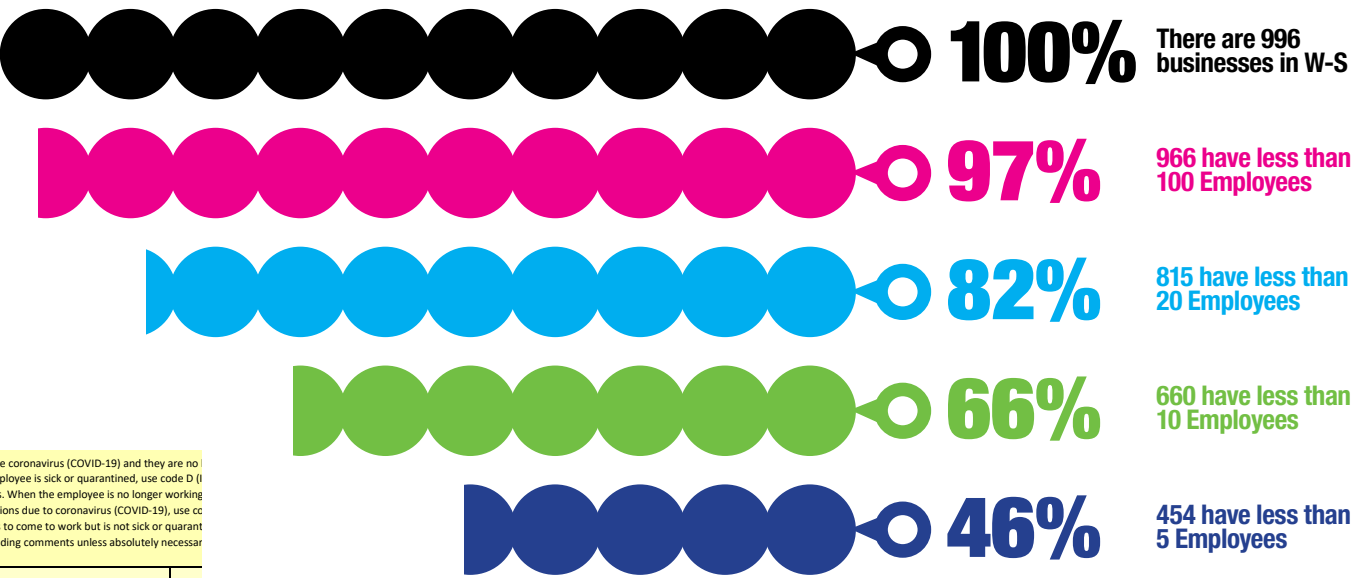
2019 Stats at a Glance



Share of Employment by Services-Producing and Goods-Producing Sectors, 2009 and 2019



W-S Businesses Classed by Size



PART 3

Helping Consumers Support Local Businesses

Beyond maintaining resource lists for businesses and tracking changes in the economy, the Town is launching a stand-alone website. As the introduction says, "Welcome to **L4A.ca** Your Local Everything website created to help our community find and support local businesses that are open and ready to provide their products and services to Stouffville!"

This site was launched in middle of the pandemic. Local businesses needed immediate action. The greatest challenge for consumers was to learn which businesses are operating, while businesses are challenged with messaging what they are offering to the consumer.

Most businesses have walked away from their websites, or have simply added a COVID pop-up message. But, the businesses that desire direct consumer sales have migrated to Facebook and Instagram; things that they can easily control without expertise.

To develop the original list of 150 businesses from the hardest-hit sectors - Retail, Food, Services, and Health - Economic Development staff looked at double that many Facebook sites and scoured social media channels. **L4A.ca** went live within 10 days, start to finish.

Since then, underutilized staff have been redeployed to help Economic Development. Now there is the capacity to reach out to every business weekly to update their weekly messages about special sales, discounts or virtual offerings. Each business will have an ambassador.

"We do not want this site to become a static business directory. The community does not stand still, and neither should this website. To be Everything Stouffville - we have to have fresh content," says Tuley.

The site is named after the predominant postal code in Whitchurch-Stouffville - L4A. More than 90% of the population lives in this postal code, except for people that use Gormley PO boxes, and an area in the northeast near the North Tract Forest. "Some people will surely want to poke me with a stick for this; however - I saved them the trouble of typing s-t-o-u-f-f-v-i-l-l-e over

and over like I have to on a daily basis - no offense - but I don't wish that on anyone that has the same lousy typing skills like me," exclaimed Tuley.

Participation in the site for businesses is free. The site is being funded by the Economic Development budget that was approved by Council for 2020 - nothing new. If a business would like to be added, just email David Tuley at ecdev@townofws.ca. "This isn't a 90-day fix. It will live past COVID. The need for Everything Stouffville has been there for a long time. I can't wait until Phase 2 of the project when we add tourism, arts, and recreational information," concluded Tuley. ⁽¹⁾

L4A.CA

EVERYTHING Stouffville

The screenshot shows the L4A.ca website interface with several key sections and annotations:

