

# New members sought for Stouffville panel

BY TRACEY HARDIE

Fall is in the air, which means for certain town residents, a return to the Community Links panel fostered by the York Region Media Group.

The Stouffville group is mirrored in other municipalities across the region and serves to provide a snapshot of the community ethos while conversing with local personalities and service groups.

Now entering its ninth year, the Links panel is seeking new members to broaden our demographic and reflect the growing diversity within Stouffville.

The current panel is looking to increase awareness and numbers. Besides myself, (a relative newcomer to Stouffville,) we have long-time residents from our northern corners as part of the returning group and we are all are eager to welcome new additions to the panel.

*A simple desire to learn more about our town and its inhabitants is an excellent start.*

Each month, panel members meet for coffee and a quick bite while engaging with guest speakers or taking behind-the-scenes tours of Stouffville venues. Some of our speakers last year – including the Markham Stouffville Hospital CEO and representatives from Pathways of York Region and Blue Door Shelters – were able to present current initiatives to the panel and receive valuable feedback in return.

In the spring, the panel was given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment – Nineteen on the Park. In June we toured (and devoured our year-end pot luck) at the renovated and expanded Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

There aren't many qualifications needed to join the panel. A simple desire to learn more about our town and its inhabitants is an excellent start. A willingness to share your own perspective makes the experience richer for everyone involved. An interest in regional services and business helps generate future meeting ideas.

Finally, an affinity for baked goods, fruit and coffee will have you fitting right in.

Our next two meetings are Oct. 15 and Nov. 12.

For more information on joining the links, panel please contact Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason at [jmason@ymg.com](mailto:jmason@ymg.com) or 905-640-2612 ext. 23.

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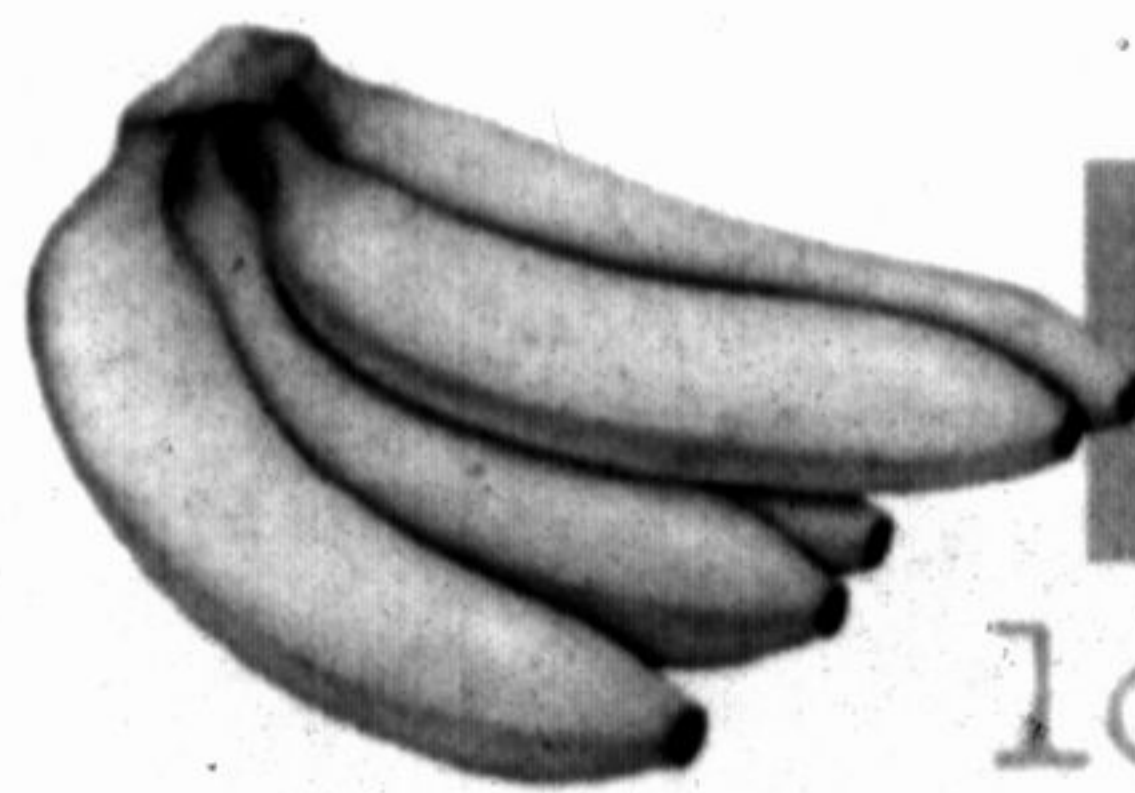
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