

# Spirit prepares for next season

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ing," said Spirit vice-president Jim Mason. "In Stouffville and on the road, there were always there in record numbers. And our players knew they were with them every night of this run. It was very special and we can't thank them enough."

Among those who attended the club's games at home and on the road were a number of American university coaches and NHL scouts, who were intrigued by the individual efforts of several Spirit players.

Spirit general manager Ken Burrows said as many as four Division One schools were enamoured with the performance of goalie Dan McWhinney.

The lone 20-year-old member of the squad, who appeared in all 31 postseason tilts, Mr. McWhinney almost single-handedly helped the Spirit win several playoff games. The Spirit fans will remember his timely and spectacular saves in games at the Stouffville Arena in which the Spirit eliminated Newmarket, Aurora and Oakville.

During the playoffs the Sault Ste. Marie native faced 1,156 shots, posted three shutouts and recorded a 2.60 goals against average and a .932 save percentage.

In addition to the goalie's exploits, other players such as forwards Joel Sheppard and Stouffville native Will Acton, son of Toronto Maple Leafs' assistant coach Keith Acton, have also garnered inquiries.

"We've also had five or six other players who were talked about, too," added Mr. Burrows. "But it's something possibly for next year."

Mr. Burrows feels the selection three years ago of Spirit graduates Kevin Jar-



**DAN McWHINNEY:** Four major U.S. colleges interested in Stouffville Spirit playoff hero of 2006.

man (Columbus Blue Jackets) and Mike Sullivan (Los Angeles Kings) in the NHL draft was one of the first major steps that helped put the club on the map with American colleges.

But to play hockey well into spring can only enhance the club's profile, he suggested.

"The longer the playoff run you make, the better the chances are to get scholarships. It really doesn't matter how you play in November," he said.

### NHL PROSPECT

Third-year defenceman Simon Gysbers, who will play on a full scholarship at Lake Superior State in Michigan next season, is ranked for the NHL's annual draft June 24 in Vancouver.

Fan interest during the playoffs was also evident on the club's website (stouffvillespirit.com), with more than 25,000 people logged on to the site over the past six weeks. That represented about

three times as many during the same period early in the playoffs.

While savouring a memorable campaign, the Spirit will have little time to dwell on it.

During the May 6 and 7 weekend, the team will stage its annual rookie camp at the Stouffville Arena.

About 100 hopefuls are expected to be on the ice either from 1 to 3 p.m. or 3 to 5 p.m.

Mr. Burrows said the numbers are slightly down from other years because other teams are conducting camps at the same time, he said.

"We've always had a pretty successful camp and we've got some good rookies coming in," he said.

And those scheduled to come in were already committed before the club's success in the postseason.

But it helps when a club, such as the Spirit, can experience a high degree of success and, in turn, generate plenty of publicity.

"It sure doesn't hurt by winning because kids want to go to successful teams," Mr. Burrows said.

While the club acknowledged the faithful who attended last Sunday's final contest by applauding them and raising their sticks to them in a post-game salute, they intend to pay an extra thanks.

This Sunday, the club will host a Thank You Skate at the Stouffville Arena's main pad from 3-4 p.m.

Admission is free and door prizes will be given.

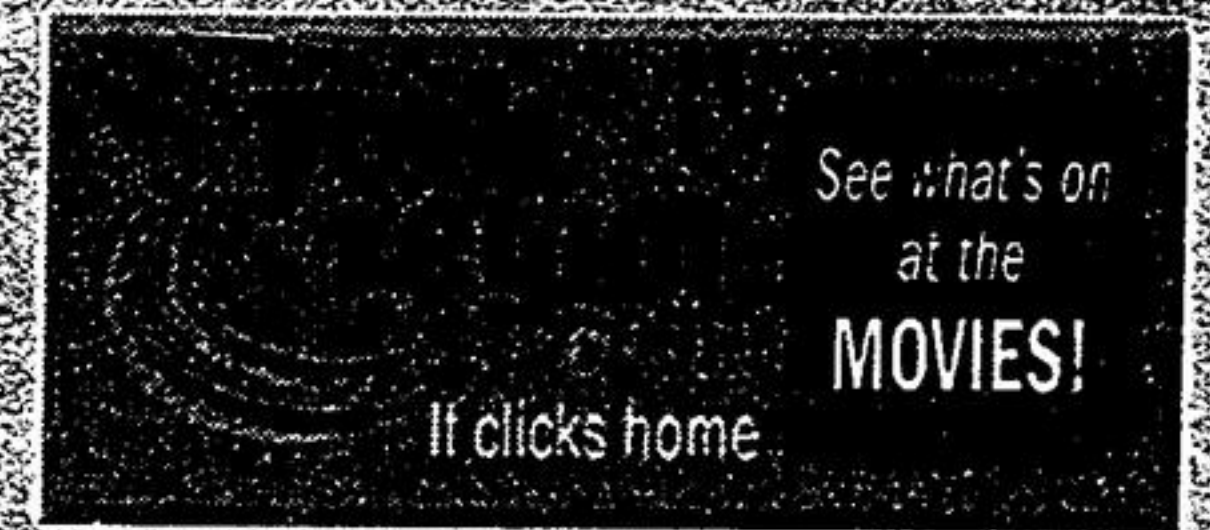
Fans can bring their cameras and autograph books. Both the North Conference and North/West championship trophies will be on display.