- Quick Navigation Bar:** Located at the top, it includes links for HOME, FOOD, HEALTH, RETAIL, SERVICES, and CONTACT.
- Business Name and Description:** The main content area displays business listings. For example, "Fishbone Bistro" is featured with the description: "We combine vibrant flavours of Portugal to bring you an unforgettable dining experience."
- Special Messages, can change weekly:** A section for special offers, such as "Isolation Package: DinnerFor2 \$59; DinnerFor4-6 \$119."
- Quick Picks: Food, Health, Retail, Services:** A row of four category-specific images (FOOD, HEALTH, RETAIL, SERVICE) with corresponding text labels.
- Contact Information with active web address:** A section for contact details, including address (6146 Main St, Stouffville ON), phone (905-640-0355), website (fishbonerestaurants.com), and email (orders@fishbonerestaurants.com).
- Community Spotlight, will change bi-monthly:** A section highlighting local businesses and organizations, including Reesor's, Angel Freedman (Registered Social Worker), rf. (redefined furniture), and MATHNASIUM (The Math Learning Centre).
- Typical Listing - contact info is collapsed:** A section for a typical business listing, such as "Freshii," which includes a collapsed contact information section.
- Photos of our Business People, constant scrolling:** A row of photos showing business owners and staff, including those from Hanson's Restaurant.

KEEPING SPIRITS ALIVE DURING A PANDEMIC

Fire Department taking it day-to-day as a ‘united team’

by Glenn Jackson, Contributor

There is no working from home for the crew of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services. The mighty men and women of Station 5-1 and 5-2 are on the front lines and see emergencies every day, but nothing prepared them for what the last month and a half has been like.

“The best part of our career is that no one day will be exactly like the next,” says Mike Lombardo, a 15-year veteran with the Whitchurch-Stouffville force and currently Career Acting Captain. “Surprises and changes are a big part of emergency response and we understand that we are in a time of even more surprises.”

Surprised or not, when the province, and then the Town, declared states of emergency in March, Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services was ready.

“It is our job to protect our community whether a state of emergency has been declared or not,” said Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Bill Snowball. “So other than changing a few protocols, we were well prepared when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.”

When called to an emergency now, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire crew will perform an on-site screening of individuals at the scene before entering any premise. After determining it is safe to enter, crews will tend to the emergency and assist anyone in need.

“With the outbreak of COVID-19 we have faced not only major on-scene operational changes but in-house day-to-day changes,” says Captain Dave Wilson, a 17-year veteran with the department. “We are paying close attention to limiting our staff’s exposures by allowing only one crew member to investigate and address such calls like carbon monoxide alarm activations, odor investigations, and medical emergencies unless additional support is found to be required.”

Response to fire emergencies has remained unchanged for the most part, according to Wilson.

“Enacting these protocols is for the betterment of all involved,” said Deputy Fire Chief Trevor Wawryk. “We must keep our firefighters and emergency responders safe

under all conditions. This is to not only benefit them and the resident requesting help, but also their families and others they have contact with every day.”

According to Lombardo, emergency protocols and procedures over the years have changed slowly and were easy to adjust to because the changes had been minor. But now with COVID-19, procedures with all types of calls has changed over 5 times in the last three weeks.

“We address these challenges by consistently educating ourselves on the latest protocol changes,” he says. “One thing also is to always remember that I, my fire crew, the department, and the public are all in this together.”

“The harder each one of us works to educate ourselves by following best practices, then the quicker we will win this battle and return to normality.”

Wilson echoes these sentiments but adds that changing the way they respond is difficult to ingrain into a responder when they are used to something for a very long time.

“One of the biggest challenges we have is dealing with the ability to change our mindset,” Wilson says. “The change in the approach we have to these types of calls - from all hands on deck to a more cautious approach - is tough to convey with a composite department.”

He also stresses that their ability to communicate the necessary and frequent changes to all their staff in a timely way can be challenging at times.

“The crew has been fantastic through the crisis. I am extremely proud of how the men and women of our team have pulled together during this time,” Wawryk said. “We are one big family coming together to help in any way we can.”

“Our fellow firefighters have been accepting these ongoing changes with open arms,” Lombardo says. “One of the first things we do when we show up for our shift is to review and update ourselves with any new practices. This has become the norm for us.”

The number of calls the Fire Department has received since the crisis began has been stable according to Wawryk.

“We have seen an increase in COVID-19-related calls recently, but in all, the overall number of calls is about the same as any other month,” he says.

Fire & Emergency Services recognizes the hardships that residents are going through right now, including health, social and financial challenges. But they are pleasantly surprised at how the community is pulling together to beat the spread of COVID-19.

“Absolutely,” says Lombardo when asked if residents have been accepting. “The protocols extend past first responders and pertain to the residents just as much. Everyone knows what’s going on with the COVID-19 virus and no one wants to see someone become infected with this virus.”

Wilson does, however, say there can be challenges in trying to convey that information to someone in dire need of assistance.

“It’s hard for anyone to understand slowing

Acting Captain Mike Lombardo (below) says community support has been great “for as long as I can remember.”



things down in their time of need. We try to talk with them and describe what is happening and why it is happening. This seems to help them understand why we are doing what we are.”

“The community support has been great, but they have been great for as long as I can remember,” Lombardo adds.

“We at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services would like to sincerely thank the community for all of their support through this crisis,” Chief Snowball says. “Together we are working to stop the spread

and we are encouraging everyone to play a role.”

