

# Festival of Bells

## Christmas gifts right here in Stouffville

Delicious hot apple cider, with a strong Victorian flavor, will warm residents as Stouffville's BIA (Business Improvement Area) welcome visitors to the third annual Festival of Bells event Friday night.

BIA chairman Sandra Stronach says the downtown business people are out to prove they can provide both good cheer and ample variety as they use the festival to embark upon their "Try Us First" Christmas shopping theme.

"There will be specials offered by some merchants, and others will be offering hot apple cider and snacks," Mrs. Stronach says. "You can pretty well buy

anything in town now. There are a lot of new stores, and it's a beautiful walk from Albert St. to Park Dr."

Mrs. Stronach reports that her own gift shop, Freckles, is still doing a strong business in country goods, featuring new ideas like Country Accent mail boxes. Traditional items like Raggedy Ann dolls are back and Victorian is becoming the new trend in Christmas decor.

Down the street, The Christmas House is also witnessing the Victorian renaissance in customer purchases of Christmas accents, with an emphasis on tree tops, soft colors, pastels and dusty rose.

The Village Porch also reflects the swing from country, to Victorian, boasting unique displays of lace pillows to set the theme.

Their gift baskets remain a popular gift idea, and a new addition to the store — ceramic pasta dishes — are proving to be a novel concept.

The Snowbird Canadiana Shop is featuring the enviable works of local carvers Wayne Mumford and Larry Fell, along with slippers, moccasins and a variety of original crafts.

Crosswinds are big on cozy, life-like soft and squishy Gund toys and dolls.

Both Stouffville Florist and

Lindy's Floral Boutique will offer discounts on their wide selections of floral orders if placed during Friday nights festivities.

The Victorian trend is being noticed in the floral business as well, they report.

Barthau's Jewellers will celebrate the Festival of Bells by offering discounts on Royal Doulton, chains, Seiko watches and Bunnykins products.

Clothing stores are also ready for Christmas shoppers. The Clothes Horse says supple velvet is back; Graylane Boutique is big on Afghan slippers and Josephine's Fashions is strong on variety.

The Wedding Room reports there is the usual interest in lingerie, from plain and prudish to spicy and sassy.

Teddys, satin night shirts, short nighties and cotton sleepwear are proving popular for this year's Christmas shopper.

Ann's Fabric is offering

everything by way of Christmas needs for the sewing buff.

George Ross Photography is making fool-proof cameras available for amateur shutter bugs.

And John Lord is stocking this year's best sellers featuring "The Great Waldo Search" for the kids, and "A Canadian Garden Book" for adults, along with every conceivable book, old, new, used or hot off the press.

The new Zappeion Cafe restaurant will be cooking up some festive spirit Friday night as well, offering hot chocolate to chilly festival-goers.

Mrs. Stronach reflects the pride of the downtown merchants when she says the Festival of Bells is a celebration of both Christmas and Stouffville's intimate rural flavor.

"We still have a friendly downtown business area. More and more people are finding that after they have gone out of town looking for gift ideas, they end up back here."



# Come to the Stouffville Santa Claus Parade Saturday Dec. 2nd 2:00 p.m.

Beginning at 10th Line and Main St.  
Ending at Stouffville Place Mall  
(Floats line up at North St. and Stouffer)  
Brought to you by...



Serving the community's greatest need

You are invited to warm up at La Villetta Restaurant for hot chocolate and hot dogs.



Downtown Stouffville merchants are promoting their wares for Christmas this year. It's all here for Yule shoppers, says BIA President Sandra Stronach.

**Festival of Bells Special!**  
Terry Cloth Housecoats  
**25% off**

The Clothes Horse  
24 Main St. W. Stouffville  
640-7000