

Just two nights until big day and so much to do

Twas two nights before Christmas
And all through our house
Not a creature was stirring
Except one tiny mouse.

Since our poor aged cat
Has departed his space
This wee whiskered creature
Has the run of the place.

And so also do I
For run's all I'm doing
Last minute shopping
Is terribly grueling.

I should learn a lesson
From previous years
Still I wait and I wait
Til the 25th nears.

There is no excuse



Jim Thomas
Roaming Around

I have to admit
This procrastination
Has Jean in a fit.

I start tearing my hair
What little remains
I grouse and I grumble
That repeated refrain

Next year will be different

I've said it before
I'm only kidding myself
As I fly store to store.

Mac's milk is still open
For that I am thankful
The fuel tank reads empty
So I purchase a tankful.

On to Barhau's, the jeweler
My Chevy does roar
I arrive but to find
They're locking the door

To catch me a breather
I stop off at Tim's
This nightly tradition
Is one of my whims.

And then on to Walmart
Their hours are extended
Rip the crotch in my pants
My wife freshly mended

Embarrassed of course
But still keep on rockin'
Two dozen oranges
Will help fill Jean's stockin'

Some silky attire
I know that she needs
But they'll all be returned
In spite of my pleas

So I purchase a bra
Three sizes too big
I'd feel more at ease
In buying a wig.

I know she likes perfume
Chanel No. 5
One whiff of the good stuff
And I know I'm alive.

To the Lions Club tree lot
Beside Canadian Tire
Jean wants one that smells
And doesn't catch fire.

Big items are costly
I cringe at the price
Our Serta is sagging
A new stove would be nice.

And come Christmas morn
I'd sure like to see
A sparkling blue Malibu
Parked under the tree.

A Taurus would be ok
The new Hyundai's a gem
But I'm only kidding myself
For I know
I'll be pedaling my old
CCM.

Even with a secret 6/49
Hidden deep in my wallet
I realize the chance is slim
That I will ever win it.

So back home I collapse
In a soft easy chair

Close my eyes and murmur
An inaudible prayer.

Lord, give me the strength
To survive the confusion
And help me endure
This financial illusion.

When the big day arrives
Seven grandkids come too
The lineup will be long
To get to the loo.

But it's still very worthwhile
The fuss and the fright
Merry Christmas to all
And to all (gasp) a good
night!

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville
resident who has written for
area newspapers for more
than 60 years.

What's On in Whitchurch-Stouffville



TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Leisure Services

Email: leisure.services@townofws.ca
Customer Service Phone: 905-642-PLAY (7529)



MAYOR'S NEW YEARS DAY LEVEE Saturday January 1, 1 - 3 pm

Mayor and Members of Council invite you to Stouffville Arena for a time of fellowship with friends and neighbours and free public skating. All Welcome!

WINTER PROGRAMS BEGIN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2011

Still time to register for selected lessons in aquatics, fitness and general recreation. Register online at the WSPLAY... Online link or in person at the Lebovic Leisure Centre, 30 Burkholder St.

GET ACTIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Every day over the holidays there is something you can do be it swimming, skating or taking a group fitness class.



Holiday swim/skate/fitness schedule available online at www.townofws.com > Leisure tab > Schedules/ Drop in > Holiday Schedule or call 905-642-PLAY (7529)

Free skating at the Stouffville arena Tuesday December 21, 2:00-5:00pm and Wednesday December 29, 10:00am-12 noon. Generously sponsored by Tim Hortons

Museum



14732 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley
Phone: 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337



Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville is now accepting **volunteer applications** for 2011. If you would like to help out as a volunteer for this event next June, please contact us at 905-727-8954 or wsmuseum@townofws.ca.

HOLIDAY AND 2011 HOURS

The Museum will close on December 24th for the holidays and will be open in the new year by **appointment only** until the new building is completed. Research appointments may still be possible, but **must be reserved**. The research fee is \$6.00 including HST. Have you seen the most recent construction photos on our website? Check it out!
www.townofws.com/museum



DID YOU KNOW?...

