

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

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whitchurch Stouffville this month

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Opinion

Of Culture and Christmas

Anyone who thinks this is not an artistic community is living on another planet.

In a few short months we've witnessed the establishment of a committee called Culture, Arts and Heritage for Whitchurch-Stouffville, with a mandate to foster an environment in which all levels of the arts can flourish. When Wayne Hill advertised for participants to join his newly-formed York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts, he was inundated with inquiries and now has a huge cast of young people signed up for the company's production of *Oliver*, which will take place next spring.

We have choirs, dance and theatre schools, artists, potters, sculptors, authors, theatre companies, historical groups and talented musicians. We have a group of dedicated play readers called the Pot Luck Players, who are giving a performance to raise money for props for the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts. We have an excellent new library, where registration is booming, and a beautiful museum.

From the Historical Society to the Latcham Gallery, from *Music Mania* to sacred music nights; from the Roadside Painters to the Clock Tower Potters, this is a community where enthusiasm for arts and heritage are alive and well. Sadly however, there is still no permanent venue in this town to house live performances and provide studio space for visual artists, and there appears to be no political will to establish one.

So we attend our children's dance recitals at Markham Theatre and rely on the generosity of churches and Latcham Hall to provide space for local arts events. And despite the fact that school boards are cutting back on so-called frills like art and music, these things are as vital to nurturing our minds as food and warmth are to the health of our bodies.

Christmas is the season for giving and a time to help others in need -- people who have lost loved ones or who are facing up to a devastating illness; those who barely have enough food on the table, let alone the money to buy gifts; and those who are alone. If you're lucky enough to be able to celebrate, spare a helping hand for those who can't.

Donate to the Lions' Christmas Basket Project, buy your tree from the club's venue outside Card's Appliances, put a toy or gift under the Salvation Army tree at the train station or volunteer to help out at Stouffville Country Market's Christmas luncheon. Then you can really have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Letters

Time out hurts recreational players

To the Editor:

In 2002, two of my sons played recreational soccer with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club. Previously our children had played in Port Perry over a period of seven years, with no complaints.

This year my son was particularly looking forward to the play-offs in September. Our family drove to King City to watch him play, only to see him sit on the

sidelines for most of the game, particularly in the second half, as a group of select players remained on the field in an apparent effort to win.

My son was bitterly disappointed and discouraged. He does not consider soccer to be recreational, (if he is) sitting on the sidelines for most of the game. He has decided to quit soccer.

It is my opinion that to dis-

criminate on the basis of talent in a so-called recreational league is no more acceptable, and no less hurtful to the child, than it is to discriminate on the basis of race or religion.

We are disappointed that the WSSC has apparently not taken a stronger stance to ensure that all players get equal support and playing time.

Adrian de Boer
Stouffville

Sounding Off

What are some of your favourite things to do in Whitchurch Stouffville over the holidays?



