

OTR

JANUARY 2021

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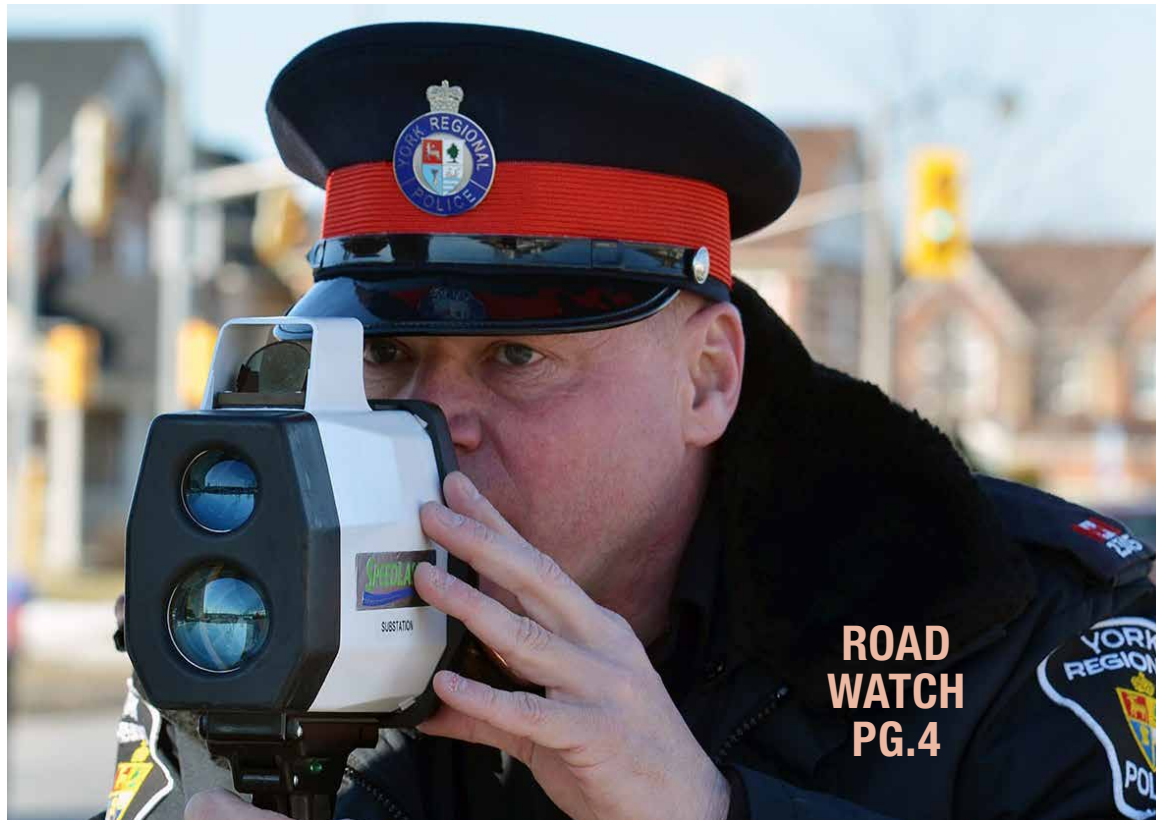
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FROM THE EDITOR

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, we learn about initiatives, such as the Town Strategic Plan, #SkipTheDishes, Road Watch, Adopt-a-Senior and Matching Grants Awards. We take a Walk with Roger and a journey with Michael Castello.

During tough times it is good to read about innovations, such as the new Trading Post at Century Mill and Kind Laundry, and new job creation at Mon Sheong.

One year has passed since we installed regular columnists. The value provided by Jim Mason, Bruce Stapley, Dave Mills, and Susan Tucker has been great. For sure, this will continue into the New Year. Jake MacAndrew has shown us that students can lend a great hand too.

It is that time of year again - I get bored with the look of OTR and "refresh the brand". Glenn, our Communications guru, says that playing with a brand is generally a bad idea. Ha! He's right, but OTR has never been about the rules.

This issue brings awareness to twenty-four businesses, and nine matters of community importance. It is about who we are and where we live. Happy Holidays and stay safe. [i]

David Tuley, Editor & Designer
Economic Development Officer
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Celebrating 59 yrs in Durham and GTA

Evening 3-hour parking limits removed

18-storey condo; operating and capital budgets; new transit service on agendas

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

Parking Bylaw Changes. The last couple of months have seen quite a few changes to the Town's parking bylaw. In October, Council approved several amendments, including removing the 3-hour parking limit on Main Street between 3:01 p.m. and 2 a.m. Visitors to downtown can now enjoy the many merchants and stores without worrying about getting a parking ticket for parking over three hours.

Also included in those October changes were administrative, educational and policy amendments. These included on-street parking exemptions for tenants of registered second suites, the removal of the need to print parking permits, and ensuring future subdivisions are designed with a focus on parking, including garage space, driveway, and on-street parking space.

The parking bylaw was further amended at the December 15 Council meeting when removing the 3-hour parking limit was extended to all residential streets. Residents can now park between 6:01 p.m. and 2 a.m. year-round, without the worry of getting a ticket.

The three-hour limit remains for all other times of the day. There is no parking between December 1 – March 31 from 2 a.m. – 6 a.m. on any residential street.

For more information, including permits, visit townofws.ca/parking

18-Storey Residence Proposed. At the November 17 Public Meeting, Council heard information about a proposed 18-storey mixed-use building on Main Street.

The proposal, submitted by Topfar Main Street Inc., is located at 5513 Main Street next to the Royal Bank. The submission calls for 309 residential units (both condominiums and rentals) and commercial and retail areas.

If built as submitted, the proposal would require amendments to the Official Plan and Zoning By-Laws.

New Transit Service. At the December 15 Council meeting, York Region Transit gave



ABOVE: Topfar Main Street Inc. is proposing to built an 18-storey condominium/rental complex with commercial and retail space on Main Street west of Sandiford Drive. The Public Meeting was held in November with the application expected to be before Council sometime in 2021.

a presentation outlining their new Mobility On-Request Service in Stouffville.

The service allows users to travel from an address in Stouffville, Bloomington, Musselman's Lake or Ballantrae to one of five select locations in Stouffville.

The service runs 10 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. – 10:45 p.m. Trips can be booked on the YRT's mobile app or by calling 1-844-667-5327.

The five drop-off locations in Stouffville are Walmart, No Frills, Stouffville GO Station, Public Library/Leisure Centre and the east end plaza at Main Street and Tenth Line.

Payment accepted includes PRESTO, the YRT Pay app, tickets and exact change. For more information, visit yrt.ca/MOR

2021 Budget Passed. On December 2, Council approved the 2021 Operating and

Capital budget for Whitchurch-Stouffville. The total 2021 operating tax levy will be \$62,428,485, and the capital expenditures will be \$12,955,600. This translates into a 0.89 percent tax levy increase for day-to-day operating expenses and a 1.00 percent capital levy.

The levy change influences the Town's tax rate, which is currently the seventh-lowest of the 27 municipalities in the GTHA. The amount of change a resident will see on their tax bill is dependent on the tax rate and the value of the property as determined by MPAC. [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/cmlivestream.
Live tweets: @ws_townhall



[above] Constable Patrick Gros demonstrates the use of a speed laser. He is an advisor from the York Regional Police that assists the Road Watch Working Group, which is being lead by the Town Public Works Department.

Volunteer Spokepeople, include Scott Lonegran [middle] and Phil Hardy [below].



Scott is a life-long Stouffville resident. "One way I can help make my community as safe as possible for all residents. Living and working in town, I have seen first-hand that we need to raise awareness of road safety for all. My previous volunteer involvement includes 10 years with the Stouffville Community Policing Centre and currently representing Stouffville on the York Region Road Watch committee."

