

OTR

JUNE 2021

**BUSINESS
AND FAMILY**
Pg 20





JUNE
No.52 | 2021

2021
SPRING
buying
guide
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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 edition, our partnership continues with the Greenbelt Foundation. In Part II, we visit Perennial Petals, take a hike in the Davis Tract, and learn about a long-standing urban forester who is mentoring the next generation. We also will take a guided hike in Downtown Stouffville, and visit with the 2021 Patio Program as it gets planned and installed.

Highlights in this edition include: the 2021 Spring Buying Guide with twenty eager merchants; two golf courses take the spotlight in the Spring Golf Special; and, Bloom Stouffville prepares to open.

Finally, Future Majority is breaking down stigmas relating to mental health by retelling personal experiences. For me, the story about starting fresh, sampling unknown waters, and then jumping in, regarding Henry Stevens and next-gen Jordan Barkey and Jonathan Willie, provided a great sense of community evolution.

This edition brings awareness to 26 businesses, advances 6 tourism interests, and 4 matters of community importance. (i)

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

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Zoning changed to allow 16-storey condo

Condos, rental apartments, retail stores to make up Main Street west tower

Glenn Jackson, Contributor

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

Residential Tower on Main. In October 2019, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville received an application from Topfar Main Street Inc. to build a mix-used building at 5531 Main Street. It would have 309 residential units and over 810m² of commercial and retail space.

The land is located on the south side of Main Street between the Royal Bank in the McDonald's plaza and Captain George's Fish and Chips. The land is currently vacant.

Part of the building would be 18 storeys, with the rear portion 12 storeys high. The applicant has specified that the residential units would be both condominiums and rental apartments.

Two public consultation meetings were held during 2020 to solicit public input. As a result of the received comments, the owner submitted a revised application. The new proposal includes a 16 storey building with the rear section being 14 storeys. The number of parking spaces was reduced to 432, located both underground and above ground.

The proposed building would be located in the "Western Approach" area of the Community of Stouffville. Therefore the building's specifications must follow the guidelines set out for that area in the Town's Official Plan ("OP") and Zoning By-Law. Town Council must approve any requests to exceed those requirements before construction.

Therefore, Topfar approached Council on May 4 to request changes to the requirements.

At the meeting, Council approved their OP requests. These included making changes to the maximum building height allowed, maximum floor space index allowed, and maximum residential density allowed, among others.

Council also approved additional changes to the Town's Comprehensive Zoning By-Law. These site-specific changes include maximum front yard setback, minimum number of parking spaces per unit, angular plane specifications, and minimum indoor amenity area, among others.

For a complete list of changes, see the Council Report at <https://bit.ly/2Qz7AWM>



ABOVE: Topfar Main Street Inc. is proposing to build a 16-storey condominium/rental complex, with commercial and retail space, on Main Street west of Sandiford Drive. Council recently approved their requests to amend the Town's Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw to allow for the application to proceed.

Upon approval by Town staff of Topfar's Site Plan Application, which is expected soon, construction can begin.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee Struck. At the May 4 meeting, Council approved the creation of a Diversity & Inclusion Staff Working Group.

The group will be formed to assist the Town in advancing its Diversity and Inclusion efforts, including the development of a Diversity and Inclusion Plan. The committee will be comprised of 8-12 residents with diverse backgrounds.

The application deadline to sit on the committee has passed. Council is expected to approve membership at its June 1 meeting.

Also approved at the May 4 meeting, was the authorization for staff to hire a consultant to produce a Diversity & Inclusion Plan.

As a result of the formation of the committee, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Diversity &

Inclusion will be disbanded.

New Fire Tanker. The 2021 Town budget allocates a portion of the required funds needed to purchase a new fire pumper truck. The remaining portion would then be approved as part of the 2022 budget.

However, as part of the Town's procurement bylaw, a full budget is required to be in place in order for the procurement process to be initiated.

Council, at the May 4 meeting, therefore approved the remaining funds in the amount of \$675,000.

Procurement can now begin with the expected arrival of the new tanker in 2022. (i)

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

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

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Bloom STOUFFVILLE

by David Tuley

Have you ever dreamt to be on vacation all year round, sharing your time with people that have the same interests and passions as you? To have the possibility each morning to decide what you will do on that beautiful day, without having to worry about any household chores. Every day, you see the smiling faces and caring eyes of the welcoming and warm personnel on site. Choosing to retire at Bloom, that's exactly it!

To have a comfortable and safe home is always nice, but knowing that you are well surrounded is reassuring and soothing; our team is fully dedicated to your well-being at all times.

The above is the vision that Bloom Stouffville has painted. Bloom Stouffville is a new brand of retirement homes. The first two buildings are currently under construction in Ontario and will be open later this year or early in the next. It is a shiny new six-storey building with 248 units, including studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. Bloom retirement communities are offering a different business model than the one currently offered in most Ontario retirement homes. Typically, retirement homes have forced inclusivity and most of the apartments have either no kitchen or a very limited one. This model attracts seniors that are much closer to assisted living than independent living.

However, Bloom is different as it offers a wide variety of options from 100% independent living to assisted living and unit care. There are three levels of living. All packages include home telephone, cable TV and internet, and each suite in the Bloom building has total climate control, a washer and dryer, storage space, safety features in the washroom and a fire suppression system.

Ann Corrigan and Laurie Gaudette, Retirement Lifestyle Consultants, stand nearby Bloom Stouffville to admire progress with construction.



The three levels are:

“Senior’s Apartments” (independent), which have a fridge, cooktop, built-in oven and dishwasher;

“Independent Living Plus” includes a refrigerator, a microwave, 2 meals a day, weekly housekeeping, weekly linen and towels changed and washed, medication management and 24-hour on-site emergency response; and,

“Assisted Living Suites”, which enjoy the Independent Living package. As well as three meals a day and snacks, personalized daily care plan, room cleaning, laundry and linen & towel service. Seniors living in the second floor assisted-living suites have access to a large terrace.

Public areas in the community have amenities and activities intended to entertain and keep the mind and body agile. Bloom’s atmosphere and common spaces, such as the dining room, lounge & fireplace, café, and courtyard, are designed to facilitate socializing. Residents at Bloom have access to a fitness room, spa & salon, swimming pool, pub, lounge & library, private dining, theatre & multi-purpose room and a kid’s playroom.

Ann Corrigan, the Retirement Lifestyle Consultant at Bloom Stouffville, says, “Safety is important when you choose a retirement community. There’s nothing like knowing that qualified staff members are always on hand to help with the smallest of concerns, or to take care of you if something more serious should arise.”

Ann adds, “After safety, there is the importance of diet and the enjoyment of food. Our chefs approach each season with inspiration and creativity, and they work in concert with professional nutritionists. The



Rendering of the café, one of the many amenities at Bloom Stouffville.

menus are changed regularly and include a wide selection of seasonal dishes. The dining rooms have table service and are a great place to meet, mingle, but if you prefer the comfort of your own suite, you can take one of our chef’s meals to go and enjoy a fabulous meal in the privacy of your own home.”

Bloom Stouffville offers a complete range of healthcare and assistance, from occasional supervision to comprehensive monitoring. Care staff is available 24 hours every day. At the Multi-Services Centre, residents have access to a host of services from carefully selected, certified professionals, such as foot care, physiotherapy, audiology, massage therapy, optometry and osteopathy. Having these services in-building are designed to spare residents from travelling.

Bloom Stouffville intends to offer a wide range of activities, from learning and physical, to entertainment, art, and online activities. In the neighbourhood, within a short walk, are many amenities - Longo’s, Rexall, Starbucks, Reesor’s Market, eight restaurants and several family physicians and dental practices. A fifteen-minute walk will bring residents to the trail system along the Little Rouge River.

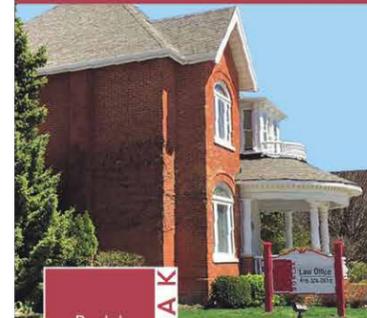
The people behind the creation of Bloom are challenging the notion of independence at the cost of being alone at home. [\[1\]](#)

Virtual tours can be booked, and inquiries can be made online. For more information, see: stouffville.bloomretirement.ca

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Future Majority and the Mental Health Campaign

by Jahaan Kanji Arain, OTR Journalism Student

It is not the mere ideology of mental health that has been the undoing of millions of youth; it is the fact that they are doing it alone. The countless young minds and bodies of our society are left crippled and desperate, and while a small majority of endless efforts for help are answered, many others are left blind-sighted.

Many feel that their needs aren't being validated and that the world around them is nothing more than the embodiment of carelessness and cruelty, refusing to emit their energy to opening their eyes and lending a hand. And so, as constitutions remain unchanged, the cries for help carry on, and the silent and slow killer that is mental health prevails.

Breaking down the stigmas relating to mental health. That is one of the many goals the youth-run organization, Future Majority, hopes to achieve. On April 28th, 2021, I was fortunate enough to attend Future Majority's hosted media event to celebrate the cross-partisan agreement on the issue relating to mental health.

You enter the event with high hopes for a deeper understanding of the importance of mental health awareness and services and come out even more enlightened. It was the vulnerability displayed by the volunteers working with the nonpartisan non-profit Future Majority, through their retelling of personal experiences regarding their battles with mental health, that really put the situation at hand into perspective.

