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TORONTO OAKVILLE ETOBICOKE THORNHILL BARRIE



THIS WEEK - Feb. 17, 18, 19 & 20 / 8pm

Life is short - eat dessert first! This one-womanand-a-half, mostly true story will make you laugh, wince and celebrate every single flaw - whatever they may be. Contains Mature Subject Matter

\$35 regular / \$30 subscriber / \$18 student

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TorQ Percussion Quartet Sunday, February 21 / 2pm

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Immigrant Information Services ...In your community

Connecting newcomers and immigrants to services and information!

- Do you need help getting settled in Canada?
- Would you like to learn English?
- Do you want to know more about other services available in your community?
- Do you need help finding work?

Our Outreach Team will be meeting with newcomers and immigrants at sites all over York Region.

They will help you connect with the services and programs you need!

Canadä

DID YOU KNOW: Main St. church survived tough times



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

The modern-day St. James Presbyterian Church was built in 1894, replacing a frame structure that was erected 30 years earlier. The congregation, which started meeting in a hall on the Summitview school property, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. A series of weekend events kicks off next weekend.

Ministers, members returning for 150th

A Main Street church is celebrating its 150th year in Stouffville with a series of weekend events.

St. James Presbyterian Church has invited its former ministers to preach at services during the four weekend celebrations.

Former members are also being invited to join in the celebrations.

'Still Welcoming After 150 Years' is the theme.

A pot luck dinner featuring a presentation on the history of the church, kicks things off Feb. 20. Rev. Don Muir, who now works at the national church offices in Toronto, will speak during Sunday morning service the next day.

dinner and historic walking tour of the neighbourhood led by historian Ruth Burkholder, who is clerk of session at St. James, are being planned for May.

A pig roast will take place in late September.

> 'Still Welcoming After 150 Years' is the theme.

The weekend of Oct. 23 and 24 will include a Saturday-night banquet at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.

Kathryn Strachan is the minister at St. Jamies.

The church is at 6432 Main St., on the eastern edge of downtown Stouffville.

For more information, go to stjamesstouffville.org or call 905-640-3151.

Wealthy Presbyterian led church construction in 1864

St. James started in 1859 as a satellite to Melville Presbyterian, a church in rural north Markham.

Students from Knox College in Toronto conducted services in the Temperance Hall on College Avenue, on what's now the Summitview Public School site in Stouffville.

James Johnson, an ardent and wealthy member of the congregation, spearheaded the erection of the first St. James, a frame building on the present site, in 1864. The modern-day brick church replaced it in

Over the decades, the congregation dwindled to 11 members at one point, survived a vote to join other Christian churches and was part of a joint charge for many years.

The congregation added two neighbouring properties, including its manse. Last year, it installed a new chair-lift and other accessible equipment.

St. James is home to several community groups, including Sparks, TOPS and the Pathways play group for pre-schoolers.

"There are many memories in the walls of this church: happy times, sad times, large crowds and very small congregations; work bees to keep the building fit for its calling as a place of worship and witness," wrote historian Ruth Burkholder on stjamesstouffville.org