



Rear-view Mirror

Entrepreneur, Entertainer, Philanthropist

By Maurice Smith

For a community to grow and survive generation after generation, it must have citizens prepared to contribute time, talent, energy and where possible, finances.

Over the years, Whitchurch-Stouffville has been lucky enough to be the beneficiary of such wonderful and generous citizens, among them Arthur Latcham. His unique personality included three little known attributes: he was a wonderfully entertaining, fully qualified magician; he became an astute and visionary real-estate entrepreneur and, although on a much quieter scale through the Arthur Latcham Foundation, he was a very generous philanthropist.

Born in 1895, he was one of seven children living with his family on a farm in Glasgow, a town in what was then known as Uxbridge Township, Ontario.

After leaving school he worked on neighbourhood farms before joining the army at the start of the First World War. He served four years and was subsequently wounded in France in 1918. After being honourably discharged, he travelled to Saskatchewan to stake out a homestead.

Some say that it was during those long prairie droughts and cold winter nights that he honed his skills as a master magician and entertainer. He continued farming there until late in the 1940s before returning to the community of his birth, a move that would benefit many generations living in the vicinity.

He entertained children at area schools, parks and community centres with his sleight-of-hand card and coin tricks. He always wanted to be a part of the group he was entertaining, sitting or standing alongside those in the audience rather than taking centre stage. Some said that even with his prominence later in life, he still looked back fondly on the days when children would gather round to see him perform world-class magic.

Always trying to think ahead, he had the foresight to purchase as much vacant land as he could afford. Looking back, this certainly worked for him in the long term, but as interest rates rose and fell he was not immune to financial difficulties. Nevertheless, he did manage to make many land purchases that would serve him well over the years.

His ultimate fortune was made through the purchase of land and golf courses. At one time he owned, among other properties, Meadowbrook and Rolling Hills golf courses and the 188 acres on which they would construct the Bushwood Golf Club. Oddly enough, he seldom, if ever, had time to play golf.

He also purchased a fifty-acre parcel of land near the intersection of Ninth Line and Highway 7 and donated it to the Town of Markham, which was looking for land on which to build a new hospital. Today, Markham Stouffville Hospital provides health care services to a large and rapidly growing population across the community.

As his wealth grew, Mr. Latcham continued to look for projects to which

he could donate for the benefit of his adopted communities of Stouffville; Altona, Port Perry, Cedar Grove and Uxbridge. It was reported that in 1967 alone, he purchased three obsolete schools in the Pickering area and donated the land and buildings for conversion to community centres.

In 1982 our local library, through the Arthur Latcham Foundation, was able to acquire a series of books and other items dedicated to the art of magic. This collection remained here for many years and was recently added to the major magic paraphernalia collection at Carleton University.

Mr. Latcham's generosity was instrumental in having the town's original outdoor pool, tennis courts and main hall diamond built in Memorial Park. Not only did he assist in financing these projects, but he also took the time to oversee their construction.

We still have the Latcham Gallery and Latcham Hall buildings in Stouffville to use and enjoy and perhaps to help us remember this generous and unique individual. Mr. Latcham was honoured with the Order of Canada and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for his dedication and community involvement.

Arthur Latcham, the man who always had a soft spot for children and the needs of his communities, died on Aug. 10, 1979. He is buried in Glasgow North Cemetery, just a short distance from the farm home in which he was born.

Maurice Smith can be reached at mauricefp@rogers.co

Tax preparation services

We prepare all types of tax returns

- Accurate & affordable
- Year-round service
- Experienced tax preparers
- Audit assistance

Call or visit us:
6188 Main St
Stouffville, ON L4A 2S5
905-642-2927



H&R BLOCK

www.hrblock.ca

ICE MELTING DEALS

cdcComputerLiquidators.com

Trade In That Old Computer Working Or Not!
FOR CASH!

Quality Off - Lease Business Computers
With Savings Up To 75% Off Retail - Why Buy New!

LAPTOPS From \$75.00

- Acer Netbook 1.6Ghz/1Gig/250 WEBCAM \$195
- IBM Centrino 1.8Ghz/1Gig/40Gig CDRW+DVD/WiFi \$195
- Apple i-Book G4 1.2/512/30/CDRW+DVD/WiFi \$195
- Dell CoreDuo 1.2Ghz/1Gig/60/Docking Bay/WiFi \$295
- Toshiba Centrino 2V-Pro 2.4Ghz/Tablet Touchscreen \$395
- Acer Centrino 1.86/1Gig/100 CDRW+DVD/WiFi \$195
- Panasonic Toughbooks Core2Duo From \$595
- APPLE COMPUTERS From \$195
- MACBOOK/MACBOOK PRO/i-MAC \$395

Complete DESKTOPS From \$95

- i-MAC All In One 20" Screen/ OS Lion \$695
- HP All In One 22" Windows 7 \$395
- Dell Business Core2 Duo Windows 7 Pro \$395
- IBM C2D 2.4Ghz/500Gig/DVDRW/Windows 7 Pro \$395

FULL SELECTION OF PARTS & ACCESSORIES
32" LCD Monitor/TV 2-HDMI \$245

OVER 120 COMPUTERS IN STOCK

ALL MAJOR REPAIRS

Tues. 10AM - 6PM - Thursday 10AM - 6PM - Sat. 10AM - 3PM
P: 647-977-1592 or E-Mail: edccomp@rogers.com
6246 Main St. Unit 2, Downtown Stouffville
(1 Block West Of CIBC Bank North Side)

Stouffville Dealer Wins Award Of Merit



Stouffville Hyundai was one of 22 Hyundai dealers across Canada to win the 2012 President's Award of Merit. This recognition of excellence goes to the top 10 per cent of dealers in Canada based on new vehicle sales, implied market share, certified pre-owned sales and customer experience. Dealership principal Pieter van der Griend, seen here (centre) with Karen Cashin and Edward Nelles, will receive a trip to Rome with the other winners. Stouffville Hyundai has been in business since August 2010.

Young Drivers of Canada has ALWAYS been the best driver training program in Canada - AND IT JUST GOT EVEN BETTER...

WINTER PRICING SPECIAL
Enroll in a course in February - March
and get our Winter Pricing Special

At Young Drivers, students will learn the skills in the classroom and experience them hands-on with their in-car instructor

- Freeway and highway driving
- Risk perception
- Gravel shoulder recovery
- Threshold/ABS braking
- Rear crash avoidance
- Head-on collision avoidance
- Emergency braking
- Brake and avoid techniques
- Swerving techniques
- Handling adverse conditions

ONLY \$698.23



YOUNG DRIVERS®
905-640-1229
stouffville@yd.com
www.yd.com

4-Day March Break Course Starts March 9th at 20 Freel Lane by the GO Station