

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## FIREFIGHTER SAW SMOKE, JUMPED INTO ACTION

*Drug lab heroics  
not his first rescue*

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Gord Hooper had come into Stouffville to run a couple of errands.

But when he saw a huge cloud of thick, black smoke to the south of where he was on Main Street, the off-duty Markham Fire and Emergency Services captain had to check it out.

What the Goodwood resident found early Monday afternoon was an elderly woman, who spoke limited English, standing on the front porch of 55 Merdock Ct., which was on fire.

"She was pretty frantic," Mr. Hooper said. "The thing was rolling. The house was pretty much involved."

What he figured out from the woman was that her husband was still inside and someone else may be in the basement.

In just his civilian clothes, Mr. Hooper, a 31-year veteran of fire-fighting, entered the front door and crawled around looking for the two people.

"I just tried doing a normal

See **FIREFIGHTER**, page 11.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Doo Doo the Clown gets helped up by town employees Dan Lamirand (from right) and Victor Matanovic, Mike Feld of Most Excellent Productions and Councillor Phil Bannon in preparation for the eighth annual Winter Carnival at Musselman's Lake next Saturday.

## Entire town invited over for carnival

School choirs, the York Dance Academy, Stouffville Steppers and of course Doo Doo the Clown will all be a part of this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Winter Carnival at Cedar Beach Park.

The free carnival takes place next Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

"This is not a Ward 2 Musselman's Lake winter carnival. It is a Whitchurch-Stouffville winter car-

nival," said Councillor Phil Bannon, who founded the event eight years ago.

The carnival is also a fundraiser for the Ballantrae Scouts.

"They make more money at this than they do combining all their fundraising efforts all year," Mr. Bannon said.

The Scouts raise money through the sale of hot dogs, hot chocolate,

chili and Beavertails.

For people who want to partake in outdoor activities, there will be ATV rides and skating on the lake.

"The ice is in great shape," Mr. Bannon said.

There will also be pony rides, courtesy of Lionel's Pony Farm and Petting Zoo, face painting and games, as well as hayrides through neighbouring Shadow Lake.

"It's such a popular event, people are lined up 60 to 70 deep," Mr. Bannon said.

The Cedar Beach Pavilion is on Ninth Line at Cedarvale Boulevard on the north side of Musselman's Lake, 10 minutes north of Stouffville.

For more information, go to: <http://www.philbannon.ca>

— Sandra Bolan

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