



APRIL
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▲ WHY THIS ISSUE? ►

Why was the Pickering Airport issue in January 2018 my favourite of all 50 OTRs - read about it on Page 7. There were other great times, like finding the world's oldest solely owned surf shop in the Cedar Valley, or the Teardrop Trailer maker in Vivian. Providing small businesses and community organizations with a voice has been a rewarding experience as well.

FROM THE EDITOR

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

In this issue you will read about Angels without Wings (Rochelle D'Souza) who helped a resident of Nanaimo, about Women in the Pandemic, and about Herstory - Placing Women in Local Historical Narrative. There is a story about an open studio event coming up at Beke Jewellery Design, and about a 16-year-old who has launched an entrepreneurial blog. Once again, women have dominated an edition of OTR. It is not intentional or unfortunate, it just happens a lot in Stouffville.

Four pages are dedicated to the story behind two local musicians; they are very different, but both are very much a part of this place.

This issue brings awareness to four businesses, two business programs and sixteen matters of community importance. Contact Bruce Stapley for limited advertising placements at bstapley@sympatico.

David Tuley, Editor & Designer
Economic Development Officer, david.tuley@townofws.ca



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New ward boundaries before next election

Council endorses new Stouffville brand, including logo, colours; vaccination clinic coming

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

Ward Boundaries to Change. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has six wards - three in 'rural' areas and three in the Community of Stouffville. Each is represented by one councillor.

According to Town policy, a ward boundary review must be conducted after the conclusion of three municipal elections to recognize the impacts of growth and its implications on representation. The last ward boundary review was conducted in 2009; therefore, a new study had to be completed before next year's election.

Therefore, over the last seven months, Town staff and consultants *Watson and Associates Economists Ltd.* conducted an in-depth study of the boundaries. This study involved research, community and stakeholder engagement and the development of options on how a new ward system could be laid out in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

On March 23, Council was presented with the new ward options. They choose a new system that had two 'rural' wards and four 'urban' wards.

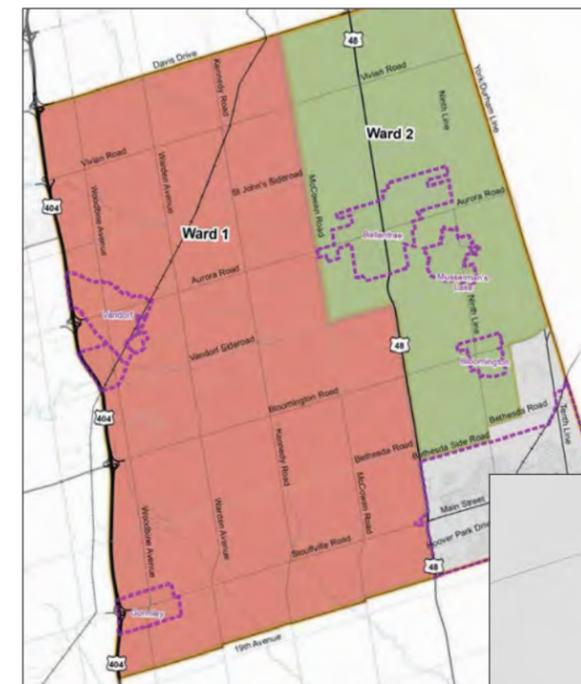
Each new 'rural' ward is physically larger than its predecessor, with Ward One's eastern boundary now being McCowan Road north of Vandorf Sideroad, and Highway 48 south of Vandorf Sideroad. Ward One now includes both Vandorf and Gormley.

Except for the Sleepy Hollow Estates, Ward Two now extends south from Davis Drive to Bethesda Sideroad. It now encompasses Ballantrae, Musselman's Lake and Bloomington.

Some significant changes have been made in the Community of Stouffville, most notably the inclusion of Ward Three within the community's boundaries. Ward Three had previously been in the Gormley area.

Ward Three is now east of the Tenth Line and south of Bloomington Sideroad. Over 5,700 people currently live in this area. However, it is expected to grow to over 11,400 people by 2030 due to new developments at the old flea market site and the new Lincolnville GO station area.

Wards Four, Five and Six are now almost



LEFT AND BELOW: Council recently approved the realignment of the town's ward boundaries. Rural Whitchurch-Stouffville now consists of two wards (left) instead of the current three. Ward One now encompasses the villages of Vandorf and Gormley. Ward Two now extends to Bethesda Sideroad and includes Ballantrae, Musselman's Lake and Bloomington. The Community of Stouffville (below) now consists of four wards with the addition of Ward Three east of the Tenth Line. Ward Three had previously been in the Gormley area. The new wards take effect before next year's election.



perfect rectangles.

Ward Four is now bounded by Highway 48, the Markham-Stouffville border, the Ninth Line and Bethesda Sideroad.

Ward Five is now bounded by the Ninth Line, Main Street, the Tenth Line and Bethesda Sideroad.

Ward Six is now bounded by the Ninth Line, the Markham-Stouffville border, the Tenth Line and Main Street.

For complete descriptions of the new wards, download the full report at bit.ly/3tRcvAa

All ward boundaries become effective for the next municipal election in October 2022.

Town Gets New Branding. At the meeting on March 2, Council endorsed the Town's new brand.

Along with a new logo, Council approved a new palette of seven vivid colours which will be used for corporate identities and marketing material. The new logo presents the name "Stouffville" in a serif font and an icon using the six colours.

Alongside the logo and colours, the new brand also consists of a new Stouffville brand story.

To view the new Stouffville logo and

colour palettes, visit cometogetherws.ca/branding-corporate-identity

More details of the new branding will be featured in a future edition of OTR.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Stay tuned on the Town's social media feeds, local newspapers and the town's COVID-19 dedicated website stouffvillereopens.ca for information about a vaccination clinic at SoccerCity opening in mid-April. (1)

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

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



Cover Design and photo editing by Dennis Hristovski. Most images provided by the subjects.



WOMEN IN THE *pandemic*

Jahaan Kanji Arain, OTR Journalism Student

The pandemic is an issue that has impacted millions, and headlines have clearly been exhibiting the struggles we have so abruptly been confronted with. But I have come to believe that there is a side of the story that lacks attention, and that is the side of women. What happens when we delve into the perspectives of the stay-at-home mothers and the female business owners? Do they feel that the lack of female perspective should be acknowledged, and most importantly, what turbulences have women been forced to overcome as of these past months?

Corey McCusker was one perspective I was provided with. Her dog daycare, grooming, and training business, Muttz with Mannerz, had practically just opened when the pandemic hit, making the following months exceptionally difficult.

The 11-month process of working with contractors and opening her business was finally dealt with only for their “bottom line and servicing” to be completely altered. McCusker states that the pandemic impacted her business more so at the beginning, but as the months began to pass, she found a gradual increase in the number of customers searching for puppies.

Nonetheless, from a business perspective, McCusker states that, “We weren’t able to grow as fast as we wanted to, and we actually had to close many of our business avenues, including training and grooming,” continuing to say, “That hit us hard and it has been a challenge.” I felt that it was necessary to integrate my own life into the following question, being that from my own experience, I have seen how much of an impact the pandemic has had on newly transitioned stay-at-home mothers, thus initiating the question, “Do you by chance have any family or friends that are dealing

with this exact problem, and what are their views on life as of now? Are they finding it extremely difficult?”

McCusker took a moment to form an answer, and finally went about the question by stating that she has two step kids and a husband, and that life had become extremely stressful.

“The kids weren’t in school and not working. I was concerned for their mental health with the lack of social contact and online learning. Anxiety increased and I wondered about the long term effects of their social abilities,” she says.

When I asked McCusker if she felt that there was a lack of coverage regarding female perspective as of the pandemic, she answers with, “As a female business owner, and from a government perspective, I have felt immensely supported, but as far as what’s been happening at home, I think that our struggles could be highlighted more. Women have been feeling very pressured because they have had to take on the role as the parent and the teacher for the kids, so it’s important for those issues to be addressed.”

As a Registered social worker for individuals, couples, parenting, along with separation and divorce recovery counseling, Angel Freedman, gave me her outlook on the current series of events. Similar to McCusker, the pandemic was unexpected, and its consequences were significant on the compositions of her 12-year-old business.

In order to adjust to the new demands, she restructured her business to be virtual, which all in all impacted the number of clients she was able to see. Freedman states that many of her clients found it difficult to call in due to the sheer unease of having to express their issues over the phone, going on to say that this significant inability has

surrounded numerous families with a stressful and toxic environment. She then went on to connect such issues to today’s prominent matter, being the sudden transition to stay-at-home parenting, expressing herself by stating that, indeed, “Mothers are struggling.”

From the year 2010, Freedman has not only been a social worker, but has also taken on the all-encompassing role of a parenting educator, and states that, “What I’m hearing from women is that many have gone to college or university and have invested themselves in their careers, and now they have to stay at home with their children, which was not something that a lot of them signed up for.”

Freedman continues by saying, “The children are screaming, pulling at them, and trying to get their attention.” To conclude the interview, I asked Angel how she feels about the lack of coverage on women in the pandemic, and she voices her opinion by declaring that, “It is important to deal with the mental health issues women are facing, and to acknowledge that women are feeling overwhelmed and anxious.”

From both interviews, I found commonality within each woman’s answer regarding the inconsiderable presence of female perspective in the media, as of the pandemic. I can undoubtedly state that from the interviews I conducted, words such as “Abnormal”, “Frustrating”, and “Distressing” are only a fraction of the forms of expression both women would have used to describe the detriments of the pandemic, and the media needs to draw its attention towards these pressing matters. Perspective is critical in such a disconcerting time, and it is important for every voice to be heard and recognized. (i)

angels don't always have wings

by Brenda Nikkel

I have a heart-warming story I wanted to share with you. My name is Brenda Nikkel, and I live in Nanaimo BC, on Vancouver Island.

My father who is almost 80 and stepmother who is close to 77, both live in Stouffville (Musselman’s Lake). The story begins in August of 2020, I had received a call from my father, whom of which I had not spoken to for almost 26 years (due to a falling out). The day that he called me was life changing for all of us.

When I received a voicemail message from my father, whom I never thought I would ever hear from or see again, I listened to the message and literally broke down into tears. My husband picked me up off the floor, so that I could call him back. After reconnecting and talking further over the course of the next few weeks, I decided to return to Ontario to visit him. So much time had passed, and I was worried that I may not have much time left with him, because of his age, and I wouldn’t be able to live with myself if something were to ever happen to him and I didn’t get the chance to see him again in person.

I called him to tell him that I was coming to see him over the coming Thanksgiving week and would be staying with him for 4 or 5 days. I hadn’t stayed with my dad since I was a young child. He was very happy. Upon arriving there were more tears, but I was also a little shocked to see how much he had aged. I asked him if he was ill and just not telling me, and he said no. His wife

was also not in very good shape either, she is chair/ bed bound permanently - she lives and sleeps in her automatic chair due to a severe heart condition.

