

'I'LL BE BACK'



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Santa waves to Alexa Cabrera and her mom, Ruby, at the Martial Arts Training Academy on Main Street Monday night. Santa is back in town this weekend. He'll be in his own parade, starting at 2 p.m. today on Main Street. On Sunday afternoon, he'll be roaming around downtown posing for photographs. He's also at the Community Safety Village in Bruce's Mill Conservation Area during the Holiday in the Village event today from 4 to 7 p.m.

Christmas Calm at service

Not all is cheery and joyful during the holiday season.

Stouffville United Church is hosting a Christmas Calm on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

The quiet service will provide people time away from the hustle and bustle to reflect and pray.

The service will also be a comfort to those who have lost a loved one, who have otherwise gone through a difficult time this year, or just want an opportunity to 'rest in God,' which is hard-to-find space and time.

Stouffville United is at 34 Church St. For more information, call the church office at 905-640-1163.

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'WE HAVE TO SCRAMBLE JUST TO MEET OUR VERY MINIMAL BILLS': WHISTLE

Stouffville radio station asks council for money

BY SANDRA BOLAN
Staff Writer

Whistle Radio needs money in order to stay on the air and it has asked Whitchurch-Stouffville council for help.

"We have to scramble just to meet our very minimal bills," Halvor Moorshead, one of the station's directors, said.

Since the station hit the FM airwaves (102.7) earlier this year, it has been able to pay its operating costs thanks to private donations, advertising sales and membership fees.

"Memberships are the lifeblood of many community radio stations," Mr. Moorshead said. To date, about 100 memberships have been purchased for \$20 each.

As an English-speaking radio

station, Whistle does not qualify for any funding programs, according to Mr. Moorshead, which is why the station went to council for assistance.

Although Mr. Moorshead was unable to provide council with an exact amount the station needs in order to remain on the air, he did note the station requires \$30,000 a year for operational costs.

"We think we can raise \$30,000 each year ourselves. We just need seed money," Mr. Moorshead said.

Council was receptive to the station's request, but it remained cautious about making any promises.

"You have to be realistic in what we're going through with our budget," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

However, Mr. Emmerson did note, with a written proposal, com-

plete with the amount of money the station wants, the town may be able to help Whistle Radio through the municipality's grants and donations program.

When the station launched in 2006, first on the Internet, it received a \$15,000 grant from the Trillium Foundation of Ontario, which paid for the electronic equipment and Schell Lumber donated the building supplies.

The landlord of the building, where the station is located on Main Street, has provided the space rent free, but come Feb. 1, the owner wants Whistle to start paying rent.

"We know that this is coming up; I'm sure we can look after it for a couple of months," Mr. Moorshead said. "I don't think it's going to shut us down."

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