THE BOGARTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE....

...is believed to be the oldest brick schoolhouse (1857) outside of Toronto
...was originally located on Vivian Road between Leslie and Woodbine
...became the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum in 1971
...was moved to the present location in 1979
...is restored to represent a classroom at the turn of the last century
Bogartown....
...was named for John Bogart, Sr., who came to Whitchurch in the fall of 1802 & ran a lumber mill
...Bogart means "orchard" or "group of fruit trees"



Library

30 Burkholder Street, Stouffville
Phone: 905-642-READ (7323) or 1-888-603-4292

"LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE"

Wednesday, December 29 • 1:30-3:10 p.m.
When a young owl is abducted by an evil Owl army, he must escape with newfound friends to seek out the legendary Guardians to stop the menace.
Rated PG. Free Admission!

FINANCIAL PLANNING RRSP'S

Thursday, January 13 • 7 p.m.
Free Admission!



ABC JOLLY PHONICS FOR 4-YEAR OLDS

Thursdays, January 6 - April 28 • 2 - 3 p.m.
Cost \$25. Pre-registration is required.

PAWS 4 STORIES • GRADES 1-3

Thursdays, January 6 - February 10 • 4 - 5 p.m.
A literacy program for beginning and struggling readers providing an opportunity to read to a dog and make a friend!
A \$10 refundable deposit is required for each date. Pre-registration is required!



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS @ YOUR LIBRARY!

January - May 2011
Tuesdays from 4 - 5 p.m. beginning January 4th
1st Tuesday: Prince Charming's Book Club for Boys
Ages 9-13, Free
2nd Tuesday: Crafternoons, ages 7+, Cost \$2 per child
3rd Tuesday: Board Game Bonanza, ages 7+, Free
4th Tuesday: Rapunzel's Book Club for Girls
Ages 9-13, Free
Pre-registration required for all programs!



CASTING OFF THE COLD!

Sunday, January 16 • 1 p.m.
Do you knit or crochet?
Interested in helping the less fortunate in the community? Join this local group of volunteer crafters who donate their projects to organizations and shelters in York Region.
Everyone welcome! No experience necessary!



19 Civic Ave., Box Office Hours: Wed.- Sat. • 1-6 p.m.
www.nineteenonthePark.ca Phone: 905-640-2322

2010/2011 PROFESSIONAL SERIES

Ring in the NEW YEAR with the BEST in Arts & Entertainment in DOWNTOWN Stouffville!

FRIDAY, JAN. 21
8:00 p.m.

ANDY SHEPPARD
(Folk Series)

"A masterful fingerstyle guitarist" - Wholenote Magazine

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

SUNDAY, JAN. 30
2:00 p.m.

JACK GRUNSKY
(Family Series)

Winner of 4 JUNO AWARDS for Best Children's Recording!

• \$20 regular
• \$17 subscriber
• \$10 student

FRIDAY, FEB. 11
8:00 p.m.

LAILA BIALI
(Jazz Series)

Winner of 2 National Jazz Awards!

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

Visit www.nineteenonthePark.ca
for information about
the rest of the 2010/2011
PROFESSIONAL SERIES lineup!

STARLIGHT CINEMA UPCOMING SCREENINGS

Wednesday, Jan. 12 • 7 p.m.
JOAN RIVERS: A PIECE OF WORK
(14A, Documentary)

"Convulsively funny"
- The New York Times

Wednesday, Jan. 26 • 7 p.m.

MICMACS

(14A, Comedy, French/subtitled)

"Visually enthralling & utterly enchanting"
- Toronto Star

Tickets: \$7.50 regular
\$5.00 member (at the door)

Annual Memberships: \$12
(receive member pricing for one year)
Friends of Starlight Cinema: \$100
(all films for one year)