“As with any pandemic outbreak there is always an element of fear, fear you’ll contract something, fear that you’ll be an asymptomatic carrier and give something to someone who may already have a lowered immune system,” Wilson says. “but with the amount of education and support we have from our management staff, our designated communicable disease officers and our health and safety committee, the feeling around the station is that of a united team. Everyone has the same goals here, to

From left, Captain Dave Wilson, Acting Captain Todd Balazs, Firefighter Kory Carriere and Firefighter Adam Kennedy.

provide excellent service and help whenever and wherever we can.”

The next time you see a Whitchurch-Stouffville fire truck around town, wave, give them a thumbs up. Acknowledge your thanks to that ‘united team’ for providing the best service they can, each and every day, pandemic or not. [1]

The Annual Art Show That We Missed

It would have been the 27th year for the Lemonville Group of Artists' Annual Show and Sale. "Life is a bit upside down these days and unfortunately we had to cancel our show," said member artist Diana Bullock. Instead, a virtual exhibition has begun on the Lemonville Group's home page. "You can browse our members' work on their page. We hope you enjoy the wide variety of subjects and styles," added Diana.

In the virtual exhibition you can reserve a painting for purchase - simply contact the artist for details and the price of the work. Each painting has a number 1 to 6 on the bottom of the image beside the artist's last name for identification. Pick up of paintings will be after the isolation protocols have been lifted at Lemonville Community Centre You will be contacted with the date when more is known. If for some reason the work is not what you were expecting, you can change your mind at that time.

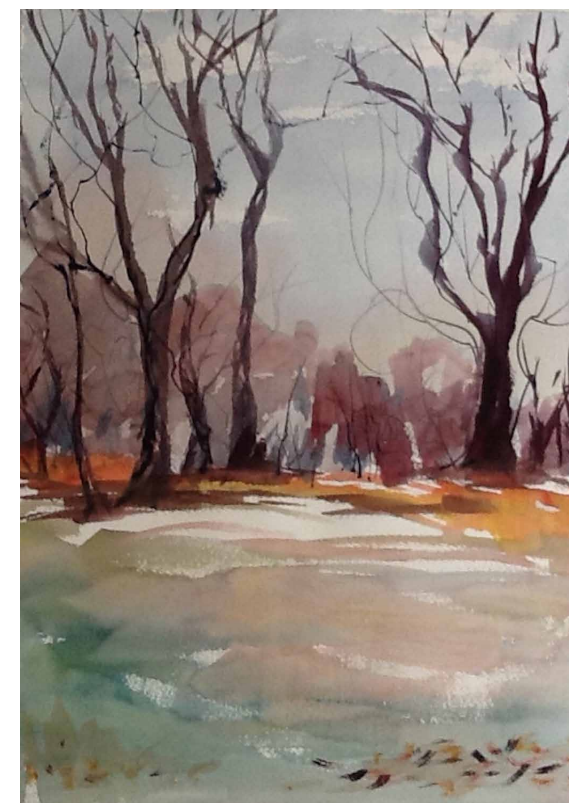
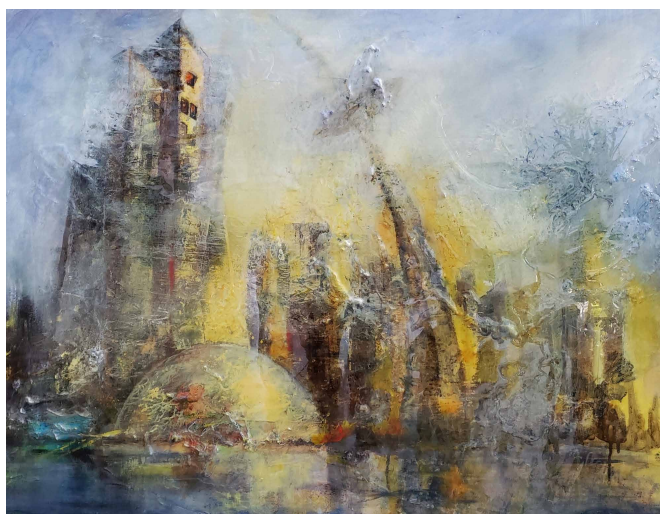
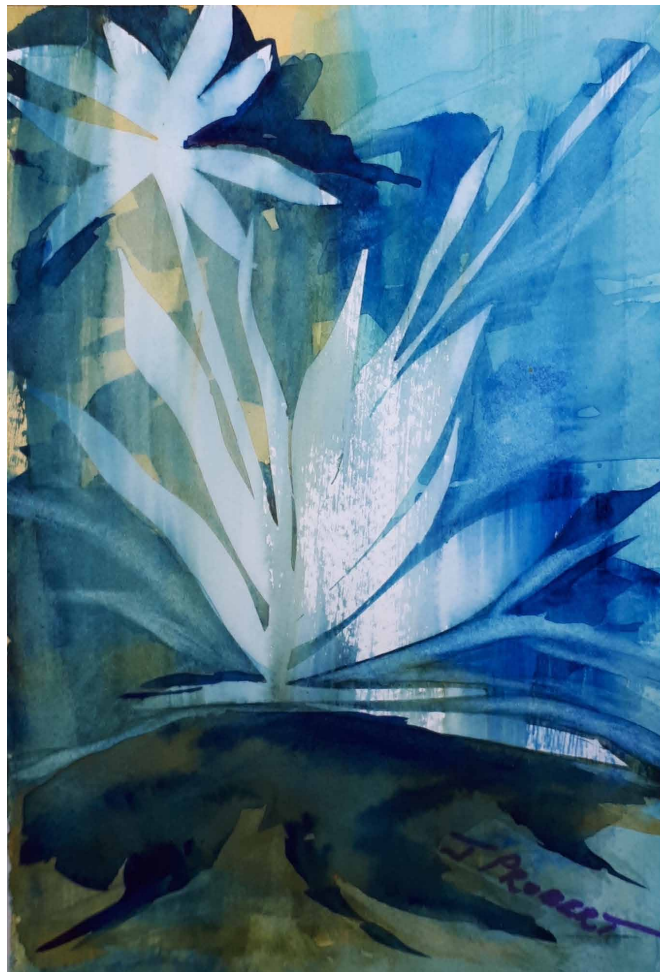