During my visit I noticed how difficult things had become for him, in having to take care of all the cooking, cleaning, shopping, and personal care needs for his wife. My dad has worked his entire life and really worked hard, and now he had become responsible for the day to day chores, of which he never thought he would be doing, especially at his age. If I lived there, I would be over there as much as I could to help them with all their needs, of course. The visit had turned out to be fantastic and life changing for all of us, and I thoroughly enjoyed my visit them.

Once I returned home to BC and got back to work, I started thinking of ways that I could help them from such a distance away. By now I was speaking to my dad every weekend and learning more and more about them each time. On one of the phone calls, I asked dad if he would be making Christmas dinner for, he and his wife, and he said, “no, he isn’t able to cook like that and really they haven’t had a Christmas dinner or gifts in years,” and he wasn’t too concerned about it.

I thought to myself “how can I get a Christmas dinner to them” when I live such a distance away? I was willing to pay whatever it cost to get it to them... Next, I started to search through the internet looking for some place, some organization or some person that might be able to help me. After about an hour of searching I came

across, purely by fluke, an article in one of the Stouffville papers, that mentioned a person that delivered meals to seniors and of course did so much more than that too, and her name and email address were in that article. Her name is Rochelle D’Souza.

I sent her an email in the hopes that she may be able to point me in the right direction. Almost immediately Rochelle emailed me back and asked if she could call me? I said of course she could, and she called... First thing she asked me was, “how in the world did I find her?” I told her that I just came across her name in an article somewhere. She was shocked and very excited to know more. I told her of my idea. Rochelle was so excited that she said she would do whatever she could to help me and my dad, and she would make sure that my dad and his wife had a turkey dinner for Christmas. Rochelle was so excited. She had been having a particularly hard time with not being able to help all the people, the way she usually did, because of the COVID pandemic.

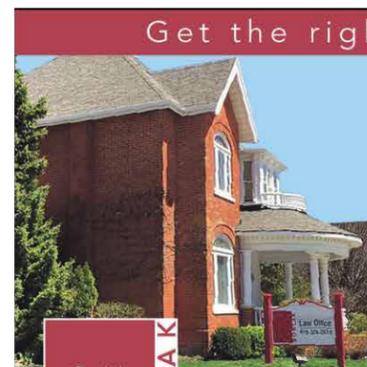
She said to me, “you are like an angel that came to rescue me just when I needed it”. I replied with “no in fact you are the angel Rochelle”. I was so happy that she could help me. The next thing you know, Rochelle sent a request into Leadbetter’s Meats, whom prepared meals for seniors over the Christmas holidays, and with the help of Rochelle and Amy, arrangements for my dad and his wife to receive Christmas dinner were now underway.

continued on Page 28

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patio program 2021

Town Council to support some of the most vulnerable businesses

by David Tuley

Town Council has voted to support some of the most vulnerable businesses in 2021, including the restaurant and hospitality industry - with good reasons why.

A recent article in the *National Post* revealed more grim news about "the colossal toll" that COVID-19 restrictions had on businesses during the first lock-down. Statistics Canada released new data that showed 100,000 businesses closed up for good in Canada in April 2020 alone, causing the loss of 1.5 million jobs.

The largest declines were with small businesses. To put it in the local context, 97% of the businesses in Whitchurch-Stouffville have less than 100 employees, while 82% have less than 20 employees.

"We have a lot of small businesses, and we do not know the true impact yet," said Town Economic Development Officer David Tuley. "The dust hasn't settled - with doors being opened and closed, and again opened and closed during lockdown periods it is hard to know who has closed permanently."

Some closures have been glaringly clear - the local fitness industry and anything-yoga have been terribly impacted, while restaurants have closed (some re-opening under new ownership), and personal service industries, like hair stylists, have suffered from much lower income.

Further, the *National Post* revealed requests for more help from organizations like the Coalition of the Hardest Hit Businesses, the Tourism Industry Association of Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. All made similar pleas - without targeted help for the hardest hit sectors, their members will not survive.

Patio Program 2021

In December of 2020, Town Council approved a \$25,000 matching grant program for the use of restaurant patio creation across the Town. They also tasked staff to come up with a construction standard, particularly in the Downtown, that is both safe and aesthetically pleasing; having mentioned that the 2020 patio program Downtown worked,

but was hardly beautiful to look at. "Last year, a local family business named Powell Contracting bailed us out. They specialize in the manufacture of Jersey barriers. They helped us develop a safety standard and installation in under 30 days for a fair price. We owe them," said Tuley, "but no one likes the look of Jersey barriers for patios." In addition, Council was not comfortable with supporting only some of the restaurants.

Downtown Patios

Staff developed a plan for a safe and better-looking patio deck system in the Downtown. However, working within the public right-of-way inflates costs. Knowing that some restaurants couldn't afford such solutions, staff applied for a grant from the Healthy Communities Initiative to pick up the entire cost.

In the meantime, Council voted on March 23 to cover the cost of Downtown with COVID Relief Funds, so the patios can get installed as soon as possible. If the grant comes, these funds will be reimbursed.

Staff is hoping for a mid-April install, but they need to coordinate with Fire and Public Works Officials first. While they wait for installation, restaurants can use the public sidewalk for ad-hoc patios, provided that they leave 1.8-metre clear space on the sidewalk for pedestrians.

Patios Not Downtown

Restaurant patios elsewhere in Town will be given the opportunity to apply for a matching grant from the Town.

Staff will develop a simple application and review process for the matching grant program. Funds can be used to develop new patios in shopping centre parking lots and expand existing patios. Also considered are improvements to accessibility and beautification.

"We haven't set minimums or maximums," said Tuley, "as we just don't know what the demand will be. We have a pool of money, thanks to Council, and will stretch it as far as we can."



Provided that they have permission from the landlord or property owner, restaurant patios in parking lots can be set up anytime. Staff is only asking that a restaurant submit a "napkin sketch" so that they can comment on safety. If the plans include any kind of walled enclosure, the Fire Department should be additionally contacted.

Town-Wide Matching Grants

Town Council adopted the Town-Wide CIP last summer and conducted the first round of grant awards for building improvements in November. These matching grants can be used to support businesses involved in tourism and food security/food production in rural areas, for development and leasehold improvements in intensified areas, and for building improvements in the Downtown.

Total funding for this first intake in November was \$43,570, which complimented \$213,982 in investment. The next round of matching grants is expected to be announced either May 1 or June 1. OTR will be the primary source used to broadcast this announcement. Stay tuned. (i)

Contact

Parties interested in the Patio Program 2021 or Town-Wide Matching Grants should contact:

David Tuley
Economic Development Officer
david.tuley@townofws.ca
905-640-1910 Ext. 2262

CELEBRATING 50 ISSUES IN PRINT

by David Tuley

Here we are - the 50th edition of *On the Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville*. It seems like yesterday (2016) when Glenn Jackson and I dreamed up this scheme. The idea was simple - "let's cut costs and provide more." The Town was spending a lot of money in those days on newspaper advertising.

Although we loved the local newspapers, we realized that the Town had never communicated with every household. Water bills only go to those with municipal water, and tax bills to those that own property.

We cooked up the plan within a month. Senior staff and Council enabled the effort. The first edition was an 8-page folded newspaper, mailed to every house by Canada Post. King Cole Ducks was on the cover. Ugh, the cover photo was supersaturated and dark. Newsprint can be an ugly product that makes your fingers black.

My secret mission was to meet local businesses and broadcast their story, Glenn's was to communicate Town news. *On the Road* expanded cautiously to 12, then 16 pages.

My favourite early edition was September 2017, when Trails Youth Initiatives was featured. It was the first story of pure community value about a local topic that few people knew. The first renovation of the magazine was to produce a tabloid-style newspaper - no more folding, and better paper. By this time, both the community and Town Council were figuring out what this "thing" was all about, and seeing value in it.

The November 2017 issue "Ringwood" and December "Keith Acton" were the first to

incorporate a deep historical narrative and were well regarded by the public.

My favourite all-time edition: The Pickering Airport, January 2018. I had been researching provincial land use planning policies that affect W-S, whose seeds were set around 1970, when I stumbled onto this historical gem (or lemon). This edition used 98 newspaper articles to flesh out the Stouffville side of the airport story. Stouffvillians wasn't a group to be messed with - they marched on Ottawa (Councillors included).

While I was writing this story over the Christmas Holiday, one of the three main airport protest leaders died (Bill Lishman). I had met him and his family in prior work life. I was stunned while looking at his photo in an unprinted newspaper.

After the issue was published, one of the three women that staged *The Last Stand* - they occupied the house "that took the Federal Government down" - phoned me for extra copies of the paper; she lives on Bethesda Sideroad. Very cool indeed!

Although the Pickering Airport Part 1 and Part 2 damn near got me fired, it reiterated a lesson about community: where it has been and where it is headed are all part of the story, and equally important.

Of course, OTR has progressed in name, length and paper quality. We are graced with excellent columnists and contributors. But, we cannot celebrate this anniversary further, because it would take away from the stories featured here, in the 50th edition of OTR. (i)

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

From speeding to tailgating, making excessive lane changes, weaving in and out of traffic, intentionally preventing another driver from passing, and cutting off others on the road are all types of aggressive driving behaviours. The one thing they all have in common is the choice of not sharing the road responsibly.

York Regional Police considers aggressive driving to be a significant issue on our roads and highways. Incidents of aggressive driving continue to increase despite coordinated enforcement efforts across the Greater Toronto Area with partnering police agencies. Over the past year, widespread media coverage of aggressive drivers and a number of fatal collisions has once again brought this issue to the forefront of many road safety strategies.

Aggressive driving can manifest itself when we start falling behind schedule, so plan ahead and allow yourself enough travel time to avoid driving aggressively. If you encounter an aggressive driver on the road, ignore them, and if possible, move over and let them pass. Also, consider how your behaviour may have impacted the situation.

If you observe aggressive or unlawful driver behaviour, submit a citizen report through the York Regional Police Road Watch Online portal [onlinereporting.yrp.ca/RoadWatch.html](https://www.yrp.ca/RoadWatch.html). First-time offenders will receive a letter from York Regional Police describing the unsafe or aggressive driving incident that was witnessed.

Stouffville Stats



Last 3 months:

Speeding ... 544
Impaired Alcohol ... 15
Impaired Drugs ... 3
Distracted/Cell phone ... 5 (1 month)
Collisions ... 102
Stunt Driving ... 52 (5 months)



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CATCHING UP WITH LIONS

Elliot Basa, OTR Journalism Student

The Lions Club of Stouffville is widely known around town as a charitable group often seen helping residents. Whether it be during Christmas, with their Christmas Toy Drive, or their monthly environmental cleanup day; they are always here to help. However, with the pandemic rolling around, their large gatherings and events had been severely impacted. With many of us being encouraged to stay home, we all wonder, what has the Lions Club been up to?

