

# Fewer low-income people get legal aid

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Fewer low-income people are being granted access to legal aid in Ontario, despite millions of tax dollars being spent on the provincial program.

Provincial auditor general Jim McCarter this week released his office's analysis of the program, which costs the province about \$190 million a year.

Tighter controls are needed to ensure the money lawyers receive for legal aid work is justified, he said his office found during an investigation.

But calling for stronger controls over payments unfairly suggests part of the problem lies with lawyers over-charging the system,

said criminal lawyer Ed Prutschi, who practises in Newmarket and occasionally does legal aid cases.

During the past decade, Ontario spent more on legal aid, per capita, than any other province, but an outdated test to determine if someone is eligible for legal aid, combined with rising lawyers' legal aid fees, has resulted in fewer low-income people qualifying for the service.

During that same period, the number of Ontario Court of Justice charges at the Newmarket courthouse and York Region's low-income population grew, figures show.

To read the full story, go to [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)

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## What's On in Whitchurch-Stouffville

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### Museum



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



Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville is now accepting volunteer applications for 2012. 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](mailto:wsmuseum@townofws.ca).

#### HOLIDAY HOURS

The Museum will close on December 24th for the holidays and will be open in the New Year. Staff wish all readers a happy holiday season and a safe New Year.



#### While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads...

Sugarplums were a special holiday treat for Victorian children. Originally, sugarplums were made by simmering a whole fig in sugar syrup, but variations of this delicious dessert include fruit and nut mixtures seasoned with coconut, ginger, orange, lemon and brandy.

#### P.A. DAY CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP AT THE MUSEUM: INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Friday, February 3rd • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Come and spend the day exploring our new facility! Get a behind-the-scenes look at your Museum while participating in an assortment of hands-on activities, crafts, cooking and games. Just perfect for children aged 8 - 12! Pre-registration is required and participants must bring their own nut-free lunch. Cost \$40.00 (\$32.00 for Museum members)



### Library

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

#### LIBRARY WEB SITE DEMOS

Thursday, December 15 • 7:00-8:30 pm

Thursday, December 29 • 2:00-3:30 pm

Topics include downloading e-books and audio books, renewing or reserving from home, electronic booklists, researching health issues, etc.

Free! Pre-registration is required!

#### JOIN US FOR A HOT BEVERAGE AND A TREAT OVER THE HOLIDAYS!

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday  
December 27, 28, 29, & 30  
from 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Thank you and Happy Holidays to all our patrons!

#### HOLIDAY MOVIE @ YOUR LIBRARY

Wednesday, January 4 • 1:30 pm

"Dolphin Tale"

A story centered on the friendship between a boy and a dolphin whose tail was lost in a crab trap. Free Admission! Rated PG.

#### JOLLY PHONICS for 4-year olds

Thursdays  
January 12 - May 31  
4:00 - 5:00 pm

The aim of this program is to teach the children how to read and write through a systematic phonics program. Children must be able to hold and use a pencil.

Cost \$40  
Pre-registration is required.



#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Library Book Sale Committee

Willing to donate a few hours a month and need strong arms to carry boxes of books and access to a vehicle to move boxes.

If interested, contact Carolyn Nordheimer James at ext. 223



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

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Motus O's production has become an annual Stouffville tradition!  
DEC. 16 / 7 pm, DEC. 17 / 2 pm & 7 pm, DEC. 18 / 2 pm  
• \$35 regular • \$30 subscriber • \$18 student

##### JUSTIN HINES (seasonal event)

Featuring music from Justin's holiday album "Season's Greetings"  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 / 8 p.m.  
• \$35 regular • \$30 subscriber • \$10 student

##### YUK YUKS "ON TOUR" (live comedy)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 / 8 p.m.  
• \$20 regular • \$17 subscriber (an 18+ event)

Visit [www.nineteenonthePark.ca](http://www.nineteenonthePark.ca)  
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**LOOKING FOR A VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?**  
This unique multi-purpose venue features lighting, sound & projection systems as well as a retractable riser seating system.  
Call Steven at (905) 640-2322 for more details.

#### UPCOMING STARLIGHT CINEMA SCREENINGS

Wednesday, December 14 • 7 pm

THE TREE OF LIFE (PG, Drama)

WINNER - Palme D'or / 2011 Cannes Film Festival

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)

#### SPECIAL HOLIDAY SCREENING

Thursday, December 22 • 7 pm

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

(G, Drama)

PAY WHAT YOU CAN DONATION OR FOOD ITEM FOR THE WS FOOD BANK

#### FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRE CHIEF:

The holiday season is almost upon us. Before you put up your Christmas lights, we would like to remind you that Christmas lights, while pretty, can be a source of fire, if not used safely. Remember to read the manufacturers instructions. Only use lights rated for outdoor use, when hanging lights outside. Do not join too many strands together, and always use extension cords rated for outdoor use. Turn lights off when you aren't home, or when going to bed. Or use a timing device. Have a fire safe holiday season.