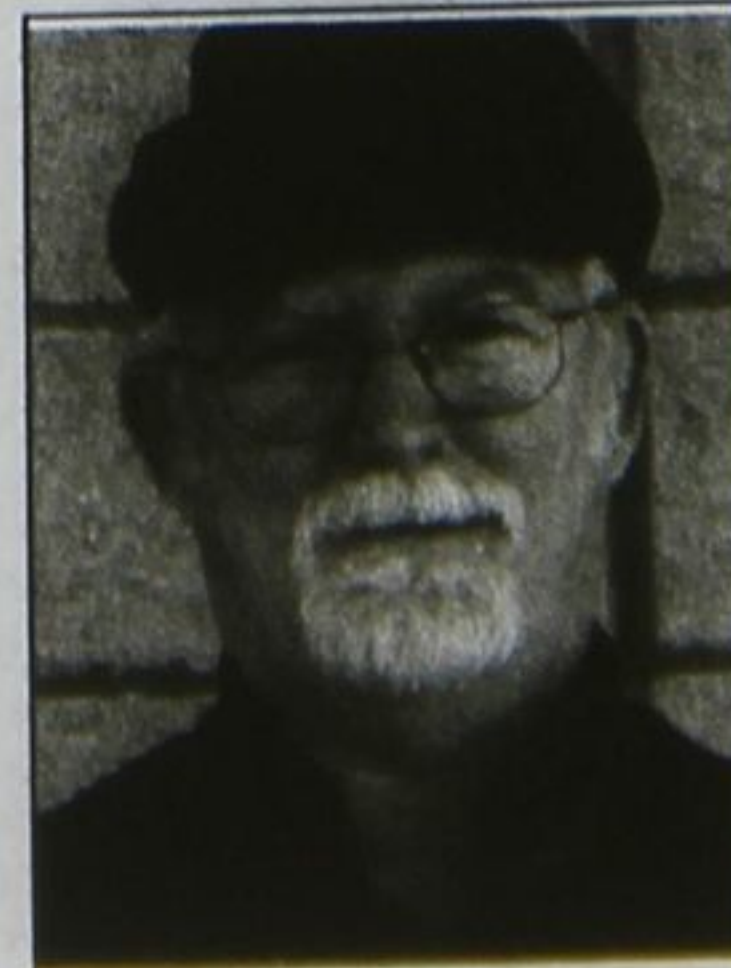
Andrew Bowden

I like to watch the Santa Claus Parade and get lots of candy. I'm going to pet the reindeer - they don't bite!



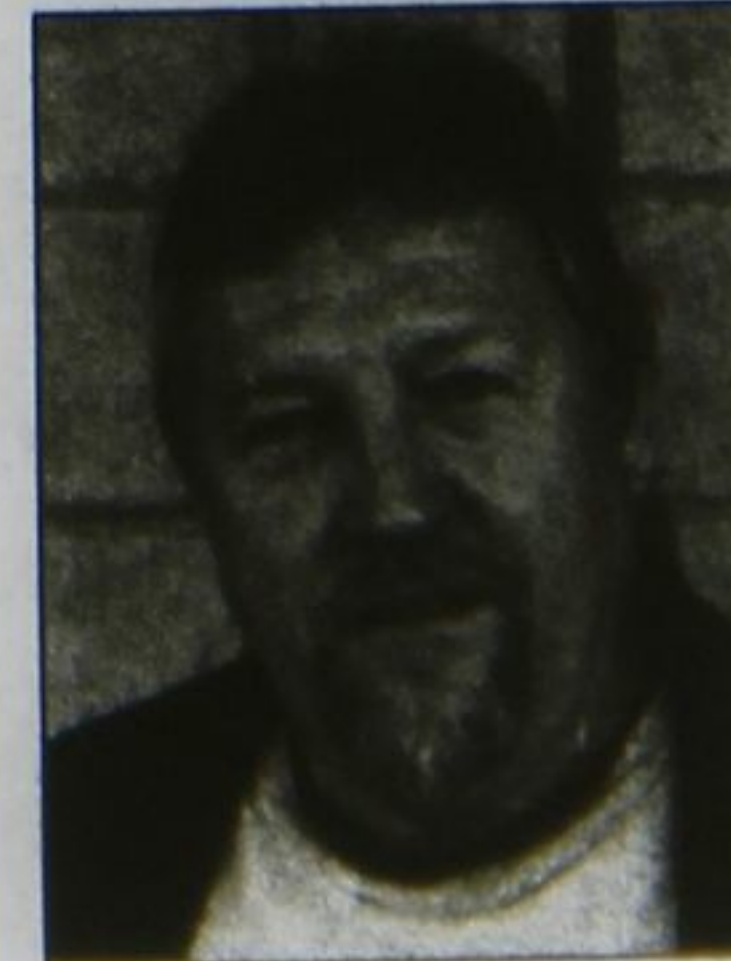
Laura Reybroek

We like to go to the Stouffville Santa Claus Parade. I also enjoy doing my Christmas shopping at the local shops.



Lorne Hurst

Christmas to me means time to enjoy the family and to go to church.



Marv Senour

We like to visit our friends in the pubs and we have a great time. We have the best pub crawl in southern Ontario.



Ruth Burkholder

I like the Christmas music events and the Historical Society Christmas evening. I also enjoy the New Year's Service at the Sales Barn.