[above] Andrew Cherkas
[right] June Probert
[below] Nijole Cherkas
[below right] Nancy Traill Montero



The Group is a collection of twenty diverse and unique, emerging and established, artists sharing a common passion for painting. They normally meet weekly at the Lemonville Community Centre.

For now, please enjoy the following samples of 17 artists from the Group that were willing to share with OTR. Note: Diana Bullock's sample is on the Cover of OTR. To see the virtual exhibition, go to: www.lemonvillegroupofartists.com

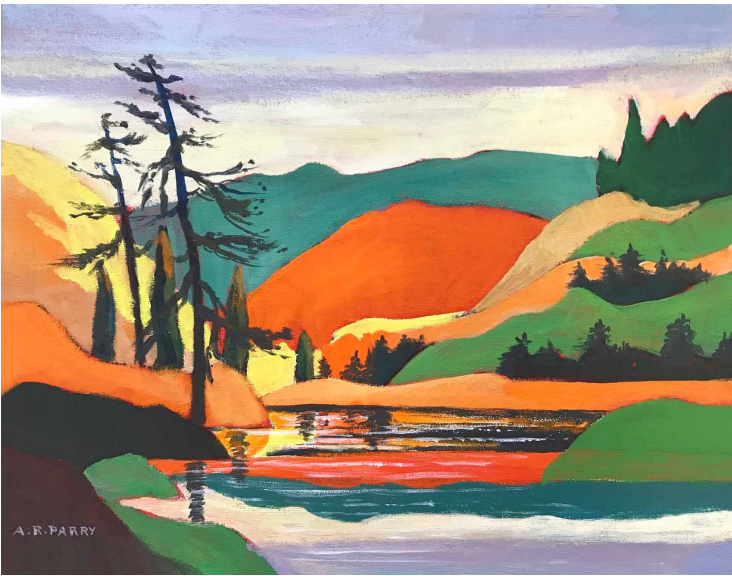
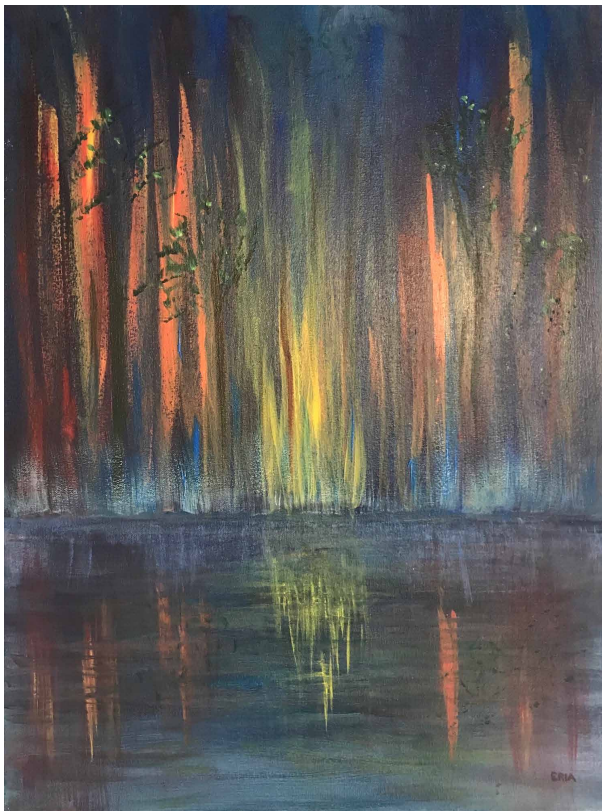


[above left] Fenella Rook Smith
[above] Morven Crothers
[left] Rosemarie Wright
[below right] Diane Passafiume





[above] Betty Cowan
[left] Eileen Christensen
[below] Eria Sotirakos
[below left] Ann Rosa



[top left] Joan Humphrey
[top right] Alicia Ruth Parry
[left] Vivienne Richards
[above] Sandra Cole Burke

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.



Alexa Schopfer Staying Positive in PJs

Staying Positive

There are countless articles and tidbits of information that say it's important to stay positive during this pandemic. It's difficult to decide whether the best part about all this is that we get to watch Justin Trudeau tousle his hair every day or that student loan payments have been deferred until September 30th.

Staying positive can be hard when there are a plethora of things that make each day difficult. So, I'd like to highlight a couple positive things that have come out of this pandemic so far: all podcast equipment is sold out on Amazon, so if you've ever wondered what Becky thinks about that gluten-free bagel recipe going around on Instagram you are about to find out; pollution has decreased significantly around the world; dogs are being adopted at an unprecedented rate and the phrase TGIF is being retired.