Volunteer Naomi Go stated that she began spiraling into depression at the age of 12, going on to express her experience as "feeling like a vegetable because I was so paralyzed and numb inside." It was devastating to hear her poetically compare her emotional state to feeling like there were thorns around her heart because she didn't feel safe in her own home to open up. For many years, up until her 18th birthday, she contemplated her existence, and it was only until she began to feel the urgent need to

pray did she begin to feel an overwhelming sense of love.

However, it was the suicidal mindset she was confronted with, the lack of internal and external support and resources to help her cope with her trauma healing, and the hate she felt for herself, that made her take a stand, and fight for mental health advocacy and support.

Similar to Naomi, as early as she can remember, Mika Lavictoire battled depression. She also witnessed people in her life experience the battle of mental health, more importantly, her best friend, who tried to take his own life. As she sought her guidance department to relay the events, she quickly began to realize that they were inadequately trained to deal with this mental health crisis. Her friend could not afford therapy and there were no social workers available through the school, despite how common it has become for our youth to battle the effects of mental health. Mika knew that this event was a cry for help, which is why she as well has chosen to advocate for change.

Future Majority is striving to make a large dent in the mental health crisis through its ties with community partners. I was able to listen to the hopes and steps that several grassroots organizations and inspiring individuals are planning on taking to ensure that a more supporting community is secured.

Gwyneth Anderson advocates for students and families, where bullying occurs and brings education and awareness for the community and beyond. Gwyneth stated that they realized early on in their work that mental health and bullying are very much related and that a child being bullied can lead to lifelong mental health challenges. As an organization, they align themselves with organizations like Future Majority and their campaign, as well as aligning themselves with people that have the same values and aspirations for children and youth to grow up in a society where they can thrive and be



the best versions of themselves.

Future Majority has been working alongside a series of other organizations, that similar to Gwyneth's, are working towards a mission of inclusivity and advocacy.

Throughout the event, individuals on behalf of multiple organizations upheld their stances on the mental health situation, and the changes they are hoping to be made within the mental health system, along with the steps they are taking to improve the problem.

Stouffville for one, has initiated its own mental health program, that's unique endeavor is to break down barriers and rebuild lives. Through Markham-Stouffville

Hospital, the Building, Recovering, Initiating, Developing, Growing, and Empowering (BRIDGE) program, works to aid patients with developing their short-term goals, by supplying resources and services along with educating them on life skills, and creates a comfortable and caring environment for individuals to move forward through their journey towards full recovery.

The program instills confidence, self-independence, and a sense of achievement, within its patients, and similar to the intent behind Future Majority, was built off of the idea of eliminating mental health stigmas.

There has been a notable commonality between every organization's hope for greater mental health recognition from the government, and for more accessible resources and services to be provided.

So many youths of our society are approaching a breaking point in their lives, and one could say that a vast majority are being deprived of their basic needs. Their struggles prevail as therapy sessions continue to remain unaffordable, counselors run through the education system remain inadequately trained, and diagnoses continue to be belittled.

Youth are voiceless against the battle with mental health, and it is evident that

the vision for initiating an ample amount of support services has not been executed thoroughly.

However, Future Majority has recognized these flaws and has directed their work into trying to make a more substantial dent in the plight of mental health. The true effects of mental health should inspire everyone to fight, and although it is the responsibility of the government to respond in some type of capacity, it is important that we citizens of the community change first, and coming together is the first step in moving forward and past this struggle. [1]



BIKE MONTH

Safety Tips While Riding



June is Bike Month. Our town is host to many amenities to encourage cycling such as trails, bike lanes and multi-use paths. The bicycle is also a great vehicle to facilitate active transportation and can be incorporated into grocery trips and other errands.

The Road Watch Working Group encourages you to take advantage of the beautiful weather and explore by bicycle. Every person riding a bicycle must adhere to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) just as any person driving a motorized vehicle. Please adhere to all signs, signals and traffic laws.

SAFETY TIPS WHILE RIDING

York Region strongly recommends that all cyclists wear a helmet. Children and youth (under 18) are required by law to wear an approved bicycle helmet. A helmet can significantly reduce your risk of permanent injury or death if you fall or collide. Kids imitate their parents.

Ninety-eight per cent of children will wear their helmets if their parents do, so wear one every time you ride. The easiest

way to remember the proper fit of a helmet is the 2-V-1 rule; two fingers of space between your eyebrows and the helmet, the strap will form V's that end just below your ear lobe, have one finger of space under the chin strap when it's fastened.

Motorists must be cautious while exiting or entering their driveways checking for children riding on the sidewalk. Children usually ride on the sidewalk because they ride at a slower speed and lack the skills and judgement to ride on the road. Speak with your children about checking driveways for cars turning in and backing out and make sure they secure eye contact before proceeding.

For more information about free events including webinars on Family Biking and Road Rules presented by York Region check-out <https://bikemonth.ca/events>. Be sure to check out <https://www.york.ca/cycle> for different resources you can use for you or your family. Sharing the road is everyone's responsibility! Cycle Smart!



for more information, see - www.yrp.ca/en/crime-prevention/bicycle-safety.asp

Make Sure Your Helmet Fits Right!

Follow the 2V1 Rule

2 fingers above your eyebrows



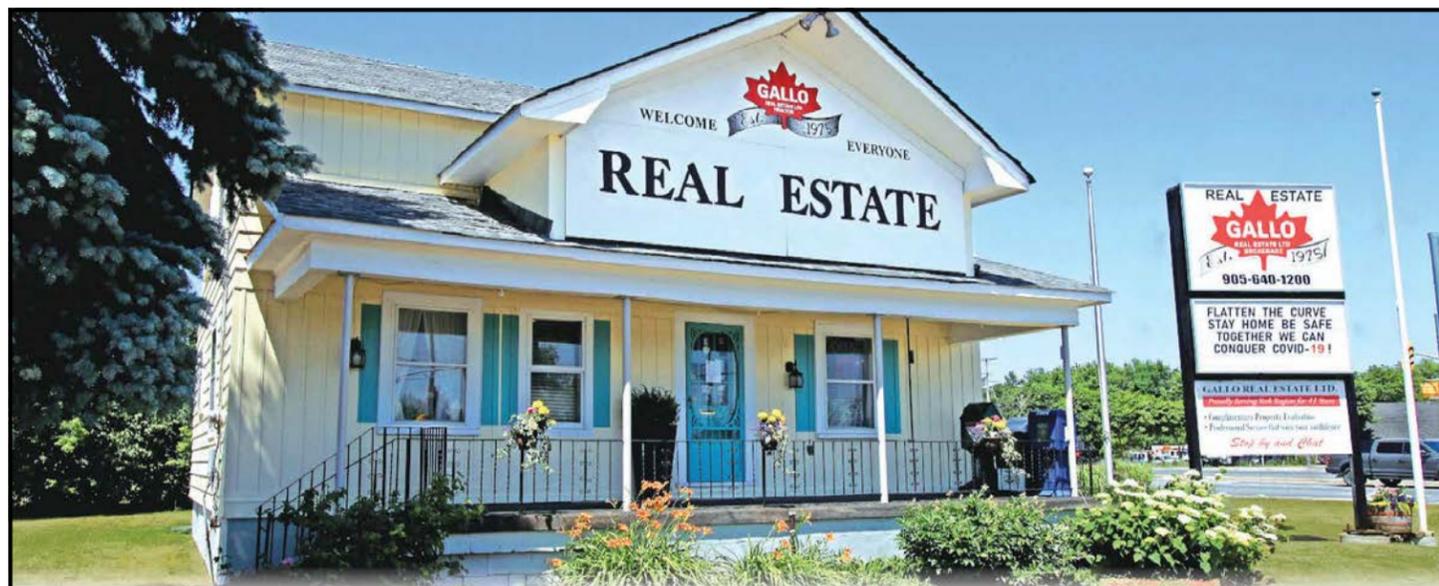
straps form a **V** under your ears



1 finger between strap and chin

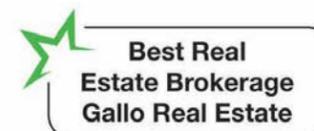


Wear a helmet on every ride!



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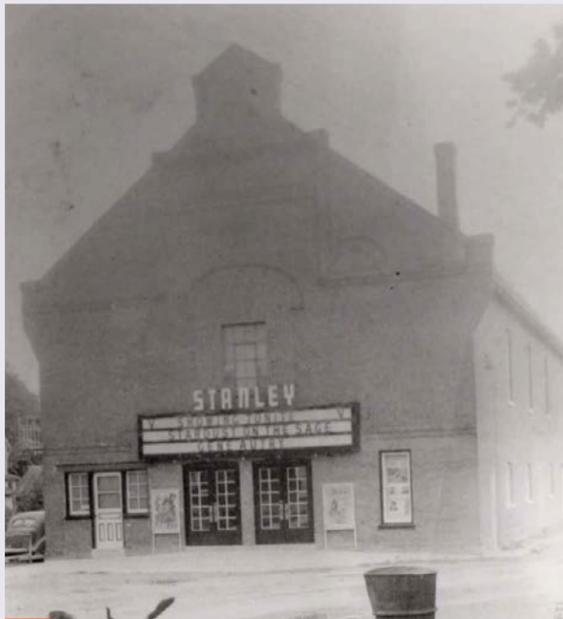
In order to provide a safe alternative option to explore Stouffville's history for Doors Open this year, and in conjunction with the ParticipAction Community Better Challenge, the WS Museum would like to provide residents with this self-guided historical walking tour of Downtown Stouffville!

Be sure to log your activity once you participate in this self-guided walking tour by:

- Downloading the **ParticipAction Smartphone App**,
- or, by visiting, **participaction.com**.

The ParticipAction Community Better Challenge seeks to get communities active and connect with others. Be part of getting Stouffville crowned "Canada's Most Active Community" and win fun prizes while you're doing it!

