



23 Three down and one to go for Stouffville gold medalist
 Opinion 6
 Jim Thomas 7
 Coming Up 12
 Classified 25



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

'WORK WITH US, SANTA'

Santa poses for pictures with Libby, 8 (left) and Jack, 7, both Yorkshire terriers owned by Carolyn MacKinnon at K9's in Kahoots in downtown Stouffville Sunday. The event was a fundraiser for the Organization for the Rescue of Animals in Mount Albert.

DWINDLING CROWDS, CAST PROMPT NEW MEASURES FOR 48TH MUSIC MANIA

Re-inventing a Stouffville tradition

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Music Mania, Stouffville's venerable music and variety show, is hunkering down for what members hope will be a revival in its popularity. Traditionally, the show has been a way for newcomers in town to meet their neighbours and existing residents to cement friendships, while having a chance to appear on stage to sing, dance, act in skits or

work behind the scenes. Over the past few years, however, audiences and cast and crew numbers have been dwindling. That's why Music Mania is reaching out to the community, particularly new residents in town, to join the music and variety show for its 48th show. At the Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade on Dec. 1, Music Mania members handed out 1,000 brochures, encouraging new residents to join the show.

"As Stouffville grows, we are looking for participation from our new neighbours," the show's director Rick Lightfoot said. People will be able to see the chorus in action as they sing Christmas carols at various locations around Stouffville. They will be performing in front of Shoppers Drug Mart, Sobeys and Wal-Mart Saturday at 1 p.m. As well, Music Mania organizers are working to make the show more entertaining, the skits more

humorous, and the overall production shorter. An ideal show would last an hour and 40 minutes, Mr. Lightfoot said. That will make it more attractive to both audiences and those on stage. Singers and dancers, for instance, would have fewer songs or dance routines to learn, making rehearsals for the show easier to fit into people's increasingly busier lives. The changes in how the show is promoted and the show format

were necessary to make Music Mania "grow again", Mrs. Andrews said. "We were a little bit complacent about getting our message out to people," she said. And Stouffville is no longer a place where everyone knows everyone else. For years, Stouffville residents went to Music Mania, in part, to see their neighbours, their doctor, their bank teller, their grocer or

See 48th, page 11.

410-AUTO
 SPECIALIZING IN
 Volkswagen • Audi
 Porsche • European
 Asian & Hybrid
 138 Sandford Dr., Unit 5
 905-642-2695
 1-877-410-AUTO
 www.410auto.ca

Discounts
UP TO 30%
 on car insurance.
 It's time to experience what so many drivers from Ontario already have: the personal service and money saving discounts they get from their State Farm® agent.

Talk to me today and see how you can save.

Joe St Denis, Agent
 5402 Main Street
 Stouffville, ON L4A 1H3
 Bus: 905-642-5400
 jon.stdenis.pier@statefarm.com
 North Side of Main Street Across from Blockbuster

STATE FARM
 INSURANCE
 LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR,
 STATE FARM IS THERE.
 Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • Aurora, Ontario • statefarm.ca

Get Serious
Barthau Jewellers
 6312 Main St.
 Stouffville
 905-640-4646