



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Councillor Phil Bannon (from left), Doo Doo The Clown, Stouffville Spirit player Daryl Thomson, Marvin York and Spirit players Joseph Deveny and Mac Wood warm up for next Saturday's winter carnival on Musselman's Lake. Go to [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com) for updates.

## Free food, fun at 10th carnival

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
[sbolan@yrmg.com](mailto:sbolan@yrmg.com)

In celebration of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Winter Carnival's 10th anniversary, everything from the ATV rides to hot dogs and beaver tails will be free this year, according to event founder Phil Bannon.

"Everybody enjoys being outside, it's just a matter of getting out there," the Ward 2 councillor said.

There will even be a free 10th anniversary cake.

The carnival takes place next Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cedar Beach Pavilion at Musselman's Lake.

**'This is one of the biggest winter carnivals in York Region. It's the biggest and best of its kind this time of the year.'**

Phil Bannon  
organizer

In its first year, "maybe" 300 people attended, according to Mr. Bannon, who said about 3,000 people descended upon the Ninth Line lake north of Stouffville last year.

"This is one of the biggest winter carnivals in York Region," he said. "It's the biggest and best of its kind this time of the year."

Every year, along with hayrides through Shadow Lake, pony rides, petting zoo, face painting, Doo Doo The Clown and performances by local entertainers, Mr. Bannon tries to add something new.

This year it's on-site ice sculpting by Robert Brooks.

The carnival is typically a fundraiser for the Ballantrae Scouts and Cubs. Although everything is free this year, Mr. Bannon said he will "still try" to raise money for the organization.

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Rhiannon Kyle  
prime minister of the York  
Region presidents' council

## York board to rescue high school proms

BY KIM ZARZOUR  
[kzarzour@yrmg.com](mailto:kzarzour@yrmg.com)

Buy that gown and book that tuxedo, Stouffville District Secondary School Class of 2013.

You may not get to take part in school sports or clubs in York Region public schools, but if you're a student, you will get your prom or graduation, despite the teachers' extracurricular boycott.

York District School Board administrators announced Thursday they have put together a contingency plan to ensure proms and graduation events go ahead, with or without teacher assistance.

It's the second school board in the GTA to announce a bail-out for the cherished annual events that were endangered when teachers

withdrew from voluntary activities in protest of Bill 115.

Peel District School Board has told its 34 schools to go ahead with prom plans; board staff will provide central planning and co-ordination support, staff to assist and, if needed, volunteer central staff in administrator roles to provide additional supervision, spokesperson Ryan Reyes said.

Rhiannon Kyle, prime minister of the York Region presidents' council — the board's student senate — said students are elated with the news.

"Most students are thrilled that their voices are finally being heard," the Aurora High School Grade 12 student said. "Hopefully more decisions in the best interest of students follow suit."

### Knife used in CIBC robbery

A male suspect remains on the run following a robbery at the CIBC on Main Street in Stouffville Thursday.

York Regional Police received the call around 9 a.m.

A man dressed in dark clothing and believed armed with a knife, attempted to rob the bank, according to police.

No injuries were reported and it's not yet known if anything was taken, York police spokesperson Const. Blair McQuillan said.

Uniformed officers, the criminal investigations bureau, tactical team, hold-up squad and K9 unit all responded to the scene.

The bank remained closed late in the day, although instant tellers were operating. Customers were directed to branches nearby.

If you have information, call police at 1-866-876-5423, ext 6630.

### Seniors like new digs

The long-awaited move of the Silver Jubilee 55 Plus Club to Latham Hall has arrived.

The official date was yesterday. Programs begin Monday.

"The town has done an amazing job of renovating the hall," said spokesperson Carol Morin. "The stage has been removed, so it's just one room, but it's surprisingly bright and very tastefully decorated."

Improved kitchen and wash-room facilities and a lack of posts in the middle of the room are upgrades "on the former post office at Main and Market streets the club operated out of for more than 30 years."

"It is by no means a dedicated seniors' building, something we really look forward to in the future," she said.

Registration for spring programs will be held Feb. 12 to 15.

Classes include watercolour for beginners, meditation, country line dancing and yoga.

For more information, call the club at 905-640-1910, ext. 2955 or visit its reception desk Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.