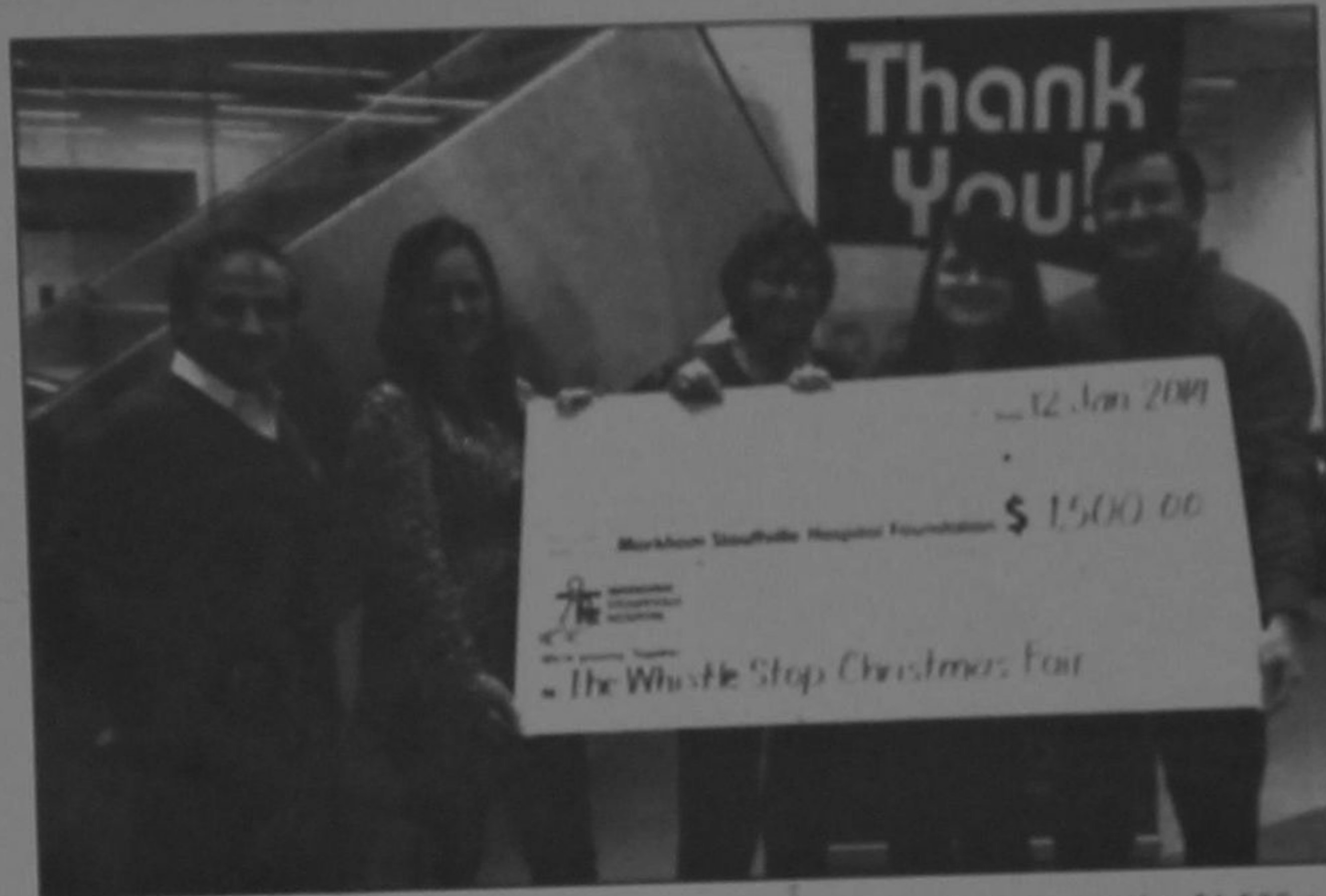


## A Fair Donation To A Vital Cause



Organizers of the Whistle Stop Christmas Fair presented a cheque for \$1,500 to the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation on Jan. 12. Left to right: Tony, Laura, Hannelore and Grace Volpe and Allan Bell, director, Corporate Sponsorship & Special Events for the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation.