Phil has been a proud member of the Stouffville community since 2004. "My motivation for volunteering for the Road Watch Committee was simply one of concern for safety and respect. I am concerned about the dramatic increase in traffic fatalities and believe that the best long-term plan would involve raising awareness within the community and developing a social consciousness regarding increased volume of traffic."

ROAD WATCH WORKING GROUP ramps up awareness campaign

by David Tuley

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has recently reinstated a working group for the Road watch committee. Road Watch is a community-driven program created to allow citizens to report aggressive driving in their community.

Councillor Sherban said "I am happy to have initiated the return of the Road Watch committee, we need to assure our residents that road safety is top of mind and there needs to be more done through education to help prevent distracted driving and the road warriors from using our neighbourhoods as runway strips. I have had signs made up saying 'SLOW DOWN Kids Playing' for residents who want them and have looked at other communities for alternative road calming measures like rumble strips, narrower roads, bump-outs whatever it may take that is both safe for our EMS but helps prevent accidents and improves road safety."

York Regional Police endeavors to reduce motor vehicle collisions and enhance road safety for all road users and work in collaboration with our citizens to achieve that goal. As the owner and/or operator of a vehicle you can contribute to the goals of York Regional Police by practicing safe driving, being considerate of others and promoting road safety at every opportunity. Be a role model in your community and lead by example. You may submit a Road Watch report if you:

- Witness another vehicle that is being operated in an unsafe manner such as speeding, disobeying stop signs or red lights, failing to signal lane changes, etc. and
- You must include the licence plate of the other vehicle and a description of what you saw and when/where you saw it happen. Please attach any photos or videos you may have.

Constable Gros reminds us that a "rolling stop" is not stopping. He says that the The Ontario Highway Traffic Act requires that, "Every driver or streetcar operator approaching a stop sign at an intersection, shall stop his or her vehicle or street car at a marked stop line or, if none, then immediately before entering the nearest crosswalk or, if none, then immediately before entering the intersection."

Drivers should be aware that the penalty for failing to stop at stop signs is a fine of \$110.00 and three (3) demerit points upon conviction. The Highway Traffic Act also makes it an offence if the driver were to stop at the wrong place in relation to stopping for the stop sign.

Any moving traffic violation (speeding, right light infractions, stunt driving, etc.) may cause your insurance premiums to be increased.

"Driving is a privilege and not a right. Let us do our part in keeping the community safe," said Constable Gros.

Please note that these reports can be made available to the public, including complainant information through the Freedom of Information. If you wish to remain anonymous, please visit or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Call 9-1-1 if you believe the driver is:

- Impaired
- Driving erratically/aggressively
- Displaying road rage behaviour
- You believe there is immediate danger to the public.

Please remember that filing a false police report is a criminal offence. Tips on how to file a Road Watch Complaint: onlinereporting.yrp.ca/RoadWatch.html. [1]

LETTERS

My name is Shani MacIntosh and I grew up not far from Stouffville. Just a little over 3 years ago, my kid's dreams came true after years of begging for a dog. I was so overwhelmed never owning a dog in my adult life and I had no idea what to do or not do. I turned to some friends of friends to figure out my next steps regarding how to help this puppy grow into the amazing dog she is today and the name Darlene @ K9's in Kahoots was mentioned over and over. So I gave a call to Darlene and my world of owning the greatest puppy became an extraordinary experience.

I'm writing because in the 3 years that I've been taking Frankie (my Goldendoodle) to K9's in Kahoots, I also stop locally and always pick up the monthly Stouffville magazine and it amazes me that never once was this amazing business ever mentioned. Why is that? This is a golden business that has provided my family and I peace of mind and I'm sure we aren't the only happy family learning about dog socialization and the benefits. Doggy daycare is just the greatest miracle ever!

Darlene is what I would consider a "dog whisperer" and I'm not kidding. Her staff are incredible, they care and are there for the dogs. We started puppy training not knowing that this small business would become a staple in our lives and I've been making the drive weekly to ensure that Frankie can visit with her friends at least once a week. It's been a little over 3 years and Darlene is still my "dog whisperer".

Selfishly I want this business to succeed, to continue to grow and to be there for years to come. It's Frankie's second home.

A COMMUNITY EFFORT adopt-a-senior

by David Tuley

What about the plight of the valued members of our local senior community during the COVID pandemic? As we all go about our daily lives, we don't often think of our senior population. Lockdowns have been especially hard on them with some being restricted to one room in an institution and being denied access to friends and family, daily activities and even dining facilities where they can normally socialize with their fellow residents. The Adopt-A-Senior program was developed to bring some special cheer to our seniors. It began when a local volunteer and community advocate Susan Tucker asked this very question: "Who is looking after the seniors?"

Susan wanted to know that something was being done. She wasn't seeking an ultimate fix to the senior dilemma, but something to brighten their days over the holiday season. She pondered the idea of gift bags and spoke with the management at the Buckingham Manor to develop a conceptual wish list. Susan was stunned by how many of the items were to fill daily needs, like soaps, shampoo and other essentials. With the need established, the idea of the Adopt-A-Senior program became cemented.

She made a few calls, reaching out to local businesses for donations. The response was overwhelming - financial commitments totaling to \$4,070 from (chronological order): Mayor Iain Lovatt, Zeal Burgers, Jodi McGuirk - Keller Williams Realty, On Point Home Services, Michael Roseman CA, Becky

Sullivan-Stedman, Jodi Shaw-Dorfman, Elica Mackovski-Ivansovski, Victoria Taing Li, Fickle Pickle Restaurant, O'Neill Funeral Home, No Frills, Metro, Councillor Sue Sherban, Canadian Tire - Stouffville, Jennifer Vargas and Samantha D'Souza.

Fabric "Stouffville Cares" bags to hold the gifts were donated, and the shopping team set out to fill the bags through donations and purchases. A connection to Procter & Gamble arranged for a donation of toiletry items, Redefined Finds gave scarves, while Lindy's Floral Boutique donated bath soaps and ceramic pots for succulent plants. The Trentadue Torres team donated a large supply of socks, Stouffville I.D.A. and Pharmasave provided products at cost, No Frills and Metro provided gift cards to purchase items in their stores. It was also a target to keep all the shopping to local stores to support our town businesses.

Susan has been thrilled with the project. "It has been a community effort - powered by neighbours," she said. The gift bags will be delivered to seniors the week of December 21-24. [1]



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MEET MICHAEL CASTELLO



MEET MICHAEL CASTELLO: YOUR NEIGHBOUR

The story of a man who went from candy to cars

Jake MacAndrew, OTR Journalism Student

Michael Castello does not live in Stouffville. He never has. In fact, he lives in Sunderland, a small community a 45-minute drive away. But as someone who decided to start a business in our town, he is our neighbour. Meet Michael Castello, owner, and operator of Unique Auto Detailing, a family run business on Sandiford Drive.

Michael was born in Festival City, a small neighbourhood located on the east end of Georgetown (the capital of Guyana). During his childhood, he lived with his mother and 4 sisters. Growing up, Michael always had a “knack for cars”. He recalls being fascinated by his neighbour’s collection of cars growing up. “My neighbour taught me everything about cars.” Michael remembers being shown how the different parts of the car worked as a kid in Guyana. Although he had a passion for cars, he got involved in the world of candy. Straight out of high school, Michael started a novelty candy store in his hometown. The idea was pretty sweet, but he needed a job with financial stability. “I needed a job that had benefits... my wife was pregnant at the time.” His wife Deon lived in the same neighbourhood as Michael growing up. Although they went to different high schools, he remembers seeing her on the street back in Festival City. “We met in the community... One day I saw her and asked her out.” With a drive to provide for his soon to be family, Michael got a stable job at a beverage manufacturing company.

In 2003, Michael immigrated to Canada with his wife Deon, and their young son. As Michael said, “It had always been my wife’s dream to move to Canada.” She loved the idea of a country with so many different cultures. When they arrived in Canada, they were welcomed with open arms.

