



20 Santa's visits headlines our list of things to do in Stouffville

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**THURSDAY FOCUS**

*Stouffville's own king of philanthropy*



*The Latcham legacy*

ARTHUR LATCHAM BUILT BOUGHT LAND AND BUILT GOLF COURSES. HE ALSO DID A LOT TO BUILD COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY STOUFFVILLE. FROM MANY AMENITIES IN MEMORIAL PARK TO THE LAND FOR MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL, HIS GIVING SHAPED THE TOWN. HIS LOVE OF MAGIC WAS HONOURED AT A FESTIVAL IN THE 1980S.

[ FULL REPORT/PAGE 3 ]

**Beat AIDS epidemic one day at a time**

*Give a Day campaign gathers momentum for 2007 event*

BY MICHAEL POWER  
 Staff Writer

Ever think about doing something to curb the world's AIDS epidemic but are discouraged because the problem seems so vast?

A Stouffville doctor may have a solution for you.

Dr. Jane Philpott, a family physician at the Stouffville Medical Centre and Markham Stouffville Hospital who practised medicine for 10 years in western Africa, developed an idea to raise money and awareness of the pandemic in 2004.

She spoke to colleagues about AIDS, suggesting doctors donate a day's pay to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, an organization that fights the disease in Africa.

"The doctors responded very enthusiastically," she said. "As soon as people hear about what is happening, they want to be able to help."

That first year, the hospital raised \$33,000 for a hospital in Zambia in southern Africa.

Since then, the idea has grown in popularity, not only around the hospital, but with other organizations.

"What we didn't anticipate was that other people would hear about it and want to participate," Dr. Philpott said.

Doctors from other facilities started calling to ask about the fundraiser. In 2005, physicians from eight hospitals started Give a Day campaigns, helping the project raise more than \$100,000.

"It was kind of word-of-mouth," she said.

That word-of-mouth has now spread beyond the medical community.

Last year, about 10 law firms participated after attorneys heard about the Give a Day campaign through the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The number of participating firms has grown to 16 and now at least 14 hos-



**DR. JANE PHILPOTT:** Stouffville physician's AIDS fundraiser picks up steam with lawyers and hospitals.

pitals are involved.

Teachers and those in the business community are starting their own versions of the campaign. Representatives from the University of Calgary recently contacted Dr. Philpott about Give a Day to World AIDS.

"It has continued to spread and I see

*Sun-Tribune carriers challenge colleagues to give a day's pay/page 9.*

that as a reflection of Canadians seeing what is happening and are struck by the inequities," she said. "Canadians are concerned about this and want to respond."

Stephen Lewis kicked off the campaign at Markham Stouffville Hospital Nov. 14.

He addressed the importance of combating the AIDS pandemic and how health care workers in Ontario can make a difference. His speech was broadcast at 22 hospitals.

That speech, Dr. Philpott said, helped put into perspective the extent of the pandemic's reach in Africa.

See? \$750,000, page 10.

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