Everything gets better when you get active.



1 WS Museum Collection: 991.043.164

19 on the Park: Lebovic Centre for Arts & Entertainment (19 Civic Avenue)

We begin our tour with politics, at one of the former locations of the Town's municipal offices between 1971-1997. From 1959-1971, this building served as the offices for the Village of Stouffville Council. Records indicate that a municipal government meeting was held on January 6th 1851 at Smith's Inn, Stouffville. The inaugural municipal council meeting, however, took place on January 15th 1877. Politics have always played a large role in linking Township with Settlement. This building has also served as a theatre, garage, market place and more.

Tour Compiled by Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum
 Questions? Contact for more information:
wsmuseum@townofws.ca



2 WS Museum Collection: 987.080.009

Switchboards (Main Street & Market Street, SE Corner)

A switchboard was located here on the second floor of the Ratcliffe's Store in the early 1900s. When a call is received on a switchboard, a jack lamp lights up on the back panel of the board, to which the operator places a rear cord into the corresponding jack. The operator then speaks with the caller and asks whom they are trying to get in touch with. The operator then places a front cord into that associated jack and rings the party being called upon. After the two callers connect, the operator leaves the cords in place with a key so the parties can converse. When the conversation is complete, or if either of the callers require the assistance of the operator, a supervision lamp lights up and the operator can then intervene or end the call.

One notable operator who worked here is Mildred Barkey, who began as an operator in 1927 and continued to work here for approximately thirty years. Her salary was 15 cents an hour. Barkey's most memorable call she took was that of the tragic fire at the Arthur Dowsell farm, located on Concession 2, Uxbridge. Mildred telephoned every resident in the area of the blaze individually, and they all responded to lend a helping hand.



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3

WS Museum Collection: 997.015.310

Stouffville Post Office
(Main Street & Market Street, SW Corner)

The first post office in Stouffville opened as early as 1835 and moved around to several different locations within the township. This office was built between 1926-1927 and was constructed with the assistance of a \$20,000 grant provided by the Department of Public Works of Canada. This building even had Stouffville's first indoor ice rink in the basement! E.B. Leavens was the first postmaster here.



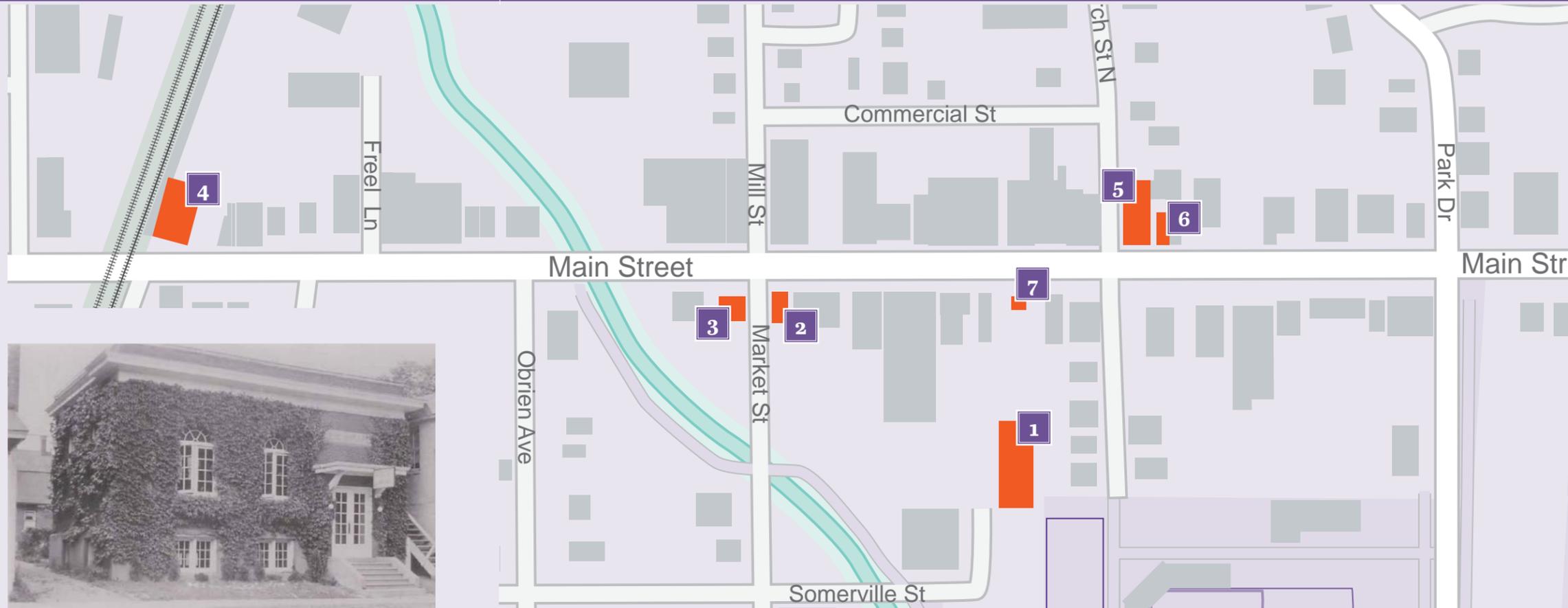
4

WS Museum Collection: 991.043.150

Train Station
(Stouffville GO Station, 6176 Main Street)

The first train station in Stouffville was built in 1881. It burned down around the turn of the 20th century and was rebuilt, which was much later torn down and rebuilt again in 1996. Railways have always been important in connecting people with place. The Toronto + Nipissing Railway was completed in 1871, connecting Stouffville and Uxbridge with Toronto. In 1877 a second track was added to connect Stouffville with Lake Simcoe. This was done to help in the transport of lumber to Stouffville.

Take a look across the tracks, that building used to be the Mansion Hotel – a fitting name considering it was regarded as one of the best hotels of first grade North of Toronto. The hotel was built in 1875, and then reconstructed in 1880 following a fire. It was created to provide the travelling salesman with accommodations along their journey.



5

WS Museum Collection: 991.029.001

A History of Libraries
(O'Neill Funeral Home, 6324 Main Street)

Libraries in WS have long since been in circulation from location to location. To the best of our knowledges and as our records hold, we can indicate eight of these locations.

- In 1877 in Allan's Jewellery Store – to the best of our knowledge, this was in the centre of the South side of Main Street;
- Then at Rowan's Drug Store, within the additional reading room that was added on specifically to accommodate this collection.
- It was then moved into the block of Stouffer Street & Stark Street where it was given the title of the Mechanic's Institute in 1878. This was described through records as a medium sized room over a store that offered classes and workshops as well as a circulation of books.
- In March of 1899, Stouffville's first free public library opened at the NE corner of Main Street & Church Street. This collection saw 3,335 books and 3,410 circulations.
- It then moved to 19 Civic Avenue (19 on the Park Theatre).
- A new building was then erected where Headlines Salon Studio currently stands in 1923, and this became the newest location for the library. Construction was scheduled to begin earlier, but needed to be postponed because of the First World War!
- In c.1977, the public library moved to 6240 Main Street. This is the location most people seem to remember!
- Finally, we have the WS Public Library at the WS Leisure Centre.



6

WS Museum Collection: 988.014.212

General Goods
(Headlines Salon, 6328 Main Street)

This location was home to the Rowbotham Store which was a bakery, confectionery, and grocer. It opened in the early 1900s and was an important asset to the Main Street area. General and goods stores were important to community interaction and communication as they were a social hub, namely for men, to interact with members of the community and socialize with one another. They were centres sharing cups of coffee, a game of checkers, and hot local gossip!



7

WS Museum Collection: 998.001.016

Market Day
(Clock Tower, 19 Civic Avenue)

Main Street was an important location as it hosted Market Day. Market Day was a weekly occurrence for community members to travel into town on horse and buggy to welcome new members of the village and see out old ones, discuss community problems, and collect the latest news to learn about what was going on in the world around them.

Patio construction began in front of Tulsi Food Experience on May 21. The photograph below shows an unfinished sidewalk diversion, which will be fenced on both sides, allowing the restaurant to occupy the entire sidewalk for seating.



2021 Patio Program

by David Tuley



Coach House Pub in Ballantrae has planned a gorgeous floating deck for patrons to enjoy in the 2021 patio season.

The 2021 Patio Program is off to a roaring start. On May 21, the installation of Downtown patios began. This year, the Town engaged a company named Pop-Up Street Patios to install leased structures for the season.

Town Council financially supported the program with COVID Relief Funds, but staff hopes to receive a Healthy Communities grant to cover the majority of costs.

The solution for each patio application Downtown has been customized for various situations. For example, The Smokery's sidewalk is steeply angled by the building, creating an uncomfortable seating arrangement; therefore, half of their patio will occupy a parking spot and half the outer edge of the

more level sidewalk. 241 Pizza and For the Love of Jo will have on-sidewalk patios in front of their door. Main Street Bakehouse, King of Wings and Tulsi will have patios that occupy the entire sidewalk, while pedestrians will be diverted around the patio on, at-grade, temporary wooden boardwalks that are fenced on both sides.

Town Council also created a grant program to support restaurants throughout the Town. The program was announced in the April edition of OTR.

At press time (May 24), the Town was

in negotiations with Coach House Pub in Ballantrae for the development of a beautiful 1,280 square foot floating deck that is proposed to include ample screening, flowers, awnings, outside bars and a "Golfer's Lounge" area. Owner Andy Jones is very excited about the project.

