

Let's mingle our way to a friendlier Stouffville

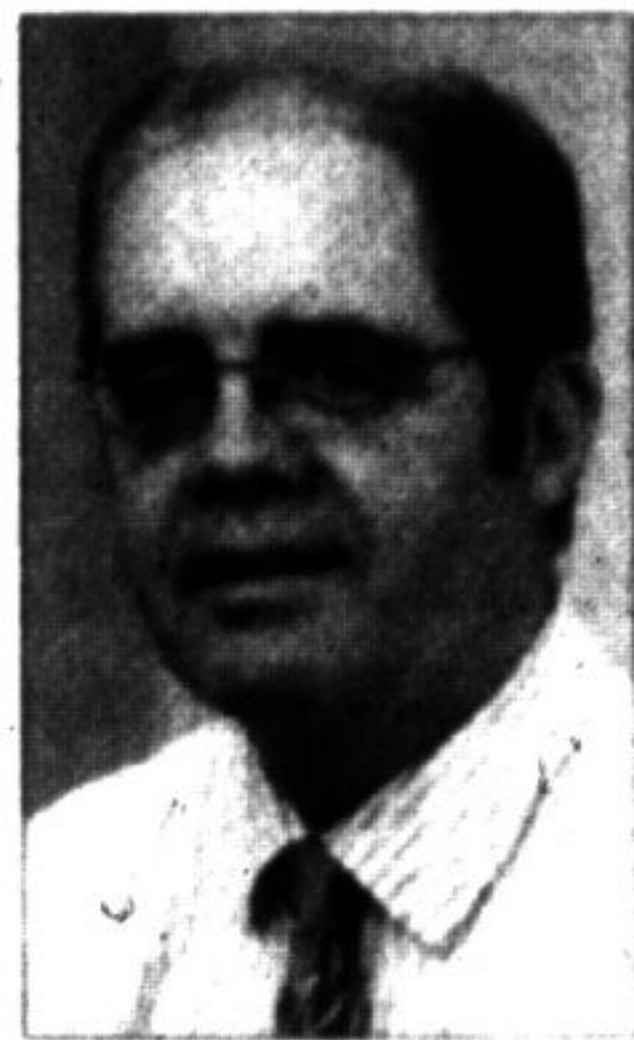
There's been a lot of talk about connections and community in this town lately

About homeowners not knowing their next door neighbours' names.

About some people being content to not venture outside their back yard except to commute to their job or to get to the big box, membership-only grocery store in Newmarket or Markham.

Isn't it ironic, considering Stouffville was once so Hooter-ville?

Where you knew everything about your neighbour, from what day they put their wash on the line



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

— what size they wore — to who came to their house every week for

Sunday dinner?

Where you spent half of your time in the supermarket catching up with friends and even family.

And it wasn't that many years ago, kids. Trust me.

It's the neighbourhood lifestyle home builders promote on glossy brochures and billboards and many of us crave.

After all, we did buy here.

But everywhere from United Way meetings to impromptu gatherings over coffee it's been a pachyderm in the room.

Community groups, sports clubs and churches struggle to attract the thousands of newcomers who made this the fastest grow-

ing town in the country, according to the last census.

Even though our new neighbours may not be at all interested in become Lions, taking up ice hockey or converting to Christianity.

Still, we do have plenty in common, aside from make monthly payments to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Jaswant Dhanjal knows and he's doing something about it.

He's president of Markham South Asian Centre, a non-profit organization that is hosting an event tomorrow. A first for Stouffville, it's been three years in the making.

Autumn-Fest-Stouffville runs from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at Stouffville District Secondary School.

"(It) will bring the community of Stouffville to mingle, have a social networking and allow neighbours to meet one another and know them better," as spokesperson Raman Patel said.

Tickets, \$20 at the door, include a buffet, live music and plenty of hands to shake and people to meet.

Consider yourself invited. How perfect. How Stouffville.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune. Follow him on Twitter @stouffeditor

Stouffville SEASON OF SAVINGS

2013 SONATA
TURBO LTD WITH NAVIGATION

\$5,250 (down payment)

AVAILABLE FEATURES INCLUDE:
TURBO ENGINE • HEATED FRONT/REAR SEATS • BACKUP CAMERA • INFINITY™ AM/FM/XM CD/MP3 STEREO WITH 9 SPEAKERS & EXTERNAL AMPLIFIER • PANORAMIC SUNROOF

Stouffville
2010, 2011 & 2012 Readers Choice Award Winner

67 Automall Boulevard (Millard & Hwy. 48) • 905-888-7777 • stouffvillehyundai.com

OWN IT FOR **\$192** WITH **2.99%** FINANCING FOR 84 MONTH TERM **\$0** DOWN PAYMENT

IN WEEKLY TAX AND FEES INCL.

The Lions Club of Stouffville

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT

December 1st to 15th, 2013

Christmas is just around the corner and once again the Lions Club of Stouffville will be collecting toys, and other gifts, to be distributed to families in need in the Stouffville area.

Donations of non-perishable foods will be delivered to the Stouffville Food Bank.

Donations may be dropped off at the following locations:

- Boston Pizza (Hoover Park) • Canadian Tire • Club 55 (Latham Hall)
- Global Pet Foods (5892 Main Street) • Giles Chevrolet (5964 Main Street)
- Pace Credit Union (Main Street) • Scotia Bank (Main Street) • Schell Lumber (Edward Street)
- Shoppers Drug Marts (Main Street, & 10th Line Stores) • Stouffville Country Market (Main Mall—10th Line)
- Stouffville Fire Hall (Weldon Road) • Stouffville Joint Venture Physiotherapy (3-34 Civic Ave)
- Stouffville Martial Arts (61 Ringwood Dr.) • TD Bank • Toyota Dealership (Millard & Hwy 48) • Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre (Lobby)
- Whitchurch-Stouffville Municipal Offices (Lobby) • Willow Springs Winery (5572 Bethesda Rd Stouffville)

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance this holiday season CONFIDENTIAL application forms for assistance can be picked up at the following locations during business hours:

WS Leisure Centre (Lobby) • Chamber of Commerce (Train Station) • WS Town Hall (Reception)

For further information regarding donations or for confidential referrals, please contact:
Nancy Or Joe Bell (905) 642-3850

LIONS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Starting Saturday November 30th

Canadian Tire Lot located on Hoover Park Drive

Fraser Fir — Balsam — Scotch Pine

All proceeds from the sale of the trees go to assist with our community projects.

For additional information call Joe Cote (905) 640-2294

BLACK FRIDAY at PEPPERTREE KLASSICS

Markham's Favorite Women's Fashions, Footwear and Accessories Boutique

BLACK FRIDAY ONLY 10 a.m. til 8 p.m.
BLACK FASHIONS and FOOTWEAR 50% off

All other ITEMS 30% off

We have lots of FAB GIFT GIVING IDEAS

137 Main Street North, Markham 905.294.3882 • www.peppertree.ca • Open 7 days a week

FESTIVAL of LIGHTS Fri Nov 29th
10 a.m. til 8 p.m.
SANTA PARADE Sat Nov 30th 11 a.m.

*regular prices
*50% for Nov 29th ONLY
Not valid with any previous including Men's Shirts