This time also allows us to make room for a little bit of philanthropy. If you are adjusting to your new work from home lifestyle or recently unemployed there are plenty of opportunities to lend a hand. The Town has launched the Community Care Network designed to connect people in our community who are in need of help with those who are looking to help out. The Library has launched the Community Check-in Service which enables residents to contact library staff regarding how the library can serve them during the closure. These inquiries can range from asking about online resources to chatting with library staff about books and films. Speaking of the Library, who knew that Lynda.com existed and is available for FREE to anyone that has a library card? It's nice to know I can come out of this quarantine with all these new skills, but probably still won't. The greatest realization is that it's not that I don't have time to learn how to do all the things I say I never have time to do, it's that a genuinely don't want to. But if I did, I certainly would be on Lynda.com and trying out Becky's recommended gluten-free bagel recipes.

I'm not an expert on Public Health and infectious disease, I'm not able to predict the state of the economy in 6 months but according to my parents and older aunts I am a technology expert. So in between teaching my parents how to use ZOOM and learning TikTok dances life has been pretty crazy. I'm an introvert at heart so part of me feels like I've been training my whole life for physical distancing. Not to brag but I have pretty successfully adapted to this new way of life.

Some of my favourite ways to pass time include; curling up with a book, learning to embroider (it's trendy now, don't judge),

making my bed Every. Single. Day. Which I definitely recommend to give the illusion that you have your life together and of course getting outside for a run and some fresh air. Most of my workouts consist of dumbbells and burpees in my basement but each day I spend at least 30 minutes outside, even if that means I'm wearing a toque at the end of April. Canadian weather, amirite?!

While making light of the situation is also a coping mechanism please don't forget that there are people who are sick, there are people that put their health and the health of their families at risk just by going to work and people who don't have homes to isolate into. This is a real turning point for our society and I think it's forcing us all to confront some tough realities on how our existence in this society can help or hinder our neighbours. Which reminds me of my favourite quote "unless somebody like you cares a whole awful lot nothing is going to get better. It's not."- Dr Suess.

Doing small things each day that feel productive prevent the feeling that 'life is an endless void' even though it may seem like a chore, do it for you! While living in the suburbs may not allow for singing on the balcony to your neighbours you can still give a big cheesy grin to people you walk past. The last tip – ask the grocery store/bank teller/ pharmacist how they're doing and thank them for showing up each day so our community can live as normal a life as possible. [1]



30 minutes outside for Cassandra

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

Giving BACK

with DAVE MILLS



The WS Food Bank

Now more than ever Canadians are showing their true colours by giving back to their communities in so many generous ways. It's incredible seeing people working together, trying to support each other in any way they can. It is truly a heartwarming experience.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is a great example of this. I have witnessed and been part of some of these giving back moments. From neighbours helping neighbours with grocery shopping, dropping off masks to our frontline retail workers, homemade meals delivered to frontline workers that otherwise wouldn't have time for a good meal, drive-by parades showing support at Parkview Village and Buckingham Manor.

There are many organizations giving back and food being one of the most important necessities these organizations have stepped up during this unprecedented time. The food bank is one of those organizations going nonstop during this crisis and I sat down with Julie Stevens and Susan Smith, co-chairs of the Whitchurch Stouffville Food Bank.

"The Whitchurch Stouffville Food Bank is completely independent and solely run on volunteers and depends on 100% donations", said Julie. "Like other essentials services we had to implement a Pandemic Protocol in order to respect physical distancing. Fewer volunteers in our warehouse at a time increased disinfecting and cleaning of high touch surfaces, volunteers are provided with gloves and masks, no clients entering the facility and are being asked to take a number

and wait to be called. When they are called their order is at the door ready for them." All these protocols were discussed at length with York Region Public Health.

They have a roster of about 40 volunteers including board members who pick up groceries from the bins at local grocery stores, sort donations to ensure that donations are not expired or past best before dates, stock shelves and help clients with placing orders, manage their social media, monitor fiscal responsibilities, and provide administrative and management support.

Because of new COVID-19 physical distancing procedures, we have reduced volunteers to a small core group. Typically, there are 5 volunteers at a time in the warehouse that between them spend about 20 hours stocking/sorting, as well as helping clients with their orders on client days (Monday and Wednesday morning).

"Our volunteer Board Members have been working overtime trying to determine the best/safest methods to accept donations, sort and stock donations, and to ensure we can safely provide clients with their orders". Said Susan. "Many of our volunteer Board Members are stocking/sorting/order preparation to further reduce exposure to our regular volunteers and clients".

Frontline volunteers who fulfill food orders include Charlotte Chesham (Operational Manager, shopper), Angela, Jan, Cathy, Dianne. Warehouse Volunteers who sort donations, check expiry dates, stock our shelves include Michael, Robert, Jesse. Regular Drivers who pick up from grocery store bins include Steve, Brian, Wayne, Scott.

Local business support has been tremendous. Businesses have shared that COVID-19 has affected them but that they knew that people in town were facing even greater hardships. "We have been so fortunate to have an outpouring of support from local businesses of all sizes and types, from coffee shops, grocery outlets, automotive retailers, financial institutions, bakeries, restaurants, retail outlets, farm markets, nurseries, from individuals, sports teams, church groups, neighbourhood and social committees, specialty groups, from school lunch/snack

programs when the school delay was announced and many, many more," said Julie and Susan.