Additionally, the Town was speaking with the Legion, at press time, about an expanded patio on Mostar Street in Stouffville. (1)



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*Based on TRREB stats - Based on units bought & sold/volume 2017-2020/2020

\$1,000,800 & \$2,100,000

74 ANDREW GREEN CRES
& 72 PARK DRIVE
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REALTOR® SPOTLIGHT



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CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

MEET TINA & DAN DOULOS
OWNERS OF NEOS FOODS
\$1,600,000

30 VICTORIA ST | STOUFFVILLE



MEET MICHELLE, JOHN
& THE VAZ FAMILY
\$1,567,000

52 KEN WAGG CRES | STOUFFVILLE



CONGRATULATIONS

RE/MAX All-Stars Realty Inc. Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated. Not intended to solicit those under contract

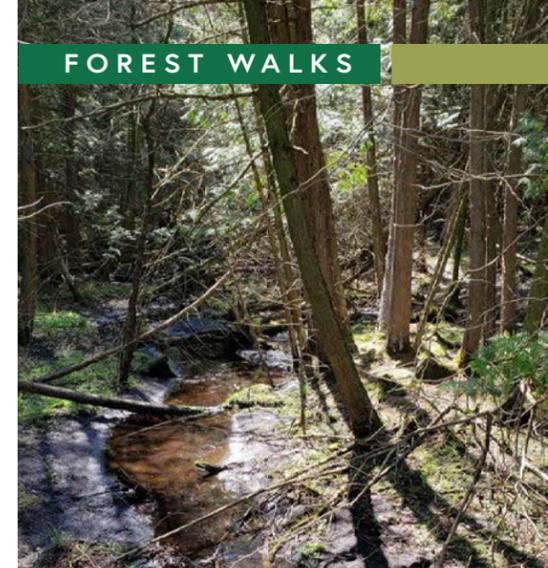
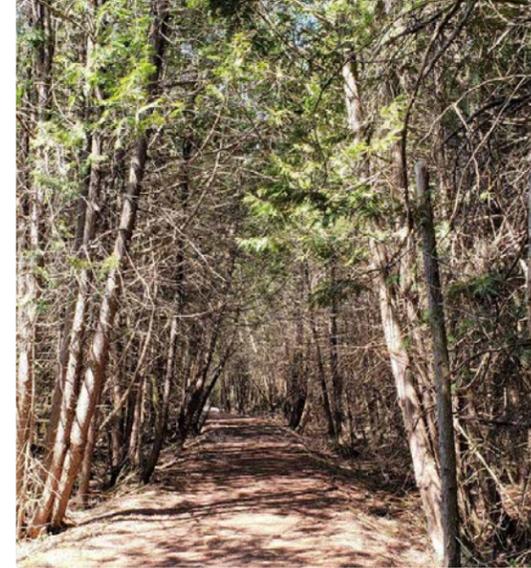
Our partnership continues with the Greenbelt Foundation. In Part II, we explore a cut flower and garlic producer that conducts business on the Oak Ridges Moraine slope where the soils are more fertile with less sand. Then we take a hike in the far north of Whitchurch-Stouffville on the sandy loam of Oak Ridges Moraine Natural Core area. Finally, back down on the Oak Ridges Moraine Countryside, we visit a long-standing urban forester who is mentoring the next generation. (1)



Possibility grows here.



Cathy is busy in the Peony Garden.



DAVIS DRIVE TRACT

by David Tuley

The Davis Drive Tract of the York Regional Forest is a smaller forest tract on the Greenbelt in Whitchurch-Stouffville. However, it is no less important. This parcel of land provides a habitat link between the larger North Tract and Bendor & Graves Tract forests.

A railway track divides the property. The northern half is accessible by a parking area on Davis Drive, while the southern half has a parking area on McCowan. It is illegal to trespass on railroad property.

Both tracts feature new reforestation activity, especially the northern half, which creates areas of limited canopy.

On this bright and warm Sunday in May, we

hiked portions of the southern half. We chose this tract because it is less popular than the larger neighbouring North Tract forest. There were seven cars in the parking lot - not bad for a weekend. Most hikers tended to be around the larger pond - taking photos, reading under a tree or circling the pond.

There is an open area nearby the parking area, which formerly was the site of a house and outbuildings.

There are three more ponds on the property, but these are in various states of succession - more cattail than open water. The stream that crosses the property flows to Lake Simcoe and is an important spawning area for

Brook Trout.

The trails are a mix of grass and dirt, and are mostly level, with the exception of a few rises. The level of difficulty, as the two baby strollers we saw, were having no trouble.

This is a nice forest for a family outing that includes young or older members. For more advanced hikers, it would be easy to combine the Davis Tract with a portion of the North Tract forest.

It would be difficult to get permanently lost in this forest, but it can be disorienting. It is recommended that one carry a fully charged cell phone that has a trail app on it to track your progress. (1)

PERENNIAL PETALS

by David Tuley

Cathy Bartolic is an inspiring entrepreneur and the owner of a small boutique flower farm between Bruce's Mill and Hammett's Holm (aka. a few kilometers west of Stouffville).

Perennial Petals is a seasonal, boutique flower farm and floral studio offering unique, heritage and contemporary blooms for flower lovers in Town and in York Region. Their flowers are grown to perfection and picked at the height of their glory. It is a working farm and not open to the public except for special occasions and scheduled workshops.

Cathy recently retired from a 16-year long time gig as the Executive Director at Ontario Farm Fresh. She is now full time, as of May 1, 2021, dedicated to the business of Perennial Petals. This isn't a new endeavor, as Cathy has a long history dating back to childhood of working in nursery and

greenhouse production. The concept for a cut flower farm was launched about 25 years ago. "Dried flowers were pretty hot back then," recalls Cathy, "and they are now making a big come back."

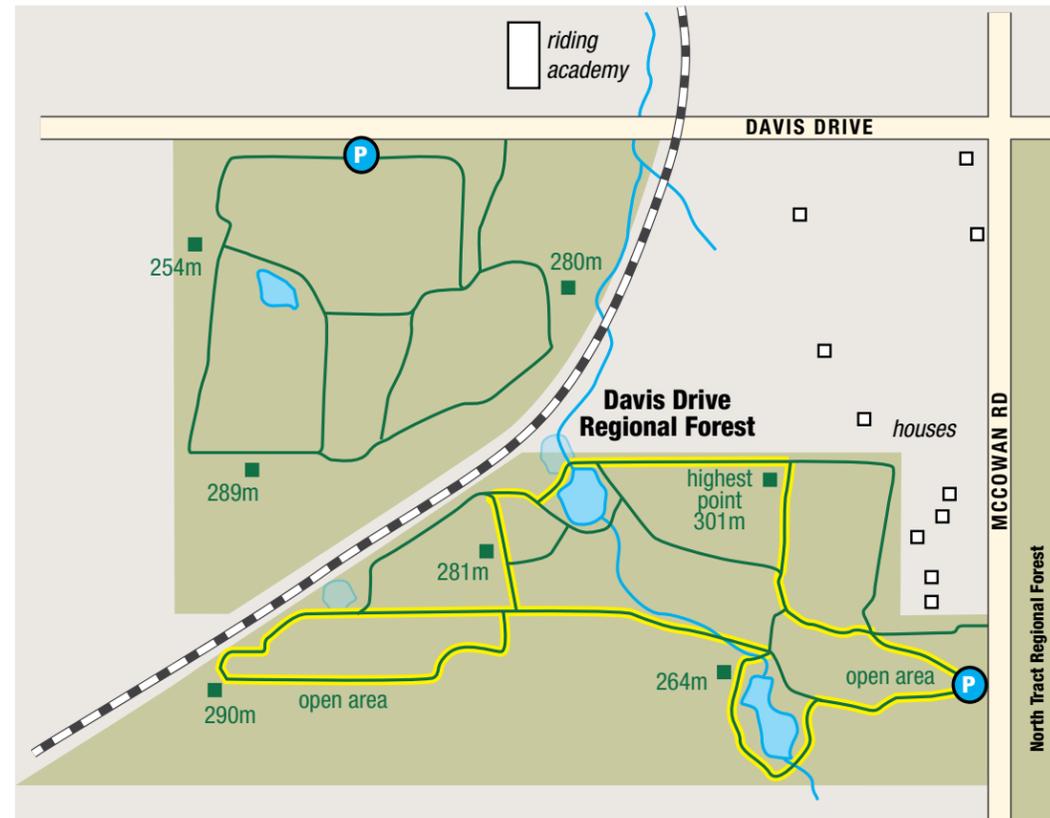
Cathy's family moved out to the countryside in the late 1960's and built a house. Unfortunately, soon after, the house was expropriated and demolished for the proposed Pickering Airport. The family purchased the current 22-acre property along Stouffville Rd. in 1972. "We didn't live on the 'new' farm, but we started planting our flowers long ago," said Cathy. "We came back to live here in 2018 to support my mom."

Perennial Petals has a number of focus points: Subscription Cut Flowers, Workshops, Seasonal Container Baskets, and Garlic Production. "We sell a lot of seasonal items at the Newmarket Farmers Market," said Cathy. The Perennial Petals'

website features a number of cut flower subscriptions, from Peonies to Spring and Summer Flings. "Our bouquet subscription-delivery service is doing very well - these flowers bring such incredible joy to people," exclaims Cathy. She says that many orders have come from out-of-town - people are seeking to brighten the daily lives of family members that they are not allowed to visit.

My husband Gary got dragged into this business because of his brawn, but he now admits that he gets "Great satisfaction from growing garlic and flowers," adds Cathy. "We are planning to step up our workshops as soon as we are allowed. This will be a popular endeavor."

for more - perennialpetals.com



for more trails - L4A.ca

Trail: Davis Drive Tract South
 Time: 45 minutes
 Distance: 2.8 km
 Difficulty: Easy
 Starting Elevation: 261m
 Elevation Gain: 82m
 Forest: Mixed
 Highlight: The Large Pond
 Traffic: Moderate this day



BUSINESS AND FAMILY

by David Tuley

This is a story about starting. Starting fresh, sampling unknown waters, then jumping in.