Chris Larkin, president of the club, explains that the club has been continuing projects they do annually, such as their monthly environment cleanups. Members of the club, alongside volunteers, do their part to keep the city's environment clean. The Lions Club had also done their Christmas Tree distribution and Christmas Toy Drive in December, while respecting COVID-19 safety guidelines. Rather than leaving deposit boxes out for donations as usual, they distributed gift cards to families in need. Doing so, still helped families while reducing possible transmission of the virus. The pandemic has not stopped them from pulling through for Stouffville, and it seems like it will stay that way.

The Lions Club hopes to start their usual club meetings back outside, rather than the online meetings, to discuss projects for the 2021 year. Some of the projects proposed for the new year being the continuation of environmental cleanup, providing support for Latcham gallery, support for the Stouffville Public Library, community tree distribution and aiding with personal requests from residents.

None of these projects would be possible without the members of the Lions Club, however, the club lacks members from younger ages. "There's a misconception that the Lions Club is only for old people," Larkin states. "It doesn't matter your age, gender, religion or ethnicity, the Lions Club is only looking for willing people."

If you wish to contribute without becoming a member, volunteering is always an option. Many of the projects, such as the Christmas tree distribution

and environmental cleanup, are volunteer-based. It is also important to note that those in high school who are seeking hours are eligible to volunteer for the Lions Club.

With the addition of new possible members, there is no doubt that the Lions Club will continue to be an amazing and inspiring staple of the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. If you are interested in learning more about the club, you can visit their website at stouffvillelions.ca or their Facebook page.

OPEN STUDIO @BEKE

by Monica Gennaro & David Tuley



Beke Jewellery Design Inc. is a jewellery designing and manufacturing company, located on the outskirts of Stouffville, surrounded by the beautiful York Region Forests. For Mother's Day, Monica Gennaro, a Goldsmith, is hosting an Open Studio event to view and shop for unique handmade jewellery. On display will be Sterling Silver Earrings, Rings, Necklaces, Bracelets, and Brooches, as well as Pearl jewellery. Custom orders are welcome at Beke Studio.

The Open Studio dates: April 30, May 1 & May 2, from 9am to 6pm, at 15167 McCowan Rd. All the safety precautions and social distancing measures for a safe shopping environment have been taken and are going to be observed.

For the last year, the studio has been closed and had very few visitors. That did not mean that Monica Gennaro stopped

working. On the contrary, "I have created many new pieces, learned new techniques, brushed up on my skills," she said. Some of the pieces created are expanding the existing collections - Geometric with Circles, Squares and Triangles, the Nature-inspired with the Leafs and the Flowers, but she has created some new designs as well - the Cosmic Collection with the Black Hole pendant and the Swirling Brooches with anti-clastic raising (having opposite curvatures).

"My latest one is Granulation! Reading the jewellery manuals and trying new techniques I have stumbled upon Granulation. It is fascinating - for me at least. Making the small granules, and after that soldering them and sort of teaching them to stay put where I want them to be. It is fun, frustrating, and challenging. Granulation is a new technique for me, I am creating rings, pendants and want to expand the collection with necklaces, bracelets, brooches. By the time I finish the whole gamut in the collection I will be achieving the Etruscan level of mastery," she added.

The shop employees (her dogs), Jason the Doberman and Alba the Bergamasco are eagerly waiting for spring and summer to come in order to be able to run and have fun outside. They have been cooped up in the shop for many months.

When the pandemic and the shutdown came, Monica started renovating the interior of the shop doing painting and making cosmetic changes. Now the shop is fresh, new and stacked with jewellery ready to be swarmed by shoppers. "As the pandemic raged on, all the summer shows were canceled. Some of them have adapted to the new situation and went online, but it is not the same," said Monica.

"We, the artists, the creators, are in the studio all the time sequestered from the outside world living in our own heads with all the creative thought jammed in. With the shows being cancelled, the chance of interacting with people was and is at the present time gone. I am a hermit, I admit, but even the worst of the hermits need people's interaction from time to time. In other words, I miss the shows, I miss putting up and taking down the tent, I miss seeing people's faces when they look in wonder at my jewellery," Monica concluded.

The Studio is open for business anytime by appointment, contact by phone at 647-269-1205. For more see Beke.ca.

KAYLA CLEARS IT UP

Jahaan Kanji Arain, OTR Journalism Student

Normally when someone strives to pursue a passion, it takes months, or even years to build themselves a stable platform. As young individuals, we find reassurance in having our futures planned, but what happens when we become confronted with a drastic change that puts an abrupt stop to those dreams and hopes we set for ourselves? What happens when your life flips upside down, and you are left without the slightest idea as to what the future now holds?

For the 16-year old Stouffville resident, Kayla Jackson, the pandemic was not something that she had prepared for ahead of time. Similar to millions, it hit her with no warning, and the life she so desperately hoped of having, was completely altered. Karate and Taekwondo classes, which had been regularly integrated factors of her life since the age of three, were closed down, leaving Jackson both bored and distressed.

As someone who found enjoyment in these daily classes, the pandemic made it extremely difficult for her to cope with daily turbulences, leaving her usual steady and attentive mindset to be diverted to the plains of social media and to become more susceptible to its influences. "All of the people I was following were going on vacations, and I was feeling very jealous and inadequate. I didn't feel like my life was good," she states.

Jackson says that even before the pandemic, the urge to compare herself to celebrities and those with a large social platform was something that had always affected her. "I wasn't feeling good. I was actually feeling terrible for over a year," she continues.

It wasn't until Jackson confronted her friends, did she come to realize that the extensive insecurity she had been feeling about her own life, was a struggle that they were facing as well. The decision of bringing forth that specific question, being how the constant comparison of our lives and that of celebrities, have contributed to a decline in one's sense of self-worth, was one that Jackson felt the need to fuse into day-to-day conversations.

"Overwhelmingly, whenever I would ask people this question, the answer would

always be yes, I do feel bad that my life isn't as glamorous as the people I've seen on Instagram," she says. With the observance of commonality between every answer she received, arose the spark of a series of other questions, the most prominent one being, as Jackson states, "If everyone is feeling like this, why is nothing being done about it? I don't think this is real. I don't think that Kylie Jenner's life is one hundred percent glam. I think that they're struggling, and I think that there are times where they are lying on the couch doing nothing."

And thus initiated the stratum of the *Clearing It Up* podcast, that's motive is to exhibit "the reality of the people in the public eye," and understand what life is like "off of the red carpet," through genuine interviews with a diverse selection of celebrities, ranging from athletes to dancers, all founded and assembled by Jackson.

When asked about her direct intentions, she states "I am trying to make people feel more relatable, because this issue has really impacted our mental health and has yet to be dealt with." Jackson says that podcasting was never something that she had planned on doing, but the amount of praise and success she has received was even more unexpected.

The platform was all fairly new, the podcast having only been put together as of September, Jackson stated that many friends and family regarded her objective with uncertainty. However, her motivation in bringing light to such a relevant yet unprecedented topic overpowered any form of dispute she faced.

I felt that it was necessary to end the interview with a final token of advice. I found that education was a significant aspect of Jackson's life, thus raising the question as to what advice she would give young people who are trying to manage a passion along with their education? She goes about the question by saying "If you have a plan as to what you want to do, the first step is to convince yourself that what you're doing has merit, and that you are being true to yourself. Work on your own needs first."

I can undoubtedly state that the success of her podcasts are well deserved and that I absolutely consider her a means of inspiration. Please subscribe to her podcast *Clearing it Up* with Kayla Jackson, to show your support. See more on Instagram: [iamkayla.jackson](https://www.instagram.com/iamkayla.jackson).

LIFELONG LEARNING

by Harry Renuad & David Tuley

LifeLong Learning Stouffville is part of the university based Third Age Learning network and came to Stouffville in 2019. It is a lecture series for adults. The speakers are selected because they are expert in their field, use power point to support their presentation and have a reputation as an excellent speaker. In the beginning, the lectures were presented to live audiences which quickly grew to over 300 attendees but Covid restrictions have forced the lectures to be presented via Zoom.

The Spring session of 6 lectures will commence on April 12 and is now open for Registration. To register simply go to: www.lifelonglearningstouffville.com where you will find the list of speakers and their topics. The line-up this spring is as follows:

April 12, 2-4pm

Tom Vassas – A Fascinating Tour of the Universe

April 19, 2-4pm

Claudiu Popa – Cyber Safety

April 26, 2-4pm

Dr. Olivier Courteaux – Current Relationships between Canada, USA and China

May 3, 2-4pm

Sally Armstrong – Afghanistan

May 10, 2-4pm

Dr. Michael Verbora – Is Cannabis a cure-all?

May 17, 2-4pm

Myriam Nafté – Forensics in Crime Solving

"Our motto is," said Harry, "Continue to join us on this journey of discovery about broad and interesting topics presented by experts in their fields and never stop learning." The cost is \$55 and includes all 6 lectures. Register online at lifelonglearningstouffville.com.

You can register only on line at: lifelonglearningstouffville.com.

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Norma Card*



Jan Frisby*



Shai Savella**



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herstory

Placing Women in Local Historical Narrative

by Ohan Stamboulian, Museum & Cultural Events

Now more than ever, there is a desire to ensure that the history of our community is more balanced and that it includes the stories and voices of those who have not always been heard. In the case of a rural village in Ontario like ours, it has traditionally been men who are credited for its' success. While their dedication is not in question, this historical article challenges this narrative by shifting the usual focus to explore what the early women of Whitchurch-Stouffville were contributing to the founding and success of the community. By no means will this article cover our entire story, but will rather seek to encourage a more inclusive approach to thinking about our past.

Pre-Settler Era

The late sixteenth century Huron-Wendat community known as the Jean-Baptiste Lainé site located in central Stouffville was a

matrilineal society. This population of 1,500 to 2,000 Huron-Wendat members excelled in trade and diplomacy and were considered expert farmers and fisher-hunter-gatherers, and the women of the village played a large role in creating this reputation.

While duties were divided with men, the societal structure within the community and daily operations were organized by the women. Duties included taking care of children and families, farming, cooking, sewing and tanning leather, making pots, cleaning fire pits and gathering food. The success of this remarkable civilization depended heavily on the equal participation of all members.

They raised excellent leaders and were revered by the French for their generosity. Out of all sites across Southern Ontario, this one is considered to be the largest and most complex, and managing the resources and successes here would have been demanding.

Heather Bastien, 1932-2017



Within the longhouse, families consisted of the women, her sisters or daughters, and their husbands and children. It's important to understand that women had major influence on male leaders within the community, and that women were considered the family guardians and were responsible for protecting village traditions. Ultimately, much of what we know from Indigenous oral tradition about the First Nation populations, we know because of the women's dedication to tradition and storytelling.

