

Celebrations 2010: The Young At Art

Latcham exhibition showcases local student talent

A panorama of exuberant art of every colour, style and shape will be on display at the Latcham Gallery from April 10 to 24.

Every year, local elementary schools are invited to show their students' work during *Celebrations: The Young at Art*. "A consistent trend among all the schools has been a focus on the environment, including art projects using recycled materials," noted gallery curator Maura Broadhurst.

This year's exhibition includes rock paintings by grade 2 St. Mark students and Japanese landscape scrolls by the grade 6 and 7 class at Stouffville Christian School, along with models of mediaeval villages, canoes, landscapes, pastels and designs in 3-D. It's a great opportunity for local schools and groups to bring classes to the gallery to see what the community's young people are accomplishing.

Celebrations 2010 showcases work by students from the following schools:

Ballantrae, Glad Park, Mindtech Montessori, Oscar Peterson, The Progressive Montessori Academy, St. Brigid, St. Mark, Stouffville Christian and Whitchurch Highlands.

Latcham Gallery is at 6240 Main St. and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit www.latchamgallery.ca or call 905-640-8954.



Artwork by students from St. Brigid and Summitview on display at last year's *Celebrations: The Young at Art* exhibition at Latcham Gallery.

www.stouffville.com

Kinjal's Candidates

The First In A Series Of Discussions With Mayoral Contenders In The 2010 Municipal Election

By Kinjal Dagli-Shah

The three things on my mind when I walked into Mayor Wayne Emmerson's office were roads, transit and employment in Stouffville. No, I wasn't conducting a high-minded political campaign; I was just thinking of personal issues that had impacted my life in the hour before I was scheduled to meet Mayor Emmerson.

Like many others in my neighbourhood, I rely heavily on public transit. I am partly motivated by the need to reduce my carbon footprint and the fact I don't have a driver's licence. But I also believe that if enough of us opt to use and depend on transit, there will be a better and more frequent service in place.

But while waiting for that to happen, I had to carefully schedule my bus ride, which came by only every hour or two. And when it did, the route was cut short because the driver had a school run. I had my first question for Mr. Emmerson.

I decided to walk the rest of the way on a road that didn't have a sidewalk. And for fear of getting run over, I stepped onto what should have been a sidewalk. I noticed it was under construction only when both my feet were ankle-deep in wet mud. A second question sprung into my head.

The third came without warning because I knew nobody was going to employ a journalist with muddy feet, her North American qualifications be damned.

But when I finally reached Mr. Emmerson's office, my mind did a turnabout and I ended up asking him what he thought Stouffvillites cared about. And he came pretty close. "In my experience, growth, roads and taxes are people's biggest concerns," he said.

Mr. Emmerson, a third generation Stouffvillite, is a veteran politician, having served on council for over 20 years. "Planned growth sometimes takes longer to fold out but we have to know that this planning will benefit people 10 to 15 years down the line," he explained. "Taxes are more a short-term concern. We have one of the lowest tax rates, and are in or close to the bottom four towns of York Region with regard to tax rates."

Most people I know don't know or care who the mayor of the town is, or what he does and can do. That's why,

perhaps, Mr. Emmerson predicts a 30 to 35 per cent voter turnout for this year's mayoral election. But he seems to be an eternal optimist.

"I take it as a good sign. If people have big issues, you can be sure they'll come out and vote. But because there aren't any major problems, I don't hear from them," he pointed out.

Married to Deborah, the 56-year-old father of two is a conscientious politician, aware of his rights and duties as a citizen. "I've never missed a vote my entire life. It's a privilege to be able to vote," he said.

As someone who was born in a Whitchurch-Stouffville that had only 6,500 residents and just one road to get across town - Main Street - Mr. Emmerson has seen, and been an agent of, change. By 2021, the town predicts population growth up to 50,000 people. And that is why, said Mr. Emmerson, the ice rinks and baseball diamonds, splash pads and community centres, have been part of his agenda.

"In my last and current term, we've seen much of the infrastructure take root. Some more houses remain (to be built) but we will soon be able to see a squaring off of the community." I came away impressed with his vision and enthusiasm, but some doubts lingered.

What about people who want a chance to play cricket, not just hockey, and who seek cultural integration, not just a community centre, I asked. "I'm here to listen to everyone's needs. If there's something I'm missing, they have to come and tell me," he said.

I thought of bringing up my own issues of the past hour, but looked down at my mud-lined toenails and decided they would have to wait for another time.





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