

COMING UP: Served Sundays at Latcham Hall

Popular \$1 pasta nights return

BY SANDRA BOLAN

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The Stouffville Community Spaghetti Dinners are back.

After almost a year off due to renovations being done in Latcham Hall, the dinners resume this Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m.

They are also taking place on a new night. Due to scheduling conflicts, they have moved from Mondays to Sundays.

"We're not just having a meal, but getting connected with each other," said Laura Jory, one of the dinners' organizers.

When Mrs. Jory, her husband Nathan and friends Curtis and Amanda Miles started putting on these pasta dinners in February 2011, they didn't know who or what to expect, if anybody at all.

The average number of diners is about 200 and they range from seniors looking for a social outing to young families wanting to connect with other young families and people who could use a good hearty meal.

A lot of people have also decided to become volunteers, whether it be to help prepare the meals and hall, serve or clean up.

"That seemed to happen very naturally as people took over ownership of it," Mrs. Jory said.

People also contribute by bringing in flowers for the tables and homemade desserts.

The "all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner, which also includes salad, bread and tea/coffee/juice costs \$1. Some people donate more, which Mrs. Jory said is always appreciated,

but not expected.

The organizers have the support of their church and families, the town has reduced its rental fee and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank provides some pasta and sauce when those items are overstocked. Otherwise, whatever supplies are required, they pay for out of their pockets.

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"We just trust it's going to get covered. If not, that's OK," Mrs. Jory said.

The dinners have yet to turn a profit, but when they do, Mrs. Jory said the plan is to give that money back to the community.

The next dinner is June 2. There will be no spaghetti dinners in July and August. Come September, they will occur on the first Sunday of every month.

"The more we get together, the better and it helps those with little money. They need to eat more than every two months," she said.

Latcham Hall is located at 8 Park Dr.



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