Soon after he immigrated to Canada, Michael searched for a job. A friend took him to an auto detailing shop at McCowan and Eglington. At that moment, Michael fell in love with auto detailing. He got a job at the shop and worked there for two and a half years. Subsequently, he went looking for something new... a change of pace and workflow. Michael landed in the elevator repair industry, but not for long. He could not stand to be away from his true passion. Wanting to get back into the auto detailing game, he approached it with a big vision. For the first time since back in Guyana in the small community of Festival City where he ran the candy store, Michael was going to start his own business.

One day in 2009, Michael was driving through Stouffville. Our town was not one he frequented, but on this day he just to be coincidentally looking for a space to put his new business. Michael liked

Stouffville’s quaint characteristic. As he said, “I thought what a great town to be in!” Michael set up shop on Sandiford Drive right across from the present town hall. Unique Auto Detailing is a family business. He runs it with his wife and 21-year-old son. His wife, Deon takes care of the administrative side of things while his son works part-time as a detailer. As a car detailer, Michael says the best part of the job is seeing customers’ reactions when their car is cleaned. “I love to see how amazed everyone is when they get their car.” That is after all, his passion. An average day for this passionate auto detailer... personally providing an auto detailing service to our community.

Usually, Michael works with cars all day, but a person has got to have some free time. It’s a good thing he’s got 3 other detailers working for him that are mostly local and family friends.

Out of the “shop”, Michael loves to spend time with his family. He now has three kids with Deon. One in JK, another in grade 3, and his now 21-year-old who is enrolled in a kinesiology program at post-secondary school. As I spoke to Michael about his family, a vacation to a Muskoka cottage a few years back came to mind. During the summer months, his family embraces the outdoors by camping in nature. In the cold Canadian winter, they love to skate at Lake Couchiching Beach in Orillia. Family vacations are just one-way Michael loves to spend his spare time.

It’s been more than 20 years since Michael ran the novelty candy store in Festival City. Over time, he has worked in multiple industries but in the end, he found his true stride... auto detailing. Meet Michael Castello: husband, dad, local business owner, auto detailer, and neighbour. [1]



[on left] Michael with his wife Deon and their three boys. [above] Unique Auto Detailing at work. For more, visit www.uniqueautodetailing.ca.

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MON SHEONG

In York Region, we just launched back into grey zone lockdown, so I spoke with Chairman Tim Kwan, and Ambassador Lorraine Woo via WebEx. The initial formality was quickly eroded – first names only, Tim and Lorraine, were preferred. This isn't far from home – Lorraine Woo was raised north of Uxbridge and lives in the Ballantrae Golf Club Community; her husband was the Director of Medicine in Mon Sheong Richmond Hill Long-Term Care Centre for many years. Chairman “Tim” leads Mon Sheong Foundation, manages the Stouffville project and comes to the site every Saturday, “With a box of coffee so the guys don't make me leave,” says Tim.

This was a comfortable meeting. I had apprehensions going in, Mon Sheong represents a big community. I thought about it as foreign, specialized. Yes, they favour the Chinese Canadian community (many of which have been here 40 years, longer than my 20 years), yet their website is fully in English, the Annual report is in English, and many residents use English language only as well. We spoke about everything: why

long-term care? Who they intend to hire? The Pandemic? The Chair's motivation? I dug in with Chairman Tim and friends.

It started a blizzard day in January 2019, the ground was broken for a new long-term care centre in Stouffville. With a simple yet significant ceremony, Mon Sheong Foundation began building their fourth long-term care centre. Currently, Mon Sheong is one of the largest charities in Ontario, and currently operates three Long-Term Care facilities, three senior living facilities and two private care facilities.

“The new building is very close to Town Hall on Sandiford Drive. It is split into two wings; each wing will house 160 beds,” said Lorraine. “Down the road, we intend to build another 9-storey facility for affordable senior living.” Chairman Tim says that this is selfish, because he may need it himself. In 2019, Tim Kwan clocked 1,300 volunteer hours in service for the Mon Sheong Foundation.

The construction on this resident-focused, dementia-friendly building has progressed steadily. This facility is touted to have amenities that will truly make it a safe and comfortable home for our seniors. Features such as outdoor gardens and secure areas for all residents will be incorporated into the plan. With the operation of this new facility, over 400 new jobs will be created, ranging from nursing to house-keeping to administration.

The hiring process has begun with the Administrator of Stouffville. “This person will be hired six months in advance,” says Tim, “to make sure the transition is a smooth one. This is an investment.” The Administrator will oversee the vast hiring process in the upcoming months. Tim points out that there will be plenty of employment opportunities for the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville, “Why not work where you live.”

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY TO CREATE 400 JOBS

Because We Care Capital Campaign Launched by David Tuley

The pandemic has claimed many local businesses – yoga studios, restaurants, small manufacturers. “At a time when many businesses are struggling or are on shaky ground, job creation is a good thing,” said Ward Councillor Rick Upton. “We celebrate Mon Sheong and the introduction of more long-term beds,” he added.

“We are eagerly looking forward to the completion of our new long-term care centre. Currently, there are over 30,000 long-term care beds in the GTA, with a waitlist of over 73,000. Mon Sheong's own wait list has close to 6,000, which makes the completion of our fourth long-term care centre that much more urgent to relieve the waitlist,” says Tim.

When the Ontario government awarded the bed licenses, they also gave the recipients a deadline. The Stouffville facility needs to be completed by the end of 2022 and already admitting residents. This sounds quite rushed, but according to Mon Sheong's progress, they are confident that

the long-term care centre will be completed earlier than planned – likely by the summer of 2021.

Pandemically Terrible Luck

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a life-changing event for everyone, especially for those in long-term care. 2020 started out right for Mon Sheong. Construction was way ahead of schedule, and a partial solution for the wait list was being fixed. Then came the pandemic. Still feeling safe in March, Mon Sheong Foundation announced that it would donate \$20,000 to the Daily Bread Food Bank and \$10,000 each to Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank, Markham Food Bank and Richmond Hill Community Food Bank.

By April, the tables had turned – Mon Sheong needed help. Like those in other long-term care facilities: staff resource was a big challenge, PPE was running short, and the pandemic had started taking lives. Mon Sheong had it back under control by mid-to-late May, but it had been their worst month on record. By the end of November 2020, outbreaks had occurred in more than 400

of the province's 626 long-term care facilities. Of the 2,200 long-term resident lives lost in Ontario, more than 30 had been in one of Mon Sheong's facilities. Since, there have been zero instances in Mon Sheong facilities. Resiliency, after such adversity, is difficult to celebrate.

Tim, against all advice and direction, showed up to work four mornings a week in Scarborough during the first phase of the pandemic to help organize staff, take temperatures and organize PPE. He says defiantly that this isn't happening again. “Only one of our facilities was in an older building.” This will not be the case in Stouffville. Mon Sheong is striving to exceed every standard.

For one, every room will have its own air supply and ventilation system. “Individual HVAC is hard to achieve in older buildings,” says Tim. In addition, “Mon Sheong now has robots that serve and amuse residents, plus they sanitize,” says Tim. These robots speak multiple languages. “More importantly,” adds Tim, “we can monitor resident temperature automatically as they walk down the hall – we hope to see any problems before they occur. The Stouffville development is special.”

Continued, PG.15





Jake MacAndrew, OTR Journalism Student

Recently, I had the honour of walking with Stouffville resident Roger Davidson. Some of you may see him picking up trash with his dog Bosco on one of his three daily walks. During every one of his walks, he picks up trash from Stouffville's trails and forests and puts it in its place. One time, he picked up 768 plastic bottles from a local forest in just 1.5 hours. He remarks "I had 6 to 7 garbage bags full." Roger is truly an interesting and environmentally responsible guy. The following is a piece of his personal story

For the first five years of his life, Roger lived in Pickering where his family owned a General Motors car dealership. "My family has been in the car business for many years," said Davidson. His grandfather started the GM dealership in 1924. At the age of 5, Roger's family relocated to West Hill (neighboring Morningside in Scarborough). West Hill is where Roger lived for the rest of his childhood and where his father would eventually start his own Chrysler dealership. Growing up, Roger was around a lot of cars. During his childhood, his family had a cottage on Stoney Lake (in Peterborough County). He remembers test driving cars in the snow at the cottage when he was 12.

