

# SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE

## Rare look at lodge, sacred scrolls

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

The Richardson Masonic Lodge is rolling out its welcome mat, and a piece of its history, Saturday.

The lodge is participating in the annual Doors Open event, along with 11 other local buildings. It is showcasing a section of the Dowling Scrolls, painted by Rev. James Dowling 130 years ago.

"The dowlings are very seldom put on public display," said Ken Prentice, master of the 148-year-old lodge.

"The murals depict scenes of ancient Egypt. Many of the locations that have been painted certainly are referred to in Old Testament scripture."

*'I'm proud to be a member of the Masonic lodge because I believe it brings people of all backgrounds from all over the world together.'*

The murals total 400 feet in length and seven-feet tall, and are divided into 40 panels.

The scenes were painted on canvas by Mr. Dowling during the 1870s and used during his sermons at the

▶ Go to [doorsopenws.ca](http://doorsopenws.ca) or [richardsonlodge.ca](http://richardsonlodge.ca) for more

original Uxbridge Baptist Church.

Several Masons will be on hand offering a rare look at the entire lodge to the public.

A presentation will be made at 2 p.m. by the Goodman Foundation "for the warm welcome Richardson Lodge made to Stouffville's Jewish members in the 1930s," Mr. Prentice said.

Funds collected at the presentation and throughout the day go to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The first local lodge meeting was held in 1860. The lodge was located in several other places, including what are now second-floor apartments across from the clock tower on Main Street.

In 1955, it moved to its current location at the corner of Second Street and Ninth Line.

Well-known figures have been members of Masonic lodges across Canada, including Sir John A. MacDonald, the first prime minister, late jazz musician Oscar Peterson and ex-NHLer/businessman Tim Horton.

"I'm proud to be a member of the Masonic lodge because I believe it brings people of all backgrounds from all over the world together," Mr. Prentice said.



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARDSON LODGE

Stouffville Richardson Lodge Master Ken Prentice stands in front of the portrait of T.D. Harrington, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario in 1860. The lodge is open to the public Saturday as part of Doors Open.

## Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

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### Do you know top citizen?

The Sun-Tribune is still searching for Whitchurch-Stouffville's top citizen for 2008.

"Nominations are down this year, compared to other years," editor Jim Mason said. "We know there are worthy nominees in our community, but we need one of their neighbours to nominate them."

Audrey Gibson was citizen of the year in 2007.

The award will be presented June 26 during the Strawberry Festival's opening ceremonies.

Deadline for entries is June 15. They should include supporting material and testimonials.

Send entries to [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com) or 6290 Main St., Stouffville, L4A 1G7.

For more information, call Mr. Mason at 905-640-2612.

### Kaitlyn champions walk

Stouffville's Kaitlyn O'Brien is a champion: the Toronto Children's Miracle Network Champion of this year's Wal-Mart Walk for Miracles.

The Toronto walk takes place Sunday at Coronation Park in support of the SickKids Foundation.

Kaitlyn, 11, has VACTERL syndrome, an acronym for vertebrae, anus, cardiovascular, trachea, esophagus, renal (kidney), and limbs. The Glad Park Public School student has had 20 surgeries and undergoes a laborious daily routine of treatments.

Kaitlyn is a member of the SickKids Children's Council and helps raise money for the hospital.

This year, she has already begun by donating all of the birthday money she received.

For more information on the e, go to [walmartwalkformiracles.ca](http://walmartwalkformiracles.ca)

### SOUND OFF

Have something to say about these or other stories?

E-mail us at [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

## Doors Open on 12 buildings Saturday

Local businesses and organizations are putting out the welcome mat and opening their doors to you.

The annual Doors Open event takes place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free to the public.

This year, 12 buildings will take part, including six in the downtown core and six outside of Stouffville.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, clock tower, Lionel's Farm, Schell Lumber Country Depot, James Lemon House and woodworking shop, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority exhibit and Willowgrove are among the participants.

Doors Open occurs province-wide and has become an annual event in other countries as well.

▶ For more information on the event, visit [www.doorsopenws.ca](http://www.doorsopenws.ca) or call 905-727-8954.

The purpose is to not only showcase a town's heritage through its buildings and businesses, but also offer you a different experience.

"(The businesses and organizations) are offering a lot of interesting things," said Krista Rauchenstein, program co-ordinator at the museum. "You're seeing something you normally wouldn't get to see everyday."

### THIRD TIME IN STOUFFVILLE

This is the third time the town has participated in the event. Last year, it took a year off.

"In a small community, often you have repeat sites," Ms Rauchenstein said. "It's a lot of

work for that site to prepare for this event."

A volunteer committee has been meeting since September and working with businesses in order to organize the event, she added.

"There's a lot of background prep. Without the volunteers, there's no way it could happen."

Despite the break last year, the Doors Open Committee is expecting a big crowd this year.

"There are lots of interesting things," Ms Rauchenstein said.

"For kids especially, I think it's really exciting. They get to go behind counters and it's exciting for them to see things like that."

"I think it gives the museum a good presence in the town," she said.

"It's nice for people to see the museum participating in the town and showing we are involved in the downtown, also."

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