Heather Bastien (1932-2017) is a wonderful example of this dedication, often regarded as one of the greatest Aboriginal cultural heritage champions in Canada. Bastien's efforts resulted in the protection of dozens of significant Huron-Wendat villages and burials in Southern Ontario, which is the Traditional Territory of the Huron-Wendat. Moreover, four laws in Ontario were reformed as a direct result of her tireless campaigning for Indigenous rights and recognition in Canada.

Early Settlers

Whether by the Huron-Wendat or subsequent Indigenous groups, the women and girls of the pre-settler era had sown prosperous communities and farmland by the time Abraham Stouffer emigrated here in 1804. The Founding of Stouffville plaque on Main Street demonstrates the earliest formation of the town as we know it today having been due to Stouffer's ingenuity, stating "In 1805-06, Abraham Stouffer (1780-1851), a Pennsylvania Mennonite, acquired 400 acres of land in this area. By 1824, he had built a saw and grist-mill on Duffin's Creek, near which a hamlet developed and, in 1832, a post office named Stouffville was established."

This account of our namesake is absolutely true, but does leave much room for interpretation for the early years of settlement in the first quarter of the century. Let's imagine what his wife Elizabeth Reesor could have been experiencing at this time, as surely Stouffer couldn't have founded a village



The Founding of Stouffville, Ontario Heritage Trust

and established a homestead and thriving mill business alone. The work of women was essential to the survival and long-term success of any prosperous farm operation, so naturally they were pretty important to Stouffville.

Upon their arrival after a six-week trek, the land was heavily forested. It was not an easy journey, working tirelessly at home for the social and cultural betterment of the community. Let's first consider that the Stouffer's, a Mennonite settler family, were already in the midst of raising a large family when they journeyed to the area, and young mothers could have been simultaneously pregnant and nursing during the early years of settlement.

For the matriarch of the family, this meant a very busy life as household chores in establishing a homestead were unending. There was bread to be made and the cooking was all done from scratch. Mending and sewing clothes was a constant task. Once old enough the children would contribute, but taking care of babies and younger children was a time-consuming job in the backwoods of the nineteenth century. Diapers and clothing all had to be made by hand, no ready-made formula or baby foods were available, food scarce and without choice, yet young women raised a hardworking and intelligent generation of farmers, builders and professionals.

It was lessons such as the importance of dye and remedy gardens, or the recording

of recipes and making soap from stove ashes that contributed towards a prosperous community. When we think about the successes of our pioneers in the beginnings of our community, let's consider that the women were very busy and present in this establishment. It's not new to hear it takes a village to raise a child – by the Stouffer's, Reesor's and many other families who neighbored them, we can corroborate that it also takes a child to raise a village.

Victorian Era

At the time Stouffville entered the Victorian Era (1837-1901) with the rest of Upper Canada, what is now Ontario, women were still viewed as part of the domestic sphere, expected by

society as a whole to tend to the economics of the household while men were perceived to be more ambitious and better suited for the public sphere.

This separation of gender roles into complementary spheres was seen largely to deny women of political and social rights, though still women lived outside this predetermined fate, some even becoming involved in temperance unions. For local shop owner Maggie Lehman Wilson who owned a millinery (hat shop) on Main Street at the corner of Church Street South during the closing years of the Victorian period, operating a business was less common for a woman within the community at this time. Certainly, her dedication and others like her spoke directly to the fact that one could be just as successful.

As Stouffville exited the Victorian Era in 1901, so too did it find the progression of women's contribution to our local history shifting to the forefront. In 1897, following the passing of her infant son due to the consumption of contaminated milk several years earlier, Adelaide Hoodless co-founded the Women's Institute in Stoney Creek, Ontario, after coming to the staggering conclusion that her own education had not provided the knowledge to avoid such tragedy in the household. Having a far-reaching impact on rural women everywhere, it wasn't long until our own community's history would gain a new and very important chapter.



Wilson Millinery Shop, c.1900. W-S Museum Collection.

herstory_{cont.}

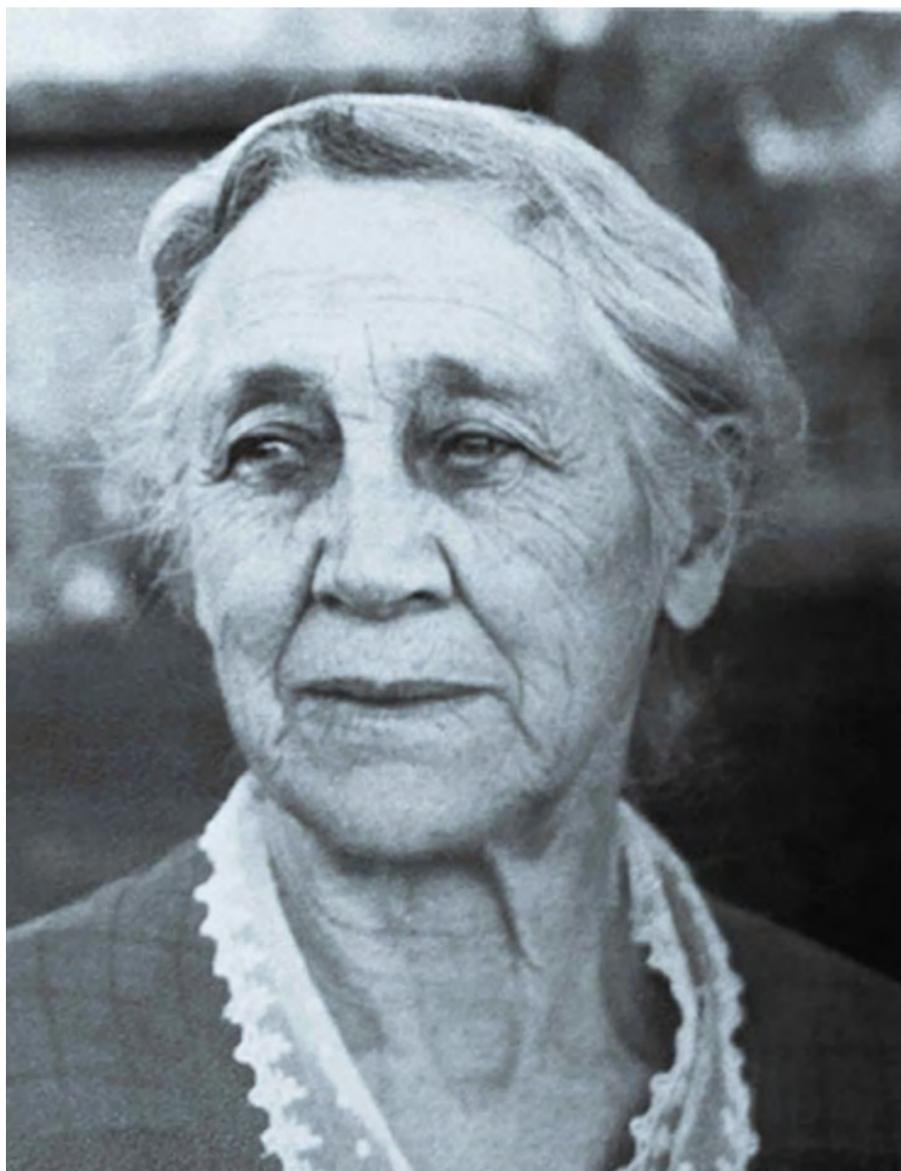
Inspired in the same way as Hoodless in 1897, Vandorf resident Gertrude Van Nostrand founded the Vandorf Women's Institute in 1905, which was the longest running Women's Institute in the history of Whitchurch-Stouffville, closing in 2018. This inception was followed by five other local branches beginning with Stouffville in 1905, Pine Orchard in 1913, Gormley in 1930, Bethesda in 1935 and Bogartown in 1946. These six local branches were part of the larger movement that led to items such as including domestic science in public school curricula, the education of girls and women in household management, and ultimately brought together the life of girls and women at school, at work and in the home.

The dedication of these local women to family and community demonstrates not only the Women's Institute motto "For Home and Country," but it further benefits our community's larger historical narrative as much of what we know about our past comes from our Tweedsmuir histories – large bound books that are collected and assembled by local Women's Institute branches to preserve that community's history, of which there were six in total.

Modern Wartime Era

This beneficial influence on writing community history leads us into the modern wartime era when our local Women's Institutes, including women not affiliated with the Institute, expanded their definition of community to include those now overseas. The motto 'Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do, or Do Without' set the precedent for rationing items like sugar and butter, but also materials such as metals and rubber that could be used to make guns and tires for military vehicles as rationing was in effect for both World Wars.

Let's also not forget the farm and industrial labour that needed to continue during times of war in order to keep the Canadian economy running, or the women who served, like Stouffville High School teacher Miss Ruth Miller, who was one of the first two girls accepted by the Toronto branch of the Royal Canadian Air Force (R.C.A.F.) during the Second World War. Miller was granted early leave after four years of teaching Mathematics and Science in order to answer the call to serve in the Meteorology Department of the R.C.A.F.



Mrs. J. A. (Gertrude) Van Nostrand, Vandorf Women's Institute. W-S Museum Collection.

Women's organizations also took on the responsibility of shipping clothing, quilts and bandages to send to men overseas as well as books, newspapers and treats to keep spirits lively in the trenches. Some of these organizations, including the Women's Patriotic League, even put together send-off and welcome home parties for servicemen in the branch's areas and, after the conclusion of the war, were leaders in creating war memorials. This provides yet another concrete example of the women of our community playing a pivotal role in creating and recognizing our history well into the current generations.

For Krista Rauchenstein, Curator/Supervisor of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, recognizing the contributions of

women to our community's historical narrative is a key element to the institution.

"In the 50 years that the Museum has been collecting the history of our community, numerous people have worked to ensure that heritage is recorded. Museums have a real responsibility to help foster equity and inclusion in both story-telling & the gathering of information, and we're always working to improve."

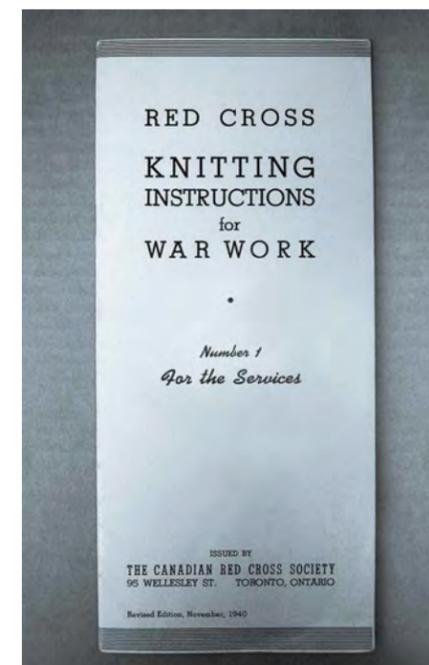
Her sentiments speak to why it is important to recognize that we know what we know because of the women who recorded or collected it.