## Community Mennonite Voices

### A Stouffville Family at the Mandela Memorial

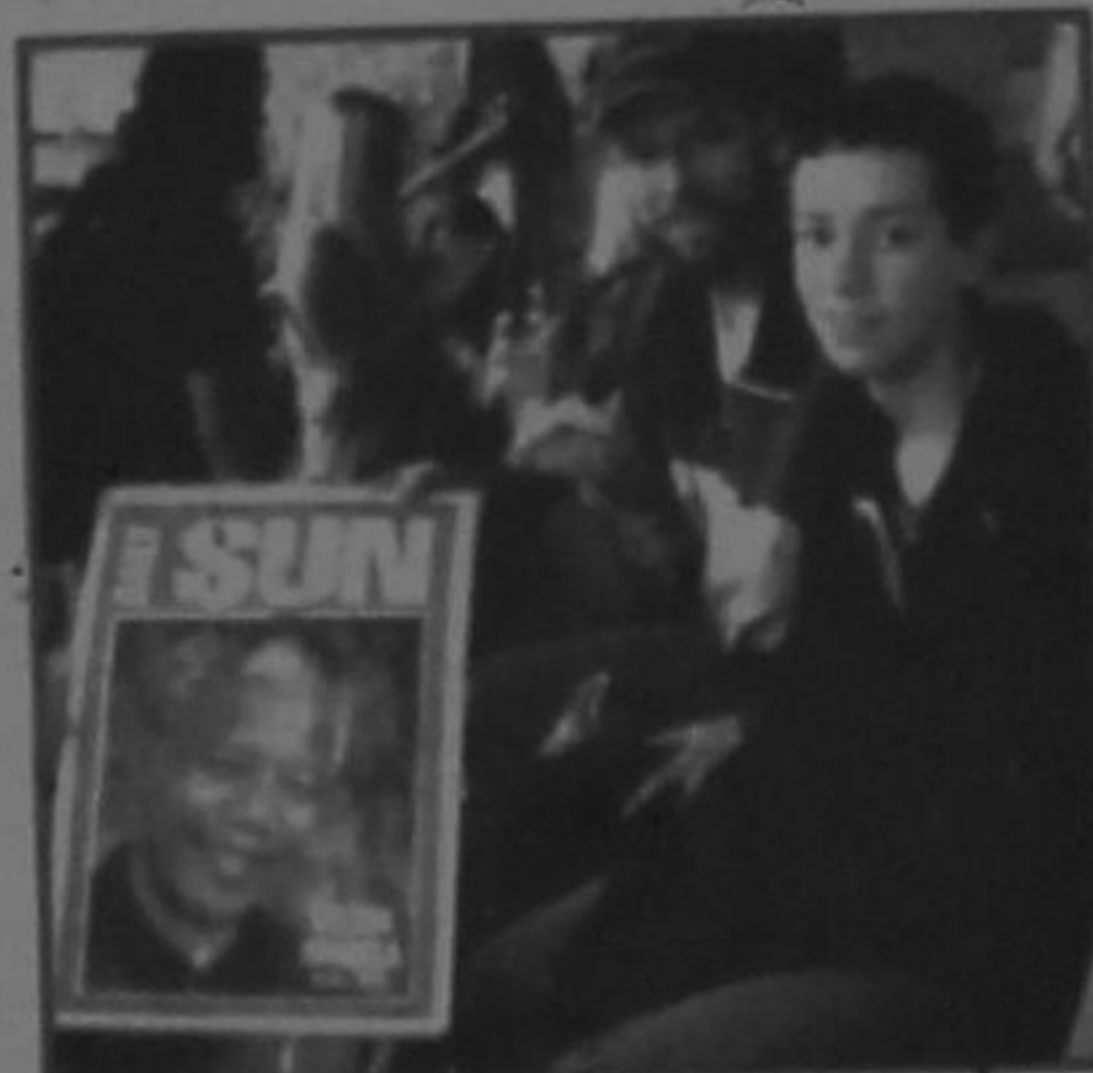
Contributed by Bryan Moyer Suderman

Bryan Moyer Suderman is a songwriter who lives in Stouffville and attends Community Mennonite Church. He wrote the music for "Selah's Song," an original folk musical presented by Theatre of the Beat and performed in Stouffville Jan 9-11, 2014

On the night I learned of Nelson Mandela's death, I was in Stouffville's Barnside Studios, recording the final vocals for the soundtrack CD of "Selah's Song" – an original folk musical with themes that resonate deeply with Mandela's story. It was an emotional experience for me to sing these lyrics to the show's "title track" that night:

*"Cause the drumbeat of war  
that we hear all around  
is a sound so afraid and alone  
There's another drummer  
drumming somewhere  
With a rhythm that's calling us home...  
Won't you sing, sing, sing with me?  
Won't you sing a song of peace?"*

Two days later, we were on a plane, headed to South Africa for a long anticipated trip to visit family. And three days after that we were at FNB Stadium in Soweto along with tens of thousands of others for the official Mandela memorial.



