

Day to remember down on Main St.

A sea of red and white. It was Dec. 17, a Stouffville Main Street scene like nothing ever imagined.

Organizers of the Olympic Torch Relay had, for reasons not revealed, selected a route directly through town.

The powers-that-be would not be disappointed.

School principals, appreciating the importance of the event, opened the doors, allowing thousands of children an on-site experience none will forget.

Nor will I.

At one point, as the procession neared, people pressed forward, narrowing the traffic down to a single lane.

It was Dec. 17, a Stouffville Main Street scene like nothing ever imagined.

Police were patient, ensuring everyone's safety but declining to contain the enthusiasm.

Hype associated with the



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

occasion was highlighted by the fact two of our own were selected to carry a torch.

Lynn Goad, a teacher on the staff of Glad Park School and Christine Carter brandished beacons over a 300m span, a thrill they too will always remember.

"It was an honour," Lynn said.

The Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment — Nineteen on the Park hosted an engaging choir concert led by Deon Flash, music director at Summitview

Public School.

Guests in attendance included: Irene Van Fleet, gold, silver and bronze medal winner in swimming at the 1990 World Games; Karen Cockburn, silver medalist in trampoline competition at the 2008 Summer Olympics and Mike Harris, silver medal curling skip at the 1998 Winter Olympics.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson said enthusiasm shown by residents was an example of how the 2010 Olympics has already brought the country together.

The organizing committee was headed by town recreation manager Micole Ongman. Members included Heather Andrews, Steven Foster, Linda Mainprize, Scott Clubine, Ruth LeBlanc, Rebecca Mustard and Kym Pyke.

Merry music-makers

It was colourful. It was comical. It was seasonal. It was enjoyable.

Whatever descriptive one may use, Stouffville's first-ever Music Mania Christmas song,

dance and comedy show at Nineteen on the Park last week was just plain fun.

The cast loved doing it as much as the audiences loved viewing it.

Pleasure was mirrored from both sides of the stage.

The introduction of children was much appreciated as indicated by resounding applause. All are members of Stouffville's York Dance Academy.

While somewhat tentative at the start (something new often is), enthusiasm gained momentum with each passing week, resulting in two wonderful performances.

The first was a sell-out. The second was close.

While the chorus numbered only 24, members sang their hearts out, aided by an excellent sound system.

Despite backstage space

restrictions, set changes were completed quickly with no reports of humanistic collisions.

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This is a switch from Music Mania's specific spring performance policy where a 20-plus age requirement is strictly enforced.

This constraint should be changed.

There are too many talented teenagers in town for such a discriminatory practice to be imposed.

Also, the town should install railings on the steep walking trail up to the centre's nosebleed section before someone my age takes a tumble.

That aside, Rick Lightfoot, the show's director, was pleased with the result and so was I.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

• At least 1 in 3 people could still get H1N1.

• 1 in 5 people hospitalized with H1N1 have ended up in intensive care and/or on ventilators.

• Half of those in hospital with H1N1 have been under 24 years old.

• More people have been sick this year from the flu compared to the past 5 flu seasons.

• Flu season continues until April.



You call the shot.

Only you can make the decision to get the H1N1 flu shot. Shots are available at health care provider offices, workplace clinics and many other locations. Visit: ontario.ca/flu

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