"It's important to highlight the contributions made by women to our history through things like journals, Tweedsmuir

History Books, and oral histories passed down through families. It's also important to acknowledge the work women have done to document this history so that we are able to retell their stories. For international Women's Day on March 8th we chose to highlight the hard work and inspiring legacy of Jean (Pipher) Barkey (1919-2011), a 4th generation 'Stouffvillite,'" Rauchenstein shares.

"Jean worked relentlessly to ensure that the history of Whitchurch-Stouffville was well documented. Were it not for her, we may not have the rich collection of historical data we have today. She was in large part responsible for both books that we often turn to for research, *Stouffville 1877-1977* and *Whitchurch Township*."

History is all around us, and it exists because we create it every single day, whether it be sharing an experience with a friend or keeping a pandemic journal. Collectively, we are going to be studied hundreds of years from now as a prosperous community of thinkers and doers. History doesn't belong to any one person and so too does it lack significance when only one voice represents it. When the textbooks are written and plaques published, we need to be keeping in mind that history is her story too. 



[left] Jean (Pipher) Barkey at Musselman's Lake; *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph Online*, Feb. 1 2017. [right] Pamphlet, Red Cross, Knitting Instructions for War Work No. 1, 1940. W-S Museum Collection.

This article was written in consultation with several sources including local history texts, reputable online encyclopedias, Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum archives and Fred Robbins, local historian.

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EVAN FARRELL A TASTE OF NASHVILLE

by David Tuley



Telephone interviews present a hurdle in getting to know someone. It is an inability to study their mannerisms and take cues from facial expressions. However, Evan Farrell is an enthusiastic young man that was very easy to talk with for the first time. He seems genuine and non-judgemental.

The deep country voice of Evan Farrell is sure to make Stouffville famous. Evan is a local boy, almost. He was born in Berkeley, California and moved to Markham at the age of 3, and then to Stouffville at 5 years old. As a toddler, Evan took a shine to American country singer Toby Keith. One evening on the way home from a baseball game, the country radio station was playing in the car. Evan sang song after song on that trip. The baseball dad at the helm of the vehicle told his mother that, "You need to get this boy a guitar". Evan was 12 years old at the time.

By the age of 16, Evan knew what he wanted to do – sing, produce and perform. His first live gig was at the Havelock Country Jamboree. "I got eliminated in the first round, but I got a taste, then took it and

ran," said Evan. From there, he's played CountryFest in Georgina, a drive-in at the OHL arena in Barrie, and two-times at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Evan has performed at local events such as Springsong and Wintersong, and at 19 on the Park.

In 2020, Evan made a trip to Nashville. "A lot of the best country writers in Nashville are Canadian," he said. He spent most of the trip songwriting. He also made some serious connections – one being Daryl Scott. For many years Daryl had been the lead guitar player for the Rob Donaldson Band, a Canadian Honky-Tonk band. Now, he's a songwriter who's got plenty of cuts including "Hackin' Darts" by Jade Eagleson. Jade is a popular Ontario country singer. While in Nashville, Evan, Jade and Daryl connected for a songwriting session.

Evan returned from Nashville a month before the COVID-related lockdown began. He had a slate of shows lined up. However, many of these events - with doors being closed to the public - were cancelled, and

others went forward online as virtual concerts. He spent a lot of time in 2020 songwriting, and says that his writing has improved, and his style solidified.

Last summer, Evan also worked at Farmer Jack's. He's worked there seasonally since he was 14. "Scott Burrows (the owner) is an awesome man, one of the kindest men I've known," he said. He hopes that from this point forward, his career is making music. Evan recently turned 20 years old. In the future, he'd like to split the year between Nashville and Stouffville.

Recently, Evan launched his first single "Out There Somewhere", which is readily available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon and iTunes. This tune is as good, and for Evan, it is just the beginning. This single was listened to 17,000 times in the first two weeks. A month later, it had been listened to over 31,000 times. The next time we interview Evan for OTR, we expect that he will have a large following – in two countries.

For more, see evanfarrellmusic.com. (1)



a celebration of place

Jason Wilson
photo by Jim Mason

Jason Wilson, musician

by Ohan Stamboulian, Museum & Cultural Events

For two-time Juno-Awards nominee, best-selling author and Canadian Reggae Music award winner Jason Wilson, being a long-time resident of Whitchurch-Stouffville is only one of many accolades on a very long list of achievements. Connection to place within Toronto and stylistic fusion are at the forefront of his art – music that begins with a Reggae base and is then seasoned with various different flavours from jazz, folk, and sometimes even classical motifs.

Music has always been part of Wilson's life, performing his first gig at the age of just 12 years old and playing his first nightclub at 14. Wilson obtained his Bachelor of Honours in History with a double minor in Music and Film before earning his master's degree and PhD at the University of Guelph, where he currently teaches. From an early age his love for music and history have complemented each other as he shares that one field informs the other, and that roughly 90% of his music is informed by historical narrative – a cognizant and unique approach to catch the listener's ear and explore stories from perspectives that exist outside of the expected form.

When creating his music, Wilson typically begins with the topic. "The topic comes to mind first and it has to be something that sings, one line that gets you going," he shared. "Then comes the research for historical accuracy and, after that, the key that opens the door to everything else." Wilson discussed with me that while themes may resonate quickly, putting melody to word can sometimes take a bit of time. For this example, take a listen to Keele Street, a song that appears in several films and television programs. "Keele Street became something of an anthem, and that one took about ten minutes to write while riding the Keele Street Bus to visit my parents. Other songs take months to create and don't necessarily reach the same level of success, so the process can differ between songs."

Celebration of place has been an underlying theme in the creation of Wilson's music for a long time. "Place is much more than a building. It's a memory and a myth maker. Place is crucial to memory, and sometimes it's the only thing that binds us," he shared. "It's shared with everyone. We're all here in this place together." Illustrating Toronto as this meeting place, Wilson's craft embodies real moments – love, friendships, when we work together – real life experiences. "It isn't about

telling other people's stories" he told me, "it's about finding where we intersect. We learn from other people and we mimic one another."

Sumach Roots, Wilson's 2020-released contemporary folk album, is an example of this intersection. Accompanied in performance by a top-flight cast of performers, Wilson's album and stage performance "dives into the late 18th Century diaries of Elizabeth Simcoe, the impact of the Irish Famine, the great Toronto fires of 1902 and 1904, the construction of the CN Tower in the early 1970s, and other crucial moments that illuminate the host/immigrant experience in Toronto." A specific example is the album's opening track We (feat. Gabe Gaudet), which is a musical rendition of a Land Acknowledgment, created and recorded collectively with the Indigenous community. This track is even used by schools in the Toronto area as an artistic approach to providing a Land Acknowledgment in their daily operations.

In our conversations, we also chatted about the COVID-19 Global Pandemic and the effects this has had on creating and performing music. "The pandemic has had a profound effect on musicians and music making," Wilson testified. "I personally like to create in solitude before approaching my producer with an idea, but that's not everyone's approach, so that can be difficult. Performing is of course not the same, even though we've done some online events. Connecting with the audience is an incredible feeling." The hardest part for Wilson by far has been not being able to rehearse with his band – "I'm looking forward to being able to do that again." There is however a silver lining to all of this, as he shared that more down time means more time to create – Wilson currently has two projects on the go.

Jason Wilson's new single Ready to be Loved featuring Carl Harvey is available now on Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon Music, Google Play, Deezer and Bandcamp. This song explores the story of Denny, a 90,000-year-old Neanderthal-Denisovan fossil that was discovered in recent years in the Altai Mountains of Siberia, Russia.

For more information, please visit jasonwilsonmusic.com. [1]



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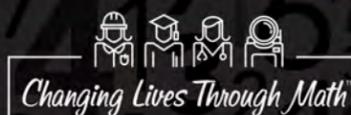
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*Learning During COVID-19, November 2020 - NWEA Research; How Kids Are Performing, Fall 2020 - Renaissance Learning



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STOUFFVILLE SENIOR OF THE MONTH

BOB BRECKLES

AGE: Bob is 84 years young!

A STOUFFVILLE RESIDENT SINCE! He and Barbara, his wife of 61 years, moved here from Scarborough 27 years ago because of all the great things they were hearing about the Town from their friends Doug and Deanna Cooper.

FAMILY: Bob and Barbara's two sons, Brian and Bob Junior, have given them five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

CAREER: He spent his whole working life with SunLife of Canada. He joined SunLife as a Sales Agent in 1958 at age 22 and retired from the company at age 63.

HIGHLIGHTS: The biggest highlight of his life was moving his family to Ontario from Montreal in 1978. The births of each of his grandchildren rank a very close second.

WHAT'S LIFE ALL ABOUT GRANDPA! Life is all about following the Golden Rule: you must treat others as you would expect to be treated. It is also of paramount importance that you get a good education.

WHAT'S BEST ABOUT LIFE IN STOUFFVILLE! Bob says retiring in Stouffville was the best decision he has ever made. He really likes the small town feel that surrounds him. He and Barbara have met so many wonderful friends and made so many wonderful memories here.

HOW DO WE MAKE IT EVEN BETTER? Get involved with the community. Giving back to the community promotes happiness and a sense of belonging.

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WHEN THEY WERE MY AGE

For the spring semester, OTR will enjoy a fresh batch of journalism students. The talent behind these young high school co-op students will amaze you. Their first project is a creative exercise in reflection, similar to Jake MacAndrew in the fall semester, who wrote about being raised in Stouffville.

The project assigned to Jahaan Kanji Arain and Elliot Basa was to interview a parent or guardian, to ask them what they were doing "when they were my age", and how these events affected their lives.

Our students formed up their first interviews and fired away, to uncover untold information about their guardian that were not known before, and that adults were once young people too.

Jahaan Kanji Arain

When I initially sought my mom out and told her that I would have to interview her for my next project, her reaction came out much more excited than I expected. My parents would be considered as fairly quiet individuals, so this family rarely is confronted with over-exaggerated enthusiasm. But the abnormally happy reaction was swiftly thrown in the dirt when I told her that the interview would be a recount of her life when she was my age. Cue the sighs of disapproval and whining protests. Of course, I didn't let her get away with this one, so I sat her down, and effectively influenced her with my useful persuasion skills.

The questions were fairly simple: "What year was it?", "What was life like?", "The biggest issue you faced that year?" and "How did that issue shape your life?". It's not every day where you are given the opportunity to sit your parent down and berate them with questions regarding their moody, complicated, adolescent years because most kids are smart enough to know that getting the details about mom and dad's lives at the age of 17, is not up for discussion.