For more information, go to [stouffvillespirit.com](http://stouffvillespirit.com)

### SKATE WITH THE TEAM

**► THANKS, FANS:** Stouffville Spirit fans are invited to skate with the Jr. A players Sunday from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

**► NEW RECRUITS:** The Spirit holds its rookie camp May 6 and 7 at the Stouffville Arena. [stouffvillespirit.com](http://stouffvillespirit.com)



### THANK YOU STOUFFVILLE!

From Your



### FREE FAN-APPRECIATION SKATE

Sunday, April 23, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Stouffville Arena

Prizes, Autographs, Pictures

[www.stouffvillespirit.com](http://www.stouffvillespirit.com)



### Unionville Minor Hockey Association

UMHA Hockey is For Kids!

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### Unionville Train Station

Main Street at Station Lane  
Thursday April 27th, 2006, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Regulations will be reviewed and amended.  
Review of 2005/2006 season.

Visit our website  
[www.umhahockey.ca](http://www.umhahockey.ca) for more information

# Stouffville Churches Welcome You

**Springvale Baptist Church**  
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.  
905-887-5651  
[www.springvale.org](http://www.springvale.org)

Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming  
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton  
Student Ministries: Jay Sandiford  
Worship & Music: Heather Thornton  
Children's Ministries: Sharon Russell  
Counselling Services: Karla Kameron

**April 23, 2006**

9:45 am  
Pastor Jay Sandiford

11:11 am  
Sunday School for All Ages

6:00 pm  
Fellowship Groups in Homes

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH**  
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville  
The Rev. Robert A. Shields  
(905) 640-1461

