



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

With new smoke alarms for the 2008 campaign are Ron Schell (from left) of Schell Lumber, Laury Lamoureux of Canadian Tire, Sparky the fire safety dog, Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Chris Powers and Sandy MacKenzie of State Farm.

## Firefighters hope to see more alarms this year

BY JIM MASON  
Staff Writer

How is your smoke alarm, Whitchurch-Stouffville?

You may find a firefighter at your door asking that question.

Whitchurch-Stouffville fire and emergency services has started its annual smoke alarm program with the assistance of local businesses.

And its hoping for better results than in 2007.

In 2006, legislation was passed requiring working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all

sleeping areas.

Last year, just 57 per cent of houses entered by fire crews here were in compliance.

"That was alarming," fire prevention officer Jeff Bignell said.

Failure to maintain or install smoke alarms can result in a \$235 fine.

"Fire crews are going door-to-door to ensure working smoke alarms are installed on every level and near sleeping areas," Mr. Bignell said. "If a smoke alarm is not correctly installed or missing, fire crews will install a new battery operated alarm free of charge."

They plan to visit 800 homes this

year with the focus on neighbourhoods built before 1986.

Schell Lumber and Stouffville Canadian Tire have donated smoke alarms. Sandy MacKenzie, of State Farm Insurance, has provided fire and life safety literature that will be distributed to residents.

The three businesses have been nominated for the Ontario Fire Marshal's public fire safety council awards.

*If you have questions regarding the program or installing and maintaining smoke alarms contact, Mr. Bignell at 905 640-9595 ext.236.*

## Festival, guide coming soon

It's 11 days and counting until the start of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival.

The 2008 edition runs from June 25 to 29 plus July 1.

Some annual highlights are:

- the Stouffville Lions beef barbecue and opening ceremonies June 26;
- Giggles Comedy Night June 27;
- the parade and closure of Main Street June 28;
- ecumenical church service and strawberry social June 29 and;
- Canada Day cake and fireworks July 1.

The official guide to the festival will be delivered with your June 21 Sun-Tribune.

For more information, go to [strawberryfestival.ca](http://strawberryfestival.ca)

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