

Why all's right in Whitchurch-Stouffville

Deck the halls with bows of holly
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Tis the season to be jolly
Fa la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

In the midst of saying farewell to one year and welcoming another, I couldn't bring myself to script anything negative.

This will come later.

Today, all's right with the world, at least Whitchurch-Stouffville's world.

Why, you ask?

Reasons follow:

FEEL FORTUNATE: I feel fortunate to live in a town that meets my every need. I ask for nothing more. I anticipate nothing more. Because of this, I hope and expect the 2011 municipal council to pull back on spending reins and keep personal tax payments at an even keel. In other words, for the next four years, let's live within



Jim Thomas
Roaming Around

our means.

PRAISE IS DUE: While impossible to please all the people all the time, praise is due Mayor Wayne Emerson for his wholehearted support of three important extracurricular programs – the Whitchurch-Stouffville Emergency Care Fund, the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Thanksgiving Food Drive.

A-PLUS PROJECTS: Completed visible projects are what most people appreciate. One of these is the re-construction of

Rupert Avenue, between Westlawn Crescent and Ninth Line north. In addition, the adjacent roller-coaster sidewalk has been leveled to everyone's satisfaction. Another council plus is the installation of a push-button pedestrian walkway across Weldon Road near Parkview Home as well as a legal crosswalk at the intersection of Millard Street and Glad Park Avenue.

MICKEY'S LEGACY: Extremely gratifying during the Christmas vacation period are the hundreds of children seen daily on the toboggan slope at the Westlawn/Rupert Avenue park. All parents should say a silent thankyou to the late Mickey Hunt, initiator of this priceless playground paradise.

ARTISTIC SKILLS: Patrons of Stouffville's two Tim Hortons have enjoyed the artistic window-dressing skills of local high school students this Christ-

mas. They are – Marsha Fortus, Justine Smith, Heather McLeod, Jenna Russ, Dayna Bartlett, Samantha Kay and Caleigh Stallybrass. Great job.

REMEMBER WHEN? Remember when Stouffville residents were responsible for clearing sidewalk snow from in front of their properties? I do. Thanks to a contract tendered to Todd Bros. of Stouffville, 52.5 km of walks are now plowed for us. Three tractors and plows are required. Operators are – Mike McKenzie, Jeremy Degeer and J.C. Cunningham. "At present, we don't do every sidewalk in town," said Denis Chartrand, operations manager for the department of public works, "but this may come."

ONLY A RUMOUR: It's only a rumour that Keith Acton, assistant coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, attended a recent Stouffville Amateur Hockey League game for the express pur-

pose of evaluating the goaltending skills of Gerry Ratcliff.

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SAD ANNOUNCEMENT: Sadness was evident among staff and students when, at the Christmas holiday break, principal Drew McNaughton announced he'd be leaving Glad Park Public School. While undoubtedly a promotion for Mr. McNaughton, the move creates a void that will be difficult to fill.

BARBERSHOP CHORUS: Stouffville has its Men of Note and Bach to Blues chorus. We also have the

Springvale Boys, the Hilltop Vocal Band, the Albert Street Four and the Rouge River Connection. But did you know our town could soon have its very own barbershop chorus? It's true. Jim Rehill, formerly of Stouffville, is in the process of organizing a melodic group of male barbershoppers with rehearsals already underway at Christ Anglican Church. Mr. Rehill, a teaching and coaching legend at Stouffville District Secondary School, lives in Uxbridge.

BRIDGING THE GAP: "Have a merry Christmas," I said to a mother and her children at the crosswalk on Glad Park Avenue, Stouffville, Dec. 17. "Oh," the mother replied. "We're Hindu, but we celebrate both."

God bless!

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



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