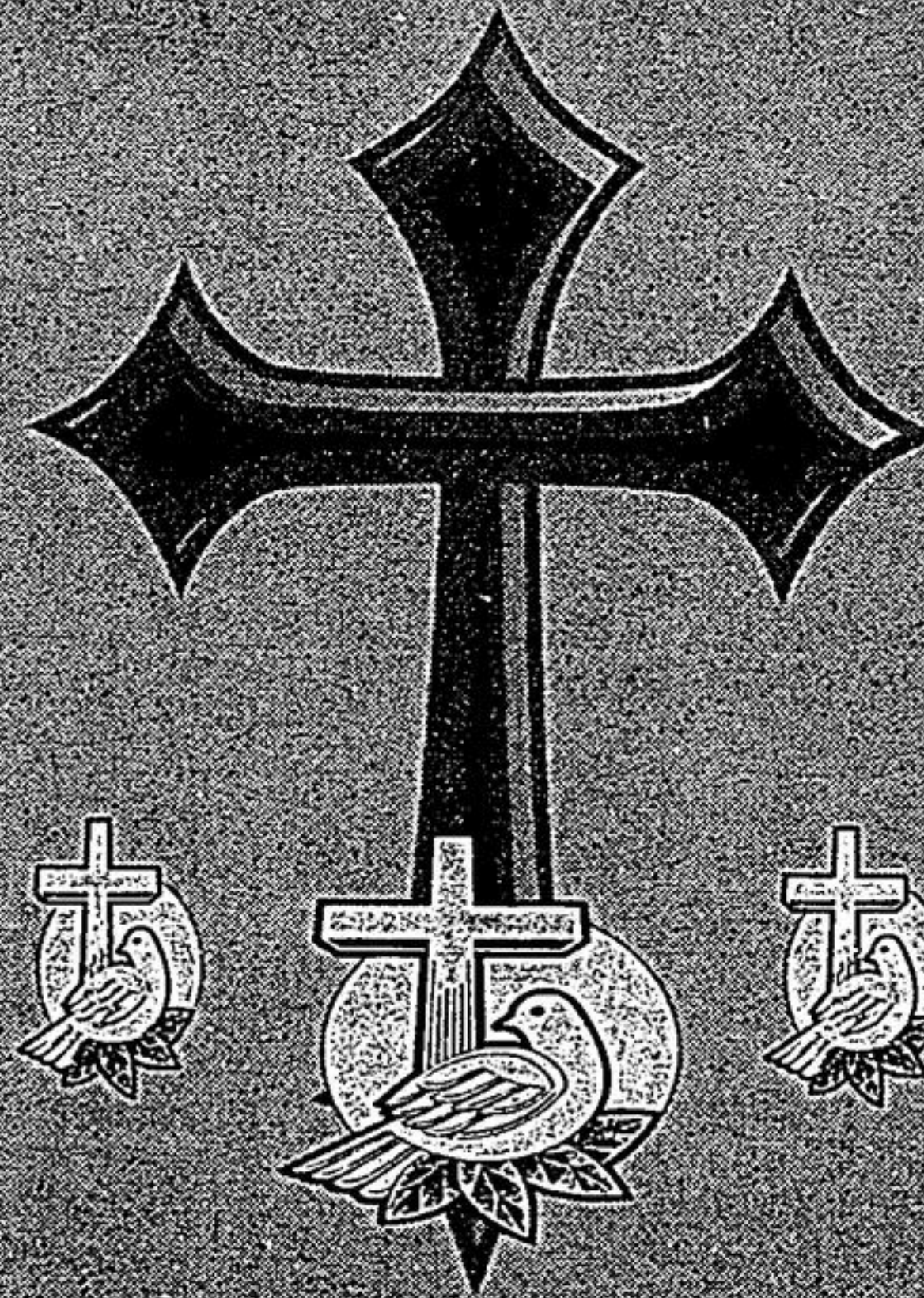
**Sunday, April 23rd, 2006**  
2nd Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Choral Eucharist

Church School and Nursery Provided

e-mail: [admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca](mailto:admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca)  
website: [www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville](http://www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville)

**Everyone Welcome!**



Welcome to **ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Kathryn Strachan, Minister  
6432 Main St. Stouffville  
Phone: 905-640-3151  
email: [st.james.stouffville@bellnet.ca](mailto:st.james.stouffville@bellnet.ca)

**Sunday April 23rd**  
We honour our community volunteers.  
10:30 am

**Sunday, May 7**  
Sacred Music Night  
The Suburbanaires barbershop choir and Springvale male quartet  
7:00 pm

*'A Friendly Family Church'*

**STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
6853 Main St., Stouffville  
Sunday, April 23rd, 10:00am  
"God Purposes"  
Pastor Paul Speaking

5:30 p.m. Small Groups  
Everyone Welcome!

Wednesday - 7pm  
Kidz Club (ages 5-Gr. 5) - Ladies Exercise Class  
Call church at 905-640-5696 for information

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163  
Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale  
Rev. Dianne Graves  
[info@stouffvilleuc.ca](mailto:info@stouffvilleuc.ca)

**Sunday, April 23, 2006**  
10:30 am Worship Service

Children's Worship Service & Baby Fold & Youth Spirit

**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
Website: [www.stouffvilleuc.ca](http://www.stouffvilleuc.ca)

**BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH**  
13660 Ninth Line N.  
(905) 642-4414

**Sunday April 23rd, 2006**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM  
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM

**Paul Russell S.I.M.**

**EVENING SERVICE - 6:30PM**  
**Everyone Welcome**

**ST. MARK'S Catholic Church**  
345 Glad Park Ave., Stouffville  
905-640-6954

**Sunday Masses**  
Saturday at 5pm  
Sunday at 9 am & 11 am

**Weekday Masses**  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:30 pm

To advertise with us please call Tyler Duncan at 905-513-1717