

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Independent Community Owned Newspaper

Stouffville Free Press



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UP AND COMING

The Stouffville Free Press welcomes community event listings from non-profit groups and organizations. Please send a brief synopsis of upcoming events by email to withrinkles@hotmail.com or drop off at 6111 Main Street.

Free Opinion - Coming Of Age

Two thousand and nine has been a big year for Whitchurch-Stouffville. Improvements to the town's entrance are almost complete, our beautiful arts and cultural centre is up and running, we have a state-of-the-art building for fire and emergency services and a new arena. In addition, two new ball diamonds, a soccer pitch and four mini sports fields will open at Bethesda Park next spring.

On Dec. 17, the Olympic Torch passes through town, heading out from York Durham Line at 9:04 a.m. with a short community stop at Main and Church Streets at 9:19 a.m., before reaching the end of the run at Hwy. 48 at 9:44 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to come out and cheer on our athletes at the 2010

Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

As the year winds down, we would like to give a big vote of thanks to the hard work and dedication of Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce CEO Helene Johnson, who is retiring at the end of December. Never one to shy away from a challenge, she has given countless hours of volunteer time to promote and support her community.

In an era when many public figures are unwilling to express their true feelings for fear of causing the slightest offence, Helene has always stood by her principals and fought for what she believes in. Her sense of civic engagement puts most of us to shame, and she has done it all in a volunteer capacity.

If you haven't finished (or started) your Christmas shopping, why not come downtown and check out our local stores? We've said it before and we'll say it again: it's local retailers who support our sports teams and events, provide donations and prizes and volunteer their time for community causes.

From beautiful clothing, unique gifts, top-of-the-line electronics and fine jewellery to fabulous toys and games for children and teens, downtown Stouffville offers many great ideas for everyone on your list.

We wish all our readers a merry Christmas, happy holidays and a joyful and prosperous New Year.

Free Laughs - Net Gains And Losses

Getting information off the internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant.
Mitch Kapov

A mission statement is a dense slab of words that a large organization produces when it needs to establish that its workers are not just sitting around downloading internet porn.
Dave Barry

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks.
Anon

A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
Anon

Looking at the proliferation of personal web pages on the net, it looks like very soon everyone on earth will have 15 megabytes of fame.
M.G. Strum

While you are destroying your mind watching the worthless, brain-rotting drivel on TV, we on the internet are

exchanging freely and openly the most uninhibited, intimate and, yes, shocking details about our config.sys settings.
Dave Barry

The internet is so big, so powerful and pointless that for some people it is a complete substitute for life.
Andrew Brown

Internet: absolute communication, absolute isolation.
Paul Carvel

We've heard that a million monkeys at a million keyboards could produce the complete works of Shakespeare: now, thanks to the internet, we know that this is not true.
Robert Wilensky

A blogger is constantly looking over his shoulder for fear that he is not being followed.
Robert Brault

Hooked on the internet? Help is just a click away.
Anon

Warning: the internet may contain traces of nuts.
Anon

The internet is the most important single development in the history of human communication since the invention of call waiting.
Dave Barry

Laying (sic) in bed this morning contemplating how amazing it would be if somehow Oscar Wilde and Mae West could twitter from the grave.
Dita Von Teese on Twitter

There are three kinds of death in this world: There's heart death, there's brain death, and there's being off the network.
Guy Almes

The goal of computer science is to build something that will last until you've finished building it.
Douglas Adams

The internet is just a world passing around notes in a classroom.
Jon Stewart

Free Thoughts

Returning from a brief post-Christmas vacation, Santa has the misfortune of flying over Stouffville on New Year's Eve.



Readers Write

Studio Tour Organizers Thank Community

To the Editor:
 We wish to thank all the people who helped to make the ninth annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Studio Tour such a tremendous success.

We especially want to thank all those who came to the participating artists' studios. Everyone was so encouraging and supportive. They truly seemed to enjoy the tour. We continue to have such wonderful response from all who attended.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support of our sponsors and hope that the artists and their patrons will in turn patronize them: Stouffville Fine Furniture, Stouffville I.D.A., The Fickle Pickle, Barthau Jewellers, For The Love Of Jo, Chic Thrills, The Earl of Whitchurch, The Latham Gallery, Applewood Farm and Winery, PACE Credit Union, Ashgrove Spa, Brock's in Port Perry, Lindt's Floral Boutique, Debbie and Len Powell of Royal LePage, Schell Lumber, VES, Reid's Antiques, Inn Mill Restaurant, Sandy Mackenzie of State Farm Insurance,

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Thank you also to the *Stouffville Free Press* for continued support with excellent coverage and photos. Our congratulations go to Susan Campolongo, the prize winner in our \$200 draw.

Finally, we would like to publicly thank the 26 artists who so diligently worked all year, not only on the organization of the tour, but who consistently produce such a high calibre of art. See you next year for a special 10th anniversary tour.

Thank you Stouffville, on behalf of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Studio Tour.

Ray McNeice
 Stouffville