

Boy's birthday wish helps others

BY SANDRA BOLAN
Staff Writer

It may have been Isaac Taylor's birthday, but it ended up being a Christmas toy drive for other Stouffville children.

When Isaac turned 11 on Dec. 11, he requested people attending his party not bring gifts for him, but that they bring toys for the Stouffville Lions Christmas toy drive.

"It's the season of giving and some people aren't probably looking forward to Christmas because they don't get toys," Isaac said of why he decided to do this.

"This is the epitome of the Christmas spirit," Clare Palmer, chairperson of the Stouffville Lions Christmas toy drive said.

When Isaac told his parents about his birthday wish, they were pleasantly surprised.

"Most kids don't want to give away their birthday gifts," David Taylor said.

Giving to others is something Isaac and his family have been doing for the past few years. "Isaac is now starting to see the importance of it," Mr. Taylor said.

"In the last couple of years he's been old enough to recognize there are more needy people."

Five years ago, the Taylors decided to sponsor a child through World Vision.

"Instead of watching the TV and turning the channel, we decided to do it," Mr. Taylor said.

Since then, the family has been



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Isaac Taylor, 11, had a birthday earlier this month and instead of gifts for himself, he asked all of his friends to donate gifts to the Lions Club hamper campaign. Clare Palmer, chairman of the toy drive, helps unload the presents.

corresponding with a little boy in Malawi, who is the same age as Isaac. This was the Taylors' second year in sponsoring a family at Christmas.

"I work with a lot of kids below the poverty line, so we try to do a lot of stuff in sync with that," Mr. Taylor said.

"(And) we're in a position where

we can start giving back."

Mr. Taylor's wife, Colleen, is also involved with the Igoma project.

Plans for a trip to Malawi to meet the boy they have been sponsoring, in conjunction with a trip to Tanzania to help with the Igoma project are currently under way.

"We'll make it happen," Mr. Taylor said.

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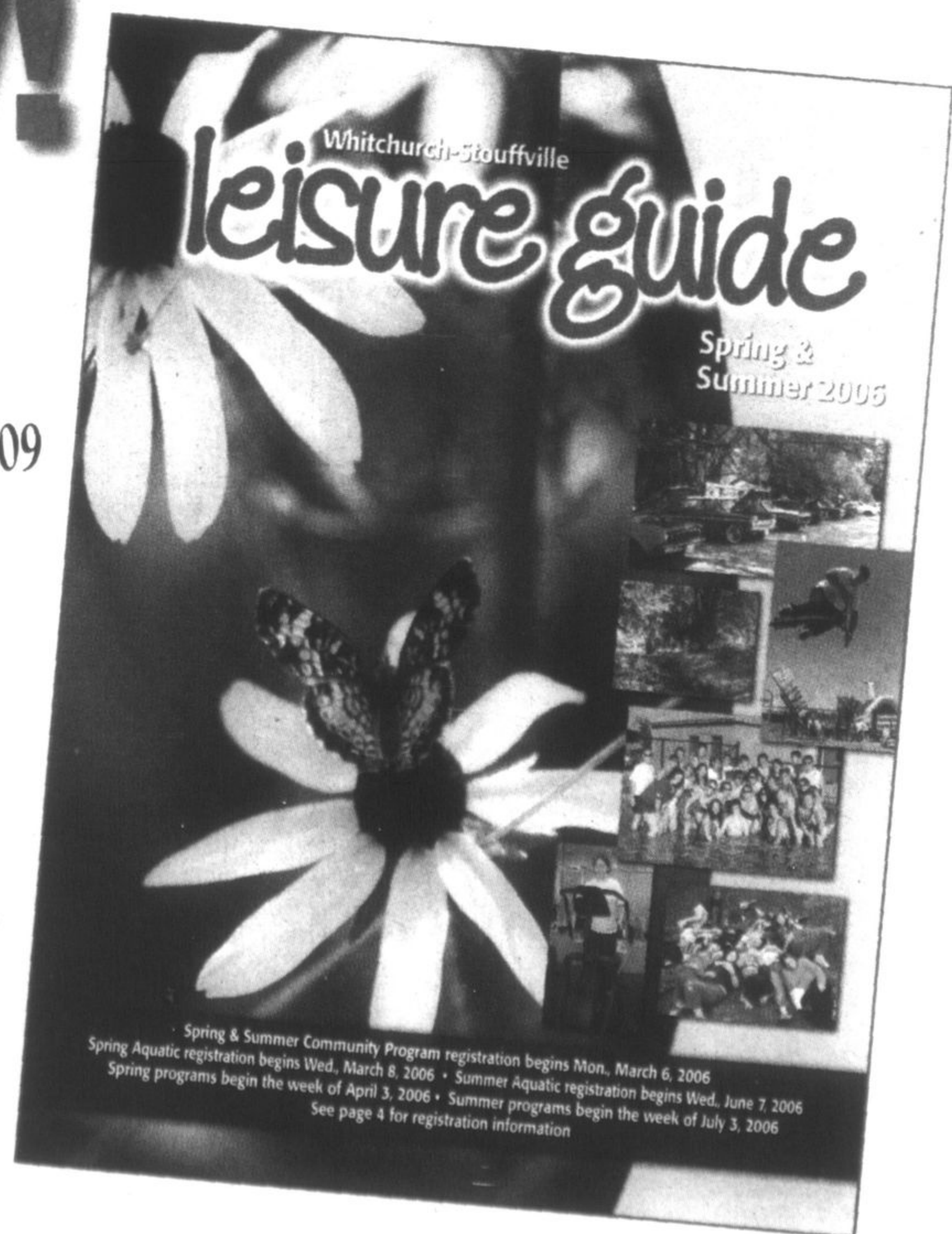
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See page 4 for registration information

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