As he spent more and more time up at

the cottage, he noticed that Stoney Lake residents had to drive 14 km to dump their garbage. Roger, having grown up in an entrepreneurial environment, had a business idea. He offered to deliver residents' garbage to the dump for a weekly fee. This idea was well-received. "I ended up having 120 customers for \$5 a week. [...] In just five weeks of work, I bought an 18-foot boat." At the time, Roger was only 17 years old. His 1954 station wagon eventually became too small as he had to carry dozens of residents' garbage. Roger ended up using an old Weston's Bread truck to transport all of the garbage.

But the business ideas didn't stop there! One day - while at Stoney Lake - Roger discovered an old mine shaft filled with soapstone. Most teenagers wouldn't think twice about rocks, but Roger's entrepreneurial spirit showed him the business potential. With the mining company's permission, Roger dug out the soapstone from the mine and sold it to an Ontario art college for 20 cents a pound.

Fascinated by ancestry and human origins, Roger decided to study Anthropology and Psychology in post-secondary. As he recounted, "I had always been fascinated by the petroglyphs at Stoney Lake," referring

to ancient drawings he stumbled upon during his adventures throughout the caves surrounding the lake. Roger completed his degree in Anthropology and Psychology at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. It wasn't until after he had completed his degree he found himself torn between pursuing a career related to his recent studies or his love of sales. "I was a scuba diving counselor at a camp and [my co-worker] said I was a natural salesman. So, I started an auto leasing company." Since then, Roger has raised 3 kids. In 1979, his father retired and Roger took over the Chrysler dealership. Roger has also had his fair share of interesting experiences. For instance, a few years ago he had the privilege of being a guest on a polar bear expedition in the north of Canada with a few researchers. On this trip, Roger ended up giving CPR to a Polar Bear. "One too many tranquilizers hit the bear. The researcher told me to give it mouth to mouth. I had to do it for 10 minutes." Roger assured me the Polar Bear survived the incident.

In 2008, Roger left his dealership behind to run a roofing supplies company. It was in that year that he also moved to Stouffville. Currently, he works part-time helping his kids with an online car dealership platform and saving Stouffville trails from trash. [U]



UPDATE #SKIPTHEAPPS
More Businesses on Board

by David Tuley

With COVID-19, the demand for every meal to be either takeout or delivery has increased significantly. Not only has it swiftly become clear that restaurants were losing up to three-quarters of their sales because of health and safety restrictions, but it has also become glaringly apparent how reliant they are on a third-party service which is not sustainable.

For an industry where profit margins are already razor-thin and COVID-19 restrictions are reducing options for restaurant owners, and expensive apps haven't helped a thing.

Local Stouffville businesses interested in a low-cost delivery option instead of the expensive apps, now have an option, thanks to Laura Cusack's ingenuity in making a connection to Routes Connecting Communities volunteer delivery service.

The #SkipTheApps program is now quite streamlined. An on-demand live dispatch system was created utilizing community volunteers. There is now a dedicated dispatch line, generously donated by Stouffville's Freedom Mobile, available 7 days a week. Participating merchants text or call all customer orders they receive into this line to arrange for a driver. Hummingbird Hub is coordinating the recruitment of volunteer drivers.

The cost for delivery is just \$2 per delivery and \$.50 per kilometre, which is about half,

or less, than the cost of the apps. Restaurants and merchants can choose if they prefer to charge the customer the delivery fee or opt to cover the fee themselves.

"This has been a very rewarding initiative to put together, at least from a community impact perspective," said Laura. "We are looking at setting up a driver or two who can manage the deliveries up in the Ballantrae area. I also have someone coming on board to assist with advertising, promotion and communication of the initiative."

Restaurants and Merchants making use of the program currently are:

- Fickle Pickle Family Restaurant
- Main Street Bakehouse
- AGI Kitchen & Wine
- The Cornerhouse on Main
- The Smokery Kitchen & Bar
- Chic Thrills
- Nature's Gifts and Organic Spa
- Candlelight and Memories
- Redefined Finds
- Baskin Robbins
- Julie Williams Fine Art Photography

"We have used it and it has been extremely helpful," said Chef Christopher Waye. "We have all heard about the ridiculous fees

associated with delivery apps. This is a meaningful lifeline to any food business that wants to expand its service."

In addition to #SkipTheApps, the Town continues to operate *What's For Dinner* on www.L4A.ca. It is a free place where local restaurants can upload daily specials to a calendar, saving patrons from having to do research or scroll endlessly on social media.

What's For Dinner is part of a shop local program. "Shop Local" is a call to action we've become familiar with, and one which we've collectively rallied behind. The downside of this collective rallying, however, is that we are getting used to hearing it. Shop Local isn't resonating with people as well as it once did. To keep the idea of shopping local at the forefront of its residents' minds, Whitchurch-Stouffville has refreshed this concept by developing its own unique brand: Powered by Neighbours.

"It really gets to the heart of what small-town Stouffville is all about, even though we are growing by leaps and bounds," says David Tuley, Town Economic Development Officer. "It is about a community that is supported by the community. Powered by Neighbours has resonated very well with the public, and that is the 'shop local' brand that will be attached to a series of wintertime campaigns." [1]

MATCHING GRANT AWARDS ANNOUNCED
The Town's New CIP Program an Instant Success

by David Tuley

The first round of funding available for matching grants has come to a close. These grants will match the amount spent by the applicant toward the cost of works up to a maximum of \$15,000 per property or address, not to exceed 50% of the total project cost.

The CIP Selection Committee met to review matching grant applications and make recommendations to Council. Council then adopted their recommendation. Five applications were received. An application came from every ward except for Ward 2. Two were for participation in the Food Security Grant Program, and three were for the Building Improvement Grant Program. The grant requests totalled to \$57,431 for projects totalling to \$213,982 in investment.

The successful applicants were: **Belicious Products**, located west of Ballantrae, plans

to increase their beehive count by 25 more hives and purchase extractive equipment, to increase honey production by 375 kilos a year. They will \$9,570 in grant funds.

The accounting firm **Turack Raguseo Lesti Gilliatt**, located in a heritage building in Downtown Stouffville, plan to install automated doors to provide for accessibility. They will receive \$1,500 in grant funds.

Meadowsweet Farm, located east of Gormley, will start Phase 2 of construction on building a food-grade processing centre to process/wash/store more salad and veg- etables destined for retail stores and onsite farm stand. They will receive \$12,500 in grant funds.

The **Main Street Bakehouse & Eatery**, located in Downtown Stouffville, proposes to construct a 650 SF deck and ramp on the

east side of the building to serve as an outdoor eating area and provide better access to the building, in cooperation with the Toronto Conservation Authority. They will receive \$10,000 in grant funds.

The Stouffville Junction, a new boutique hotel located in Downtown Stouffville proposes Phase 2 of construction, involving improvements for accessibility, heritage preservation and building code upgrades. They will receive \$10,000 in grant funds.

Total funding for this first intake is \$43,570 which will leave \$31,430 remaining for future intakes in 2021. The projects must be completed before the funds flow. Future intakes will be announced in OTR, probably in late winter. Contact David Tuley for more information, david.tuley@townofws.ca. [1]

MON SHEONG



Continued from PG.11

A Foundation

Mon Sheong Foundation was conceived in 1964, when a group of young Chinese Canadians convened to discuss the persistent challenges faced by the Chinese community. Brought together by Rev. Ronald Con, minister of Toronto's Chinese Presbyterian Church, they desired a path to promote Chinese culture through the pursuit of worthwhile projects. A Foundation was officially registered with the Ontario government in 1965, taking its name from Lord Mengchang, which is also translated as Lord Mon Sheong – a man of legendary generosity who lived in China around 300 B.C.

