

# Stouffville Free Press

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Independent Community Owned Newspaper

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## Country Market a community landmark

Last week it was announced that one of Whitchurch-Stouffville's best known landmarks, the Stouffville Country Market, will be closing its doors for good at the end of 2007.

The market has undergone many changes since its inception in 1952 as Stouffville Stockyards. It evolved to become an incredibly popular flea market, selling everything from electronics to clothing at rock bottom prices. People came from miles around to buy Oktoberfest sausages, delicious baked goods and fresh produce.

Although traffic through town was always heavily congested on Saturday mornings with cars en route to the market, the carnival atmosphere, punctuated by motorists' plaintive cries of 'Can you tell me how to get to the flea market?' became an integral part of life for urban residents in the community.

During the market's heyday, the downtown core was a destination in itself, with clothing stores, one of the best book shops anywhere and Card's Hardware, which was always choc-a-bloc full of guys, happily hanging out in their second home. And while the market's popularity waned in the latter part of the century, it continues to draw visitors and still defines Stouffville for many out-of-towners.

Stouffville Country Market embodied the spirit of a small community and many residents will mourn its passing. As crowds fill Main St. for our fabulous Strawberry Festival at the end of this month, the carnival atmosphere will return to town. And as we grow bigger and more urban, let's not lose sight of the unique attributes that help us maintain our identity as a small, close-knit community.

Without a suitable venue for live performances, the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts is facing the possibility it may have to fold. Ironically, it has never been more successful than in its current season, when it moved back into town from Vaughan. Audiences are up by 40 to 50 per cent and the calibre of productions is truly impressive.

On June 20, council will review a proposal for the future use of 19 Civic Ave. Whatever its conclusions, the town is at the point where it needs a proper venue for live performances, and those who believe arts and culture are an integral part of a well-rounded community are urged to attend this meeting and make their voices heard.

## Readers Write

### Amazing show benefits from community support

To the Editor:

On behalf of Music Mania and the Couples+ Club, we would like to thank the Stouffville Free Press for the coverage you ran regarding Music Mania. The publicity support you provide is of great assistance to the production's success.

Congratulations to director Dave Baxter and producers Gayle Dunn and Jean Buchan for such a successful year with their production, 'I Second That Emotion'. This amazing show takes the help of many people beyond the talented, hard-working cast and crew. A big thank you to everyone that helped in any way, including local restaurants that generously donated to our 'Out to Dinner' program.

This year the proceeds are being donated to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library towards furniture for the children's area, to Parkview Home, and to a high school scholarship award for the performing arts.

Plans are beginning for next year's show - the 47th annual production. The door is open to any adult in Whitchurch-Stouffville who would enjoy taking part.

Cap and Betty Cowan  
 Presidents, Couples+ Club  
 Stouffville United Church

## Free Thoughts

The imminent loss of the Stouffville Country Market to residential development may leave flea market fans somewhat in shock...



## Word from the Street

June 2006

How do you feel about the Country Market closing?

Brad Wood



It's sad to see it go. It's a real Stouffville institution. I remember going up to my cottage when I was a kid and stopping there.

Brian Insley



I will be sorry to see it close. It's a shame to lose the market because it's a Stouffville landmark.

Patricia Robinson



It's an unfortunate result of change. The market was once significant to the farming community and local tourism. It helped shape our community.

Glenn Jackson



It's a shame, it's a historic landmark here in Town. But it appears to be a business decision, and these things happen.