It amazes me how people come together in hard times and there have been some great examples of the way people shine in moments of hardship. The stories are countless and I am sure you all have your share of them. Julie and Susan shared a couple with me that I would like to pass on.

"Glen the Baker is a lovely gentleman with a bakery beside our facilities. Since the pandemic, he's been bringing our volunteers sandwiches to help keep them energized while they work, and has also baking for the clients".

"Donations of masks and gloves have allowed us to keep helping those in need – without masks and gloves we would have lost some key volunteers who were feeling physically insecure, despite our Pandemic Physical Distancing Protocols".

"Unprecedented offers of support from individuals in our town, with offers to volunteer in many different capacities".

In closing I asked Julie and Susan what message they would like to get out to our communities, this is their message.

"At this time, in order to respect social distancing, we are asking that people who are interested in donating goods while they are already out, to please use the bins at our local grocery stores. Online donations can be made through our website at [HTTPS://wsfoodbank.ca/donate](https://wsfoodbank.ca/donate)"

"The Whitchurch Stouffville Foodbank has benefited from the extreme generosity of the individuals and businesses in our town – our shelves are stocked and we stand ready to help you in a non-judgmental way. All that is needed at this time is id with proof of residency to receive support (we can only support persons who reside in the town of Whitchurch Stouffville)."

I encourage everyone to give back in any way they can. Stay Safe and Social Distance everyone one, we will get through this together, Dave!

CONTACT Dave Mills, david@stouffville.com

From WHERE I LIVE

with BRUCE STAPLEY



Third Wave Coffee Movement Percolates with Passion

While the origins of coffee as we know it can be traced back to what is now Yemen in southern Arabia, its evolution in the modern era has been broken into three ‘waves’ by people for whom java is much more than a caffeine delivery mechanism.

The first wave began in the 1960s when coffee consumption grew exponentially, becoming widely accessible at reasonable cost. Free refills were standard, instant coffee became the rage and there was no discrimination as to the origin of the beans or beverage type.

Wave two saw an increase in the quality of coffee in the early 70s as big companies such as Starbucks started shifting the focus to that of a pleasing specialty beverage experience.

With this came a greater awareness of the importance of the entire supply chain, from producers to consumers.

The turn of the century brought with it the third wave coffee movement as the more commodity-based trade practices gave way to an emphasis on taste quality, unique flavours and equitable relationships with suppliers. Small independently owned and operated cafes have sprung up, including several in Stouffville, with one thing in common: “The indie (independent) coffee houses have to have the interest in, and passion for, coffee,” insists Mark Hayward, whose own passion led him to abandon a career as a civil engineer to open Velvet Sunrise Coffee Roasters in Stouffville in 2009.

Mark combs the world’s four major coffee-growing regions – Indonesia, Africa, South and Central America – in pursuit of the

highest quality mountain grown coffee available, which he imports, roasts and wholesales to coffee houses across the GTA and beyond. He has visited coffee farms in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras to establish relationships with growers who become part of his supply chain.

Mark’s customers include The Main Street Bakehouse and Eatery and the Reesor’s Market and Bakery café here in Town. He also makes his freshly roasted specialty coffees available for local java junkies who manage to find their way to his remote Ringwood Drive premises to take home and brew on their own. “I know that everybody who walks through the front door is here for one thing; they’re here because they love coffee,” he says.

Mark is more than happy to share his vast knowledge of coffee varieties and brewing methods, offering homebrew and home barista seminars that include pointers on water quality choices, appropriate brewing techniques, equipment adjustments and proper recipes for the coffee they choose.

Stouffville’s independent cafes are staffed by baristas who have put in time and commitment to learn the art of preparing the lengthy line-up of specialty coffees. “It may look easy but it’s a lot of hard work,” says Cheeyuen Lim, who left a career as a management consultant to follow his own passion for coffee when he opened the Red Bulb Espresso Bar on Main St. in 2010. “You can spend at least 6-8 months in tasting, making, fine-tuning. There are so many different recipes you need to remember.”

Christina Kourtsidis agrees. Along with partners Nora and Brianna Belo, Christina runs the popular family-owned and operated Main Street Bakehouse and Eatery. She says the learning curve is steep for people looking to master the art of specialty coffee preparation.

“When I started out I had to learn so much – dark roasts, the notes in coffee, the many flavours an espresso bean can have,” said Christina. “There’s so much that can go wrong; the steaming and the consistency of the milk, espresso pressed just the right amount, the different lattes and cappuccinos. It’s a craft.”

Mike Han and his brother Raphaen own and operate The Love of Joe, which opened the Town’s first independent specialty coffee house in 2006. Mike feels that a good indie cafe should offer quality craft coffee and an

environment in which to enjoy it. “Specialty coffee is like a science, it takes good coffee beans, good coffee machines and good people preparing it. But it’s the customers who come in and talk, exchange information and ideas about things like health, education, their kids, buying and selling their house. They are the nicest people, they worry about each other.”

