

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, DEC. 8, 2005 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



3 Big-time changes look 'Great' at Christ Church Anglican

Opinion 6
 Calendar 24
 Sports 26
 Classified 28



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Santa anticipation

A crowd of children waits anxiously on Main Street Saturday for the star of the Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade to arrive. For more photographs, see page 25. For Jim Thomas' view of the parade, see his column on page 7.

Minister pleased she accepted calling late

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

As the sun lit up the church windows, the five-year-old girl's chubby, small hands carefully held the pitcher to pour the holy water into the baptismal font.

Rev. Kathryn Strachan held her breath, but the little one filled the water flawlessly for her baby brother's baptism.

"It was truly one of those moments when everything falls into place," the minister of St. James Presbyterian Church said.

Rev. Strachan is celebrating her first anniversary at the Stouffville church. She arrived one year ago on an auspicious date in the church calendar — the First Advent — which fell on Nov. 28.

Second career brought Rev. Strachan to Stouffville

It seems things also fell into place for the single woman who chose the ministry as a second career. Before being called to the church, she spent years working with the mentally ill at a clinic in the Niagara area.

She quickly grew to admire the courage of those who came to seek help for the illness. When people have a heart attack, "You are pretty happy to see the cardiologist and you don't care who knows it," she said, "but there is still some stigma attached to mental illness."

Working at the clinic was "a wonderful edu-

cation", she said, yet there was always this "niggling" in the back of her mind.

During this time she saw herself like Jonah in the Old Testament who refuses to be pointed in the direction God wants him to go. But as the years passed, God became more persistent in her life. She had a sense the ministry was like a door flung wide-open to welcome her, while she continued pursuing other paths.

She finally caught up with her destiny when she was ordained in 1997. Her first posting was a small two-church charge southwest of London. Later she moved to a Presbyterian church in Brantford.

The Presbyterian church and its ministers

See CHURCH page 13.

'DIFFERENT STANDARD' LIBERAL STRONACH SAYS

Why aren't more women running?

BY CAROLINE GRECH
 Staff Writer

Maybe it's because most of them don't hit the links like the boys or maybe it's because they are just too smart to get involved.

One thing is certain, however: many of Canada's women are not taking up the call to step into the country's political arena.

Before the 2006 election got under way two weeks ago, only 21 per cent of the 308 MPs in Ottawa were women.

Some parties are better than others at electing women, however; the best being the Bloc Quebecois boasting 27 per cent of its representatives as women. The worst being the Conservative Party with 11 per cent of its MPs being women.

In Ontario, 34 per cent of MPs elected are women.

In York Region, two of the seven MPs, or about 30 per cent, are female.

Canada ranks 44th in the world for having females in government, falling from 43rd in the world below Afghanistan, after new rules there allowed for greater representation by women.

Structural obstacles such as finances or being the primary caregiver for a young family might be responsible for the lack of women in political positions, experts say.

Thornhill Liberal MP Susan Kadis said the age of her children helped her decision to run federally.

"I wouldn't have gone to Ottawa if I had young children," Ms Kadis said.

But finances and family aren't the only hurdles, women politicians and

See PUBLIC, page 19.

24hr Drive thru

 McDonald's

YOUR HOMETOWN FORD STORE

HOUSTON

HOUSTON FORD LTD.
 5786 Main St., Stouffville,
 905-640-4541
 www.billhoustonford.com

on remaining
V6 '05

3 LEFT!
MUSTANGS

Grandfather
 Clock
 Clearance
Barthau
 Jewellers

6312 Main St.,
 Stouffville
 (905) 640-HOHO
 www.barthaujewellers.com