

# Festive season planned

By KATE GILDERDALE  
STOUFFVILLE — Plans for this year's Festival of Bells were among the subjects discussed at a meeting Nov. 9 of the B.I.A. (Business Improvement Area) board.

The Festival, that ushers in Stouffville's downtown Christmas season, will begin Friday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

Chairperson Sandy Stronach said an invitation would be sent to local schools to provide participation by student choirs. Members of the Music Mania chorus will also participate in the singing of carols around the clock tower in the Town Square. Cable Tech is generously donating lights for the Town Square tree, Mrs. Stronach reported.

The sale of roasted chestnuts is planned. Bell-ringers and Little League Theatre clowns were other suggested ideas. Mrs. Stronach said she'd contact Michele Green of the Stouffville Dance Centre to see if a performance could be arranged.

**Christmas Store Hours**  
Mrs. Stronach said a schedule of Christmas hours should be circulated "so we'll all be doing the same thing."

Merchant Tom Thomson suggested stores that normally close Mondays, should remain open six days a week beginning Dec. 1 until Christmas, and that all stores should stay open into evening hours the week before Christmas.

Mr. Thomson recommended a two-sided B.I.A. banner be included in the Dec. 3 Santa Claus Parade.

It was agreed the downtown stores should introduce late-night shopping from Thurs., Dec. 15.

Mrs. Stronach advised the board that the deadline for further PRIDE grant applications had been moved up from February, 1989 to Nov. 30, 1988. As a result, she said, the Town would not be submitted a request for further funds.

**Emergency Number**  
Discussion took place on the decision to change Main Street to Stouffville Road because of the 911 emergency number that takes effect late next year. Mrs. Stronach said the downtown had been asked to show leadership by making sure their new numbers stand out.

"Each will have to pay for his/her own," she advised.

Merchant Bob Ancheril suggested all businesses use the phrase 'Downtown Stouffville' on stationery and other materials to avoid confusion as to location.

The idea of renting office space for the B.I.A., suggested by Chamber of Commerce President Susan Myers, was rejected as "too costly".

**Fund-Raising Ideas**  
Fund-raising ideas discussed included another Spring Fling at The Maples of Ballantrae and a Fifties Dance at the Rec. Centre.

Mr. Thomson expressed disappointment over changes made in the Downtown Improvement Plan, saying he hadn't been made aware of them earlier. He expressed particular concern that planters agreed upon, wouldn't be in place.

Paul Roney said these would be included in Phase 2.

Mr. Thomson said he wasn't aware the plan would be carried out in stages.

"I thought the money was going to cover the whole thing," declared merchant John Lord. "I understood it was all to be done in one fell swoop."

Mr. Thomson also felt it would have been cheaper to have had the brick interspersed with cement.

Mrs. Stronach attributed the changes to budget constraints.

"The Town and the government cut back. We didn't get the money. We're doing the best we can with the money we have," she stated.



**St. James Presbyterian Church burns six-year mortgage**

On the occasion of the congregation's 128th anniversary, John Marshall, (right), treasurer of St. James Presbyterian Church, touches a match to the six-year mortgage. Looking on are (left to right) — Martin Johannessen, Esther Powell and Rev. Herb Gale. The ceremony took place during the morning service, Sunday.

—Jim Thomas

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## Missions emphasis

A Missionary Conference sponsored by Springvale Baptist Church will begin Sunday, Nov. 20 and extend through Sunday, Nov. 27.

Guest speakers will include — Lois Weller, Dr. McBain, Rev. Stewart, Ed and Wendy Buchanan, Dr. Sikikane and Jim Jepson.

Special music will be provided by Joanne Brushett, John Hisey, Gladys Ratcliff and Gwen Koller and the Springvale Choir.

Service dates are Nov. 20, morning and evening; Nov. 22, Women's, Missionary Society; Nov. 25, Prayer Meeting; Nov. 26, Men's Breakfast and Nov. 27, morning and evening.

For Conference details, see the advertisement in this week's Tribune.

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