

SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville Meals on Wheels committee members Dorothy Wagg (front row from left), Audrey Gibson and Jean Ireland with other volunteers Bob Tabone (from left), Joyce Brinkman, Jim Thomas, Ron Brinkman, Ron Gibson, Peggy Hood, Margaret Curtis, Jim Rae and Jean Thomas. Other volunteers include Mary Hammerston (19 years), Harvey and Audrey Feasby (15 years), Wilf and Nelda Morley and Seik and Tina Wassenaar.

Meals on Wheels volunteers have brought food home to elderly residents for 35 years

They deliver, Stouffville-style

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Audrey Gibson remembers the launch of Meals on Wheels in Stouffville in 1973 as if it were last week.

The six dinners being delivered cost 80 cents each.

A team of professional and lay people agreed the service would benefit the frail and elderly in the community, she said.

The six dinners being delivered cost 80 cents each (in 1973).

"Nutritious meals would help them stay healthier and they could maintain their homes longer," she said.

Dr. John Button and the late Joe Nighswan-

der were two of the pioneers behind the service.

Mr. Nighswander was administrator of Parkview Nursing Home, which provided hot meals for the service every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for more than 20 years.

The numbers grew, peaking at 45 meals a week.

"It took an awful lot of dedicated volunteers to keep it going," Mrs. Gibson said.

Stouffville's Home Support Office, run by Jean Anderson, was closed in 1988 and the meals service fell under the regional Community Home Assistance to Seniors offices.

When CHATS could not find a hot food provider for lunch hour in 2001, Meals on

Wheels partnered with the company Private Recipes and switched to the delivery of frozen food.

Meals are delivered every Wednesday at noon.

The group marked the 35th anniversary last week and paid tribute to its long-term volunteers.

Several volunteers have more than 15 years of experience.

Mrs. Gibson, the program and co-ordinator and a driver, has worked all 35 years. Captains Jean Ireland (16 years) and Dorothy Wagg (13 years) are on the committee.

Barbara Schell volunteered for 30 years

It's still a community effort, Mrs. Gibson said.

Parkview Village is the depot for meal deliveries.

"And we always need volunteers," she said.

Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

Visit yorkregion.com for more on these and other stories

21 studios on art tour

Artists, start your brushes.

The eighth annual Stouffville Studio Tour takes place Oct. 18 and 19.

Admission to the studios is free. There are 21 studios and 31 artists taking part.

In advance of the tour, artists are giving demonstrations at the Latcham Gallery and Care and Share Shoppe Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

For the Love of Jo is showcasing painting from artists on the tour.

The works are created using media including watercolour, acrylic, and oil paints, as well as graphite drawings, wood block printing and jewelry.

Visitors can pick up ballots at participating locations for a chance to win \$200 to spend at one of the studios.

For more information including a tour map, go to stouffvillestudiotour.com or call 905-642-1721.

Sugden cut by Islanders

Brandon Sugden's dream of making the New York Islanders were dashed this week.

The 30-year-old former Whitchurch-Stouffville resident was released by the NHL team Sunday.

The career minor league enforcer hopes to catch on with another organization and make his way up to the NHL.

Sugden has attended several big-league camps but has never played in the NHL.

Sugden, who has been out of pro hockey for two years, was an invitee to the Islander camp.

His father, former boxer and professional trainer Travis Sugden, is battling cancer.

The Sugdens now live in Keswick.

SOUND OFF

Have something to say about these or other stories?

E-mail us at jmason@yrmg.com

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

October 9th to October 13th at

PEPPERTREE KLASSICS

Women's Fashions, Footwear and Accessories

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Weekend

30%
off

All our FABULOUS NEW FALL ARRIVALS

OPEN Sunday Oct. 12 & Monday Oct. 13
Noon to 4:30 pm

*Regular Prices *5 Days only

137 Main St. N., Markham • 905.294.3882 • Open 7 Days A Week and Holidays