



Rosa Alaimo will have her ecogirl booth at the Downtown Stouffville Farmers' Market throughout August and at the Stouffville Ribfest this weekend in Memorial Park.

Ecogirl turns inner tubes into key chains, wallets

Rosa Alaimo was awarded a summer company grant from the provincial government for her bicycle inner tube reclamation business, ecogirl. Ms Alaimo, 15, hand makes wallets, change pouches known as Lil' Monsters, key chains, as well as business card and pencil baskets from the more than 5,000 inner tubes she has saved from the landfill via local bike shops.

Ecogirl got started when Ms Alaimo wondered how to reduce the number of inner tubes headed to the landfill.

Ms Alaimo also sells items made from pop tabs, orange juice containers and Kool Aid pouches.

There will be an ecogirl booth at the Downtown Stouffville Farmers' Market throughout August and at the Stouffville Ribfest Aug. 9 to 11 in Memorial Park. For more information, go to ecogirl.ca/

New focus in chamber series

Making a profit.

That is the premise behind the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce's new monthly series.

Adam Arseneau, a business coach and owner of Advance Business Consulting, will give the series' first presentation Sept. 11 — Sales Made Simple. Other topics in the series include office technology, finance and social media.

Tickets are \$40 and presentations will be held in the council chambers, 111 Sandiford Rd. at 6:30 p.m.

"My take on the situation is that there is a hunger out there for ways for people to make a profit," said Edward Nelles, executive director of the chamber.

Networking used to be the main way people met other movers and shakers to exchange ideas. However,

that is changing as Generation Y takes over from the Baby Boomers.

"It's not to say networking isn't relevant," Mr. Nelles said, equating today's version of business operators to solo bowlers versus those of the past who played in leagues.

A reflection of this shift can be seen in the attendance levels for chamber events, not just locally, but in other communities — they're down, according to Mr. Nelles.

Between May 2012 and May 2013, the Whitchurch-Stouffville chamber held 19 events with a total attendance of 700.

"The number isn't disgraceful, it's quite reasonable," Mr. Nelles said.

Another new offering from the chamber will begin in November — What's in it for Me? The series informs members of the chambers' benefits that include everything from insurance to discount cards.

