

# Banner year for toy drive thanks to ticket campaign

BY JIM THOMAS

The Stouffville Lions Club, thanks to member teamwork and an initiative by town bylaw enforcement, put smiles on the faces of hundreds of children at Christmas.

Overwhelming is the word used by immediate past-president Joe Cote to relate public response to the club's annual toy drive.

"It was wall-to-wall," Mr. Cote said, describing the interior of Latham Hall, "a veritable Disney World."

He said the decision by the town to offer illegal parkers the opportunity to donate toys in lieu of a fine resulted in truckloads of donations the like of which the club had never seen.

Mr. Cote and fellow Lion Peter Willan co-chaired the committee.

The toys-for-tickets project was picked up by several TV stations and newspapers, resulting in inquiries from as far away as England and Italy.

Several town collection centres were set up, including Cook Canada Inc., Community Care Access, Stouffville Chiropractic, the Lebovic Centre, the works and bylaw departments and the administration office.

Sorting was done and deliveries completed by Christmas Eve.

"It's always been a popular project," Mr. Cote said, "but Christmas 2006 surpassed anything previously experienced."

The Lions Christmas trees sale was also a huge



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

Joe Cote and friends at the Stouffville Lions toy drive headquarters in Latham Hall

success, with close to 400 purchased from the Sobeys parking lot. Don Richards chaired this committee. All profits will be turned back to the community.

"It was a banner season," Mr. Cote said.

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