

# High water bills prompt residents to organize

BY ALI RAZA  
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Stouffville residents on fixed incomes can't afford a recent spike in water bills, says the organizer of a ratepayers' group.

Jack Verhoog and his neighbours – who live around Booth Drive and Thicketwood Boulevard near Stouffville Memorial Park – reported higher than normal water bills during the summer. Prompted to take action, Verhoog placed an ad inviting residents to a meeting on Aug. 2 at town hall to discuss the “abnormally high water bills,” town spokesperson Glenn Jackson confirmed.

“If you protect people with fixed incomes

now, they'll be protected from further increases,” Verhoog said, who added he'd received 80 emails about the meeting where 60 people attended.

As of April 1, 2016, the Regional Municipality of York increased rates for water and wastewater services. Verhoog believes this is why his bills and those of his neighbours have been higher than usual.

Rates for the average household in the region will jump \$93 this year, \$101 in 2017, \$110 in 2018, \$120 in 2019, \$131 in 2020 and \$45 in 2021.

The average household bill for water and wastewater is \$1,032 per year across the region.

While the region argues the hike is to cover operating costs, meet regional expenses, maintain \$5.3 billion worth of infrastructure and pay off debt, Verhoog says residents with fixed income cannot keep up with price hikes.

*‘If you protect people with fixed incomes now, they’ll be protected from further increases.’*

He has been in contact with York Region Chairman and former Whitchurch-Stouffville

mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Jackson concurred with Verhoog's claims. “The town is currently verifying the accuracy of the water meters in question and confirming that the submitted readings may have been estimates and not actual readings,” Jackson said. “To date the town has not found any meters that would contribute to the inaccuracy of the readings.”

Jackson said the town is trying to resolve the issue. Verhoog has praise for the town's acting CAO, Rob Raycroft.

“I'm very, very pleased with him (Raycroft),” Verhoog said. “Everything I put forward was taken care of.”

*with files from Lisa Queen*

## uReport

Reader-submitted content

www.yorkregion.com/ureport

# Stouffville Churches Welcome You



Sunday Service at 10:00 am

www.in2one.ca  
905-591-3200  
6273 Main St.,  
Stouffville  
Lead Pastor: Graham Clinton

inviting, relational, open



## Christ Church Stouffville

Anglican Church of Canada  
254 Sunset Blvd., 905-640-1461  
www.stouffvilleanglican.ca

**Sunday, September 11th**

Blessing of the Backpacks  
8:00 am & 10:00 am Eucharist  
Nursery & Church School at 10am  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
Morning Prayer at 9:15am

**Wednesday, September 14th**  
Seniors' Service & Tea 10:00 am

**Thursday, September 15th**  
Morning Prayer 9:30 am  
Bible Study 10:00 am



All Welcome  
COME & SEE

## WELCOME TO ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6432 Main St., Stouffville  
905-640-3151  
Rev. Joan Masterton, Minister

**Sunday, September 11**

Service of Worship  
Rev. Joan Masterton, minister  
10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, September 17**

Habitat home construction  
Stouffer St. and Main St.  
Bring a hammer!

**Sunday, September 18**

“Welcome Back Sunday”  
celebration service  
and barbecue 10:00 a.m.

*“A friendly family church”*



## STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Sunday Service @ 10am

(Sunday School for Kids)

Lead Pastor : Jeff Laird

Children's Pastor : Lori Attack

Youth Pastor : Steffan Watson

Student programs to resume in September

6853 Main St. Stouffville  
905-640-5696

www.spfamily.ca

\* EVERYONE WELCOME \*

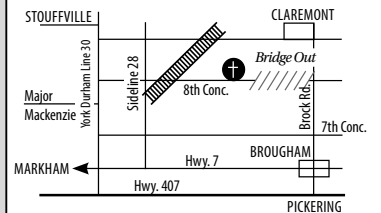
## Stouffville Christian Fellowship

A Church in a Beautiful Countryside  
Pastor Walter Robbins

Sunday Service

10:30am

Lunch to follow



860 Conc. 8, Clarendon  
905-649-2812

## Stouffville United Church

Rev. Elizabeth Cunningham

34 Church St. N. • 905-640-1163  
office@stouffvilleuc.ca

**Sunday, September 11**

10:00 am Worship Service  
Welcome Sunday (Rally Time)  
Sermon Title: Honest Conversation

Children's Worship  
Congregational Lunch hosted by  
the Worship Committee



Everyone Welcome!  
www.stouffvilleuc.ca

## St. Mark's ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



345 Glad Park Ave. Stouffville  
905-640-6954

## Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am,  
11:00 am

www.stmarkstouffville.ca



## BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH

13660 Ninth Line N.  
(905) 642-4414

Rev. Peter Pallant

Sunday, September 11, 2016

9:30 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship Service

12:30 pm - Sunday  
School Picnic

Everyone Welcome!

## 恩泉浸信會 Stouffville Grace Baptist Church



SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:45AM

Chinese/English/Children Service  
粵語(普通話翻譯) / 英文 / 兒童崇拜

@ Oscar Peterson Public School  
850 Hoover Park Dr., Stouffville

CHURCH CONTACT 教會聯絡處  
(647) 547-3618

32 Jamesway Cres., Stouffville  
admin@stouffville-gbc.org  
www.stouffville-gbc.org

To Advertise Please call 905-640-2612