

111 Sandiford Dr., Stouffville, Ontario L4A 0Z8

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COUNCIL'S CORNER

Council Highlights by Karen Ewart

Council Highlights provide a brief summary of pertinent decisions made at a Council meeting. More information on these stories and other Council activities can be obtained from the Town's website.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD IMPLEMENTATION POLICY

Council endorsed a policy for requests and implementation of school crossing guards. This change from past practices includes the review of the requirement for school crossing guards prior to the opening of new school. A follow up warrant study (approximately two months after the school opening) would be undertaken and the findings reported to Council.

The proposed policy includes a provision for the installation of signage and pavement markings at new schools. The respective school board will be responsible for all costs and Town Staff will co-ordinate the supply and installation of signage and pavement markings. See Report #6 for more information.

For questions about these Highlights, please contact communications at ext. 2321.

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP/LEASE - YORK REGION

Town Council has approved a partnership with York Regional Police (YRP) to establish a sub-station as a tenant within the Town's Municipal Offices in Stouffville. The space is to accommodate police officers, administrative staff and an information counter for the public (no detention cells), and expected to be operational by Year End 2013. Council pre-approved this capital budget item, in order to expedite the renovation process.

See Report #11 for more information regarding this new community partnership.

CIVIL MARRIAGES AT TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Planning a wedding is an exciting, yet sometimes stressful experience. If you've decided on a destination wedding, or if you just want something very low key and reasonably priced, let us assist you in planning a civil marriage here at the Municipal Offices. Over the years our trained marriage officiants have been part of small, intimate groups of 4 and larger parties of 50 or more. In every situation, our focus is on creating a unique and enjoyable experience for the couple. For more information, contact our Customer Service Centre or visit our website.

What's On in Whitchurch-Stouffville FEBRUARY EVENTS**PA Day Workshops****Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre****February 1, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Learning 'how things were done' in Whitchurch-Stouffville over 100 years ago! You will try out an old-fashioned soup recipe, bake in the Victorian kitchen, spend time in the pioneer classroom and much more! Just perfect for children aged 8-12! Pre-registration is required and participants must bring their own nut-free lunch - contact wsmuseum@townofws.ca for more information.

Latcham Gallery**The Art Bunker Studio (Main St., & Market St.)****February 1, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Spend your day drawing, painting or sculpting with an experienced art instructor. All materials included. Pre-registration required.

\$40 for members • \$45 for non-members (per child/per day)

Contact info@latchamgallery.ca or 905-640-8954 for more information

Storytime with Sharon in Chinese**Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library****Sundays, February 3, 10, 17, and 24****2:30 - 3:00 p.m.**

Age 3 - 10 yrs with parent/guardian

Peanut free cookie provided

Spring/Summer Leisure Guide**February 7 - live online.**

Hard copies available at Leisure Centre and Municipal Offices.

10th Annual Winter Carnival**Cedar Beach Pavilion on Musselman's Lake****February 9, 2013 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Lots of special activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Defining Moments: Discovering our Canadian Stories**Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre****February 11 - March 31, 2013****Monday to Friday - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

This travelling exhibit is a national digital media arts and citizenship project aimed at engaging youth across Canada to explore, express and showcase their diverse perspectives on Canadian identity. These works are the 26 winning pieces, representing 8 provinces/territories across Canada

Library Web Site Demo**Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library****Thursday, February 14 - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Topics include downloading e-books and audio books, renewing or reserving from home, electronic booklists, researching health issues, etc.

Free! Pre-registration is required!

PA Day Movie @ your Library**Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library****Friday, February 15 - 1:30 pm****"ParaNorman"**

A misunderstood boy takes on ghosts, zombies, and grown-ups to save his town from a centuries-old curse.

Free Admission.

Rated PG.

Click on this icon (right) found on the Town's home page to view previous Council Highlights.

**Council Meeting Highlights****Upcoming Council Meetings (held at the Town's Municipal Offices)****FEBRUARY 12, 2013**

COUNCIL MEETING - 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26, 2013

COUNCIL MEETING - 3:00 p.m.

Draft 2013 Capital & Operating Budget to be released

FEBRUARY 26, 2013

PUBLIC MEETING - 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for these meetings will be available at the Municipal Offices, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and on the Town's website at noon the Thursday prior to the meeting for review. The Council Meeting Schedule for this year is available on the Town's website.

FEATURED TOWN STORY**Town Of Whitchurch-Stouffville Completes Corporate Efficiency Review (CER)**

Council approved the results of the Corporate Efficiency Review (CER). The CER provides Council and Staff with a long-term "road map" for enhancing efficiency, so that the Town can continue to deliver high-quality services, affordably, as the community grows. The review looked at future staffing, how current service levels could be maintained and how best to manage resources. The results will be used to maximize value for taxpayers, promote accountability, and strengthen the Town's ability to maintain and attract quality staff. Council will still need to provide final approval for some aspects of the report, such as new staffing and Departmental consolidations.

The project was led by a Task Force consisting of three Members of Council and Senior Management Team (SMT) respectively, with the assistance of the consulting firm MNP LLP. The process involved consultations/interviews/surveys with Town staff, unions, Senior Management Team and Members of Council which were integrated into the consultant's final report.

The CER indicates Town services are generally being delivered efficiently, taking into account six other municipalities selected for comparison. That said, there is always room for improvement. The CER sets out seven areas of focus, namely:

1. Optimize the organizational and governance structure
2. Standardize and improve existing processes
3. Use existing IT systems more effectively
4. Foster a supportive culture
5. Proactively manage performance
6. Build the talent pool
7. Expand and leverage existing partnerships

The CER is one of three projects relating to an overarching Whitchurch-Stouffville Sustainability Initiative, each having a link to improving the Town's sustainability now and in the future. In addition to the CER, the Town conducted a Rates and Fees Review (RFR) and a Compensation Policy Review (CPR). The CPR, which Council adopted, involved a comprehensive examination of the Town's compensation policies to ensure they support the Town's objectives of long term fiscal sustainability and recruiting and retaining a strategically aligned and engaged workforce.

A status report of the RFR will be presented at the February 12th Council meeting for consideration.

See Report #1 and Report #2 for more details regarding the CER and CPR.

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