

# Show your love downtown on Valentine's Day

Everything you need for Valentine's Day is right in downtown Stouffville.

That's why the Stouffville Business Improvement Area wants you to 'Love Your Downtown', said Ruth LeBlanc, manager of the BIA.

It is holding a special Love Your Downtown promotion Feb. 14 to remind local residents to shop in downtown Stouffville.

You'll-see lots of red hearts and balloons along the street and merchants will be offering various specials.

Whether you're looking for jewelry, flowers, fine dining or gifts, "there are alternatives to malls and big box stores" right in downtown Stouffville, Ms LeBlanc said.

For more information, call the Stouffville BIA at 905-640-0749.

## Christ Church dinner has heart

This will be the sixth year that funds raised at Christ Church Anglican's Heart to Heart dinner/dance will help those in Stouffville and abroad.

The swishy event is being held at the Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club Feb. 16.

During the evening, there is a silent auction offering everything from a cottage weekend and dinners at fine restaurants to a queen-size quilt handmade by the quilters at the church.

This is one of the church's major annual fundraisers. The church not only holds popular events like its pancake and Lenten dinners for the local community and supports local people in need, it also supports projects such as the Mully School in Kenya.

The Sunset Boulevard church runs a wide variety of programs for young people, adults and seniors.

Tickets are \$65 per person and are available by calling 905-640-1333 or 905-640-1461.

## Dog days start Feb. 14 at library

A new program at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, which starts Valentine's Day, allows children with reading and/or socializing difficulties to read in the presence of a specially-trained dog.

Called Paws to Read, dogs and owners must go through rigorous training before being allowed to take part in the program.

Ereda, a Hungarian German shepherd, will join the youngsters at the library Thursday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m., beginning Feb. 14.

Each child in the group has the opportunity to read to the dog, which wears a bright red working vest, for 15 minutes. The program is for children seven to 14.

It is designed for youngsters who find reading out loud intimidating. Paws to Read gives them a chance to increase their reading skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.

All dogs are already experienced therapy dogs and take additional training to pass their Interaction with Children Evaluation provided by Therapeutic Paws of Canada.

For more information on Therapeutic Paws, visit [TPOC.ca](http://TPOC.ca) To register or find out more, call Carolyn Nordheimer or Anne Houle at 905-642-7323.

## EastRidge hosts broadcast for girls

Teenage girls throughout North America, including a group in Stouffville, will crowd hundreds of auditoriums, church sanctuaries and halls to be a part of the first-ever Girls of Grace Nation simulcast Feb. 23.

In conjunction with the Church Communication Network, Stouffville Youth Network is showing the event via satellite at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The vision of award-winning recording artist Point of Grace, the one-day conference will include an all-star line-up of speakers plus musicians Stellar Kart, Barlow Girl, Group 1 Crew and Jaime Jamgochian.

Inspired by Point of Grace's latest album, the theme will be How You Live. The event offers teenage girls a day of straight-talk, encouragement, laughter and music.

"Our goal is to create a foundation experience, compelling each girl to build her life with purpose through a refreshed, hope-filled

heart, a renewed self-confidence and a deep desire for a relational, daily walk with Jesus Christ," Point of Grace member Shelley Breen said.

Author Susie Shellenberger uses contemporary language, illustrations, and humour to confront the problems of identity, security and self-esteem that plague teenage women.

Featured speaker Chris Wheeler is a wild-haired, people magnet from Tennessee.

Cost is \$15 including lunch. For more details, contact Pastor



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