

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 2009 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 28 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

Santa, citizen of year set to parade, eh

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Santa, his elves, Rudolph, Comet and all of the other reindeer will be in Stouffville on Dec. 5 to anchor the Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade.

This year's theme is a Canadian Christmas.

"They can interpret it any way they want," said parade organizer Sean Rice of float entrants. "There's so many different cultures in Canada."

On average, the parade has about 30 floats and 10 bands. Organizations already confirming their participation in this year's parade include the First Stouffville Scouts, Boston Pizza, Schell Lumber, the Terry Fox Run and Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey.

The cost to enter a float is \$35 for businesses. There is no charge for non-profit groups.

The Sun-Tribune's citizen of the year, Diane Ward, and sports person of the year, Mike Humphreys, will also be in the parade.

This year marks a return to the original route, which starts at Tenth Line and Aintree Drive. It will then travel south to Main Street and west to Mostar Street.

"We would be glad to see as many people out as possible," Mr. Rice said.

The parade starts at 2 p.m.

For more information and to register a float, contact Sean Rice at sean.rice@hotmail.com or 647-404-8006. The deadline to get a float into the parade is Nov. 23.

WHAT WINTER?



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

A woman harvests vegetables in a farm field along Kennedy Road in northern Whitchurch-Stouffville last week. The warm fall weather continues, with no snow in the forecast for the coming week.

DEMAND FOR SERVICES UP, DONATIONS DOWN THIS YEAR

Regional charities hurting

BY CHRIS TRABER
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Demand for social services is up and donations are down, administrators of York Region charities say, citing a distressed economy and resultant unemployment.

A Statistics Canada report released Monday found the value of donations to GTA charities in 2008 fell 12 per cent to \$1.8 billion from \$2.1 billion, based on income tax returns.

Krasman Centre executive director Tanya

Shute confirmed philanthropic momentum has slipped.

Now is usually the time holiday gifts and cheques are received by the Richmond Hill drop-in centre and support for the homeless, at risk and those with mental health challenges. It's just not happening as in years past, Ms Shute said.

"We're seeing the delay," she said. "I don't think it's indifference. It's timing. I think people are waiting to see what's left over before they donate."

Funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Trillium Foundation and York Region grants is augmented by public support. Every Christmas Eve, the centre hosts a dinner for its clients and the community with the help of donations.

"It's a dinner and meaningful gift for all," she said. "If people join us it usually means they don't have anyone, they're alone."

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