Downtown merchants have their day

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

Sleigh rides, hot chocolate, Christmas carol karaoke and pictures with Santa, for children and the furry family members, will be happening throughout downtown Stouffville on Sunday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

During the third annual Christmas in the Heart of Stouffville, there will also be one-dayonly sales at some stores, while carollers will fill the streets and shops with seasonal songs. There will also be a colouring contest and scavenger hunt.

"(The downtown merchants started it) to give back to the community and the community can see what we have to offer," said Suze Joyce, event organizer and owner of the Hearty Artichoke, "It shows residents they can stay in Stouffville and get unique gifts."

Her store will be the centre of activities.

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Local artist John Roberts will be on hand creating caricatures for \$5.

Children eight and under will get the chance to show off their carolling skills in the Christmas karaoke contest. Contestants must sing one of the following three songs, Frosty the Snowman, Jingle Bells or Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

The age group winners will get the chance to perform with a local choir.

Children participating in the contest must pre-register at 905-642-8643.

Santa will listen to children's Christmas wish lists inside the Hearty Artichoke, while the four legged members of your family can tell Santa what's on their wish list this year at K9s in Kahoots. Call K9s in Kahoots at 905-642-8289 for an appointment.

Photos with Santa will be available at both locations for a nominal fee.











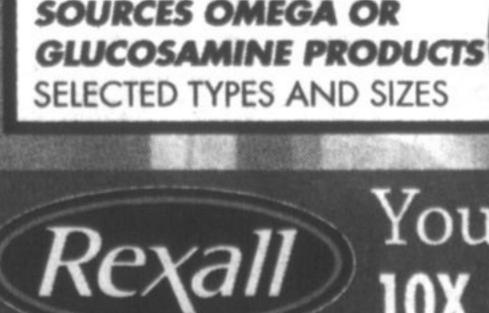






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