

Space no longer issue for dance organizers

By Hannelore Völpe
Stouffville Sun

Stouffville's "Kids' Dances" became so popular with Whitchurch-Stouffville pre-teens that they've sometimes had to be turned away at the door.

Students between the ages of nine and 13 come out to meet friends in a party setting, try out the latest dances and bring home a prize or two.

The dances were started by Ballantrae resident Cindy Scott and have been run by Diane Sibley and Wayne Campbell since last September.

They're held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Latcham Hall on Park Drive in Stouffville and music is provided by a DJ.

A number of parent and teen volunteers come to each dance to supervise the Grade 4 to 8 elementary school students.

The next dance is Friday, March 21. Admission is \$5.

Lack of space will no longer be a problem since the building was enlarged and renovated last year to almost double the capacity. It was made wheelchair-accessible.

Ms Sibley and Mr. Campbell

started volunteering almost from the first dance their son, Dexter Sibley, attended.

They returned every week — much to the gratification of Ms Scott, who started the dances about three years ago.

More than 70 "regulars" attend. "This is where their friends are and they like the music," said Ms Sibley.

Birthday parties can also be held be held at the same time, with the party guests coming an hour before the dance starts to enjoy pizza, gifts and cake before heading onto the dance floor.

Ms Sibley and Mr. Campbell, who have been in Whitchurch-Stouffville less than three years, run the dances as non-profit events and often dip into their pockets to cover some of the costs.

"We are always looking for more parent volunteers," said Ms Sibley. Teenage volunteers at the dances receive credit towards their high school community service hours.

Anyone who would like more information on the dances or would like to volunteer can call 905-473-9899.

Crash charges laid

A Whitchurch-Stouffville man is facing charges in connection with a fatal accident in November.

York Regional Police announced the charges late last week after an extensive investigation into the Nov. 14 collision, which killed Ronald Wood, 67, of Indian River.

Police said Mr. Wood was eastbound on Davis Drive east of Warden Avenue at 11:25 a.m. when his pick-up was struck head-on by a westbound Dodge Stealth driven by Jesse Richard, 31, of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Mr. Wood was pronounced dead at the scene. Mr. Richard was taken to hospital in Newmarket with minor injuries.

On March 6, York Regional Police charged Mr. Richard with one count of dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death and one count of driving a vehicle without valid insurance.

Mr. Richard is scheduled to appear in court in Newmarket Thursday.

— Jeff Mitchell

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