



Main St. merchants welcome crowds
Healing Force attracted an enthusiastic crowd of bargain hunters during the Stouffville BIA's Moonlight Madness last month. Musical entertainment, a children's bouncing castle and plenty of great shopping opportunities were all part of the fun.

THEATRE VITAL TO COMMUNITY CULTURE

The following is an open letter to Mayor Sue Sherban on arts and culture in Stouffville.

Dear Mayor Sherban,

I am a student at the University of Waterloo, who grew up and still [mostly] lives in Stouffville. Having just returned from a year abroad on exchange in Europe, I have had the chance to see the large jump in growth that has occurred in our town in the last year. Although at times the speed and size of the development seems distressing, it is also exciting and I have seen glorious signs of hope that help me to imagine I could stay here to raise my own family one day.

One of those signs is the plan to build a theatre in the old town office building. A theatre, or even a space where a local theatre group could operate, would mean so much to the cultural life in our town. It would make me excited to live here and be a part of such endeavours, just as I am excited to visit the

Latham Gallery's exhibitions and see what there is to find at the library. Simply discovering that there's now a café in town with live music on Fridays and a comfortable ambience, really made my day, possibly my whole week. I now have a reason to ask friends from Markham to drive up here to have a chat and a good cup of coffee.

Please encourage the arts and meaningful cultural events in our town. It should be a vibrant and vital place not only to sleep in and commute to the city from, but also to live in and really be a part of. With so many new residents coming now and in the next years, there will be even more resources of talent, energy, and money available. I think some of us just need to be convinced that it's worth spending those resources here. A theatre would go a long way towards that goal.

Michael Turman
Stouffville

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Our volunteers are priceless

By Dorie Billich

Richard Preston received the Ontario Heritage Trust's 2005 Heritage Community Recognition award at the Town offices on July 11.

Mr. Preston joined the Museum Advisory Board in 1999 and has since contributed over 1,400 hours of service. Before joining the board he helped organize the Antique and Classic Car Show and assisted with building and artifact restoration, grounds maintenance, fundraising, managing and researching.

He has conducted tours of the Museum, worked on policy development, and participated in many building maintenance and construction projects. His enthusiasm and energy has helped expand the Museum audience and improve

facilities.

More than 90 volunteers help out at the Museum each year. Their support not only provides a strong connection between the Museum and the community, but also greatly increases the services we can provide for visitors.

Volunteer Service Awards from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration have recently been presented to a number of volunteers. Doug McRoberts received a five-year award for his help at special events and in building exhibit furniture.

Margaret Crisson received a five-year award for fundraising and baking for special events. Cliff Dunkeld has been a Museum Advisory Board member and helped with fundraising, special events, gardening and maintenance to earn his 10-year award.

Nora Richardson received her 15 year award for assisting with special events and food services. Twenty-year award recipient Anne Collard is treasurer/secretary of the Friends of the Museum and helps out at special events, and with food services and fundraising. June Ponting, who received an award for 25 years of volunteering, is currently vice president of the Friends of the Museum and helps with special events and fundraising.

Congratulations to the Museum's 2006 award-winning volunteers and a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers - you're all priceless in our books!

Dorie Billich is curator
of the
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum



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