Henry Stevens started the business of Stevens Large Tree Sales 32 years ago. Henry hopes the Greenbelt remains preserved, as he has done his part over the years to advance urban forestry – and planting mature trees at many estates and golf courses in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Henry was a Control Technician at the Pickering Nuclear Plant for 19 years, but something was nagging at him. “I belonged in business,” Henry recounts, “I enjoyed pondering the business part of things, being my own boss and working directly with customers.” He bought 10 acres on Bethesda Sideroad in 1976. These lands were a distance from Stouffville back then and later were to become part of the Oak Ridges Moraine Countryside as the Province started to protect green space.

In 1980, Henry decided to plant out trees with a vision of harvesting them in another 10 years. He had a long vision for a business. “Hydro was a good job, which allowed me a chance to start a business,” said Henry. In 1989, the first crop of trees was ready for harvest. Henry, with a beat-up tractor and a used tree spade, left Hydro permanently for a life of large tree sales.

“I had a young family when I transitioned,” said Henry, “but luckily my wife Jacquie also had a good job hydro too and

was very supportive.”

One of their daughters, Stacey, recalls growing up to the sound of the tree spade working in the field and coming and going. “I knew that sound from a distance,” said Stacey. She added that her dad would spend most evenings returning calls and setting up appointments. “I think I was the only kid around that worried about the weather – it is a part of the package,” said Stacey.

From time to time, Stacey’s children help Henry line-out new batches of trees and will occasionally ride along in the tree spade. After three decades in his second career, Henry is voluntarily starting to retire. “He doesn’t like that word,” said Stacey.

Brothers-in-law, Jordan Barkey and Jonathan Willie, were pitched an idea by Terry Reesor (Jordan’s uncle) to speak to Henry Stevens about taking over the tree spade business. It was a big idea – at 27 and 29 years old respectively, they’d be looking at a large investment in equipment. But the prospect seemed to fit both of their backgrounds.

Jordan had been educated in Urban Forestry at Fleming College and naturally gravitated towards trees. Jon, on the other hand, had just earned a Mechanical Engineering Degree from the University of Saskatchewan. Although Jon was raised in Rosthern, SK, he married a Stouffville local – a Reesor descendent, which happened to be Jordan’s sister.

“I worked on a farm and hauled grain since grade 10,” said Jon, “It didn’t take me too long to get tired of working indoors as an Engineer.” When he heard about Jordan’s opportunity, the family decided to come back to Ontario. They made a proposal to Henry: to purchase his small and medium-sized tree spades, a dump truck, and request that he teach them the business.

Henry accepted the proposal – and J&J Tree Service was born. “Jordan and Jon are friendly and ambitious. They readily take in anything I have to offer,” said Henry. “I’m appreciative of Henry,” said Jordan, “He has lots of knowledge for us to absorb.”

Since, Jon and Jordan have purchased a large tree space (a 90”) from Henry’s brother in Ottawa, who is also in the business. “This tree spade has planted trees on Capital Hill in Ottawa,” said Jordan, “that’s kind of special. Now it has our brand on it.”

The two young men of J&J hope to find time next winter to enroll in Humber College’s Urban Arboriculture Tree Care program as a step in becoming certified arborists. This June 2021 marks J&J’s first anniversary. It was a strange year to start a business with the pandemic, but they did well and remain very positive.

jandjtreeservices.com

stevenslargetreesales.com

[left to right] Jordan, Christine, Jon and kids - Violet and Oliver. [below] Jon and the Spade.





Stouffville Chamber Presents: Golf Courses

OTR has partnered with the Stouffville Chamber to present a gallery on Golf Courses. Watch for more golf course discourse in the oncoming editions of OTR.

Ballantrae Golf Club

Ballantrae Golf Club is a fully public 18-hole Championship Doug Carrick designed golf course. It is a Scottish Links layout with generous fairways and elevated and undulating greens - the only course in this style in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The golf course is currently in fantastic condition. "Pace of play is very important to us at Ballantrae," says Tanya McGee, Club Manager, "We marshal to a pace of 4 hours and 20 minutes." Most golf course reviews attest to the fact that Ballantrae GC has amazing pace protocols.

The above photograph beautiful 14th green. "The 14th hole is one of our most picturesque on the course and requires accuracy off the

tee to carry the pond and avoid the bunkers on the right side of the fairway," added Tanya.

When pandemic constraints are lifted for seating and dining, Ballantrae Golf Club offers service in their fully licensed dining room, bar and on our beautiful terrace with the spectacular view of the 1st and 18th holes.

Of special note: Ballantrae Golf Club offers a 30-game play package which offers savings of 20% off of the full \$85 retail rate. This makes each game \$68.00 + HST. These packages are fully transferable and valid for two years from date of issue. The packages are currently sold out but they anticipate having more packages available in the near future. Keep a close eye on it.

This is what you can reliably expect at Ballantrae Golf Club:

- Unbeatable golfing value through Multiple Play Packages
- Outstanding golf course maintenance
- Monitored pace of play
- Practice facilities driving range, chipping & putting greens

As an additional resource Eric Hui, the Director of Golf Instruction and a Canadian National, offers private, semi-private and group instruction services. Details can be found online.

Contact: ballantraegolfclub.com
1 The Master's South, Ballantrae, ON

farmer Jack's
GARDENS

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

STOUFFVILLE SENIOR OF THE MONTH LORNE GROVE

What is your age? 83 years.

How long have you lived in Stouffville? Lorne was born on a farm on Highway 48. He moved into a house on Baker Street in 1995 and then to Parkview Village in 2016.

Tell us about your family. His ancestors were Mennonites from Pennsylvania who settled here in 1808. They had 400 acres including the land where Farmer Jack's is today. Lorne was one of five children and grew up in a time of frugality in which he learned to make or repair almost anything. He met and married his wife Hazel in 1969 and they have two children and 6 grandchildren.

Tell us about your career? In 1964 he was sent by Mennonite Central Committee to India on a freight ship through the Suez Canal and saw the pyramids. He studied the Hindi language, high up in the mountains where many people go during the hot season. He then worked in agriculture and famine relief. He took a bachelor's degree in History and Fine Arts in Indiana, including one term in Haiti. Having studied teacher education at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, in 1971-1972 he taught high school history, geography, arts and science in Newfoundland. Lorne and Hazel then returned to Ontario where he worked 17 years for Reesor Farm Service repairing machinery and welding. When it closed, he went to work on the Burkholder farms. Then he worked at the IGA in Stouffville and at Buckingham Manor. His last job was at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course where he designed and built a 19-foot stone bridge on the 12th hole.

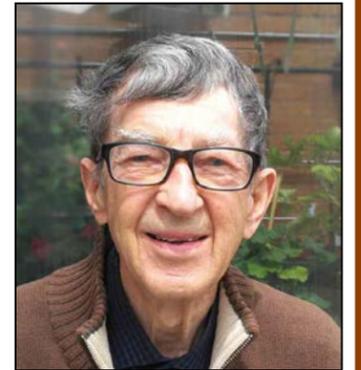
Looking back, what are the highlights of your life? His family visited friends in Surrey England in 1984 and then they travelled to Switzerland. After that they went to a fellowship gathering of Mennonites from many countries in Strasbourg France. Lorne and Hazel also have fond memories of travelling on an Amtrak sleeper train from Chicago to visit her brother near Sacramento, California. Community Mennonite Church members and Baker Street neighbours were extremely generous in helping them when Lorne fell ill with vertigo in 2015. Then, in April 2016, they also packed Lorne and Hazel's belongings and moved them to Parkview Village.

What's life all about Grandpa? "If you can't get what you like in life, try your hardest to like what you get". Do not miss the journey of life while you wait to check off a bucket list. Lorne finds enjoyment and fulfilment in lifelong learning and is interested in the fine arts. He studies everything from language and etymology to astronomy. He is currently studying neurology and phytoalexin.

What do you like best about life in Stouffville? Lorne is always thrilled each day and he finds people are always happy when you welcome them and smile and talk to them.

What would make life in Stouffville even better? It's almost too late, but we need to protect as much top soil and groundwater shed as possible.

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



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STOUFFVILLE
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Rolling Hills Golf Club

Conveniently located in Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON, just minutes from Highways 404 and 407, the 54-hole Rolling Hills Golf Club provides a rewarding and affordable daily-fee golf experience.

Consisting of the Par 72 Bethesda Grange, Par-70 Challenge Course and Par-62 Classic Course, Rolling Hills Golf Club offers a variety of enjoyable playing options for golfers of all ages and skill levels.

At 4,884 yards, the Challenge Course features shorter par 4s and par 5s, presenting great opportunities to shoot a low score. Don't get over-confident, however, as strategically placed bunkers and small greens will make you pay for any shots that are off-target.

The small greens on the 4,010-yard Classic Course are very challenging targets and present a great opportunity to tune up your short game. The "grip it and rip it" golfer will enjoy challenging some of the medium-length par 4s with the driver.

The former Championship Course at Rolling Hills Golf Club has been transformed through a \$1.5 million renovation into Bethesda Grange Golf Course, which offers both daily-fee golf and a ClubLink membership option.

Bethesda Grange Golf Course is an open and forgiving golf course that still provides a challenge for better players. An easy walking course, it also features a small creek that runs through five holes. On holes three and 14, golfers are faced with the choice to lay up or try and carry the water from the tee.

All three golf courses at Rolling Hills Golf Club are available for public play with pace of play ranging from 3-4 hours, depending on the selected golf courses.

