



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum curator Dorie Billich with a pioneer log cabin, one of many historical buildings on the grounds.

IN BRIEF

Cancer Society needs you

The huge letters on the sign on Main Street west of Ninth Line say it all.

The Canadian Cancer Society desperately needs more drivers to take patients in Whitchurch-Stouffville to appointments.

Starting this month, several additional cancer patients will need rides for chemotherapy, radiation treatments and doctor's appointments.

Most patients need to go to Princess Margaret Hospital and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

Drivers who can spare four or five hours once a week to go to Princess Margaret Hospital are particularly needed.

Because of a shortage of drivers, some take more than one patient at the same time and there might not be enough space for family members to accompany the patient.

Families of cancer patients often find it impossible to do all the driving, particularly when some daily treatments span as much as a six-week period.

"We have seven regular drivers," said Carol May-McQuillan, the cancer society's volunteer development specialist for the area. "We need drivers on an ongoing basis."

To volunteer, call 905-294-5925.

Transit fares up

If York Region Transit is your way of getting around Stouffville or to places such as Markham Stouffville Hospital, it could cost you more.

If you pay cash, you'll have to find an extra quarter: adult fares go from \$2.50 to \$2.75. If you're a senior and buy a strip of 10 tickets, the price remains the same at \$14.

Adult monthly passes are rising from \$80 to \$85, while seniors' monthly passes increase by \$2 to \$42.

For more information on fares and bus routes, call York Region Transit/Viva at 905-762-2100.

—Hannelore Volpe

CORRECTION

Wrong phone number for hazardous waste depot

The story, *Family takes out trash for good*, in the Dec. 30 Sun-Tribune, contained incorrect information about the hazardous waste depot on Rodick Road in Markham.

To find out which items are accepted, call the Region of York at 905-895-1200 and follow the options.

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune regrets the error.

Dirty business won't come dirt cheap

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville museum curator Dorie Billich is eagerly anticipating Dirty Business and some federal money to support it.

Dirty Business is this summer's exhibit at the museum exploring the housekeeping techniques and cleaning products and paraphernalia of bygone years. How housewives have been perceived through the decades is also explored.

The support is an appeal to the federal government by Mayor Wayne Emmerson to put a new museums policy in place and increase investment in museums.

Ms Billich and museum curators across Canada are urging their municipalities to encourage the government to act quickly on this issue.

"The new museums policy would better recognize the role of smaller museums and provide more assistance to us and more access to programs," Ms Billich said.

The museum is eyeing an ambitious renewal project, with construction to start in about five years with council's approval. The museum came up with a facilities concept plan in 2005 to bring the handful of charming heritage buildings and a barn into the 21st century.

Planning has begun for a large

glass-clad visitors centre that will link two heritage buildings at opposite ends of the property, the Bogartown Schoolhouse and the Vandorf Public School.

At an estimated cost of \$1.7 million, the 6,000-square-foot addition will house a reception area and spacious multi-purpose room ideal for school group programs, as well as meetings, seminars and receptions. The museum would seek partnerships for use of the new space.

Funding for museums is still at 1970s levels, Ms Billich said, noting the museums assistance program is over-subscribed. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum has applied for four of these grants since 1994. It received a \$20,000 grant for the Vandorf Public School renovations in 1999 and \$17,000 in 2005 for the facilities concept plan.

The Victorian tea in November and candlelight Christmas tours were very successful, Ms Billich said.

As well as hosting school groups and holding PA day activities, the museum is introducing free family days in March, April, September and October.

The museum is at 14732 Woodbine Ave., south of Aurora Road; Call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337 for more information.

Museum plans major expansion

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS
Youth Writer

The population isn't the only thing expanding in Stouffville. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum hopes to grow with the community.

The museum was established in 1971 and includes a schoolhouse from the 1800s, pioneer log cabin, Victorian farmhouse, barn and Vandorf Public School.

Curator Dorie Billich helps organize the museum's future plans, including the expansion, which she hopes will begin in five years.

"We have an exciting proposal for the visitor centre," she said.

The museum has no such facility and only holds 40 people in the meeting area.

The proposed expansion will link the school buildings and create a larger space for people to gather.

"We're hoping to get 100 people in," Ms Billich said. "It'd be a better facility with a nice, large meeting area."

The museum needs approval from council

before construction can begin.

Ms Billich says she hopes to receive corporate sponsorships, funding from the provincial and federal governments and conduct fundraising events to pay for the expansion.

The museum offers programs for people of all ages. Children and adults can tour the old school buildings, spin cloth and see what life was like more than 100 years ago.

The buildings each have stories for visitors to learn.

English as a second language programs are also available and the museum holds programs for children on PA days.

Although Ms Billich doesn't conduct the tours regularly, she says she enjoys doing them when she gets the opportunity.

"I get to learn new things all the time," she said.

For more information, visit www.townofws.com/museum or call 1-888-290-0337.

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