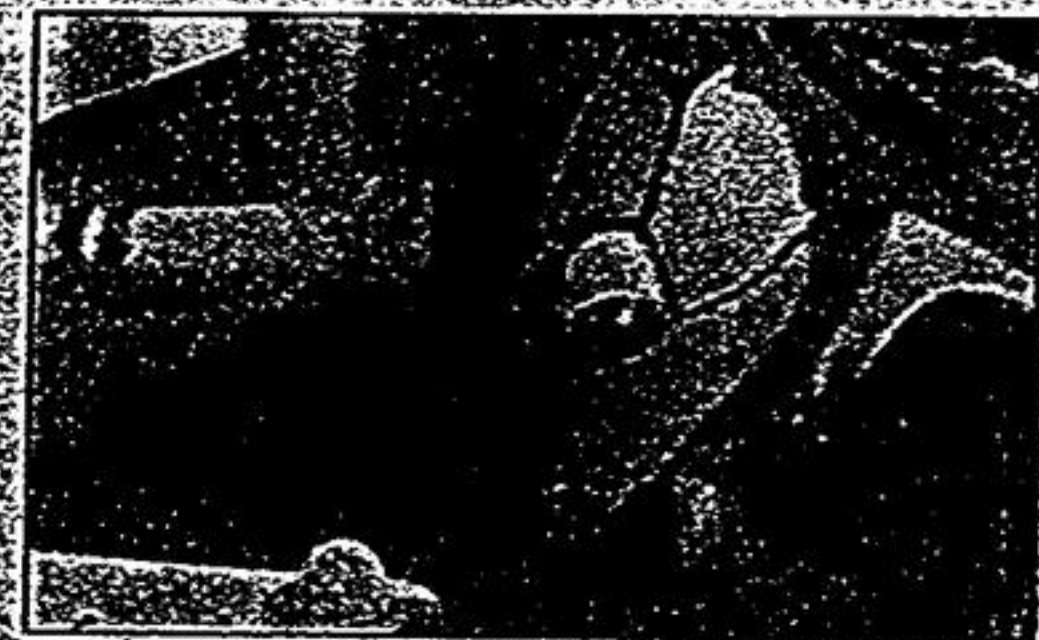


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2006 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 40 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



10 Blue Jays mascot is game for school chair-ity event

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Magic behind Stouffville's business of the year

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

There's magic on that there hill—and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce agrees.

Magic Hill Farm was honoured as the business of the year at last Thursday's chamber business awards dinner at Meadowbrook Golf and Country Club.

Located on Ninth Line north of Bloomington Road, Magic Hill's Haunted Adventure alone draws thousands of people from across the GTA to its spooky events in the weeks leading up to Halloween.

The business has provided many local teenagers with their first jobs, as well as employing adults and seniors. Some of those who started as youngsters have been with the Haunted Adventure since it began. They include local residents Steve Lummiss, Jen May and Wade Jemmett.

Last year, close to 160 employees made the haunted adventure scary, served hot chocolate and goodies in the munch house and provided security and clean-up services.

Magic Hill was started as a Christmas tree farm in 1986 by Grandpa, who occasionally goes by the name Barry Shapiro.

More than 15 years ago, Grandpa and his daughter, Debbie Berger along with husband Michael, began looking around for something to augment the farm income.

With Grandpa's background as a magician (he's been a member of the Hat and Rabbit Club for the past 48 years) and Mr. Berger's fascination with the horror genre, it was only natural they gravitated



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Two for the show

Gord and Margo Bibby perform a number at dress rehearsal for the 46th edition of Music Mania at Stouffville District Secondary School Tuesday. The show is performed tonight, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are available from downtown Stouffville merchants and at the door. For more photographs, see page 3.

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WAL-MART TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

Business gears up for big box invasion

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Call it a lesson on how to sleep with an elephant.

With Stouffville's first big box development under construction, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce is hosting a three-hour workshop next month for small business owners worried about what will happen once Wal-Mart and other big box stores are built in a power centre on Hwy. 48 south of Stouffville Road.

Wal-Mart is scheduled to open in September. No other stores have been confirmed for the complex.

Stouffville businessman Nitten Badhwar says retailers should prepare.

"I don't think overall it will have a negative impact, but some businesses will have to adapt and change their ways to effectively exist in this new environment," said Mr. Badhwar, a chamber of commerce board member.

Once large retailers arrive south of Stouffville, people will shop closer to home, keeping the dollars in their community that are now going to shopping centres and retailers in nearby communities, he said.

The workshop, at Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville May 10 from 6 to 9 p.m., will be led by Roy Prevost, an entrepreneur and futurist with more than 25 years experience in marketing, wholesale, retail and manufacturing in the giftware industry.

He's already presented more than 100 such workshops, giving small retailers the tools and techniques to

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24hr Drive thru

 McDonald's

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 (905) 642-7474
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 100 Main St.
 Downtown Station

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Dr. Waseema Ali
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