

## Stouffville Couple Help Cuban Doctors Enjoy 'Amazing' Visit to Ontario

By Bruce Stapley  
Stouffville Free Press



Visiting Cuban doctors Ricardo Sosa (top right) and his wife Odalis Vargas (bottom right) are shown the sights of Stouffville by their hosts Al and Trudy Yetman.

The weather that greeted Ricardo Sosa and Odalis Vargas may have been a little chillier than they are used to when they arrived in the Stouffville area in late June.

But the greetings they received from a Musselman's Lake couple couldn't have been warmer.

Al and Trudy Yetman, who befriended the Cuban couple last winter during a visit to that Caribbean island, are part of a group who teamed up to bring the doctor/dentist tandem to Southern Ontario for a six week visit.

Ricardo mans the medical clinic at Brisas Sierra Mar, a modest, ocean side resort fringed by the Sierra Maestra mountain range near the south-eastern Cuban city of Santiago de Cuba. Odalis looks after the dental needs of the residents of the village next to which the hotel is located. The couple have succeeded in winning the hearts of Canadians who frequent the hotel that is known for its warm and caring employees.

Stop off points during their Ontario adventure were to include Tottenham, Stouffville and Ottawa. The Stouffville leg of their odyssey, while only a few days in length, was jam packed with delightful surprises according to their hosts Al and Trudy Yetman.

"We took them Strawberry picking and they were like a couple of kids," chuckled Al. "Then we took them to dinner at a restaurant

in Aurora and everyone was singing Cuban music and giving them gifts. It was incredible", said Al, a musician who along with Trudy had a regular gig performing their music at Stouffville's 19 on the Park for over three years.

The Yetmans also drove the couple to St. Jacob's for a day. Odalis and Ricardo are to spend more time with the Yetmans after returning from Ottawa in early August.

Al and Trudy took to the couple during their first ever vacation to Brisas last January. Upon seeing the limited resources with which they had to work, they sent supplies down to them with Stouffville friends who were travelling to Brisas later in the winter. "They were such lovely people we just wanted to do all we could to help them," said Al. "They only make about ten dollars a month working as doctors in Cuba."

So enamoured were the Yetmans with Odalis and Ricardo, as well as the friendly resort that has proven popular with many Stouffville residents, that they intend to return the first week of January next year to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

"We're hoping to have lots of people from Stouffville come down and join us," said Al.

As for Odalis and Ricardo, who speak limited English, their Canadian odyssey and the hospitality they have been shown by the Yetmans and others has been something they will always remember. "It's been amazing," said Odalis.



Al and Trudy Yetman plan to return to the scenic Cuban resort they discovered last winter when they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary next January. Bruce Stapley photos

### Patio Performance

Nashville based singer/songwriter Adam Crossley played in front of an appreciative audience at the first of four Summer Patio Series events in Civic Square in front of 19 on the Park July 9. Peruvian vocalist Patricia Cano (Aug.18) and fiddle/step dancing family The Fitzgeralds (Aug.27) round out the series. Bruce Stapley photo



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