

Free Opinion

The Art of the Matter

On Dec. 12, Nineteen on the Park hosted a memorable evening which incorporated previews of the theatre's upcoming season. Performances by Motus O, Lucia Cesaroni and Morgan Sadler provided a delectable taste of what's on the calendar for 2015. Beautiful artwork was donated to raise funds for Nineteen on the Park and organizers held a silent auction of items contributed by generous residents and businesses.

The theatre was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Most Excellent Productions provided professional lighting and sound, and a wonderful selection of appetizers and gourmet coffee was served, courtesy of Velvet Sunrise. Ward 5 councillor Iain Lovatt and federal Liberal candidate Jane Philpott were among the guests, but it would be nice to see greater political representation at future

events involving community arts and culture.

Whitchurch-Stouffville has an unfortunate history of inadequate financial support for the arts. We think it's imperative to change this if we want to be a truly well-rounded community and to attract residents and visitors who will spend their entertainment dollars in town, instead of heading to Uxbridge or Toronto for cultural events.

The calibre of the Dec. 12 performances was equal to anything available in the city. Lucia Cesaroni's stunningly beautiful voice has been heard at the Four Seasons in Toronto and she is featured in Toronto Operetta Theatre's *The Mikado* at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts. She is also a native of Gormley, and was thrilled to have the opportunity to perform in her old home town, noting that the theatre's acoustics were outstanding.

Morgan Sadler, another local performer who sang in the summer Patio Series at the theatre, is a talented singer/songwriter and a fine interpreter of such Canadian classics as Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. And Stouffville residents Motus O have been stalwarts of the theatre since it first opened in 2009, attracting thousands of patrons to its doors in the past five years.

Our hope is that the town will do more to support and promote our historic theatre in the coming years. From children's shows to music of all genres, and from comedy to dance, Nineteen on the Park offers a treasure trove of performance art for all ages. Let's get the word out that we have a world-class facility right on our own doorstep.

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

Free Thoughts

Stouffville Free Press wishes all our readers and new members of council a happy and prosperous New Year!



Readers Write

Charity begins at home

To the Editor:

A huge thank you to all contributors to this year's Home for Christmas tour in Stouffville. It was truly two days of Christmas magic, fun and celebrations. The homes and decorations were unique and inspiring, as always. Over 950 visitors contributed to our grand total raised of over \$32,000!

Through your generous support, we are thrilled to announce that we will be donating \$16,000 each to The Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity and the ABLE Network. Thank you for your participation in these worthwhile causes.

This tour would not be possible without outstanding support from our local businesses who give unconditionally to their community. Our deepest gratitude to our home sponsors. Many thanks to the local business champions.

As well, it was the talents of our exceptional decorators, floral designers and greenery experts who brought to life Christmas in Stouffville. Their hard work, in combination with all the wonderful home owners who graciously opened their homes to our community, truly made the event come alive.

We hope that each home inspired you to create your own magic this Christmas. The holiday season is the most wonderful time of the year when we all appreciate being "Home for Christmas". We have begun the planning process for next year's tour, which will be held Nov. 6 and 7, 2015.

Thank you from Stouffville's "Home for Christmas" tour committee: Sarah Carrick, Carolyn Dobson, Carolyn Mauro, Rosemary Mauro, Stephanie Butler, Jacky Messner, Lisa Hume, Nancy Miller, Debbie Powell and Kathryn Webber.

Free Laughs

Cold Comfort

I like these cold, grey winter days. Days like these let you savour a bad mood.

Bill Watterson

The problem with winter sports is that, follow me closely here, they generally take place in winter.

Dave Barry

There are two seasons in Toronto: winter and construction.

Ahon

A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.

Carl Reiner

I was just thinking, if it is really religion with these nudist colonies, they sure must turn atheists in the wintertime.

Will Rogers

"It's snowing still," said Eeyore gloomily.

"So it is."

"And freezing."

"Is it?"

"Yes," said Eeyore. "However,"

he said, brightening up a little, "we haven't had an earthquake lately."

A.A. Milne

It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. This crisp winter air is full of it.

John Burroughs, *Winter Sunshine*

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.

Andrew Wyeth

Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat.

Anon

Winter is not a season, it's an occupation.

Sinclair Lewis

Winter is the king of showmen, turning tree stumps into snowmen/And houses into birthday cakes/And spreading sugar over lakes/Smooth and clean and frosty white./The world looks good enough to bite./That's the season to be young./Catching snowflakes on your tongue./Snow is snowy when it's snowing./I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.

Ogden Nash

We feel cold, but we don't mind it, because we will not come to harm. And if we wrapped up against the cold, we wouldn't feel other things, like the bright tingle of the stars, or the music of the Aurora, or best of all the silky feeling of moonlight on our skin. It's worth being cold for that.

Philip Pullman, *Northern Lights*

The English winter - ending in July, to recommence in August

Lord Byron

Winter is nature's way of saying, 'Up yours'.

Robert Byrne

UP AND COMING

The Stouffville Free Press welcomes community event listings from non-profit groups and organizations. Please send a brief synopsis of upcoming events by email to stouffvillefreepress@rogers.com

Stouffville Free Press

Whitchurch-Stouffville's independent community owned newspaper

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