

## YOUTH: YMCA Strong Kids Campaign

# Stouffville fundraiser aids child-care families, teens

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There is nothing like the joy of a child experiencing summer camp for the first time or the lifelong friendships that can be forged while playing basketball, soccer or softball.

For some families, summer camps and playing team sports are nothing more than dreams because they simply can't afford to participate in these programs.

However, through programs such as the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign, no child, teenager or family is denied access to these and many other programs simply because they can't afford them.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's YMCA is holding its fifth annual Strong Kids Campaign fundraiser at Willow Springs Winery on Friday.

"It's a nice night to get out and enjoy the music and food," said Karen Cashin, employment program team leader at the YMCA Stouffville Employment Resource Centre. "The YMCA has traditionally raised money just by asking people. But now we've changed it up and created an event because people like to go out."

Last year's local event raised \$5,800. This year, Ms Cashin wants to hit the \$6,000 mark.

The evening consists of light hors d'oeuvres and a cold buffet prepared by Chef Mario Vena, owner of Markham's La Reserve.

There will also be a silent auction with items up for bid such as passes for four to Angus Glen, Sleepy Hollow and Mill Run golf courses.

There is also a barbecue set on the auction block.

"It's not your everyday barbecue set. It's worth a bit," Ms Cashin said.

If the auction items aren't quite what you are looking for, but you still want to help, donations can also be made by writing a cheque.

Donations of \$10 or more receive a tax receipt.

**'The YMCA is not only a local charity, it's international. We're in over 100 countries helping with small businesses to aid relief, including Haiti. You can dedicate your funds to something local or international.'**

Karen Cashin,  
Stouffville YMCA Employment Resource Centre

"When a person makes a donation, it can go to any (program) the donor wants it to go to," Ms Cashin said, noting the YMCA has one of the lowest administration costs around.

"The YMCA is not only a local charity, it's international. We're in over 100 countries helping with small businesses to aid relief, including Haiti," Ms Cashin said. "You can dedicate your funds to something local or international."

The YMCA has three core areas of service - health/fitness/recreation, employment/community service and child/family and youth services.

Within Whitchurch-Stouffville, there is the employment resource centre as well as two child-care facilities.

"Not everyone can afford full-fee child-care, so in certain instances we do subsidize that for a period of time," Ms Cashin said. "We feel it's very important children have a very healthy, safe, licensed environment in which to grow."

The YMCA Strong Kids Campaign fundraising event takes place at Willow Springs Winery, 5572 Bethesda Rd., on Feb. 19 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$50 per couple and available by calling 905-640-2856.

tinues to be a key tool for police.

Since the beginning of February, 15 calls were made by motorists who suspected others of impaired driving, leading to three arrests.

On Feb. 4 a motorist called police to report a driver on Woodbine Avenue near Church Street in Georgina.

According to the caller, the driver of a 1993 Chevrolet pick-up truck was asleep at the intersection while facing a green light, police said.

A 20-year-old Newmarket man was charged with impaired driving and driving while over 80 milligrams.

Since its launch in June 2007, Safe Roads ... Your Call has led to more than impaired-related arrests.

## Hospital CEO speaks on Women's Day

Janet Beed, president and CEO of Markham Stouffville Hospital, will be the guest speaker at this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce Interna-

tional Women's Day luncheon.

The event takes place at Sleepy Hollow Country Club on March 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$33.60 for chamber members and \$47.25 for non-members. Advanced registration and payment is required by calling the chamber office at 905-642-4227.

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## RIDE charges on Super weekend

Several people face impairment-related charges following an enhanced RIDE program York Regional Police conducted Super Bowl weekend.

At checkpoints across the region, police charged two people with impaired driving, three were given 72-hour driver's licence suspensions, 38 roadside tests were administered, 16 people were charged under the Highway Traffic Act and one under the Liquor Licence Act.

Another 18 were arrested for drinking and driving-related offences by police on general patrol.

The Safe Roads ... Your Call campaign con-



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## Rates Rise Again

### Ontario Regulators Approve More Increases To Car Insurance Rates

#### Are Rates REALLY Going Up Again?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes. The most recent round of rate increases approved by Ontario regulators has confirmed everyone's worst fears. Car insurance rates are continuing on their one-way trip upwards despite news late last year that the government will soon be introducing reforms to give consumers more choice and flexibility. The most recent increases for the fourth quarter of 2009 bring the average increase across Ontario insurers over the last 12 months to 8.8%. Depending on the insurance company you are with and your situation, you might be on the road to seeing double-digit increases.

#### Is There Any Hope Of Paying LESS For Car Insurance?

Absolutely. Rates may be on the rise, but the size of the increases can vary significantly from one company to the next and from driver to driver, so don't be fooled by the headlines which suggest we're all doomed to pay more for car insurance. The truth is that rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. And with rates varying so wildly across companies, chances are you are not with the company that has the lowest rate for your profile right now.

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