"Today," said Lorraine, "Mon Sheong focuses on three areas of service: Caring for the Elderly, Nurturing the Young, and Serving the Community in response to the needs of Canada's culturally diverse communities." For the elderly, they provide long-term residential care, adult day programs, independent living, private care and charity care. "For the young, we have one of the largest private Chinese schools with three campuses in Canada, and offer youth group programming, subsidized international exploration trips, and provide scholarships annually," she added.

Last, Mon Sheong has developed two Community & Volunteer Services (CVS) Centres, located in Scarborough and downtown Toronto. These provide a welcoming place for Mon Sheong volunteers, Youth Group members, and seniors around the community to gather, socialize, and build meaningful friendships. Each CVS Centre features a large multipurpose room, library, and lounging area and offers an extensive list of programs, seminars, and recreational courses to cater to the interests of its visitors.

"The Stouffville facility cost is estimated at \$80 million, including land and construction," reported Lorraine. "Mon Sheong does not receive government funding until the first resident is in, which is why they

launched the Because We Care capital campaign in November 2020 to fundraise for the Stouffville Long-Term Care Centre, with a campaign goal of \$30 million."

Mayor Iain Lovatt has signed on as Co-Chair of the Because We Care campaign. He says, "I am pleased to be the co-chair of Mon Sheong Foundation Because We Care Stouffville Capital Campaign along with Dr. Reza Moridi. Long Term Care is so needed in the Province and Whitchurch-Stouffville and I, along with Council are thankful that Mon Sheong chose us for their new home. This is an exciting and ambitious project to support our community for decades to come."

The Chair

Mon Sheong's board of directors comprises approximately twenty philanthropists from business, healthcare, and other professional backgrounds. "Mon Sheong is doing our part to ease the pressure of aging for the seniors in need and the people around them," said Tim.

A doctor friend phoned Tim Kwan to ask if he would participate in a "monthly" advisory position to support Mon Sheong. Since, Tim has held various positions at Mon Sheong Foundation since 1994. He joined the Building Committee as a member from 1994 to 1996 and has been a Director of Mon Sheong Foundation since 1996. Tim has been the Chairman of Mon Sheong since 2009. He dedicates about 45 hours a week in this voluntary service.

Tim was born in Hong Kong and came to Canada as an international student at University of Western Ontario. He earned a Bachelor of Engineering Science in Electrical Engineering. "My plan was to collect my degree and then go back home," says Tim, "but I fell in love with Canada and stayed." Following graduation, he settled in Toronto and received his DBA from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

In his professional career, Tim established the Sheppard Group in 1985, a Toronto based real estate development and construction company. He managed a range of commercial and residential projects, including Hunter's Point in Richmond Hill, Sheppard Point in Scarborough, Dixie Park Centre in Mississauga and the Kings Landing on Queens Quay.

Tim retired in 2005. In 2012, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2018, he received the Senate of Canada Sesquicentennial Medal, and in 2019, he received the Chinese Canadian Legend Award – one of the most prestigious and influential awards to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Chinese Canadians in contributing to the community. In 2020, Western Engineering presented Tim with the Western L.S. Lauchland Engineering Alumni Medal. His wife currently assists in his son's law firm.

Tim is seeing the Stouffville construction project through. After that, he will see where he is needed. [1]



Chairman
Tim Kwan



Ambassador
Lorraine Woo



[above] Creating New Infrastructure and Maintaining Existing Assets - a component of the Town Strategic Plan. Pictured is re-construction of Vandorf sideroad, between Kennedy and McCowan For more information see townofws.ca/en/town-hall/strategic-plan.aspx



TOWN OF STOUFFVILLE
Strategic Plan Update












The Town of Stouffville’s Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 reflects Council’s vision for an ambitious, yet realistic approach to establishing a foundation for future progress and sustainable growth. The Plan clearly identifies the four strategic pillars, their priorities and supports management and staff in the development of departmental business plans that will guide operations and service delivery.

As of the end of Q3 2020, we are pleased to report that we are making good progress on the implementation of the plan with 92% of the tasks progressing on track.

Rob Adams

Rob Adams,
Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Highlights

-  Establish an implementation plan for the Strategic Plan **Completed**
-  Report progress every 6 months to Council **Completed and Ongoing**
-  Report annually to the community **Completed and Ongoing**
-  Establish a section in Council reports to report on relevance to the strategic plan **Completed**
-  Implement new software to drive business efficiency, including HRIS and Development cloud services **In Progress**
-  Prepare a final capital plan, including a 10-year capital plan **Completed**
-  Undertake a comprehensive fee review **Completed**
-  Design the next major Leisure project resulting in a shovel ready project, including Memorial Park re-development and Skating Trail design **In Progress**
-  Review software requirements. (reduce manual/spreadsheet reliance) **Completed**
-  Budget Process Improvement **Completed**
-  Resolve Regional Roadblocks to servicing and lobby for inclusion within the municipal comprehensive review **In Progress**
-  Proceed with the planning process required to add lands to the Town's Industrial and Commercial inventory **In Progress**
-  Refresh the economic development strategy including establishing target business to attract **In Progress**
-  Undertake bi-annual surveys Customer Service, including a Customer Service Strategy **In Progress**
-  Create an asset management Information Technology Master Plan as part of our Digital Transformation **Completed**

STOUFFVILLE'S NEW TRADING POST Centuries Old Lumber Mill is Ready For Retail

Jake MacAndrew, OTR Journalism Student, Reprinted fro the OTR Digital Holiday edition

Century Mill Lumber has been in the lumber industry for over 160 years. At their location situated close to the corner of Kennedy and Stouffville Road, they employ local woodworkers and provide lumber for many projects from hobbyists to commercial contractors. They pride themselves on their large variety of unique lumber both domestic and exotic. With a combined 100 years of staff experience, it's safe to say they know a bit about wood!

In January of last year, Chris Black purchased Century Mill Lumber and the land around the lumber yard. Honestly, this journalist does not know how much wood is typically available

at lumber yards, but they have quite the selection! Aside from your typical wood, they offer cedar beams as well as reclaimed barn boards. Just recently, wood was the only product Century Mill offered to its clients (aside from a few stains). It wasn't until General Manager Chris, influenced by his passion for sales and people, turned one of the lumber yard's buildings into a 2500 square foot retail space. He has turned this facility into a store filled with wooden creations from local craftspeople. As he recalls, "So many talented makers shop [at century mill] and I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to get their work in front

of more people since I have not only a built-in client base but also a gorgeous new space that would help showcase their work!"

One focus of the Trading Post is to work with Century Mill Lumber's customers. "People can buy lumber from [Century Mill], craft something and then sell it at the Trading Post for the public to see." This way there is, in Chris' words, "no conflict or competition" with his clients who sell their work elsewhere.

Aside from crafts such as tables, chairs, and cabinets, the Trading Post offers supplies for you to get crafting. Tools, screws, stains, and oils of all kinds are available for purchase. As well, they will be carrying my favorite... knick-knacks. Candles, canoe paddles, wooden clocks, cutting boards, and other homewares are at the Trading Post as well.

The Trading Post opened on November 25, 2020. It is located about 100 meters down the Century Mill driveway at 3993 Stouffville Road. Their current hours are Tuesday to Friday from 11-6 and Saturdays from 11-4.

Although the Trading Post is currently only offering its showroom, Chris says there are bigger plans down the road. After the pandemic, he plans to host some workshops at his Trading Post facility. He says he would like to see artisans come and show the public how to craft their creations.

