



ACTIVE TOTS: Tumbling Tots open house at the Stouffville Recreation Centre brought out (photo left) Tristan Taylor and nanny Wendy Foti; Rachel and mom Jane Warner (centre photo) and Ben Tancock and Matthew Morrow in photo right.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

UW close to goal

The United Way of York Region keeps getting closer to this year's goal.

Just 10 days away from the York Technology "FUNraiser" scheduled to end its extended fall campaign, the region's charity umbrella announced it has \$2,720,000, or 85 per cent of the \$3.2 million it seeks.

It's even hoping contributions will exceed that figure, because many local agencies are asking for some extra help.

"Now that the mail is moving, we hope that individual donors who have not yet contributed will respond to United Way's request for support so that this year's campaign will not suffer," executive director Wyn Chivers said yesterday.

Results from corporate or workplace campaigns continue to be good — often they're 10 per cent larger than in past years, she said.

Business brisk

Main Street businesses are noticing an increase in traffic and business as Christmas approaches.

Numbers are up at the Care and Share Shoppe. "I think business is up this year, more so than other years," said Audrey Good.

"We are definitely getting a lot more browsers and this week has been really busy," she added. "It is certainly getting busier."

Barthau Jewellers proprietor David Barthau says that the Christmas business is starting, but the 10 days before Christmas are always the busiest.

The increase in business on the street has been during the week, as well as on weekends.

"It's a little more on the weekend, but business is noticeably up over all," said Sandra Stro nach of Freckles.

Most stores on the street expect an increase in business after the Santa Claus parade which takes place this afternoon.

Workers back on job

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pulling the Liberal government's strings," he charged.

Temporary distribution centres in York Region for

government cheques will close at 7 p.m. Monday, and cheques not picked up will be turned over to Canada Post, the government announced yesterday.

Winter road budget estimated at \$350G

JANET RICHARDS
Correspondent

While the weather has been pretty mild this fall, Stouffville public works department is geared up and ready to get to work when the snow and ice finally hit.

Stouffville's budget for winter costs is split into two areas, snow removal and sanding/salting.

Paul Whitehouse, Stouffville's public works director, says sanding and salting makes up the bigger part of the department's operating costs.

"The snow removal budget is \$115,000 (this year) and the sanding/salting budget is \$228,000," he said.

But the budget isn't carved in stone and fluctuates with Mother Nature. Changes in winter weather trends mean the sanding/salting budget has to be higher. "We get more of these bad ice storms now," said Whitehouse.

In determining an annual budget for winter, the planners look at past history and what is predicted or forecasted for the winter.

The department also has ways of getting a head start when bad weather hits.

"The Region of York has a weather tracking system and we tap into that and can tell when a storm's approaching," Whitehouse said.

The town also receives calls from police if they find roads in bad condition.

TOWN

Whitehouse said the Whitchurch-Stouffville area is large and there can be very diverse conditions.

"North of Bloomington can be like a completely different world," he said.

When bad weather does hit overnight, patrols start at 4 a.m.

"We try to have at least the main thoroughfares cleared before the majority of people are on the roads."

Whitehouse said he believes the works department does a good job and provides a good level of service when it comes to handling winter conditions.

"We've got a good handle on it."

Let a Lion chop your tree

COMMUNITY

After the Santa Claus Parade you can make your way over to the Stouffville Lions' Christmas Tree Sale and pick up your tree.

The Lions began their annual sale this morning in the old GM dealership next to the KFC/M&M Foods plaza.

Mel Gornik, this year's organizer,

said the Lions sell about 400 trees every year.

The trees are local from Smalley's tree farm and customers have a choice of spruce or scotch pine. Gornik says the spruce trees are slightly more popular at the Lions sale.

Any profit that the Lions make from the sale of Christmas trees goes to various charities such as Christmas food hampers, the CNIB, Easter Seals and anyone who need assistance in town.

Gornik says the Lions also support school groups and activities.

For example, if there is a trip and one student can't afford to participate, the Lions would pick up the cost for that child.

Christmas trees can be purchased from the Lions for \$30. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays; 12 to 4 p.m. on Sundays; and 2 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

~ Janet Richards

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The *Stouffville* Tribune

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