The Director of Operations Rolling Hills Golf Club, Jon Larter, has been at the facility since 1998 and along with the team exhibits a welcoming environment. The team hopes for a long, uninterrupted, safe season.

Jon pointed to his favourite hole: "hole #4 at Bethesda Grange is a challenging par-3 that plays upwards of 190 yards, with water hugging the entirety of the right side, precision off the tee is paramount to a successful score. Many golfers favour the left side of the hole, which is a safer shot. You may end up with a bogey, but better than the alternative!"

Rolling Hills has reached its membership capacity in order to maximize the amount of public tee time available. Unlike the previous ice storm green-killing years, Rolling Hills wintered very well and ail greens are in fantastic condition for the 2021 golf season.

Contact: rollinghills.clublink.ca
12808 Warden Avenue, Gormley, ON

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Let's raise some help

Sometimes you have to raise a little help to do some good.

UNIONVILLE | July 4 - 11, 2021

Let's walk or run for women's mental health. Sign up for a virtual run/walk in support of women's mental health at Markham Stouffville Hospital. Make a donation to the run and it will be matched \$1 for \$1 thanks to the **Gulshan & Pyarali G. Nanji Family Foundation***.

* Up to \$50,000.

Sign up today
runforwomen.ca



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2021 SPRING buying guide

OTR has partnered reached out to members of L4A.ca and the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce to ask what we should look at buying locally this spring, and if there are deals to be found. These are our findings.



PKG

Spring into Savings with PKG Carry Goods!

PKG is a proud local family-run business sold in over 30 countries, who design and build stylish and practical carry solutions for everyday use.

Until June 30, save 35% off sitewide with code L4ALOCAL35 at checkout. All PKG bags are designed with purpose and our Daily Essentials are no exception.

From your home or work office to leisurely strolls in the park to the well-deserved weekend getaways, all products are thoughtfully designed to keep your items protected and organized without compromising your personal style.

*Exclusive discount code is valid for use until 11:59 pm EST on June 30, 2021. Code may not be combined with any other discount code and is not valid for use against applicable taxes and shipping fees. Code must be applied at checkout at time of purchase to receive discount.

Contact: pkgshop.ca

Nature's Gifts and Organic Spa

Any New Client that Books in with our Chiropractor Dr. Evan Megraw, our Naturalpath Dr. Lei Gu, or with our Osteopath Jacinda Thompson will receive a free salt cave for 2!

Contact: naturesgiftsandorganicspa.ca

Lemonville Group of Artists

With all of the lockdown protocols still in place we are please to announce that we are having another Virtual Exhibition of our work. You can view the paintings until winter 2022. We hope you enjoy our work.

Contact: LemonvilleGroupofArtists.com

The Lemonville Group of Artists
28th Annual Show & Sale (Virtual)
Beginning April 30, 2021



www.LemonvilleGroupofArtists.com



Village Tile Company

Featured Product of the Month: 24x48 Panda Polished Porcelain Tile. Other Sales 24"x48" Porcelain Tile Sale Starting from \$3.49/Sq.ft.; 12"x24" Porcelain Tile Sale Starting from \$1.99/Sq.ft.

Recommended for Basement Flooring: Woodlook Everlife Vinyl LVT Flooring - Starting At \$2.79/S.F *Conditions Apply*

Buy 500 Leveling Clips Get a Free Small Tool Tote **While Supplies Last**.

Contact: villagetilecompany.ca

Smilework Dental Centre

New Patient Special: \$99 Introductory Cleaning, Free Whitening, Free Check-up (Limited Time), Free Consultation. Discounts: No-insurance Discount, Senior Discount, Large Case Discount. No insurance or large payment to make? We offer flexible payment plans for qualified patients.

We are located at 175 Mostar St. #105 in Stouffville (near the new vaccination centre). Please call 905-640-1010 or email at info@smilework.ca for appointments and inquiries.

Contact: www.smilework.ca

Gallucci Winery

For the month of June: enjoy a Charcuterie box with wine pairing. Perfect for 2 to share; up to 4 can graze. Serves 2 - 4 depending on your grazing needs. Includes 3 Specialty Cheeses: We thoughtfully curate high-end quality cheeses, both soft and hard, local and international; 3 Cured Meats: Made in house and also imported directly from Italy; and, Accompaniments: Olives, Figs/Fig Jam (based on availability), Dried Fruit, Assorted Nuts, Jam, Herbs & Garnish, Grapes & Seasonal Fruit; Artisan Breads & Crackers.

The cost is \$65, which includes a full size bottle of our handpicked wine pairing.

Contact: gallucciwinery.com



Beke Studio

Beke Studio will celebrate the Summer Solstice and Father's Day with an Open Studio.

The event will run from June 18-20 and you are welcome to come and shop the new jewellery created during the lockdown. The Studio is located just north of Stouffville AT 15167 McCowan Rd. Shopping hours are from 9am to 6pm each day.

Contact: beke.ca



IDEA Lab Kids

Summer is right around the corner and IDEA Lab Kids Stouffville cannot wait to see all the happy campers experimenting, creating, and learning the values of STEAM! We are excited to announce our partnership with Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library to offer STEAM Summer Day camps in July and August 2021. ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Don't miss out on the chance to join us in-person! If you have any questions. Please email us at Stouffville@IdeaLabKids.com or call at 647-346-7439.

idealabkids.com/location/stouffville

Maui North

JD claims to be the oldest solely owned surf shop in the world, and he's located in our Cedar Valley. He founded Windsurfing Toronto - way back when. He offers a \$50 instant, call in or text, rebate. Also, Tax free discount savings on select models, and cash and carry specials! Free board delivery within 30kms of L4A. Over a thousand boards in stock, and more coming!

The Maui North June SUP - We'll Get You Riding Marathon Sale - is coming. "Open" everyday, 7 days a week, 8 a.m. - midnight! Dedicated To Your Ride. We Know Boards.

Contact: maui-north.ca



Ness Security Inc.

Special offer of a Sky Bell installed for \$250 Plus HST. 905-477-7311.

Contact: nesssecurity.ca



Health on Main

Health on Main is a boutique health store providing high quality vitamins & supplements for the entire family! Our store has over 400 brands covering areas of sports nutrition to herbal remedies and natural foods.

We offer individual nutritional consultations to further assess the best course of action to help restore and bring your body into BALANCE! We work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals, including Chiropractors, Osteopaths, Holistic Nutritionists and Naturopathic Doctors to ensure our clients not only obtain quality care but are also well informed when making choices regarding their health.

10% OFF until June 30, 2021. Mention that you saw it in OTR. \$50 minimum for free local delivery.

Contact: healthonmain.ca



Smokery Kitchen & Bar

Father's Day Special - The DAD BOD BBQ Platter, June 17-20, \$80.

Contact: thesmokery.ca



Reesor's Online Market

Calling all Peanut Butter lovers! Tempt your taste buds with our delightful vegan chocolate peanut butter tarts: a chocolate shell filled with peanut butter, coated in a dark chocolate glaze, and topped with a peanut butter drizzle. It's everyone's favourite chocolate peanut butter cup in a delicious, gluten-free dessert.

Use the discount code: PBTART at check-out to get 20% off our Peanut Butter Tarts.* Be sure to check out our online store at shopreesors.ca for plenty of other vegan and gluten-free goodies! Curbside pick up and delivery options available.

*Discount may be used once per customer. Only applicable for orders placed at shopreesors.ca. May not be combined with any other discount codes. Offer valid until July 10th, 2021.

Contact: shopreesors.ca



Cannoli Express

Show the Father in your life he's the PERFECT 10 with our perfect 10 box for Fathers Day flavours available will be classic vanilla, chocolate mousse and pistachio 10 cannoli for \$16. Contact us through Instagram at [cannoli_express](https://www.instagram.com/cannoli_express) or alternatively through email at cannoliexpress1@gmail.com

Contact: cannoliexpress.ca

Norris Concierge Services

Norris Concierge Services, Personal Assistant and Errand Service is Insured and Bonded and has been serving clients since 2003! From day to day errands, house and pet sitting to hiring and supervision of contractors and service people, whatever you don't have time to do, we will take care of for you!!

Receive \$100.00 off the purchase of 10 hours or more! Call Lisa at 416-677-4644!

Contact: norrisconcierge.com

Mas and Paws Pet Resort

Save 10 percent at Mas and Paws Pet Resort in Ballantrae Allow us to help reduce separation anxiety for your dog/pup and make it a fun day AWAY from home

Have you been home with your dog during Covid and your dog/pup hasn't had much time away from you? Unfortunately, separation anxiety is prevalent in many dogs today. We welcome your dog to have a fun day with us, and overnight care too. Save 10% off any of our services – Doggie Daycare, Boarding, and Grooming. First time customers only and one time of use per person registering their dog(s). Just use code L4A10 when reaching out to us online or by email to reserve your booking and arrange a tour if you would like. . *Exclusive discount code is valid for use until 11:59 pm EST on June 30, 2021. Code may not be combined with any other discount code and is not valid for use against applicable taxes and additional charges if applicable. Code must be presented at time of booking to receive discount. We are a licenced, 24/7 care provider for dogs and puppies over 6 months old.

Contact: masandpawspetresort.com

Redfined Finds

For the month of June SAVETHETAX on all Fusion Mineral Paint Pints and Mango Paint Quarts, when purchasing online. Fantastic for all of your furniture and DIY painting needs! Use the discount code SAVETHETAX when you are checking out online and it will automatically be applied to your order. Applies to online purchases only and not combinable with any other promotions or our DIY loyalty program. Runs from June 1st through June 30th.

Contact: redefinedfinds.ca



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Visit First Choice for Pets to save 30% off any size or any flavour of Northern Biscuit in store until June 30, 2021. We are located at 15301 Highway 48, unit 5. Not to be combined with any other offer.