Bryan and son Matthew at the Nelson Mandela memorial Dec 10

It was a rainy Johannesburg morning, and as we made our way toward the stadium over three hours before the scheduled "start" of the event, we could already hear the people singing from half a kilometer away. We watched group after group arrive – many of them singing and dancing. "Struggle songs" from the apartheid era, and the oft-repeated refrain "Mandela, you're my President!"

"Siyabonga, Mandela" – "We are grateful, Mandela." These too were words that were sung, and spoken, and sung again. What a moving experience, to be in the midst of this grateful, grieving, boisterous crowd, knowing that anyone over 20 years old had experienced firsthand both the brutal reality of apartheid and the difficult and costly transition to democracy. Now all were challenged and inspired yet again by this freedom fighter who emerged after 27 years in prison, determined not to seek revenge but to lead his nation in seeking real healing and reconciliation.

Immediately upon our return to Stouffville, I was plunged headlong into dress rehearsals and then an intense weekend of 4 performances of "Selah's Song" at 19-On-The-Park. As we shared the laughter and tears of Selah's story, with its reflections on the power of song and ringing call to peacemaking, I couldn't help but hear the South African songs of struggle and hope ringing in my ears as well.

"There's another drummer drumming somewhere with a rhythm that's calling us home..."

**"Siyabonga, Mandela." Thank you, Mandela, indeed.**

**COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH**  
12184 Ninth Line, Stouffville • www.cmchurch.ca  
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL - 11AM

## An Evening Out At The Care & Share

On Saturday Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. staff and managers at the Care & Share Thrift Shop invite residents to join them for an evening out at the store's new premises at 33 Ringwood Drive, formerly home to Randy's Appliances.

The special event is being held to raise money for the building fund and will include a live auction of unique items, a fashion show, homemade treats and

an opportunity to indulge in some after hours shopping. The store, operated by the Mennonite Central Committee, was previously located beside the Latham Gallery on Main Street and offers an amazing and eclectic selection of gently used clothing, china, toys, books and other items at bargain prices. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the store.



Care & Share Thrift Shop managers (left to right) Pat Strathdee, Deborah LoPatriello and Isola Wideman welcome customers to their spacious new premises at 33 Ringwood Drive. Missing from the photo is manager Bonnie Drudge.

## Library To Host Website Demo

By Catherine Sword

Just when you thought it was safe to enter our virtual library, it's changed.

Gone are the drop down boxes along the blue bar at the top. Moved is the search box for our catalogue. Even our web address has changed to [www.wsplibrary.ca](http://www.wsplibrary.ca). I can hear your collective groan and wail and gnashing of teeth. Oh wait. That sound is coming from the staff.

After years of teaching our patrons how to quickly check their accounts or reserve a book, it's a whole new ball game. I suspect our library website demo on Thursday, February 13, at 7 p.m. will be well attended. I encourage you to drop in for this hour-long intro to some of your favourite things, like checking our catalogue, or renewing books on your card, and to also discovering some things you may have missed. Many people know about our e-books, but did you know that we also have downloadable audio books?

One of my favourite resources is all the databases covering information on business, health, gardening and some for just plain fun. I must mention the Next Reads newsletter, which is different from our monthly electronic newsletter of upcoming programs. Next Reads gives you suggestions

for reading materials on fiction or nonfiction topics of your interest. The top lists are those for mysteries and thrillers, but there has been more interest in the business list, and the mind and body newsletter. There's something to appeal to everyone.

So come out on February 13 and discover many new things. Bring a coffee and sit back and enjoy the demonstration. You can also ask for help at the information desk. We've figured out a few tricks. The most asked question right from the start has been "How do I check my account?"

Go to our new website and in the upper right corner there is an icon of a magnifying glass. Part of me wonders why that image still works with a generation who probably never used such a device, but there it is. Click on that icon and it will bring up a search box. Then either enter a search term (a title, author or key word), or click on the magnifying glass again and that will bring up the catalogue, which has not changed. From here, click on "my account", then log in, and it will all be familiar again.

We hope you like the changes. Once we all get on the other side of the learning curve, I'm confident we're really going to like this new website.

Catherine Sword is co-ordinator of Adult Services at Whitchurch-Stouffville Library