"It was 1988 when I was 17, and I was in high school obviously," she started. "I had a kind of sheltered upbringing and I had two really great girlfriends that I got to hang out with, and I was pretty much spending my time with them on the phone or in person."

"I didn't really have much of a social life



Jahaan Kanji Arain

outside of my two friends. My dad was really strict so I wasn't really allowed to get out of the house."

"It was actually fun," she stated when I asked her for a synopsis of her life at 17. "It was kind of carefree. We didn't have the same restrictions that maybe some of you guys have. We didn't have social media, which was really great actually because we got to physically hang out with our friends."

"I got to talk to them on the phone and see them at school and it was really different being a teenager back then than I would assume it is now. There weren't that many eyes on you. On social media, you guys have so many people paying attention to what you're doing. We didn't have the same pressures that you guys have being a teenager today."

When I asked my mom the question of what the biggest issue she faced that year was, it took us a good 3 retries for her to come up with a response. "My parents were divorced -" she decided on "- and a lot of my friends came from families that were still together so that was kind of hard. I mean that happened when I was 13 but it was an ongoing pressure because I kind of felt like I had to divide my time between my mom and my dad, and also a big thing that had happened that year was my best friend got married, not because she wanted to but

because it was an arranged marriage.

That weighed heavy on me specifically because that was a lot to wrap my head around, why she would have to do this and why her parents were forcing her to do this. So for a 17-year-old kid, that's a lot to kind of digest and deal with, so I can only imagine what she was going through but I know it was rough for me."

"Do you think that this issue shaped your life?" I asked her. "So I don't know if it necessarily shaped my life, but it definitely shaped my adolescence," she said. She was silent for a few moments before she responded again. "You know, I wanted to protect my friend, and maybe there were some things that I did that in retrospect I really shouldn't have, but I helped her kind of run away from home, which in retrospect as I said, I wouldn't have done now being a parent myself." This was not something I was aware of, and I found it almost difficult to put myself in her shoes.

"But at that time I just thought she was not in a safe environment, if her parents could arrange her marriage by proxy and do that to their own child, then I felt like they weren't being parents, so it made me a little bit more protective about her."

We tend to not always view our parents as people, let alone teenagers, so when the walls around them come down, and they willingly exhibit the vulnerable side of themselves to

their kids, it becomes almost enlightening to truly understanding who they really are.

Elliot Basa

The year was 1991. It was graduation year for high school senior, Crisanta Basa, in the capital of the Philippines, Manila. That year, the city was not known as the bright urban capital of the country. Mount Pinatubo had just erupted. Manila had been covered by wet ash, pumice, and a blanket of darkness. Natural disasters, such as heavy rain, lightning, and earthquakes, had become more frequent. Many homes had collapsed, leaving many without shelter from disaster, and leaving some injured or even dead.

My aunt, Crisanta, was one of the fortunate residents that had not been thoroughly impacted by the eruption, so she tried to make the best of her last year in high school. The secondary school system only accounted for students from grades seven to ten. So, for sixteen-year-old Crisanta, she was already preparing to go to post-secondary. She knew it would not be an issue for her, since she attended school at the University of the Philippines Integrated School, a specialized elementary school that tested possible

implementations for public schools. This school only housed top-notch students, one of them being my aunt.

Being in the Philippines, every student had to complete mandatory Cadet Army Training. Every Saturday, she attended the training. She had to practice marching, hold wooden rifles and undergo rigorous discipline training. She did not pursue a military career though. Instead, like me, she was confused about what she wanted to pursue in the future.

She remembers taking classes that she was interested in, such as economics, cooking, and arts. Crisanta did not want to dwell on her future, so she lived in the present, and the present was 'oh so wonderful'. She remembers what life was like in the early nineties, "My friends and I would listen to 'I Do It For You' by Bryan Adams and 'It Must Have Been Love' by Roxette. We didn't have phones like you, we used Walkman's." My aunt was also a big fan of movies. She remembers watching movies like *My Girl*, *Splash*, and *Friday the 13th* using VHS tapes.

The Philippines had many beaches. As a Filipina, it was not uncommon for young women to play volleyball. She joined varsity

clubs for volleyball, playing inter-school games, and staying after school for hours to practice. When she was not playing volleyball or watching romantic Tom Hanks movies, she would explore Manila's bars and discos. She also frequented the newly emerging malls in the Philippines, shopping for cropped leggings, cardigans, and shoulder pads. The latter was used to give the appearance of square shoulders (an interesting fashion choice if you ask me).

Life for Crisanta at home was very different than what she experienced outside, "Ever since I started school, I've been alone. I managed my own money, prepared my clothes, and stayed at different houses. The school I attended was a boarding school, so I always stayed in residences." She was only going back home to her family every Friday for a day and a half.

"The hardest part was meeting new people constantly, and adjusting to them. I also missed so much time with my family. I missed out on bonding with them."

Missing out on family time hit Crisanta much harder when she learned that her father was to work abroad... on the day of her graduation. "Graduating school was really important to me and I was sad that my dad wasn't going to be there to see me, but he always reassured me that it's for the better."

In the Philippines, family always comes first. Your family is the most precious thing you will have. My grandpa, while going away to work, wanted to give his family the best possible life. While it was tough for her, she understood.

I take a lot of inspiration from my aunt. After interviewing her, it gave me a lot more insight into her life and who she is as a person. While she went through horrible experiences, she always found a way to rise. She always found a way to see the light in the darkest situations.

Even after surviving a deadly volcano eruption, she found a way to do what she loves. Even after being away from her family for so long, she always made sure she spent time with them, no matter how little time she had.

Even after seeing her father go overseas on her graduation, she celebrated and eventually went on to study culinary arts at George Brown College here in Canada. Though she is not sixteen anymore, she teaches me a lot now about how to enjoy these years. She also taught me what it was like when she was my age. [1]



Elliot Basa

Susan's TIP-OFF

with SUSAN TUCKER



ANNUS HORRIBILIS Being Proud & Moving Forward

It was a dark and stormy night, somewhere... probably... when I sat down to write this. This past year has been an annus horribilis as Queen Elizabeth famously said. It brought out a lot in people, a lot of good and a lot of not so good. Toilet paper hoarding, sanitizer hoarding, ignoring mask and safety protocols are a few of the not so good. Thankfully, the good far exceeds the not so good and our town of Whitchurch-Stouffville demonstrated that in droves.

With the current couple of days of nice weather that Mother Nature is teasing us with (spring is coming, I promise it really is... someday... hopefully soon), we've seen so many more people emerge from hibernation. We've seen a lot more people out walking and running the past several months to get some fresh air and exercise, but today was different. The warm air brought more people out, those that haven't been able to get out... our seniors.

As I see our valued senior citizens outside with their walkers or canes or a caregiver, I always wonder to myself what kind of life they had, what did they do, how did they contribute to society. We've seen Jim Mason feature a number of our acclaimed residents in his column, but when we see people on the street, we don't know who they are.

Do we see just a little old lady and her walker? Or do we see someone who once was at the top of their field in teaching, or science, or business, or healthcare, or whatever. Maybe they were once the trusted store clerk of many years that you knew you could count on for helpful hints, or the local mail deliverer or dog walker, or hair stylist... it doesn't matter

what they did when we see them on the street, what matters is who they are and that they are valued members of our society.

They are now enjoying their retirement after spending a lifetime working endless hours to support their own families... exactly what so many of us are doing now... just trying to earn a living to pay the bills. I am a naturally inquisitive person, I ask questions, I love to hear life stories of how people ended up doing what they do and how their life unfolded. To listen to the stories of our elders is a fascinating journey which I think too many people brush off too quickly, maybe they don't have the time or they don't realize what value can be gained by just sitting and listening... really listening.

I've had many experiences in my lifetime and I see this horrible pandemic as one more thing for us to conquer. This was such a new and unknown entity that we didn't have much choice but to leave it to the experts, who devote their lives to scientific research to determine the route we take. There are some that feel we are over reacting, it's just a flu, etc and pay no heed to the experts and feel their rights are being infringed upon.

I say, look back to previous generations and listen... we learned from them but I think we are beginning to forget those lessons. People worked together for the greater good... to support each other, and support their communities. And that's where I see the "a lot of good" I mentioned above. We've seen volunteers step up to the plate in many ways this past year to help their family, friends and neighbours, various programs were put in place to provide a number of different services to anyone in need. From getting groceries and running errands and helping out with isolated families, to the current volunteer drive to help people book and get driven to vaccination appointments.

People are working together for the greater good, to help their fellow citizens, to strengthen their community and it's wonderful to witness. Whoda think we'd ever be in this mode of having to wear masks and not hug our loved ones, in fact, not even get close to our loved ones... I never in my wildest dreams thought I'd ever see anything like this.

And yet, here we are. Look around at all the good that has come out of this tragic year. Of course there has been much sadness and will continue to be until we are truly on the

upswing and out of this hole that has been dug.

So today, this column is devoted to all those who have reached out to help wherever help was needed, to give so freely when living in such challenging times and in being all around amazing Stouffvillians... or Stouffvillites... or Whitchurch-Stouffvilleables....

Congratulations fellow residents, we can all be proud of each other and how we've come through this mess. [1]



CONTACT Susan Tucker, otripoff@outlook.com

RAISING AWARENESS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING 360 Kids helps youth overcome crisis

An unfortunate reality that surrounds us in our communities is homelessness, it's a reality that most of us don't see. What shocks me is that there is youth that is living on the streets in York Region and has nowhere to go and no one to turn to. 360 Kids helps youth overcome crisis, gives them a place to go, and helps them transition to a state of safety and stability. 360 Kids serves over 3,500 youth, each year from every municipality in York Region offering essential services to youth.

Their staff represent many cultures and experiences and have earned a reputation as leaders in offering high-quality, innovative programming to the people they serve. Some of the programs 360 Kids offer are Housing, Employment, Wellness and Support and Education. With these programs, youth have a fighting chance, a place to feel welcome and safe. The first goal of 360 Kids is reuniting or connecting youth with their families for a safe return to their families and supporting them through that process, when that's not possible, they support them with longer-term goals for independence.



A friend of mine Janet Mott is a supporter of 360 Kids and has been for some time, she has been involved with and served on the board of Hockey Helps Homeless and has been giving back for years in many ways. Janet was shocked when she realized that there were homeless in her neighbourhood. See Janet grew up in an affluent neighbourhood and had a relatively privileged upbringing so to find out that homelessness existed in her neighbourhood was a shock and she felt compelled to do something, to be apart of a solution in some way.

360 Kids has a fundraising initiative called 360 Experience, this is a fundraising challenge you can do from outside your home that anyone

and everyone can participate in. For one night you can experience what it is like for homeless youth in York Region. Janet has done this a few times now and the first overnight experience was in the neighbourhood she grew up in, on the street behind her childhood home. "I never knew there was a shelter in my own backyard," said Janet. "Two homes I visited on my first 360 Kids overnight experience are called residential homes, part of their youth residential program".