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Contact: willowgrove.ca



Saturdays

June 26 - October 2

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

19 Civic Ave

L4A.ca

Safety measures will be in effect



Town of
Whitchurch-Stouffville

For more information
visit L4A.ca or contact

ashley.chappell@townofws.ca

Susan's TIP-OFF

with SUSAN TUCKER



FRESHII & NO FRILLS It's All About Community

It's all about community. That was the message that was made loud and clear when I spoke to three local business people about their contributions to the many volunteers and staff at our local vaccination clinic being held at Soccer City. From all accounts the clinic is well-staffed, and runs like a well-oiled machine, nothing but positive experiences being reported.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is such a great, supportive community, people and businesses have been struggling and yet many have also stepped up large over the past year to help their fellow neighbours and residents. In keeping with the positive vibes I like to project with this column, I wanted to highlight some valued contributions.

Shaf Surani is from Scarborough (off to a good start in my books!) and spent a lot of time in the various businesses his father was involved in, and learned the retail trade from a young age. Fast forward to adulthood and Shaf still had the love of retail and the customer experience ingrained in him, so he jumped on board the franchise train and bought a small restaurant. Fast forward a bit more, he ended up in the corporate offices of that company learning everything with a view from the inside. His roots, however, were still in the retail side and along came an opportunity to purchase a Freshii restaurant franchise, so he did. Keep fast forwarding to today and he now owns two franchises which is where this story becomes an OTR column. He owns the Freshii located in the plaza at Main St. and Mostar.

Freshii Stouffville opened in 2019 and then

of course got hit with 2020, we all know that story. Things were tough last year and Shaf had to make some changes, so he started offering up packages of fresh produce to keep his business alive. That's how I first heard of Freshii...when I saw ads posted for produce packages, and I realized I didn't really know what Freshii was. I had thought it was a meal take-out place, but they were selling produce? I finally made my way over and checked them out and lo and behold, they were indeed a restaurant...serving up healthy and delicious wraps, salads, bowls, smoothies and their newest item... a line of vitamins. I gave them a shot and they came through with fresh, tasty and healthy dishes.

Shaf believes that to be successful, a business must connect with, be a part of and give back to the community. He loves Whitchurch-Stouffville and has many family members now living here, dispersed all over town. He also believes hiring locally is very important and is proud of the quality of his staff.

When the vaccine clinic opened at Soccer City, he saw an opportunity to once again to connect with friends and the community, so he made the call and sent 70 lunches over to the hard-working staff and volunteers who are helping to get our residents vaccinated. For a small business struggling through this pandemic, this is a huge contribution, and I'm sure there were many happy tummies that day. Kudos to Shaf and his team at Freshii.

Michael Lo Presti and Bonnie MacDonald are the owners of the local No Frills grocery store and I met with them to have a chat about their involvement with the vax clinic. I first met Bonnie a few months ago while working on another initiative and I go back regularly to accept Bonnie's offering of supplies needed. Michael's story is similar in nature to Shaf's... Michael's father and grandfather were both involved in the grocery industry, from mushroom sales to working with the Ontario Food Terminal to owning grocery stores, the grocery industry is in their blood. Michael and Bonnie took over the local No Frills in August of 2019 and have been working tirelessly to keep the store well-stocked and running with all the new changes required due to the pandemic-that-shall-not-be-named. Working in retail takes special qualities. One has to be very customer-oriented, knowing what your

customers want and giving it your all to provide them with the product satisfaction they come to expect from your store. Patience, tolerance and deep breaths... heaps of all three are required in retail, especially this past year.

Michael and Bonnie are both very committed to giving back to the community. From supporting sports teams and churches, participating in the Santa Claus parade and of course, what gets them into this column is their donation of 360 water bottles to the folks at the vax clinic. Working outside all day in a business that is normally in the comfort of an office can present its own problems but having water available to all the staff and volunteers on a hot day is not one of them thanks to No Frills.

Kudos to you Michael and Bonnie. [1]

CONTACT Susan Tucker, otrtipoff@outlook.com



THE CHARCOAL BBQ Bacon Wrapped Turkey Meat Balls

The nice weather is finally here and the smell of backyard BBQ in the neighbourhood is absolutely amazing. That smell always brings back some memories from growing up in Toronto, my parents would take the family on picnics on beautiful summer days. These day outings always included my dad bringing his hibachi and hotdogs n' hamburgers. I loved it and I still do.

If you don't have a charcoal BBQ I suggest adding it to your arsenal of cooking apparatus. I love cooking steaks over the coals or slow cooking my favourite beef roast, cooking back ribs indirect over coals and then searing them to finish and maybe adding a bit of soaked applewood to the coals for some amazing smoked flavour. Today I am going to give you a few great app/side ideas for cooking over charcoal.

First, let's talk about bacon, everyone loves bacon...well almost everyone. Ok enough said. Here is a recipe for Bacon wrapped Turkey Meat Balls. These bacon-wrapped bundles of goodness are served with a Sweet Chili Tai sauce, and perfect for your game day/night apps or poolside snacks. Ingredients you will need are; 1 pound ground turkey, 1/2 cup bread crumbs, 1 large egg, 1/3 cup finely chopped green onion, 2 cloves garlic minced, teaspoon coarse sea salt, teaspoon fresh ground black pepper, 8-10 slices bacon, cut in half, 3/4 cup of your homemade or favourite Sweet Chili Tai sauce and toothpicks to hold your creation together. Keep some Sweet Chili Tai Sauce for dipping.

- **Step 1** Preheat charcoal to 350 F and have the coals to one side so you can do a little indirect cooking here.
- **Step 2** Combine ground turkey, breadcrumbs, egg, onion, garlic, salt, and pepper until well mixed and form your meatballs
- **Step 3** Wrap each meatball with a piece of bacon, securing with a toothpick. Brush each bacon-wrapped meatball with Sweet Chili Tai sauce.
- **Step 4** Brush meatballs with additional sauce and put them on the indirect side of the BBQ. Cook for 15 min or until the turkey is cooked completely and the bacon has reached your desired crispness.

NEXT: This one is for my guitar playin' friend,

her initials are E.F. You know who you are! Not everyone is a meat lover, so this is for those that do not eat meat. It also goes great as a side with any meal. I love garlic, and there is nothing better than a whole head cooked over charcoal.

Grilled vegetables are also a staple for me. So here is what I do and what you need; one or 2-4 heads of garlic, slice the tops off the garlic head, a couple of zucchinis, cut into 1-inch slices, yellow squash, cut into 1-inch slices, 1/2 pound whole fresh mushrooms, a red onion, cut into chunks, cherry tomatoes, fresh pineapple, cut into chunks, red bell pepper, cut into chunks, 1/3 cup olive oil, 1 teaspoon dried basil, 1/4 cup of fresh basil leaves chopped 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, 2 teaspoons smoked paprika, sea salt to taste, fresh ground black pepper, and a bunch of skewers.

- **Step 1** Soak skewers in water for 15 to 25 minutes.
- **Step 2** Preheat grill for medium heat, 350 degrees and oil the grate. Skewer the zucchini slices, yellow squash slices, mushrooms, onion, tomatoes, pineapple, and bell pepper onto the skewers.
- **Step 3** Take your heads of garlic and pour some olive oil on and add some sea salt and fresh ground black pepper, wrap them in foil leaving top open just a bit and add them to the grill.
- **Step 4** Mix olive oil, basil, oregano, salt, and black pepper in a bowl; brush mixture over vegetables.
- **Step 5** Cook skewers on preheated grill until vegetables are tender, turning and basting vegetables with olive oil mixture occasionally, 10 to 15 minutes. A little char on the veggies adds some great flavour. Serve the garlic heads with the skewers.

This next one is awesome as an app any day of the week. Asparagus wrapped in Prosciutto and if you like, add some cheese for some extra goodness.

- **Step 1** Cook asparagus in boiling water until just beginning to soften. Drain in and immediately immerse in ice water to stop the cooking process. Drain and season with salt and pepper.
- **Step 2** Place a piece of a slice of Swiss or your favourite cheese over the top of each spear. Wrap a slice of prosciutto, starting at the base of the spears, around the asparagus

tales from
the **Q**
with DAVE MILLS



CONTACT Dave Mills, david@stouffville.com

- and cheese and secure with a toothpick.
- **Step 3** Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat, 350 degrees and lightly oil the grate.
- **Step 4** Place each wrapped asparagus on the grill.
- **Step 5** Grill until prosciutto is crispy and cheese is melted, about 5 minutes.

So, there are a couple things to try this summer. My next article will have something really special for you to try, stay tuned and go get that charcoal grill if you don't have one. Happy Grillin! [1]



From WHERE I LIVE

with BRUCE STAPLEY



CARE WITH COMPASSION

Family Business Offers In-Home Services for Seniors

The saying “Getting old isn’t for the faint of heart”, attributed to legendary American movie star Mae West who lived to be 87 years of age, has seldom seen itself borne out to the degree it has during the current pandemic.

The ravages of Covid-19 have been suffered primarily by seniors, making the past year or so a particularly difficult time for this demographic as well as for their family members and caregivers as restrictions and transmission fears have presented huge challenges for in-person visits.

Understandably there has been a focus on the quality of care being provided – or in some cases not provided – for the ever-growing seniors segment of the population. With long-term care homes at times overrun and unable to provide even basic services, people are looking for both alternatives and enhancements to the present state of senior care.

That’s where long-time Stouffville area resident Alene Hoover and her daughters Kris Hutchinson and Val Hembruff enter into the picture. Alene and her late husband Herb founded Welcome Home Care in 2010 intending to provide trustworthy and respectful home care to individual seniors. The idea to offer such a service came to them while they were assisting their own parents through life transitions.

