

COMING UP: 'Nowhere else to go'

10,000 Christmas dinners have been served up

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Giving at Christmas doesn't always have to be about the latest and greatest gizmos.

Spending time with someone will forever remain in the heart and memory of those you get together with.

Twenty years ago, the Stouffville Community Christmas Dinner was created so people, who otherwise would be alone on Christmas Day eating a bag of chips instead of a full holiday feast, could spend part of the day together.

Two decades later more than 10,000 people have taken part in the annual dinner that was initially served at the Stouffville Country Market but is now next door at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church.

The dinner is non-denominational.

"It's not for the rich or the poor. It's for the people who have nowhere else to go at Christmas," said Norm Clements, founder of the annual tradition.

"There are some people just sitting at home. You've got to take that one step to come out," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

"People will be more than happy to sit beside you and say hello," the mayor said, noting he will volunteer this year.

For people who don't want to or can't get to the church for dinner, which is served at noon, volunteers will deliver it to you.

A couple of years ago, volunteers started bringing meals to people in Keswick and Sutton.

"It would be great if Stouffville got the reputation it helped other communities," Mr. Clements said.

On average, 250 people come together at

the church to eat turkey, ham, mixed veggies, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and dessert. Another 400 have their feast brought to them.

The dinner costs between \$5,000 and \$7,000 and requires more than 100 volunteers, according to Mr. Clements.

"If you come to volunteer, you're the big winner because you get to ... do something for somebody else," he said.

'If you come to volunteer, you're the big winner because you get to ... do something for somebody else.'

EastRidge donates the facility and some of the food is provided by local businesses. The rest is paid for through financial donations.

"We don't go begging for turkeys, the hams. We buy them. I don't think it's right to go begging," Mr. Clements said, noting the meat is not cheap, but will always be a part of the meal as long as he's involved.

Along with enjoying a full meal, Santa will be on hand and children can have their picture taken with him.

"I don't want people to sit like they're in church. ... I want it to be fun, noisy, kids running around," Mr. Emmerson said.

To donate, people can make cheques payable to Santa's Wish and mail them to EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church, 12485 Tenth Line, Stouffville, ON, L4A 7X3.

To volunteer, contact Wayne Emmerson at 905-640-1910 ext. 2230 or mayor.emmerson@townofws.ca

Popular pastor leaving Stouffville

Rev. Nancy Waterman is leaving Stouffville United Church.

Her last service will be Dec. 29, which will be followed by a farewell pot luck lunch.

In 2008, Ms Waterman came to Stouffville, after serving the Alton and Knox Caledon United churches, Trinity Church and the Goodwood/Epsom/Utica United churches.

In 2011, she celebrated 25 years of being an ordained reverend. She graduated from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto.

"Ministry style is intergenerational and inclusive, emphasizing the joy to be found in the Christian life," according to her LinkedIn profile.

She leaves Stouffville in order to follow her husband's job move to London, Ont.

Sandra Bolan



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Nancy Waterman at Friday's nativity event.



Town of
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville approved Development Charges By-law 2013-180-FI (formally referred to as 2013-153-FI) on the 3rd day of December 2013 under section 12 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997*;