For updates on Century Mill Lumber and the Trading Post, see [CMLTradingPost](#) on Facebook. [\(1\)](#)



BEING KIND WITH YOUR LAUNDRY

An Interview With Angie Tran From Kind Laundry

Jake MacAndrew, OTR Journalism Student

How does one go from owning a fast-food restaurant to operating an eco-friendly laundry detergent sheet business? Well, you got to care about the environment. Back in April, Angie and her business/life partner Bernard started Kind Laundry, an eco-friendly alternative to regular liquid laundry detergent.

Since launching their online store in August, their product has been flying off the virtual shelves. Here's why.

The idea for the business started back at Angie and Bernard's fast-food restaurant. As Angie stated, "I remember how much plastic we were going through at the restaurant." After a run as fast-food chain operators, they decided to shift their career focus to e-commerce-based businesses. This was 5 years ago. Over the past half-decade, Angie and Bernard have started a few e-commerce businesses that enabled them to "learn the basics of running a business and the basics for advertising." Their newest endeavor is, of course, Kind Laundry.

When many businesses were moving

towards sustainable products, Angie and Bernard wanted to strike the iron while it was hot. As "animal lovers", they wanted to help reduce the amount of plastic polluting the earth. According to Angie, one cause of plastic pollution is the laundry industry. She says, "the big one-time use laundry jugs are major polluters. [...] Plastics take thousands of years to biodegrade." Their solution to the problem, an eco-friendly laundry detergent sheet. "The packaging is biodegradable and the laundry sheet itself is free from chemicals and additives." The laundry sheets themselves contain 4 main ingredients that are "natural and won't harm the environment."

Angie and Bernard run Kind Laundry remotely in Stouffville. Their team of 5 operates on an online basis as well. Fitting for the current global pandemic, but not on purpose. The Kind Laundry team is situated around the world. As Angie remarked, "We ship all over the world. This means our customer service team can reply to our customers in different time zones."

Out of every major polluting industry, why laundry detergents? Well, as Angie puts it, "we wanted to go into a space where no one was innovating. The laundry aisle is just filled with plastic jugs." After rapidly selling out of thousands of Kind Laundry packages during their test phase, the sheets have just recently gone back in stock. Angie claims, "because of Covid, people are staying at home more. Therefore, they are working out more, cooking more, etc... So, they are doing laundry more." As well, she believes many people are looking for natural methods to do their laundry as "conventional laundry detergent contains toxic ingredients."

The next step for kind laundry? "Product innovation." Kind Laundry is packaged with 60 sheets of laundry detergent. It is currently available in scentless and ocean breeze. Kind Laundry can be found in local natural grocery stores, sustainable boutiques, and on their website [kindlaundry.com](#) where they ship worldwide. [\(1\)](#)



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At this joyous time of year,
Penmore Wealth Management wishes
all of you a happy and safe holiday
season, filled with festive cheer.

May you and your loved ones have a
fruitful and healthy New Year ahead.

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Susan's TIP-OFF

with SUSAN TUCKER



KEEP CALM AND MAKE SAWDUST!

My first foray into the world of Weezel's Wood Working was after seeing a post on Facebook showcasing his wares. Beautiful, stunning, original, creative were just a few words that came to mind.

Mr. Weezel is officially in the full-time business of creating amazing masterpieces from various types of wood such as Black Walnut, Ambrosia Maple, Spalted Manitoba Maple, Apple, Siberian Elm, even 2,000 year old Olive wood. This pandemic helped relieve him of his 20-year career in the corporate world and kick-started his new venture.

His work specializes in live edge pieces, and each piece is created from sustainable and locally sourced wood - some naturally fallen trees and even the odd cutting down of trees in order to salvage the wood (but only on request of the landowner and due to the



trees outgrowing the property they're on). In Mark's hands, lumber becomes furniture.

He is very open to working with you to create a truly unique piece that you will treasure for years to come. Being a wood and resin / epoxy artist allows Mark to bring a whole new look and dimension to his work, especially when he uses coloured resin, you'd be hard-pressed to find a more unique look to wood products anywhere. All his pieces are completed with a food safe finishing oil to ensure the beauty and functionality of his work lasts for years. Mr. Weezel employs the skill and talent of his pal Steven the Welder to create custom, handmade legs - made from Ontario steel - for his tables and benches.

He specializes in tables, desks, benches, charcuteries boards, and shelves, and makes good use of his laser cutter for etching and



creating spectacular designs, ask him about just about anything made from wood, it'll get the creative juices flowing. (Don't ask him to make coasters...just don't.)

But wait, not only is he a master artisan, he is also a huge community supporter, sports freak and fundraiser. He loves all things related to Toronto pro sports teams and is on a mission to attend a baseball game in every North American MLB stadium and is well on his way to accomplishing that, it's just on hold for a bit because, well, let's not talk about it. He also dusted off his bicycle and has participated in several Rides to Conquer Cancer in memory of his Mom, whom he lost to cancer, and for every other Mom, Dad, sibling, and child who has been affected by cancer.

His other passion is Light Up The World - LUTW which is an organization based out of Calgary, AB & Lima, Peru. "This organization does absolutely incredible things to assist the local inhabitants of numerous South & Central American countries in providing them sustainable & renewable sources of electricity. Think for a minute of never having a light bulb. Imagine your children having to do their schoolwork only during the hours while the sun was up!" Mark lives by Mahatma Gandhi's words... "be the change you wish to see in the world"

It seems you're doing a fine job being the change Mark. Keep calm and make sawdust! You can find him on Instagram @Weezels_Wood_Working. Facebook: @Weezels Wood Working weezelswoodworking@gmail.com

CONTACT Susan Tucker, otripoff@outlook.com



GIVING BACK IN 2020

So here we are, January 2021, 2020 is behind us and hopefully things will be better as the year goes on.

This month my message is simple, "We are not out of the woods yet!" Winter is here and it is even harder for a lot of people to get around especially seniors and mobility challenged. Some just can't get out and need help, if you know someone that might need assistance, reach out. We still need to support each other in any way we can. food donations, household items, winter clothes and boots, helping someone with a grocery or pharmacy run.

Our mental health is still a big concern, more people are feeling the effects that living with Covid 19 brings. Pick up the phone and call people to say hello. We need each other to survive, we are social beings that spend most of our lives socializing in one way or another. When we go to work, attend community events, get together with friends and family especially over the holidays we are social, that is not happening as it used to. We are all feeling the effects, some more than others, so have compassion and empathy to those around us, hold the door more, let people in line more. The more positivity we spread the better off we will all be.

So many people and organizations gave back in 2020 and continue to as we start 2021. I wish I could mention them all but I just don't have that much room on this page. So I thought I would shine a light on a couple of great things.

Stouffville Community Care Network

The Stouffville Community Care Network connects those in need of help with those willing to offer assistance because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are vulnerable members of our community in self-isolation who are in need of assistance. This webpage can make the connections through a safe and secure platform to other community members wanting to help.

"This new online tool personifies the spirit of generosity in our community, said Mayor Iain Lovatt. "We have received countless emails, messages and phone calls from people in our community who want to help in one way or another, this webpage connects residents in need of assistance safely and easily with those nearby who are willing to lend a hand."

If you or someone you know needs assistance or willing to provide help, please register your interest at townofws.ca/communitycare-network and their staff will work to connect you with someone nearby. If you do not have

access to a computer, please call the Office of the Mayor at 905.640.1910 ext. 2227.

"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.

Bird Houses for Charity

Jerry Ratcliffe and McKenzie Ryan both Stouffville residents and Schell Lumber employees have been building birdhouses to raise money for charity. It started as a kind gesture giving someone a birdhouse they built and donating money on their behalf. My daughter was one of the first recipients with a donation going to Sick Kids.

"I build the birdhouses in my garage and then McKenzie paints them in her garage and Schell lumber donates the material to make them, I use wood that otherwise would not be used," said Jerry. The word got out and they started receiving requests from people wanting to buy them.

They have sold over 100 birdhouses and raised over \$3700 for charities like Ronald McDonald House, Sick Kids, Markham Stouffville Hospital, The Lions Club, the Legion and more.

#SkipTheApps

The Hummingbird Hub has teamed up with Routes Connecting Communities to create an initiative called #SkipTheApps the new low-cost delivery program is available to all Stouffville restaurants and merchants. Skip The Apps is entirely powered by volunteers from our community, including their generous drivers.

When you call-in your order, ask your favourite restaurants if they've signed up! There are several restaurants and merchants in the downtown core participating in the program, and they will be updating the list as more businesses join. For more details visit hummingbirdhub.org for all the details.

Lyndsay Thompson

I spoke to our friend Lyndsay Thompson and asked her for a message we could take with us going into 2021.

Even though there is hope on the way with the vaccine, there is still going to be a lot of hardship coming up over the next few years as a result of the pandemic. This isn't meant to be a message of doom and gloom, but to help encourage you to keep on taking care of yourself and those around you. Here are some



CONTACT Dave Mills, david@stouffville.com

things to keep in mind as we move into 2021: The winter months are hard no matter what. Get outside! Maybe even talk to a doctor or a naturopath about upping your Vitamin D. This has a huge impact on mental health.

Be kind to yourself. Studies show that beating yourself up about things produces the same chemicals in our brains that exist in anxiety and depression. Try to talk to yourself like you would a friend as you continue to navigate the unexpected things in life right now.

Talk about it. Trying to figure stuff out on your own, or keeping it all inside is rarely the most effective way to handle things. If you are having a hard time getting through the day, managing work stress, coping with this season of transition, I can guarantee you aren't the only one. Talking to a friend, family member or a professional takes some of the weight off you, provides another perspective and validates that you aren't in this alone.

Happy New Year Everyone! [!]



Giving BACK

with DAVE MILLS

From WHERE I LIVE

with BRUCE STAPLEY



TRAVERSING THE PANDEMIC Caring for Self and Others into the New Year

How to maintain a sense of mental, emotional and physical wellbeing as the Covid-19 pandemic heads in to its second calendar year in 2021: That's the challenge I laid out to six noted Stouffvillites as it would appear the pitfalls brought on by isolation, limited social connections and working from home will continue to define our collective existence for a while yet.

Stouffville Registered Social Worker Angel Freedman has spent much time helping people deal with the effects of the pandemic since it took hold early last year. "The Coronavirus has brought on unsettling times in our world and to our day to day lives," said Ms Freedman. "Many of us turned to social media for comfort, news, and community."

Her advice starts with the importance of caring for oneself. "The pandemic can be described as a heavy cloud of grief over the world as we patiently wait for direction and answers. Many people future worry, which can only lead to more anxiety and fear. Staying in the moment and asking yourself, "what needs to be done now or today" will keep the focus on meeting your needs as they arise."

She says to begin with maintaining a regular schedule and routine for you and your family. "Waking up in the morning, bathing, getting dressed and eating a nourishing breakfast is a good start to your day. Adults working from home are missing the interaction of co-workers, coffee shop chatter and regular morning routines. Children are also missing the social aspect of school."

Take time for yourself everyday, she

continues; a nap, scheduled reading time, a walk, starting a new hobby, cooking, and any activity that brings you solace. "Be gentle with yourself and schedule time for yourself, you are worth it."

My other five contributors pretty much echoed Ms. Freedman's words of wisdom while seeking out the positive wherever possible. Mayor Iain Lovatt and his wife Mary managed to find a silver lining amid the pandemic; having their three children home from university. "This is time we really cherish as they get older and start the journeys of their lives outside of our home. We plan to take full advantage of that time together," said His Worship, who added that his personal fitness will be a greater priority in the New Year in order to counter what he called the 'COVID-19 effect around the waist line.' "Staying disciplined and trying to work out every day is a must."

He said he plans to keep things in perspective. "Having an attitude of thankfulness for all that we have, in spite of the pandemic, is an outlook I will still take, albeit perhaps more difficult with all the challenges we face."

As the pandemic has been particularly tough for seniors, I included an octogenarian and a nonagenarian in my survey. Diane Ward - noted Town volunteer, Markham Fair Past President, and entrepreneur who refuses to slow down at age 81 - will continue to use the down time brought on by the pandemic to "sort through stuff, all the while aware I need exercise. Yoga three times a week helps with that."

She sees her advanced years as a plus. "I live and love each day as it comes. I am loving the freedom to be lazy if I choose, and not have to meet deadlines anymore." She also plans to keep on reaching out to those struggling with being on their own. "I will continue to call people as there are so many who are alone with no one to talk to."

For Stouffville local newspaper legend Jim Thomas, the New Year will see him staying off the negative effects of the pandemic by staying busy. "A new year but nothing new for me. At 91, I'm not about to change. The same old, same old, including my school crossing guard routine, four newspaper routes, a column-writing sequence that's spanned six decades and occasional meet-and-greet assistance at the O'Neill Funeral Home." You'll also find Jim

CONTACT Bruce Stapley, bstapley@sympatico.ca

sipping a coffee at Tim's with one of his many friends after morning crossing guard duty when lockdowns allow such indulgences.

Stouffville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Karen Wootton feels that dealing with the stress brought on by the pandemic comes down to focussing on what we have and what we can do rather than what we don't have and what we can't do. "I remind myself that everything has a season and the season for this pandemic is coming to an end."

Her daily routine includes eating healthy, going for walks, indulging in creative undertakings, and making time to enjoy something special. "I get up early every morning and indulge in a lovely cup of cappuccino with cinnamon on top before I start my day. If the day gets really stressful I may even have another one, but decaf."

She says it's important to be patient and tolerant of others. "We all deal with stress differently. We as a community need to take care of ourselves and each other."

Laura Cusack, director of the Hummingbird Hub gathering place in Downtown Stouffville, says she will continue to draw personal strength from Hub volunteers who have created such a strong support network for each other applying their creativity to help local businesses, crafters, vendors and individuals struggling during the pandemic. "Friends with wide varieties of skills and backgrounds have been my rock and we keep each other motivated. A smile, a message, an offer to go for a walk or help with a project, and especially the generous support from many in our community make a big difference. Our community will come out of this pandemic much stronger if we continue to look out for each other."

Amen to that! [\[U\]](#)



Stouffville
Registered
Social Worker
Angel Freedman

CARRICK BROS. KEEP COMPETING ON ICE, IN BUSINESS

NHL draft picks Sam and Trevor await COVID-delayed start to hockey season

John and Jane Carrick remember the "record". Their four sons once played in a combined 28 minor hockey games during one tournament weekend. "It's all a bit of a blur," says John with a chuckle.

All four of the brothers Carrick - Jake, Sam, Trevor and Josh - would go on to play in the Ontario Hockey League, the top level of junior (ages 16-20) hockey in the province, between 2007 and 2016. It's a small club. The OHL lists three other families who have had at least four boys skate in the loop:

- The Staals from Thunder Bay
- The Hunters of Petrolia
- The Linsemans of Kingston, who had a record five sons play in 'The O'.

Sam and Trevor - the middle children - were both selected in the NHL draft and played in the league. Picked by the Toronto Maple Leafs in the fifth round of the 2010 draft, Sam has played 34 NHL games, with the Leafs and Anaheim Ducks. Now 28, he's the captain of the San Diego Gulls of the American Hockey League, the Ducks top farm team.

Trevor was a 4th round selection of the Carolina Hurricanes in the 2012 draft. The 26-year-old has played in seven big-league games, with the Canes and San Jose Sharks, who own his rights.

Their brothers played Canadian university hockey and studied business after their OHL careers ended, Jake at Lakehead and Josh at Ontario Tech. All four attended Stouffville

District Secondary School.

The foursome began their careers in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association as 4-year-olds - Sam was still in nursery school - before advancing to AAA rep hockey with clubs in Richmond Hill, Markham and Toronto.

