

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**GROWTH**

## Group to 'celebrate' town's new cultures

Newcomers get help adjusting to Stouffville

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Natalie Mina and her family left their native Zimbabwe because they wanted to live a life where everyone, no matter their colour, is treated equally.

They moved to Canada in 2003 and three years later they put roots down in Stouffville.

Their first three years in Toronto were challenging as they tried to figure out how to find housing, jobs and get their children enrolled in school. But they figured it out, sometimes the hard way.

Since coming to Stouffville, they have made friends, bought a house, enrolled their children in a variety of programs. But for the Mina family, Stouffville has yet to become home.

"I really feel, not that anybody's rude or racial, but there's something in the air," Ms Mina said.

Which is why when she heard about the Stouffville Multicultural Association, she jumped at the chance of joining the upstart group.

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**PLANTING SEEDS**



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Kathy Bruce explains the Steward of the Earth take-home-a-tree program to grades 1 to 4 students at Ballantrae Public School. The regional program, sponsored by Scott Burrows of Farmer Jack's Gardens, distributes white pine seedlings to children so they can be planted at home.

NO FINES YET BUT COUNCILLOR WORRIES ABOUT COMPLIANCE

## Plastic compost bag ban in effect

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Have you started using only certified compostable bags in your green bin?

Their use became mandatory this week in York Region.

However, it is the municipalities that are responsible for curbside

collection and the rules are different based on where you live.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, for example, it is a soft rollout. Your bins will be collected and, for now, they won't be slapped with a fine.

"I'm still confident Whitchurch-Stouffville will be up there and doing a good job. If not, we'll have

to look at ways of getting people using the compostable bags," public works director Paul Whitehouse said.

However, Councillor Phil Bannon is concerned the bags cost too much and will affect compliance.

A small bag costs 15 cents, while a large bag is 27 cents.

"If people find it's not affordable for them, they're going to start cheating," he said, noting residents can easily fill one large bag with smaller ones and no one would be the wiser.

Plastic is the problem and what

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