“After finding it difficult to find caring and compassionate people to help care for our aging parents, we started the journey to establish Welcome Home Care,” said Alene, who had years of previous experience as a caregiver for many other seniors in the Stouffville area. “Our desire was to make a difference in

the service care industry and provide care with compassion and reliability while providing a respite for family members so they could know their loved ones were being properly cared for. After Herb passed in 2012 our daughters Kris and Val came onboard.”

Today, the Welcome Home Care staff includes 25 Personal Support Workers (PSWs) and two experienced caregivers. “Most of the staff are women, but we also have a few men who are very good at caring for seniors,” said Val. “We look for people with lots of enthusiasm who really respect the elders they are looking after, who recognize that seniors have rights and that you are in their home or living quarters.” Along with their senior care qualifications, all staff members have CPR training and First Aid certification.

Welcome Home Care offers a wide array of services on a 24/7 basis to augment existing Local Health Integration Network initiatives. The extent of care provided is dependant upon the circumstances of the individuals they are caring for, and whether they are in private homes, long-term care facilities, or hospitals. “We provide a full range of non-medical personal care including bathing and grooming, meal preparation and feeding, oral hygiene, transferring and positioning, incontinence care, medication reminders, errand services and conversation and friendship,” said Kris. Palliative care and services for people with dementia are also provided.

The pandemic has resulted in various challenges for Welcome Home Care, starting with the loss of work in nursing homes and hospitals. “The restrictions were different for

CONTACT Bruce Stapley, bstapley@sympatico.ca

each seniors’ residence”, said Kris. “However, the impact of the new rules along with our PSWs not wanting to be exposed had a huge impact. Implementing the new Ontario health and safety standards was challenging but we have adapted well to the new way of life for this health industry. All COVID protocols are in place and strictly followed.”

Kris said the pandemic has impressed upon people everywhere just how important it is for seniors to enjoy staying in their homes and being able to enjoy their independence as long as possible. She feels the in-home services provided by her family’s business are appreciated more than ever at this time. “We are providing important care to a deserving population and are always rewarded with true gratitude from our clients.”

Alene, Kris, Val and their staff like to think they are making a difference for the families of the seniors they care for as well as the seniors themselves. “We work with the families as well,” said Val. “We offer many services because we understand how tough this transition can be for both the individuals we care for and their families. Ultimately we make a commitment to helping seniors live their lives to the fullest in health, comfort and dignity.”

When asked about the rewards of working so closely with seniors, Val didn’t hesitate. “Seniors have travelled much farther along life’s journey and have a lot to teach us about what matters most. We are always fascinated by the wealth of knowledge seniors share and their stories. We are constantly learning about the aging process, what is to come and how to better set priorities in life.” [1]



Alene Hoover is flanked by daughters Val (left) and Kris (right) as they celebrate the 10th anniversary of Welcome Home Care. The family business provides individual care for seniors in their homes, long term care facilities or hospitals.

REESOR CLIMBING BLUE JAYS’ FRONT-OFFICE DEPTH CHART

Childhood ‘Baseball Nerd’ From Stouffville Making Name In Game He’s Never Played

Jeremy Reesor bears a striking resemblance to Bo Bichette during our Zoom interview. Reesor, is the 30-year-old Stouffville native, who has worked in the Toronto Blue Jays baseball department for nine years. Team president Mark Shapiro has dropped Reesor’s name as one of his young, trusted advisors. Bichette is a youthful cornerstone of the franchise that fans hope is on track to compete for World Series glory again.

Reesor, in a Jays hoodie under the Bo flow and beard, recently arrived back in the GTA after spending spring in Florida watching the MLB team that’s now two months into the regular season. “But working from the kitchen table with my laptop now,” he says with a laugh from downtown Toronto.

The son of Richard and Carolyn Reesor wrote “a typical Stouffville story just growing

up in town,” he said. (There were family visits to Africa, for six months to Uganda when Jeremy was in Grade 7 and for a year to Kenya three years later.) He worked summers in the family fields, picking corn for his dad from the age of 13. But this was no Field of Dreams baseball tale.

“I get that question a lot,” the former house league soccer player said of his youth sporting exploits. “But I’ve never played an organized competitive game of baseball in my life. I was kind of a baseball nerd, following the numbers’ and transactions’ side of the sport.”

He began playing in his first baseball fantasy league at age 10. He collected baseball cards to keep “track of the names and numbers”. Working in baseball “was always kind of a dream; I just wasn’t planning on it.” Reesor graduated at the top of the Class of 2008 at Stouffville District Secondary School with a 95-per-cent average and a king’s ransom in scholarships.

He intended on pursuing a career in medicine but shifted into ecology once at the University of Waterloo. He’d graduate with a BSc in honours biology in 2012 with thoughts of graduate school. Instead, he detoured into part-time work, including a gig with the Jays as a Field Conversion Technician, helping transition the Rogers Centre back into in a baseball stadium by “rolling up turf after Taylor Swift concerts and Argos games”. All “to get closer to baseball, anyway I could.”

“Baseball was always in the back of my mind,” he said. “I’d heard about opportunities with teams and thought I’d chase it down.”

He joined the Jays’ Baseball Operations Department as an analytics intern for the 2014 season. He was hired as Assistant, Baseball Research a year later, working closely with the amateur scouting staff on co-ordination for the draft, as well as supporting the club’s analytics team. He was promoted to Co-ordinator, Baseball Research in 2017 and Manager, Baseball Research a year later.

He became Assistant Director of the operations group in January 2019. His focus is applying analytical tools to the draft,

SportsTown

with JIM MASON



CONTACT Jim Mason, jimmason905@gmail.com

transactions and advance scouting. “What I like about my job is that it’s a mixed bag in all areas of baseball operations,” he said. “I started more strictly numbers-based. My background is more analytics. That’s the flavour I bring to those discussions. But I may be writing less code on a day-to-day basis now.”

These days, he’s focussed on the MLB amateur draft July 11-13. And watching Jays’ games on TV like the rest of us. “The fun three hours of the day; sit back and watch your plans unfold.”

Reesor’s Jays resume stretches from the glory days of the Jose Bautista bat flip and Josh Donaldson’s MVP award, through some lean seasons to the promise of today. “It’s a really exciting era for Blue Jays baseball; what we started to see last year with the young team making the playoffs. I feel really good about the competitiveness of the team and all signs pointing up with the young core we have and the players in our system. It feels like we’re on the leading edge of a big swell.”

Back to Bichette. Reesor is far from taking credit for the infielder’s rise through the system, but he was part of the team of scouts and execs who zeroed in on the son of a four-time MLB All-Star outfielder Dante Bichette when he was playing for Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg, Florida. “It’s a fun one to track but I take no credit,” he said. “But it’s a process I got to see from start to finish. It’s the nature of baseball, that there are so many people involved.” [1]



Jeremy Reesor at the Toronto Blue Jays’ facility in Dunedin, Florida. Reesor, who graduated at the top of his class from Stouffville District Secondary School, has worked in the baseball department of the MLB team since 2014.

TOWN GRANTS

A second round of funding is being considered through the Town-Wide CIP, which offers matching cash grants to business owners. There are several programs: the Building Improvement Grant Program (Downtown); Leasehold Improvement Program (Urban Intensification Areas in Stouffville and Ballantrae); Food Security Grant

Program (Rural Areas); and Tourism & Outdoor Experience Grant Program (Rural Areas). These grants will match the amount spent by the applicant to a maximum of \$15,000 per property or address, not to exceed 50% of the total project cost.

"You perform, then we provide," says Tuley. The awards will be made by

Council, based on a selection committee's recommendation.

Funds available for the second round are limited. Projects that can be deferred, will be pushed to 2022 funding envelope.

Contact David Tuley at: daviddtuley@townofws.ca



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COMMUNITY NEWS

June 2021

THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Notice of Council Meetings

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

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tues., June 1, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., June 15, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., July 21, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.
- Tues., August 24, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Public Meetings (if required):

- Tues., June 15, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tues., September 21, 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.

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

Town Hall: 111 Sandiford Dr., Stouffville ON L4A 0Z8

SoccerCity Drive-Thru COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Register:
stouffvillemedicalcentre.ca/covid-19



Art in the Park

***NEW DATE: Saturday, July 17, 2021
Memorial Park 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Come celebrate arts and culture at this annual art show and sale! Wander the park to revel in the talent showcased through a variety of artistic mediums.

For more event information head to: townofws.ca/artinthepark

All COVID-19 restrictions mandated by the Province of Ontario and York Region Public Health are in effect. Masks required for all participants.

905-642-4139 - events@townofws.ca

Postponed: Decoration Day

The annual Decoration Day Service at Stouffville Cemetery featuring a non-denominational service celebrating the memory of loved ones, traditionally held in June, is canceled due to COVID-19.

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

Summer Camps 2021

Visit townofws.ca/active for information about summer camps at the Stouffville Arena, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre and 19 on the Park. COVID-19 safety procedures will be followed during all camp programs.

Museum News

Camp Vandorf is back this summer. These popular summer camps are educational, fun and designed with exploring all aspects of the Museum in mind. This year, Summer Camps will be run at a maximum of 8 children per week and will observe every precaution necessary to keep everyone safe, including all restrictions mandated by The Province of Ontario and York Region Public Health. Secure your spot now as spaces are filling up!

Call (905) 727-8954 or email wsmuseum@townofws.ca. You will also find regular posts from us at @WSMuseum on Facebook.

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.

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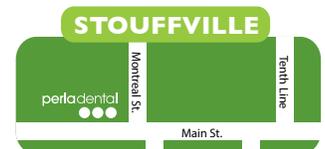
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