

HOME: Post-holiday house cleaning, anyone?

Clutter expert straightens family out

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Doll houses, old computer components, long-forgotten about toys and garbage layered the floor of the Dekker family's play room.

Although the kids, now aged 15, 13 and 11, didn't seem to mind the mess, mother Susan did.

"I just said enough, it's got to go," Mrs. Dekker said.

To help clean the room up, Mrs. Dekker hired Jaelyn the Clutter Wrangler.

"I have (cleaned) it several times, but not to the extent of Jaelyn (Ray). When she comes in, she means business," the Stouffville resident said of the area she wanted to transform from Romper Room to media room.

HARD DECISIONS

"A lot of organizing is just having the courage to make those hard decisions," Ms Ray said. "They're hard decisions, but when you have a third-party present, who's not part of the family, it puts you in check a little bit."

The first thing Mrs. Dekker and Ms Ray did was purge. What wasn't destined for the trash heap was divided into three other piles: recycle, donate and sell.

Mrs. Dekker unearthed 40 items, including book cases, Christmas decorations, as well as computer equipment, to sell.

"(The computer equipment) had been replaced, but my husband was keeping them, thinking they would get hooked up to the kids' computer," Mrs. Dekker explained.

Now that the once cluttered playroom has become a highly organized and clean media room, Mrs. Dekker has instituted a few rules for its users.

"If you want a book, we're not going to be bringing them in. Go to the library," she said, noting there will also be no eating or drinking allowed in the room.

"They have to learn better to clean up after themselves. If they leave a mess, it'll be going out and they won't see it next time," Mrs. Dekker said.

The Dekkers are not alone when it comes to accumulating clutter. In fact, nearly 80 per cent of Canadians, according to a study commissioned by Kijiji Canada, are clutter collectors.

Why do Canadians accumulate so much stuff? According to the survey, it's either because getting rid of the unwanted items is too much of

a hassle or it just takes too much time to de-clutter.

"There's a feeling of being overwhelmed and I don't know what to do with it," Ms Ray said. "It's not the funnest thing to do on your day off."

What exactly is clutter? "Anything that is in your home you wish would disappear," Ms Ray said. "If you've gone through all 12 months, all four seasons and every holiday" without using it, then it's clutter.

While it might sound like a good idea to de-clutter your home in a weekend, Ms Ray advises against it.

DON'T JUST HIDE IT

"It's so easy to burn out," she said.

Instead, de-clutter a couple of hours a week.

"It's all about time management. Just like cleaning the house weekly," Ms Ray said. "If you did that to organizing, you would never have the backlog."

Be warned, putting things away in containers and stacking them neatly against the wall, is not de-cluttering.

"Don't hide it in a bin for 10 years in your basement; it's still clutter," Ms Ray said.

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U12 GIRLS (1998) & U13 GIRLS (1997)	Stouffville High School Gym	Jan. 17 & Jan. 24	Sunday	4- 6pm
U14 BOYS (1996)	Stouffville High School Gym	Jan. 17	Sunday	6:30 - 7:30pm

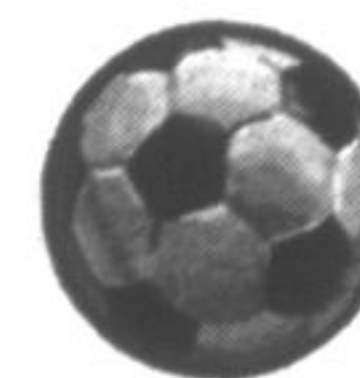
Stouffville High School is Located at 801 Hoover Park Drive

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Try-out Registration forms will be available on the days above and must be completed prior to the player taking part.

There is a \$5 tryout fee per player per session payable at the door upon entry.

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WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB

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CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

256 Deaths

LEAFE, Marion (nee MacLeod) - Born in Lyndale, P.E.I. on August 7, 1922, died peacefully in her 88th year at the home of her daughter Francesca, on December 31, 2009. Lovingly remembered by husband Ian, daughters Francesca (Bill Wright) and Mary Leafe (Calvin Weeks). Cherished grandmother of Emily and Nicholas Wright, and Carson Weeks. Survived by brothers Harold MacLeod (P.E.I.) and Hector MacLeod (B.C.). Long time member of the People's Church, Toronto. Family received friends at the O'Neill Funeral Home (6324 Main St., Stouffville) (905)642-2855 from 10 a.m. until chapel service time at 11 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2010. Interment will be held at the Heise Hill Cemetery. If so desired, donations to Mamie's Lounge (Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto) or charity of choice would be appreciated by the family.

256 Deaths

258 In Memoriam

258 In Memoriam

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258 In Memoriam

258 In Memoriam



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Andrew Molnar

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