Reesor’s Market and Bakery expanded its cafe section to include specialty coffee beverages three years ago and has been developing a faithful following ever since. Café manageress Kate Wallis says it is worth all the effort involved in learning how to prepare the array of java offerings when you are greeting



Mark Hayward (left) examines the coffee crop at La Pastora coffee farm in Costa Rica.

customers on a regular basis. “I see some of them walk through the door and I start making their coffee for them,” she said.

And while Stouffville’s indie coffee houses all offer baked goods and an array of food items made onsite to enhance the coffee drinking experience, it’s the java that drives the agenda, according to Red Bulb’s Cheeyuen Lim. “It’s always about the coffee. Nothing is more important for me.” [1]

CONTACT Bruce Stapley, bstapley@sympatico.ca

‘Champs’ triumphed through adversity of COVID-19

Connor Cadaret was on the verge of realizing a dream. Then, COVID-19 stomped in and burst the bubble.

Sort of.

Growing up in Stouffville, Cadaret won three Ontario Minor Hockey Association titles as a member of Clipper squads. One of those teams travelled to the Czech Republic in 2008 and saw Canada win the World Juniors. Lifetime friendships were forged. Teammates became brothers.

Now 26 and a client advisor with RBC, Cadaret returned to his roots as an assistant coach on the 2004-born Clipper rep team in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association four years ago. The 2019-20 season, his second as head coach of the squad, was definitely dreamy. His minor midget Clippers easily won their regular-season championship then advanced to the OMHA AA finals after playoff series wins over TNT (Tottenham New Tecumseth), Newmarket, Markham and Kingston. Their record: 40-13-9, including 17-2-5 in league play.

Cadaret, the grandson of CFL legend Russ Jackson, called it “magical”. The team became his “second family”. His group of 16-year-olds was scheduled to face the top-ranked team in Ontario from Oakville when...

“There were definitely tears when I heard the news that the OMHA finals were cancelled and that my players, my family, would not be able to experience that championship feeling and see their dreams turn into reality,” Cadaret wrote in an essay featured on the OMHA website. “My dream turned into a nightmare.”

Only briefly.

“Immediately after the season was cancelled, my tears of sadness turned to tears of joy, as I saw the culture that I had wanted to build when I stepped into this role as coach, come to fruition right before my eyes. That night, I saw players reaching out to one another over social media. I heard our players were coming together and being there for each other to talk their way through this tough news.”

Cadaret and his assistants – Paolo Chemello, Denver Gray, Todd Barclay and his brother, Chris Cadaret – were impressed. “I had players reach out to me to see how I was handling this news,” said Cadaret, who will coach the AAA York Simcoe Express U13 team next season. “Players were saying that

this was ‘out of our control’. ‘All we can do is focus on what we can do to help and trust that things will get better if we do’. It made me feel as though I had done my job. ... They didn’t need to win a championship to become connected for the rest of their lives. They already were.”

More evidence?

The players and their parents surprised Cadaret and his staff with a drive-by parade past his family home in Stouffville early last month. Horns honked and best wishes were yelled at a safe distance from trucks and SUVs, some decorated with balloons in Clipper colours.

The Clippers will receive the coveted OMHA ‘red hats’ normally awarded only to champions, the OMHA recently announced. The finalists in all divisions have also been awarded the title of co-champion.

Connor Cadaret and his Clippers were not alone. Three other Clipper teams were preparing for the York Simcoe Hockey League finals. The Ontario Women’s Hockey Championships were cancelled March 13. Teams from the Stouffville-Markham Girls Hockey Association were scheduled to take part in the massive tournament at now-shuttered rinks across the GTA from April 2 to 5.

The Jr. A Stouffville Spirit found some magic of its own in the Ontario Junior Hockey League playoffs. They came back from 2-0 and 3-2 deficits to win their opening-round, best-of-seven series, including a nail-biter of a Game 7 win in front of 1,000 mostly enemy fans in Collingwood March 9. The Spirit was preparing to tackle the Pickering Panthers in an OJHL quarter-final for the North Division banner later that week when....



The Stouffville minor midget Clippers were set to begin the Ontario Minor Hockey Association AA championship series when COVID-19 cancelled their season – and others. (photo by Brianna Ferguson)

SportsTown

with JIM MASON



“After all the adversity we went through, it was pretty special,” said Andrew Campoli, who was appointed co-head coach with Brandon Kearnan a week before the season opened. “We’d obviously still like to be playing, but to be the only team to win a Game 7 and to have played the most hockey (in the 22-team OJHL) this season... We got our money’s worth. It was quite a year.”

The Spirit also cancelled its annual spring rookie/development camp at the Stouffville Arena.

Like hockey organizations around the world – from the house leagues and beer leagues in Stouffville to the big league – it’s currently on hold. [1]

CONTACT Jim Mason
jimmason905@gmail.com

May 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., May 5, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., May 19, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., June 2, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings (if required):

- Tues., May 19, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tues., May 26, 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](https://twitter.com/ws_townhall).

Join our Council E-Newsletter at: ee?url.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

Notice of Public Meeting

THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT 014-2019 TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENT

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 May 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. by way of a virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams to inform the public with respect to Town initiated proposed zoning by-law amendments under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P13.

In order to access the Microsoft Teams virtual Public Meeting information and how to connect, please contact Town staff or visit the Town's website at: <https://bit.ly/3auyhzX>

THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT of the proposed amendments to the Town's Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 2010-001-ZO is to make housekeeping and technical changes including clarifications to definitions and general provisions, and corrections to inconsistencies errors and omissions. Please see the link above for the details of the proposed amendments.