Janet explained, "Their HOPE program provides transitional housing and wrap-around services for female survivors of human trafficking aged 16-26 in York Region".

On March 4th, 2021 170 participants went outside in -15°C temperatures with an open mind and heart to learn just a little about what youth face every single night when a home is no longer a safe place to be. As well as the new challenges and fears living homeless in a pandemic bring. Janet posted a number of posts during her experience that night as she wandered around Stouffville to find shelter, a place to get out of the cold and get some rest. I would like to share with you the post that Janet made when she got home that morning. I think Janet's post is a very powerful eye-opening glimpse into what homeless youth face every night on the streets.

"I'm home. I have food, shelter, clothing, and lots of love and support in my life. Last night was really challenging. It was very cold. I could stay warm only while moving. Walking around all night is not easy. My right achilles was sore from friction in my boot and it only got worse as the night went on but if I stopped, I was cold. There really is nowhere to go in Stouffville. Everything is closed. Parks are windy and exposed, ally ways don't feel safe or clean, and the rest of town is houses. I couldn't really hunker down on someone's porch or in someone's shed. That would be trespassing. The GO Train shelter was the only spot I found where I could stop and stay awhile though I can't say I found it comforting and peaceful."

She continued, "Bright lights, cigarette butts, and trash are strewn about. A maintenance person came by for salting, a special constable came by just doing their rounds, and police vehicles seemed to be the only other vehicles on the road, driving around and around, everywhere I walked. I did not get stopped but I felt uneasy that I might."

Giving BACK

with DAVE MILLS



CONTACT Dave Mills, david@stouffville.com

"I felt scared and sort of guilty like I was doing something wrong. I was just trying to stay warm and get through the night. I was tired but there's no way I could relax enough or get comfortable to fall asleep. I just wanted the night to hurry up and pass. I realized after the fact that it was the zipper on my insulated pants that was causing me discomfort in my boot (not my boots themselves) and if I made an adjustment, I might have been more comfortable but when I was cold and tired and feeling vulnerable, I wasn't thinking clearly and so I continued to struggle, my walk turning into a bit of a limp."

"On any given night, my experience is a reality for over 300 youth in York Region. Some get out of the cold and stay in 1 of only 41 shelter beds for youth. Some couch surf with friends. Some ride buses along their routes for as long as they operate. They all struggle. There is just simply not enough services to support youth specifically. I participate in this event to bring awareness to their needs and to fundraise on behalf of 360 Kids. Your support far exceeded my expectations, and I am so grateful to all of you who contributed and who expressed their concern and looked out for me. Stay connected and learn more about 360 Kids."

When Janet and I met she wanted it to be clear that this article is not about Janet or how hard it was for her that night. It is about raising awareness of what is happening in our own neighbourhoods, it is about raising funds to help and support 360 Kids. Please check out www.360kids.ca and help support however you can. [1]

From WHERE I LIVE

with BRUCE STAPLEY



SISTER ACT

Distanced Dancing T-Shirt Initiative Supports Children's Mental Health

As the global pandemic continues to take its toll on children around the world, competitive dancers Karley and Taryn Ogston have set out to make a difference by encouraging young dancers to continue enjoying their favourite pastime with friends or on their own in a safe way.

Karley, 16, and Taryn, 13 would normally be preparing to perform at upcoming dance competitions and take part in local community events along with their fellow dance students at the York Dance Academy (YDR). But like competitive and recreational dance students everywhere, they have found themselves taking dance classes mostly on Zoom and not knowing when, or even if, they will be able to compete at all this year. So rather than let the pandemic bring them down, the duo came up with a way to help dancers everywhere connect while raising funds for children's mental health. They designed a 'Dancing Together Six Feet Apart' themed t-shirt emblazoned with artwork showing six dancers' feet, and the words 'Dancing Together' above and 'APART' below.

"The t-shirt was created by Karley based on a comment I made during one of our walks in the forest," said the girls' grandmother Angela Tucker, who operates YDR. The t-shirts are being sold at dance workshops being held in April and May, as well as dance mini sessions and workshops offered by the Academy either in studio, hybrid or Zoom formats, or to anyone else who would like one. "Proceeds from the sale of the shirts are being donated to Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO)," said Angela.

Angela points out that YDR has always set out to assist charities and local initiatives. "We are very active in the community and run fundraisers throughout the season for Breast Cancer, Move for Movember, Sick Kids Hospital, CMHO, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation." But as with all other programs involving lessons and activities where people gather, the pandemic has greatly impeded the YDR's ability to operate normally, including helping charities. "Not only have we been mainly closed and unable to run weekly in-studio classes, but we have been unable to run our annual performances in theatres, resulting in a loss for to our charities as well."

This has made the t-shirt initiative that much more significant. "We felt it was very symbolic of what we are all going through and thought we could use it to make a positive out of the negative year we've all had. Profits from all events we are still able to run are also being donated to CMHO."

While the challenges of the pandemic have been formidable, Angela remains positive that YDR will be able to continue to exemplify her family's love of dancing that began when she started taking lessons as a young child. "I started dancing at the age of five and had a career as a professional dancer," she said. After leaving the competitive stage upon the birth of a daughter, she worked for close to a decade developing fitness programs for Seneca College before opening her first dance studio in Newmarket in 1986. A second studio was started in Aurora in 1995, with a Stouffville location rounding things out in 2000.

The Academy is truly a family affair. "My daughter Lisa has worked at the studio with



Competitive Dancers Karley [left] and Taryn Ogston [right] have designed a t-shirt, 'Dancing Together Six Feet Apart', which they are making available for sale with proceeds going to Children's Mental Health Ontario.

CONTACT Bruce Stapley, bstapley@sympatico.ca

me the past 16 years and Karley and Taryn [Lisa's daughters] are full time competitive dancers." Lisa is currently the manager of the studio. "I am so blessed to be able to share my passion with my daughter and grand-daughters," said Angela.

The studio has also given her a chance to expand her social horizons as she has met numerous long time friends – as well as her eventual life partner – teaching dance. "My husband was one of my students and I can recall how much fun I had teaching him and his colleagues at the Toronto Police Association how to 'swivel'."

One of her more memorable experiences has been watching the career of Joey Arrigo, who was recently the lead in the Cirque de Soleil production Volta. "He started with us at the age of three and I told him at that time, 'One day Joey you'll be famous as you have the heart of a dancer.' It was so wonderful to watch him recently teach my grand daughters at a dance workshop and recall how he was once an eager young child as they are today."

Angela's students have performed with professional companies including Stouffville's Motus O in their annual production of A Christmas Carol, at Toronto Raptors' games and at NFL football half time shows. She is hoping to be able to resume an established tradition once the pandemic has finally passed. "We have put on a number of productions of the Nutcracker at Christmas and hope to be able to do this again this December."

Dancing Together Six Feet Apart t-shirts can be ordered by calling York Dance Academy at 905-640-6082, at info@yorkdance.com or visiting www.yorkdance.com. (!)

JEFF MAREK ON BEING A HOCKEY DAD, THE LITTLEST HOBO AND WORK DURING COVID

NHL host on Sportsnet loves to fly the flag of his adopted home town

Jeff Marek is Stouffville proud. Just call him our global ambassador. The NHL host on Sportsnet flies the flag of the hometown he adopted nine years ago at every opportunity. Marek, who is also found talking pucks on 31 Thoughts - The Podcast with fellow Sportsnetter Elliotte Friedman, has a mind-blowing 190,000 Twitter followers.

Jeff and wife Claire Robinson have two sons, TJ, 10, and Brody, 9, and a daughter, Jordyn, 4. Claire is a wildlife artist (on Instagram @bear.draws.art). The boys skated with broadcasting icon Ron MacLean on the outdoor rink at the family's rural property during a game-night intro on Sportsnet earlier this year. TJ plays AAA hockey in the Markham Waxers organization. Brody is coached by ex-NHLer Raffi Torres on a Stouffville Clippers rep team.

Prior to Sportsnet, the Toronto native spent four years as host of Hockey Night in Canada Radio, co-hosted the iDesk for CBC's Hockey Night in Canada and was host of The Jeff Marek Show and co-host of Leafs Lunch on Talk Radio AM 640. But the 51-year-old is more than a hockey guy. He postponed post-graduate work at the University of Guelph when the sports media business found him. He's a vegan, a fitness nut, the proud owner of several tattoos and the lover of all things Littlest Hobo and WWE-style wrestling.

Sportsnet's Jeff Marek and his family in Stouffville's Civic Square:

"When we moved up here in 2012 I knew I'd like it, but I had no idea I'd LOVE it as much as I do."



Interview:

Q: You're obviously proud to live in Stouffville.

A: When we moved up here in 2012 I knew I'd like it, but I had no idea I'd LOVE it as much as I do. Moving to a town that was built around families and raising kids was important to my wife and I and we looked all over the area for a year and a half. We kept coming back to look at places in Stouffville. It just felt right for us. This has been a great place to raise our family and make memories. Great people here; warm, friendly, inviting and supportive. I remember the first or second day we moved up here, (ex-NHLer) Keith Acton called to welcome us to town, then our neighbour dropped off a welcome gift, then a guy named Jim Mason rang to make us feel welcome. And during this pandemic we're really impressed at how Mayor Iain Lovatt has handled the challenge and used his social channels to keep us up to date and informed. It's nice to know there's a grown up in charge. Every chance I get to mention a hockey player from Stouffville on TV or radio I do, and I always work to slip in a reference to the Stouffville Spirit when I can. I take a lot of pride when I tell people I live here; I hope people here can one day take a little pride telling people that I'm part of their community.

SportsTown

with JIM MASON



CONTACT Jim Mason, jimmason905@gmail.com

Q: Jeff Marek hockey dad – what's he like?

A: Ha! Great question. First of all, incredibly proud of both our boys and we'll see if our daughter gets the bug for hockey. In our family we have what we call a 'no drag' policy – if we have to drag the kids anywhere, it's not for them. We've always told the boys we'd take their sports as seriously as they do and so far they're both 'Game Seven' about all of it. So, what's Jeff Marek hockey dad like? Invested. And no, I'm not a glass banger.

Q: Why the fascination with The Littlest Hobo?

A: First of all, Season Three Episode 5 is the best one (shot in Stouffville). Let's start with the theme song "Maybe Tomorrow". I've hummed this Terry Bush classic my entire life and I don't ever see that changing. "There's a voice, that keeps on calling me..." Beautiful and haunting. So that's the on-ramp. I've always had a love for German shepherds (my wife and I have had three – best dogs) and how can you not get behind one who solves crimes, finds lost children, starts romances, recovers lost treasures and then wanders off to the next town. Plus, Alan Hale Jr., Skipper of Gilligan's Island fame was in an episode, a young Mike Myers was in a legendary episode alongside pro wrestling legend Whipper Billy Watson and Clarence Williams III (Link from the Mod Squad), Al Waxman was in a couple episodes as was Abe Vigoda, DeForest Kelly (Dr McCoy from Star Trek) and numerous others. If Hobo is on, I'm watching it. Period.

