

COMING UP: They deliver, too

Christmas Day dinner served for 16th year

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Spending Christmas alone is not enjoyable for anybody, no matter one's financial status or age.

Which is why the Stouffville Community Christmas Dinner will once again host a free turkey luncheon, with all the trimmings, Dec. 25 at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church.

"We don't turn anybody away," said David Knight, one of the event's organizers.

This is the 16th year the luncheon is being served.

In the early years, volunteers fed upwards of 350 people on Christmas Day at the neighbouring Stouffville Country Market. But over the past couple of years, that number has come down to about 200.

"Some of the people we used to see, we don't anymore. Maybe they're with family, moved away or passed away. We don't know," Mr. Knight said.

However, it's not only the people who come to the church who receive a full meal, which consists of ham, turkey, vegetables, mashed potatoes, salad, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, butter and dessert. It's also all the area resi-

dents who remain house-bound.

"We'd like to do more. We can get the drivers to deliver the meals," Mr. Knight said.

About \$5,000 is donated to pay for the food, along with countless volunteer hours from several people.

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However, Mr. Knight admitted he and event co-creator Norm Clements aren't getting any younger.

"I guess if we got younger people willing to take it on we may step down," Mr. Knight said.

The lunch is served at noon at EastRidge, 12485 Tenth Line, followed by Santa's arrival at about 1 p.m. There will also be entertainment throughout the luncheon.

If you, or someone you know, would like a meal delivered on Christmas Day, contact David Knight at dlk10899@sympatico.ca or 905-852-3534.

Lights going out on contest

It's last call for the best-dressed home in Stouffville this Christmas.

Entries close Monday for the 20th annual Stouffville Outdoor Christmas Display Contest.

Sponsored by the Stouffville Lions Club and The Sun-Tribune, the contest offers \$325 in cash prizes.

Homes must be in the club's territory, north of 19th Avenue, south of Bloomington Road, east of Hwy. 48 and west of Durham Rd. 30.

The Wannop Family of Katherine Crescent won first prize last year.

"Over the last 19 years, entries have

actually decreased, even in a growing community like this," Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason said. "We'd like to get the numbers back up again. We welcome calls and e-mails giving us addresses of residents' personal favourites. We know there are some well-decorated homes out there that we just don't know about."

Judging takes place Tuesday with the Lions annual seniors lights tour next Thursday.

Entries must be phoned in (905-640-2612 ext. 23) or e-mailed (jmason@ymg.com) by Monday.

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