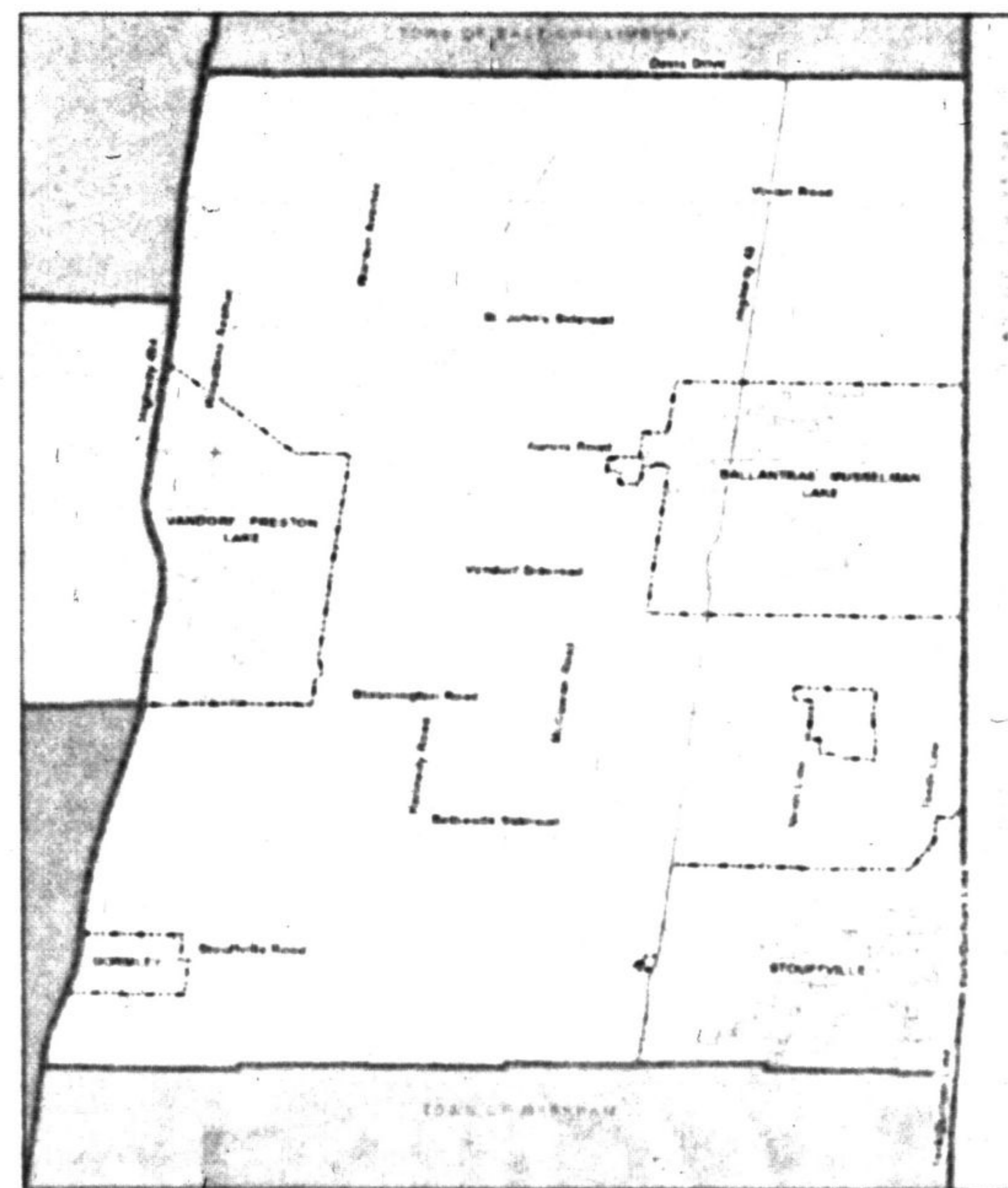
AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board under Section 14 of the Act, in respect of the development charges by-law, by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville on or before the 13th day of January 2014 (the day that is 40 days after the day the by-law is passed) a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law is as follows:

Service	RESIDENTIAL				NON-RESIDENTIAL
	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Apartments - 2 Bedrooms +	Apartments Bachelor and 1 Bedroom	Other Multiples	(per m ² of Gross Floor Area)
Municipal Wide Services:					
Road Services	2,884	1,926	1,369	2,273	2.00
Public Works Services	465	310	221	366	0.16
Fire Protection Services	466	311	221	367	0.33
Leisure Services	5,799	3,872	2,753	4,569	0.30
Library Services	588	393	279	463	0.04
Administration	162	108	77	128	0.07
Total Municipal Wide Services:	10,364	6,920	4,920	8,166	2.90
Urban Services:					
Wastewater Services	918	613	436	723	0.32
Water Services	1,360	908	646	1,072	0.43
Total Urban Services:	2,278	1,521	1,082	1,795	0.75
GRAND TOTAL RURAL AREA	10,364	6,920	4,920	8,166	2.90
GRAND TOTAL URBAN AREA	12,642	8,441	6,002	9,961	3.65

The lands to which the by-law applies are as shown as within the municipal boundaries and as described in the schedule of development charges above. Charges for water and wastewater are applicable where municipal services are available.

A copy of the complete by-law is available for examination at the Customer Service Centre at the Municipal Offices, Library or on the Town website www.townofws.ca



Dated at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville This 3rd day of December 2013.

Michele Kennedy

Clerk of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville