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Town gets ready for Olympic torch visit

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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The Olympic torch is coming through Stouffville on Dec. 17.

The exact route and time the torch will arrive are being kept under wraps until one week prior to the big event, as per the Olympic committee's instructions.

"It's going straight through town. It won't stop," said Micole Ongman, manager of recreation for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The last time the Olympic torch came through the municipality was via Woodbine Avenue in 1987 on its way to Calgary.

"I've never seen the torch relay live," she said.

Because the exact route of the torch is unknown, the municipality has decided to make Nineteen on the Park the centre of activity for the day with hot drinks, a choir singing O Canada and Olympic videos. Everyone is asked to show their true colours by wearing red and white.

"We want to encourage everybody to get into that Olympic spirit because it's so exciting," Ms Ongman said.

Special Canadian flags are being distributed to the schools, however, to help offset their cost, the municipality is hoping a local

See **CARRYING**, page 19.

SPECIAL DELIVERY



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Bob Stover had a 1949 Chevy truck restored during the last two years to replicate the trucks his father and grandfather used at the Stouffville Bakery. Mr. Stover learned to drive a similar vehicle at age 11. See Jim Thomas' column on page 7, for more information on the family project.

Library survived Internet and then some

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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When the Internet became as accessible as cable TV, decrees from on-high announced all librarians should pack up their books and find new careers because their Dewey Decimal knowledge will no longer be required.

After all, why would anyone want to walk or drive to a brick and mortar building to peruse aisles filled with dust-covered books, when

whatever information you could possibly want was just a few mouse-clicks away on your computer?

"People came and told me: 'You're going to be out of a job because it's all going to be on this computer,'" said Catherine Sword, program coordinator for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

The paper-based card catalogue did get the heave-ho in the early 1990s and video may

have killed the radio star, but the Internet has failed to chip away at the public library.

In fact, the local public library has become more popular than ever and not just with school-aged children looking for reliable information for a project, but with the young and old alike looking for something to do in their leisure time.

In the province's 1,000 libraries, circulation

See **E-BOOKS**, page 17.

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