ANY PERSON may attend the Microsoft Teams virtual Public Meeting and make written and/or verbal representation either in support of or against the proposed zoning by-law amendments. For those who wish to speak to Council via the Microsoft Teams virtual meeting, please contact Town Staff in advance. Town Staff will assist delegates to become familiar with the Microsoft Teams virtual meeting process prior to the date of the meeting. Any person may send written comments to the Town, via email at housekeepingzbla@townofws.ca, or can call in and provide comments. The dial-in

information will be available on the website prior to the virtual Public Meeting at a later date.

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, 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, 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.

All information including opinions, presentations, reports, documentation, etc. provided for or at a Public Meeting are considered public records. This information may be posted on the Town's website and/or made available to the public upon request.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville on the proposed amendments to the Zoning By-law, you must make a written or oral submission (email, mail or phone call) as identified above to the Town (phone number to be provided on Town's website).

DATED AT the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, this 20th day of April, 2020.

How to Avoid Cabin Fever

Are you feeling bored or frustrated because you have been stuck inside for too long? Social distancing does not mean you have to sit around the house staring at the walls. Now is the perfect time to be getting active, being creative and experiencing the great outdoors. Check out the variety of listings at townofws.ca/whatsnew to find something interesting to do!

May 2020 COMMUNITY NEWS

 THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Get Moving with the Mayor!

Whether on your bike, running, or an at-home workout, we encourage you to get active and have fun! Share your workout photo with us using [#WSGetMoving](https://twitter.com/WSGetMoving) and be entered in a draw for a Canadian Tire Gift Card.

One person from each category will be chosen at random to win the Gift Card. Categories include: Wheels, On Foot, or Other.

This virtual event is presented by the Town of W-S Special Event team! facebook.com/TWSEvents or email events@townofws.ca

Spring Active Living Challenge

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville invites you to stay active during these difficult times of isolation and physical distancing. Each week try to increase your time or number of days active. Try walking, jogging, cycling, stair climbing, body weight exercises or yoga. Anything that gets you moving counts. Challenge your family or friends - do it with your kids.

This challenge runs until May 31 and you can join in on the fun at any time. Please visit townofws.ca/wschallenge for more details and tracking sheets. There will be prizes specifically for children so don't forget to have your child include their age!

Latcham Art Centre

Although we are closed, Latcham Art Centre is still engaging our community with a social media virtual tour of work from our Annual Juried Exhibition, and encouraging creativity with our "Homegrown Collection" virtual community sketchbook!. See latchamartcentre.ca/?q=events/homegrown-collection for details about sharing your work, or viewing the sketchbook and follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram!

Water Can Be Deadly If You Fall into Cold Water

Water Smart® Tips at townofws.ca/whatsnew

COVID-19 Information

OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

All outdoor recreation amenities are now closed. These include all playgrounds, sports fields (baseball diamonds, soccer fields, cricket pitches), basketball courts, tennis courts, off-leash dog parks, skateboard parks, picnic areas, outdoor community gardens, park shelters, outdoor exercise equipment, condo parks and gardens, and school parks and playgrounds. Police and by-law officers are now charging violators. 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

The amount of time the Leisure Centre is closed will be added to your existing membership. Residents are asked to call the Leisure Center at (905) 642-7529 for more details. Registrations for spring programs has been suspended.

TAX AND WATER PAYMENTS

For tax bills due on April 17 and water & wastewater bills due on April 27, the Town will waive the interest penalty until May 29, at which time each account is due in full. Accounts that have not been paid at that

date will have interest applied commencing June 1. For more information about property taxes, please visit townofws.ca/taxes. For more information about water and sewer bills, please visit townofws.ca/waterbills. Further inquiries should be directed to Customer Service at (905) 640-1900.

BY-LAW INQUIRIES

Municipal By-Law Enforcement officers continue to address residents' needs and concerns. Town By-Law officers on patrol have been assisting York Regional Police enforcing the regulations in parks and parkettes.

By-Law officers can facilitate tickets by telephone, online or by email. Parking bylaws are being enforced, and we remind people not to park in a fire route or an accessible parking space without a permit.

Animal Services' calls will be responded to on a case-by-case basis. Our shelter has been shut down to the public therefore we will no longer be able to take in domestic animals. The Town encourages any dog owners who have not yet purchased their dog tag to do so by visiting townofws.ca/dogtags

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. 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. Detailed information at townofws.ca/covid19

WASTE COLLECTION

Solid waste collection, recycling and yard waste will continue as usual. Inquiries should be directed to Green For Life (GFL) Customer Service at 1-866-421-5625.

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Our on-call Operator is available through the Town's after hour service at (905) 640-1900. Down stop signs, flooding, trees that have fallen across roads/sidewalks will be dealt with immediately. Other road activities such as tree trimming, pothole patching, will continue.

Water quality sampling will continue as per Provincial regulations and water/wastewater emergencies such as breaks and backups, will be dealt with immediately.

W-S PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library is currently closed to the public. The due date for all checked-out circulating materials has been extended. No late fees will accrue on materials that were originally due during the closure period. COVID-19 update page: wsplibrary.ca/about/covid-19



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EVERYTHING *Stouffville*