The secret? Games on the rollerblade rink in the basement of the family home on Aintree Drive in Stouffville and on the pond at John's parents, Kathleen and John Sr., property - now John and Jane's home - near Goodwood helped.

"I think it was the competitiveness of the boys themselves," said Jane. "We really didn't push them. They'd pick teams, play against each other and want to win. It was always Sam and Trevor against Josh and Jake." All four also looked up to their cousin, Stouffville's Bobby Hughes, a Carolina Hurricanes draft pick who also starred in the OHL.

During one minor hockey season, mom alone put 60,000 km on her Dodge Ram truck - which also served as the family dining room many nights. "I don't know how we did it," said Jane. "Thank god for the 407."

"We met a lot of great people and some crazy ones along the way," said John. "It was busy. I remember looking at their schedules, hoping there would be a night off during the week."

The defencemen in the fam, Trevor and Josh, played one season each with their

SportsTown

with JIM MASON



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hometown Stouffville Spirit before moving up to the OHL. The Spirit plays in the Ontario Junior Hockey League, which is one level below the OHL.

All four boys are in the Uxbridge-Stouffville area for now. Sam and Trevor were awaiting details on returning to their pro clubs, which were shut down by COVID-19 in March.

And there's another generation of Carrick kids. Avery Carrick, Jake's daughter, 4, is the oldest of three grandchildren. Of course, she skated on the storied pond last winter. [\[U\]](#)

SWEETNESS ON TAP

Jake and Josh Carrick are scoring points off the ice with their business venture. The pair began selling Carrick Bros. maple syrup last year. They learned the craft from their late grandfather, John Carrick Sr., who had a 200-tree sugar bush on the family property south of Goodwood. The bottling of Carrick Bros. products is done on the farm, where they also learned to skate.

The company has 25,000 taps on trees on 350-plus acres north of Bancroft. Online sales have been strong, thanks to 'shop-local' and social media campaigns. "We love the outdoors so everything about it has been a fun adventure," Jake said.

And buyers appreciate the superior taste of single-batched syrup from local farms as opposed to the mass-produced, mixed products imported from out-of-province, Jake said. You can purchase their syrup at Stouffville-area outlets, including Carma Farms - Chepack's Country Market, Stouffville Florist and Candlelight and Memories.

The Carrick Family.



January 2021

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., January 19, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., February 2, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., February 16, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., March 2, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings (if required):

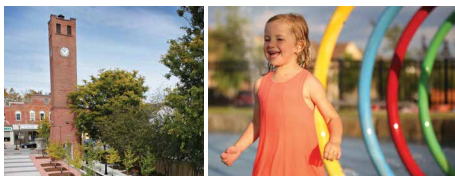
- Tues., January 19, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tues., February 16, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tues., March 23, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

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: eepurl.com/cKPNg9 and receive meeting agendas and summary reports straight in your inbox.



TALK OF THE TOWN  **PODCAST**

News, events and happenings around town with host Glenn Jackson

New episode every Monday on:
Facebook - SoundCloud - townofws.ca

Museum

Visit L4A.ca to view the virtual exhibit, Archaeology Alive: The Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

You will also find regular posts from the Museum on [@WSMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/WSMuseum) on Facebook – posts include historic photos and local stories.

Catch up on our Hungry for History series, where our Program Coordinator makes a historic recipe and provides a fun history lesson. Follow us to make sure you never miss a post!

Winter Parking Reminders

As a reminder, vehicles are not allowed to park on neighbourhood streets overnight between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Violators may be ticketed.

Residents that require parking for driveway repairs and overnight guests may obtain a free parking exemption from the Town for up to 12 times a year per license plate. Visit townofws.ca/parking for more information.

Re-Imagine Stouffville: Official Plan Review

Help shape the future of your Town!

The Town's Official Plan is being updated to guide land use planning decisions and priorities for the next 20 years.

A draft Community Vision Statement and Guiding Principles was developed based on input from the community. The new Draft Vision Statement envisions that the Town will be a safe, healthy, inclusive and complete community with a range of community services, housing, and transportation options, while managing growth to protect and enhance the natural environment and parks and open spaces.

The Vision Statement will inform the policy directions of the Town's new Official Plan. The Community Vision Summary Report is available on the project website. The Town will be consulting on a series of background Discussion Papers in early 2021 to identify key issues to be addressed in the new

Recreation Announcements

All municipal facilities are closed to the public as of Monday, December 14. All in-person Town programs have been cancelled until facilities reopen. This closure will affect the arenas, fitness centre, group fitness, aquatics and gymnasium drop-in programs. The closure is scheduled until Monday, January 24, 2021.

During the shutdown period, the Town will be offering virtual programs. Please visit the WSPay Online Virtual Programs Calendar for program offerings. All programs previously scheduled during the lockdown have been cancelled and a credit will be placed on your WSPay online account.

Winter Virtual programs will begin the week of Monday, January 11, 2021. Registration for the virtual programs will open on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for residents.

In-person winter programs are anticipated to begin on Monday, February 1, 2021. Registration will open on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for residents.

Animal Adaption

Whitchurch-Stouffville shares animal adoption services with Pickering. Their animal shelter is still closed to the public, however, their adoption program is open. Anyone interested in adopting an animal is encouraged to visit www.pickering.ca/petadoption. If you see an animal of interest, complete the online adoption application form.

The application forms are reviewed by staff and a phone interview and/or virtual chat takes place and videos of the animal are sent.

COMMUNITY NEWS

January 2021

 THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Tax and water bills a mouse click away

- view history of property tax transactions
- view MPAC assessment values
- enroll in e-billing or pre-authorized payments
- pay online with debit or credit card

vth.townofws.ca



COVID-19 INFORMATION: stouffvillereopens.ca or york.ca/COVID19

farmer Jack's
GARDENS

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

STOUFFVILLE SENIORS OF THE MONTH GRANT & MARGARET GORDON

AGES: Margaret is 78 years old and Grant is 79.

STOUFFVILLE RESIDENTS SINCE: After living in Aurora for 27 years they moved to Stouffville 7 years ago.

FAMILY: Married for 54 years, Grant and Margaret are the very proud parents of two daughters and a son. All are married and have given Grant and Margaret seven grandchildren whose ages range from 6 to 22.

CAREER: Grant was a Minister and a Seminary Professor. Margaret began her career as an elementary teacher but returned to graduate school at age fifty and was a staff chaplain at Southlake Hospital for 12 years.

LIFE'S HIGHLIGHT(S): Margaret cherishes the memories of being a Mom and a Chaplain. Grant remembers helping churches in crisis, presenting papers at academic conferences, and writing books on church history (published three and working on his fourth!). They both are serving God together and for the ten years since retirement they have overseen a seniors' ministry: JOY 55+ ('Just Older Youth'). Based at Springvale Church the ministry serves seniors throughout Stouffville.

WHAT'S LIFE ALL ABOUT GRANDMA & GRANDPA! **Grandpa:** Living with Grandma and enjoying life together. **Grandma:** Loving my family and showing hospitality.

WHAT'S BEST ABOUT LIFE IN STOUFFVILLE! Our terrific retirement community at Eastern Gate Village and our friendly town.

IF YOU KNOW A SENIOR THAT IS WORTHY OF SENIOR OF THE MONTH GIVE US AN E-MAIL AT FARMERJACKS@ROGERS.COM





2021

happy new year

Thank you to everyone that supported us throughout the year.
We wish you all nothing but the best for 2021, stay safe.

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David Mills
Sales Representative
Debbie White-Mills
Broker

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The Yogi Smile

How Do You Wear Your Smile?



Perla Dental is dedicated to the health and well-being of all our patients. Our dental office has been updated to meet all of the requirements to protect you and our staff. We will take every precaution to keep you as safe and protected as possible while keeping up with your dental regimen.

Perla Dental wants to help you keep your **Sunny Salutation Smile!**



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