

Stouffville Says

Do you have a summer job?
Are they difficult to find?

—asked at Sobeys in Stouffville
Tuesday evening

Brandon
WILD



There are a lot of jobs available in town. I have already applied for a job at a local golf course.

Dan
CRAWFORD



It is relatively easy. There is a lot of outdoor work available as long as you are willing to put in some hard work.

Sarah
HILL



Since I already have a part-time job at a grocery store, I'll continue to work in the deli department evenings and weekends.

Graziano
VOLPE



It's not too difficult. I'll be playing in my band and have applied for a job in food services at a golf course.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Daffodil delivery

Peter Robertson carries a box of daffodils yesterday, assisted by his wife Doris Robertson (left) and Susan Jones, fundraising co-ordinator of the Whitchurch Stouffville Markham unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. The flowers will be sold by society volunteers this weekend. See story at right.

Downtown merchants, town fight vandals with lights, cops

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Motion sensor lights, increased police foot patrols and undercover surveillance are being put in place to fight vandalism in Stouffville's downtown core.

About 40 business owners and landlords met with councillors, York Regional Police officers and town staff last week to discuss vandalism, loitering, graffiti and other problems in the BIA (Business Improvement Area).

The meeting was called by Mayor Sue Sherban. Ruth LeBlanc was present as both chairperson of the Stouffville Community Policing Centre and BIA manager.

WORK ON SECURITY

"We are working on security for the downtown," Ms LeBlanc said.

The town's public works department is investigating installing lights on town-owned properties, including local parks, said Paul Whitehouse, the department's director.

Ms LeBlanc will be con-

sulting Main Street shop owners regarding placing lights in alleyways and the Lions gazebo.

"The more visible people are, the less they tend to do things," said Rob Reid of Reid's Consignment Shop.

If the town as a whole were to take a positive approach, then the kids will be more positive and less angry.

Suggestions such as clearing shop windows of excess signs and clutter and positioning cash registers in less vulnerable locations were made by police. An officer trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design will come out to assess merchants' premises.

One shop owner believes a more pro-active approach is needed.

"If the town, as a whole, were to take a positive approach, then the kids will

be more positive and less angry," said Suze Joyce, of Healing Force on Main Street. She wants to see a more welcoming climate toward teenagers by local merchants.

A list of "hot spots" is being made available to the bylaw office and police.

Merchants heard the town's bylaw officers were dispersing large crowds of loiterers and notifying Stouffville District Secondary School if students were out of school during class time. Under an updated bylaw, officers can charge people who are loitering, swearing or creating a disturbance, Mrs. Sherban said.

ZERO TOLERANCE

"If there is graffiti, we will get rid of it," Ms LeBlanc said, adding there is now "zero tolerance" for this type of vandalism. A new gel graffiti remover will be used to immediately wipe out the defacement.

She's calling on anyone finding graffiti to report it to the Stouffville Community Policing Centre or the BIA.

Briefly

Hospital's Tuscan gala has \$300,000 goal

Italy, or a reasonable facsimile thereof, is coming to York Region.

It arrives with the annual Markham Stouffville Hospital Gala. Under the Tuscan Sky is the theme for this year's event, Friday at LeParc in Thornhill.

Last year's gala attracted 870 people and raised \$290,000. That was down a bit from the 2002 event, mostly because of the SARS crisis. This year, organizers hope to raise \$300,000 by attracting almost 1,000 people.

The night kicks off at 6 p.m. with a silent auction and reception. Items for bid include barbecues, trips, sports memorabilia and spa packages. Suhana Meharchand, host of CBC's national news program, Saturday Report will emcee.

Dinner is at 7:30 p.m. with entertainment by the Legendary Tenors, Bon D'Angelis and Word of Mouth perform during the dance.

Tickets are \$250 per person.

For more information call special events co-ordinator Andrea Guarino at 905-472-7395.

—Vicky Tam

Flowers fight cancer

The Canadian Cancer Society kicks off its April door-to-door campaign with daffodil sales throughout Stouffville this Saturday.

The cheerful blooms will be sold in front of A & P, Sobeys, Giant Tiger, No Frills, the Lebovic Leisure Centre, Stouffville Arena and Canadian Tire.

Cost is \$6 per bunch or \$10 for two.

Last year's sales at local businesses and schools brought in about \$27,000 for cancer research, education and support. Students at Stouffville District Secondary School are holding sales today and tomorrow.

Volunteers and door-to-door canvassers are needed. Call 905-294-5925.

Quoteworthy

'We've been on the good side of most overtimes this season.'

Coach Jamie Hewitt, on SDSS' playoff exit at the provincial hockey championships in London. See story on page 21.

Contacting Us

Have a news tip? Please:

- phone us at (905) 640-2612
- e-mail us at jmason@yrng.com
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