

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 2009 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

STOUFFVILLE
GREAT CHRISTMAS SPECIALS
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SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 2.

BACK TO WORK, SANTA



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Santa's post-Stouffville parade nap is disturbed by Jack the Jack Russell terrier and Abby Joyce, 18 months, as they get ready for the Heart of Stouffville event downtown this Sunday.

Children and pets can get their photograph taken with Santa between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Contests and karaoke carolling are also scheduled. For more information, turn to page 9.

New-home sales off the charts in Stouffville

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Stouffville, you're a lot more popular with new-home buyers than projected.

Almost 1,000 home building permits have been issued so far this year.

The 943 permits handed out as of Nov. 30 is a far cry from the 600 predicted by the

municipality for all of 2009.

"The first half of this year was very slow," said Dave Cash, Whitchurch-Stouffville's CAO at the Mayor's Economic Roundtable last week. "But in the second half, we're on fire."

Between January and May of this year, 150 new residential building permits were issued, which caused Andrew McNeely, the town's

director of planning and building services, to revamp expectations for the year.

In June, Mr. McNeely informed council it should expect to issue only 250 to 300 for the whole of 2009.

"Obviously the recession, worldwide, is more profound," he said at the time.

So what changed?

The economy and local development charges, according to Mr. Cash.

"Since June or July, the economy has really improved and the builders increased their activity," he said. "Builders have been very aggressive on prices of new homes and

See **BUILDER**, page 10.

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