Q: How has COVID has changed your work schedule/environment?

continued on Page 28

Jeff Marek, cont. from Page 27

A: The work sked is the same: pay attention to everything all day, every day. It's not really a punch-the-clock gig; you have to watch games every night, make your calls, gather info and do your shows. Main difference with COVID now is I do pretty much everything from home except TV; that I still go in for. But my home office is wired up for radio + podcasts so at the end of my shift I don't have to deal with a parking garage or the DVP, I just open my office door and I'm with my family. I love it, actually. I'm sure, however, if you ask my wife if it's great having me around all day you might get a different answer.

Q: How does a Guelph English grad end up in sports media?

A: Ya got me. After finishing my B.A at the University of Guelph I took a summer job in the promotions department at Fan 590 and took a year off, lying to myself that I'd go back and do my Masters. Each year that went by I climbed a little higher on the ladder at the station and kicked the education plan down the road. Somewhere along the way I stopped saying I'd go back.

I've always been a sports fan, especially hockey so I was able to convince people that I belonged there. I had a lot of people help me along the way. My two best friends in the world, Bob Mackowycz and George Stroumboloupoulos, inspired me early (the three of us did a late-night radio show together in '95) and lit a spark in me that never went out. From the Fan to AM640 and the Leafs Lunch show with Bill Watters (that was a big break for me) to CBC and Hockey Night in Canada (that was an even bigger break) to now working at Sportsnet.

Let me be clear - I was never trained for what I do. When I started, I was going to university and working at a cemetery in the west end of Toronto. I've always just put my hand up for every job and then figured out

how to do it after. I used to think that it was like a game, but a game very much worth the candle. I've kinda' done that my whole life. I assure you this is quite an accidental career. (1)



Jeff Marek and Claire Robinson and their children – TJ, 10, Brody, 9, and Jordyn, 4 – at the Clock Tower in downtown Stouffville.

Angels, cont. from Page 5

Well, wouldn't you know it - this itself turned into another exciting turn of events too. Amy from Leadbetter's Meats arranged 2 turkey and 2 roast beef dinners for my dad, and said that they would be delivered, by Rochelle, just before Christmas Day so that they could have a Christmas meal to enjoy together. Leadbetter's also included a meat order for them as well, all at no cost. My best friend and I did send them some money to help others in need, and I sent my dad and his wife some gifts to open on Christmas day for the first time in years.

Following that, Rochelle went to my dad and his wife's home and made the arrangements. She could see that they lived in a very little home, with very little belongings, and lived on a fixed income that barely met their monthly expenses. Rochelle then reached out to more of her sources and offered to have someone come in to help my dad with the cleaning and care of his wife. My dad was too proud and said that he could do it on his own. The fact that Rochelle went out of her way to help them in whatever way that she could was so amazing to me and will never ever be forgotten or take for granted either. The Christmas dinner request went off without a hitch.

To this day, Rochelle continues to visit with them at least once a month to see how they are making out. And, if they ever need anything, she is "all over it"! Her close friend Dianne helps her cook meals for them occasionally and they take them to my dad and his wife as a surprise. She even took Valentine gifts for each of them too.

Rochelle and I have now become close friends and I cannot wait to meet her in person the next time I fly back to Ontario to see everyone; hopefully July 2021, pending COVID conditions of course. As a matter of fact, I am having a ZOOM meeting with her this weekend so that we can see each other for the first time and have a chat to catch up. My dad and I talk every weekend now, both days, and from what I understand from his wife... she has never seen him happier than he is when he is talking to me. I sent them a new phone as well so that we could see each other while talking.

In closing, I just wanted to say, "that the Town of Stouffville truly has an Angel in their midst." Angels don't always wear their wings in public, so it can be hard to see

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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., April 6, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., April 20, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., May 4, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., May 18, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings (if required):

- Tues., April 20, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tues., April 27, 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

Recreation Programs and Facility Openings

The Town is pleased to announce that April brings the re-opening of our leisure and community services facilities! It will be a gradual process, and facilities will be operating under modified hours, schedules and attendance to comply with COVID-19 safety regulations.

The following facilities have opening dates as outlined below.

Facility / Program	Opening Date
Leisure Centre (incl. Library, Art Gallery, Customer Service)	Thursday April 8
Museum & Community Centre	Thursday April 8
Museum in-person programs	Thursday April 8
Museum virtual and online programs	Thursday April 8
19 on the Park (Lebovic Center for the Performing Arts)	Thursday April 8
Clippers Arena - both pads with ice	Thursday April 8
Latcham Hall	Thursday April 8
Fitness Centre	Monday, April 12
Gymnasium Program	Monday, April 12
General Community Programs	Monday, April 19
Pool	Monday, April 19
Stouffville Arena - one pad, no ice	Friday, April 30

Purchase Your Dog Tag

Your municipal dog licence helps the Town facilitate the following:

- Issuing an identification tag for your pet
- Help us reunite you and your dog quickly when they are found. This reduces the stress a dog may experience from staying at a shelter for an extended period of time.
- When attending to your pet, licensing allows us to contact you in case of emergency so we can make vital decisions regarding the care of your pet.
- Licensed dogs receive a free ride home to reunite with their owners, should we or the public find a dog straying from their property wearing a tag.

Purchase and renew on our website at townofws.ca/doglicences

Registration for Spring 2021 aquatics, programs, fitness reservations and summer camps open on Thursday, April 8 at 8:30 am both online and in person.

Please be sure to check townofws.ca/whatsnew to stay up to date on the roll-out of all leisure re-openings and to register for programs.

Call To Artists

Art in the Park
Saturday June 12, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Memorial Park

We are currently accepting artist applications and invite you to be one of the many fine artists at this show and sale. To request an application, please e-mail: ashley.chappell@townofws.ca

Call To Vendors - Farmer's Market

Now looking for vendors for our 2021 Stouffville Farmer's Market.

Saturdays from June 26 to October 2
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at 19 Civic Avenue

For more information, please contact joan.crosbie@townofws.ca or call 905-640-1910 x2470

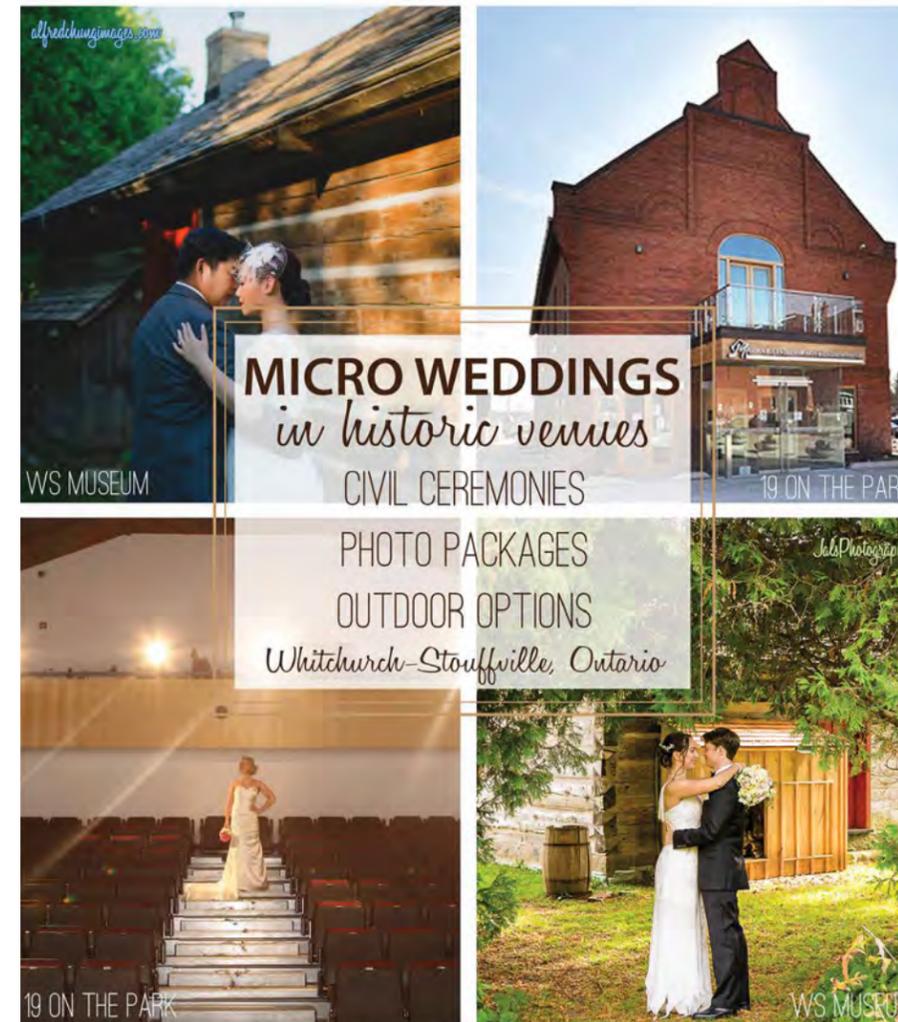


 **STOUFFVILLE REOPENS**

Whitchurch-Stouffville's COVID-19 recovery plan

- Up-to-date information
- family fun ideas
- service availability

StouffvilleReopens.ca



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Whitchurch-Stouffville, Ontario

Book with us now and let us help you safely host your wedding, family celebration or intimate gathering. Event dates from May onwards are available.

19 ON THE PARK 905-640-2322 19RENTALS@TOWNOFWS.CA
WS MUSEUM 905-727-8954 WSMUSEUM@TOWNOFWS.CA

Vaccination Assistance for Seniors

Stouffville Vaccinates is a free assistance program that helps Stouffville seniors (ages 65+) register for their vaccination appointment. It also provides transportation to the appointment if required.

Seniors can call the Library to register at 905-642-7323 ext. 5230 from Monday to Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information on Stouffville Vaccinates, please visit stouffvillevaccinates.com

Movie in the Park Dates

June 18 & 25,
July 16 & 23, and
August 20 & 27

In Memorial Park. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy family favourites under the stars!

Latcham Art Centre News

Looking for something creative for the kids over Spring Break?

Art Attack – Studio in a Bag is available for purchase for \$25.00 on our website: latchamartcentre.ca/programs/#youth

In each bag you'll find 3 projects with materials and instructions, PLUS 3 other "surprise" materials to explore your creativity with! Once your order is confirmed, You can pick it up at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library curbside pick-up.

You will need to provide:
Scissors, markers and pencil crayons.



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