

# Top Toastmasters speak out in Stouffville

Public invited to hear area's best at Parkview Monday

BY JIM MASON  
jmason@yrmg.com

Heidi Wallis joined Stouffville's Toastmasters Club because she was tired of just talking to and about children.

Now, she's an award-winning orator with eyes on a career in public speaking.

Mrs. Wallis, who won the club contest last week, will be competing at an area event, the International Speech and Evaluation Contest, Monday at Parkview Village in Stouffville.

Speeches begin at 7 p.m. The public, including prospective members, are welcome.

Joining Mrs. Wallis at the podium will be Heidi Graham, who finished second in the club event, and four qualifiers from two Aurora-area clubs.

Winners advance along a trail of district, regional and international championship competitions.

"As a stay-at-home mom, I found that I wasn't getting many opportunities to speak to other adults, about subjects beyond my children," Mrs Wallis said. "I found at Toastmasters, I can challenge my vocabulary, my



**HEIDI WALLIS:** Joining Stouffville Toastmasters gave her new skills and led to new career goals.

impromptu speaking and my speech writing and delivery skills."

The Stouffville club, founded in 2004 by Vince DaCosta, has 26 members. Meetings are held every Monday night at 7 p.m. at Glad Park Public School.

#### SKILLS FOR NEW JOB

Rick Rees was out of work and joined the Stouffville club to broaden his network.

"I also wanted to improve my ability to present ideas in a clear, confident and convincing manner; a professional advantage in any business environment," he said. "And lastly, I wanted to broaden my job prospects as a technical writer to include capabilities as a technical product

and services trainer." It worked.

"My confidence has improved," he said. "I have been fully employed for a while now with a high-tech firm. Recently, I have broadened my experience to include contract technical writing. Of equal importance, I have met some great people at Toastmasters who help me to improve my speaking capabilities and who expand my professional network."

Susan Caswell kept seeing an announcement for the Stouffville club in The Sun-Tribune.

"It spoke of a friendly group of people where you can learn to speak quickly on your feet and to feel comfortable with public speaking in a non-judgmental atmosphere," she said.

The club was exactly as advertised, she said.

"While at the same time, it is also lots of fun," she said.

Founded in 1924 at a YMCA in Santa Ana, California, Toastmasters International has grown to become a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience. A non-profit organization, it has 235,000 members in 11,700 clubs in 92 countries.

For more on the Stouffville club, go to [stouffville.freetoasthost.biz/](http://stouffville.freetoasthost.biz/)

## What's On in Whitchurch-Stouffville

### Leisure Services

Email: [leisure.services@townofws.com](mailto:leisure.services@townofws.com)  
Phone: 905-642-PLAY (7529)

**GO EARTH HOUR**  
**Earth Hour 2009**  
Saturday, March 28  
8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Join The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in participating in Earth Day, 2009. It's as simple as flicking off a switch - literally, on Saturday, March 28, 8:30 - 9:30pm. All lights in Town, where possible, will be off for one hour beginning at 8:30 p.m. The hope is that residents and local businesses participate as well.

More information is available on the Town homepage under "News and Events" and at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

**Bicycle SAFETY**

Join in to raise the profile of Bicycle Safety and to promote wearing a helmet.

Help create a safe cycling community in Whitchurch-Stouffville by **Joining the Helmet Patrol!**

There is a concern about the many cyclists **NOT** wearing safety helmets while riding in and around Town. The Department of Leisure Services is proposing a helmet patrol program and is looking for volunteers to give out prizes and incentives to those practicing safe biking habits. This is a great way for students to earn community service hours.

For more information contact:  
Barb Armstrong, 905-642-7529 ext. 328  
or email [barb.armstrong@townofws.com](mailto:barb.armstrong@townofws.com)

### Register NOW for Summer Camp 2009

Program details available on the Town Website by connecting to the WSPRAY...Online link

**Inclusion for All!** 1:1 support is available to integrate those with special needs in our summer camp programs. Call the Leisure Centre for details!

**Register NOW for all Spring programs,** on the Town website using the WSPRAY... Online link or in person at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.



### Library

30 Burkholder Street, Stouffville  
Phone: 905-642-READ (7323) or 1-888-603-4292



### COULD YOU RETIRE IF YOU WANT?

Thursday, April 16  
7:00-8:30 p.m.

How prepared are you going to be to leave the work force? Attend this session so you can retire on your own terms!  
**Free Admission.**



### MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

AN EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM FOR TODDLERS & YOUNG CHILDREN

Ages 2-3 years  
Fridays, April 17 - June 19  
11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Cost \$10/child for 10 weeks.



### FREE TAX CLINIC

Sunday, March 22  
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Total household income must be less than \$17,000 without dependants or less than \$25,000 with dependants.

Call the Library to reserve a 1/2 hour appointment.



### Giant Book Sale

April 1-5, 2009  
Don't miss this opportunity to add to your home library.

### KINDERMUSIK VILLAGE

WITH

SHERI NEUFELDT-FAST

Thursdays, April 9 - May 28  
9:30-10:15 a.m.  
Age 0-18 months  
with parent/caregiver

Through a unique blend of multi-level activities that includes creative movement, vocal play, object and instrument exploration, and a colourful literature component, your baby's growth and development are stimulated and all of his/her senses engaged.

Cost \$150/8 weeks.  
Pre-registration is required.

## HEADED FOR THE BALL



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Some Irish cookies are offered by Davis Ladouceur, 12, (from left) to Markham Stouffville Hospital CEO Janet Beed and Markham Councillor Carolina Moretti as Village Grocer's owner Evan MacDonald and daughter Katie MacDonald, 13, look on at a media launch for the hospital's Emerald Ball, which goes April 3. For more information, go to [www.msh.on.ca](http://www.msh.on.ca)

## Museum

14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley  
Phone: 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337

### "FROM TREE TO TREAT"

Pancake Brunch

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the end of winter at this delicious event hosted by the Founding Friends of the Museum. Enjoy a pancake & ham brunch, topped off with locally produced maple syrup before touring the Museum's restored heritage buildings.

Cost: \$6/Adult; \$2/Child

### History Hands-On (H<sub>2</sub>O) in Spring Experience Pioneer Life!

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This month, enjoy a display of 19<sup>th</sup> century military artifacts & learn about the life of a soldier in the 1800s! Really experience life as it was 100 years ago! Visit the Log Cabin and try your hand at some Pioneer chores. Help prepare treats in the Farmhouse Kitchen. Complete your lessons on a slate in the 19<sup>th</sup> century classroom.

Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted.

### REACH DAY FOR GIRL GUIDES & BROWNIES

Participate in a series of unique hands-on activities, meet badge requirements and Really Experience Authentic Cultural Heritage!

Activities take place inside & around our historic buildings.

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please call for a start time for your unit or for more information.

Each program will run for a minimum of 1 1/2 hours.

\$4 per participant.



For more information, visit us online:

Town: [www.townofws.com](http://www.townofws.com)

Library: [www.whitchurch-library.on.ca](http://www.whitchurch-library.on.ca)

