



18 Stouffville Spirit stumbles into Jr. A playoff opener tonight

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THURSDAY FOCUS

Second anniversary of Dan Pfaff's double-lung transplant

Celebrating gift of life

Stouffville teen honoured at CF awareness event

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Taking a deep breath is a wonderful thing, especially if you're a recipient of a double lung transplant.

Dan Pfaff of Kennedy Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville does not, under any circumstances, take breathing for granted.

Next month, the 18-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville resident will celebrate the second anniversary of his double lung transplant.

One of the pre-anniversary celebrations is a Valentine's Day dance Feb. 14 at the Stouffville Royal Canadian Legion. The event is being held by the Stouffville Kinsmen Club to raise awareness about cystic fibrosis. Mr. Pfaff was born with the fatal disease.

There's plenty of reason to celebrate. Mr. Pfaff is doing exceptionally well since doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto performed the transplant March 22, 2002.

'LIKE NEW PERSON'

"I feel like a new person since I got the transplant," he said. "I can do a great deal more. I have energy now. Before (the transplant), I was always feeling as if I was missing out. I was missing out because I was always having treatments. I don't have to go through that any longer. It's great."

His mother agrees.

"It's incredible," Tanis Hargrave said. "Two years ago, life was a very different scenario for him. Dan was in the last stages of CF. Each breath he took was a struggle. Eating had become impossible. He



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Double-lung transplant survivor Dan Pfaff, 18, and his mother, Tanis Hargrave, relax at their Stouffville home. Dan is the special guest of the Stouffville Kinsmen Club at a Valentine's Day dance to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis.

See DOUBLE-LUNG, page 5.

GST REBATE WELCOME NEWS FOR TOWN

'Every bit helps' pay rising operating costs, mayor says

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Prime Minister Paul Martin's throne speech contained a \$70,000 boost for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Responding to demands from municipal leaders from across Canada that help was needed, the federal government Monday offered relief from paying the GST on items purchased.

Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert said municipalities across the country will benefit from the plan included in the federal blueprint.

"It will mean a \$7-billion injection over the next decade for improved transit, clean water and better roads," he said.

Because the federal government views municipalities as partners, the prime minister laid out commitments to help cash-strapped towns and cities, he said.

For Whitchurch-Stouffville, it translates into approximately \$70,000 in saving on this year's operating and capital budget items, chief administrative officer Nick Kristoffy said.



BRYON WILFERT: Municipalities partners with federal government, Oak Ridges MP said.

"I am very happy that they were able to help us out at all," he said. "I was hopeful that something was coming. This is very good news."

Mayor Sue Sherban said "Whitchurch-Stouffville and municipalities across Canada have finally caught the ear of the federal government."

"I am elated with this money. We'll just have to see what else is coming for us in the way of infrastructure funding. This \$70,000 will be used towards our operating budget. Our fire calls alone are up 33 per cent. We can use the money. Every little bit counts."

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