

# Stouffville Free Press

Vol. 2, No. 9

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Independent Community Owned Newspaper

August 2007

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## AROUND THE TOWN IN 80 MINUTES



### VIEW FROM A HANGING BASKET

This was just a sampling of the breathtaking view of Whitchurch-Stouffville taken in by Sarah Taylor and Tara Nesbitt, winners of the Pilot Insurance Hot Air Balloon Program's sunrise balloon flight, July 1. Hosted by Stouffville's Moller Insurance, the program served as a fund raiser for CBMI during the Strawberry Festival.



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## Partnership brings hope for the future in Igoma

By Kate Gilderdale  
Stouffville Free Press

Peter Boudewyn and his wife, Yvonne, visited Igoma, Tanzania for the third time this spring as part of the Stouffville Igoma Partnership program.

When the couple first joined an SIP team in 2003, "it sounded like a very interesting opportunity to broaden our scope," said Peter. The couple were intensely affected, not only by the poverty they encountered, but by the warmth of those they came into contact with. "They are so welcoming. They become a part of your family."

Peter was also struck by how uncomplaining people were. "At the clinic there would be people coming first thing in the morning and perhaps they might not even be seen that day. Yet here, if we're kept waiting 20 minutes, we get really frustrated."

The initial phase of the Urafiki Health Centre was completed in May 2003 and opened that September with a staff of eight. "It was open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; now it's open 24 hours a

day, seven days a week," Peter said. Each time he and Yvonne returned, "we found that we were seeing hope in people's eyes and our function was to try and encourage that hope."

On their first day back this spring, "we noticed immediately that there seemed to be a new sense of entrepreneurship, and a lot of the children looked healthier," he noted. As well as helping out with building and training projects, and hanging hundreds of mosquito nets to provide protection from malaria, SIP also funds educational programs for young people, which enable them to find jobs and support their families.

"There are opportunities at very little cost to help someone establish a business and it's fun to see some of the things that come to fruition. We found that one of the cooks at the place where we were staying came directly from the SIP education program."

With a number of different groups involved in Igoma projects, he was impressed at how well everyone worked together. "One of the neat things that happened involved a lady who had lost her husband. He had been a carpenter

over the years, during the missions." When he died, his wife and five children were destitute, said Peter.

"She was going to lose everything and had very little hope of a good future." Volunteers got together and finished building a home for her and her family. "As she was taken to the house you could see the expression on her face changing from sorrow to joy."

"I think it's important for people in Stouffville to know that SIP has a huge impact on the community, making it a healthier and better place to live for children and their families."

Every cent donated to SIP goes directly to the work in Igoma, since all volunteers raise money to cover airfare and accommodation. And it's not just the people who go to Igoma who make the difference, Peter stressed. "There's a lot of hard work done by many, many people, not just the team that went."

This year's team was involved in building a new extension to the clinic, which will house a mother

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