

In Our Communities

Scotiabank donates \$20,000 to Markham Stouffville Hospital Fast Track Clinic



Presenting the cheque to Gina Rosen, President, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation and Marion Zimmer, Manager, Corporate Giving, (Foundation), is Andrew Siu, Scotiabank District Vice President, Richmond Hill/Markham, and Rob Mattacott, Branch Manager, Scotiabank Main Street Markham.

Scotiabank announced today a donation of \$20,000 to cover most of the start up costs of the Markham Stouffville Hospital's New Fast Track Clinic. In October 2001, Markham Stouffville Hospital opened the Fast Track Clinic to provide more timely access to treatment for Emergency Department patients assessed as needing less urgent or non-urgent care.

Visteon donates \$8000 US



Left to right: Gina Rosen, President, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation; Marion Zimmer, Manager, Corporate Giving, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation; Julie Ponsford, Child Life Specialist; Sue Wiercinski, Visteon; Frank Cordovado, Visteon; Dennis Ollids, Visteon.

Visteon donated \$8000 US for the Child Life Program at Markham Stouffville Hospital. The funds will be used to purchase safe, durable, innovative toys for all areas of the Hospital used by children. Ambulatory care, the Short Stay area, the Diabetic Clinic and Emergency will all benefit from this donation. These toys will provide comfort to children during times which can be frightening for them and their parents.

Stouffville Clippers Minor Novice Fundraising Raffle



One of the fundraising initiatives of the Stouffville Clipper Minor Novice Team was a ticket raffle for prizes. The draw was held on Monday, November 19, 2001 at the Stouffville Recreation Centre prior to a team practice. The winners are: 1st prize - Big Screen Television: Mr. Jerry Wilson of Guelph; 2nd prize - 2 Toronto Maple Leaf Tickets: Ms. Anna Chiesa of Markham; 3rd prize - Autographed Toronto Maple Leafs Jersey: The Tail Family of Stouffville; 4th prize - Ceramic Christmas Wreath: The Acton Family of Stouffville.

The raffle raised over \$5000 for the team. The Stouffville Clipper Minor Novice team thanks everyone who contributed so generously to their team.

Golf weather coming to an end

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

After the warmest November it has ever seen, York Region is receiving more weather that is nice — if you're not a fan of winter.

Still, don't expect this pattern, southerly winds without snow cover, to hold on much longer. Winter is coming, though predictions are the next 90 days will also be warmer than normal. David Phillips, a senior climatologist for Environment Canada said yesterday.

The contrast with last December, "probably the most brutal winter month in the history of the province", he said, "is quite amazing."

In fact, 18 of the last 22 winters in southern Ontario have been normal or milder than normal, Phillips said. "It's unusual, clearly, but it's not rare."

It is known abnormal weather changes people's buying habits,

he added, and there are always winners and losers because of it.

A warm December isn't good news for Rick Lapp, who needs three or four straight days of frost before he can create a seasonal ice rink, Cedarena, in the Markham hamlet of Cedar Grove.

"It better turn cold awful quick," said Lapp, whose Cedar Grove Community Association floods the outdoor rink, celebrating its 75th anniversary in January, with water from the Little Rouge River.

After another warm December three years ago, Cedarena was open only 15 days. It has opened the last two years in time for New Year's Day, but that's rare, Lapp said.

"Years ago, they used to go from Christmas until March. We don't get that anymore."

Golfers were taking advantage at the few local courses that remained open yesterday.

"We have 160 out there today," pro George Lacy said at the Shawneeki Golf Club in Newmarket. "We're going day by day, we're watching the weather."

So far, it has also been an inexpensive season for municipalities maintaining the roads. Town of Markham salt trucks have so far been idle; by this time last year, they had been out three times sanding and salting, at \$25,000 per occasion.

On the shore of Lake Simcoe in Pefferlaw, Peninsula Resort manager Jerry Kucharchuk was taking an opportunity this week to check stoves and propane lines or otherwise spruce up the resort's 20 ice-fishing huts.

Kucharchuk wasn't worried by the weather. In 39 years, the family-run operation has always managed to put huts on the ice in January, he said.

"As long as it starts to get cold near the end of the month, we'll be all right."

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