


**London Life Insurance Company**  
 Representative  
**TIM ROCHACEWICH**  
 B. COMM. CLU. CH. FC., CFP

Serving Stouffville Area Residents Since 1975  
 FOR SALES & SERVICE INFORMATION CALL  
**905-640-4588**

**THE Pickle Pickle RESTAURANT & DELI**  
**OCTOBER SPECIAL!**  
 Roast Turkey Dinner  
 With Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Stuffing & Cranberry Sauce, Garlic Bread **\$15.95** limit one only

**FULLY LICENCED**  
 Open 7 Days a Week • Fast Take Out  
 6302 Main St. • 905-640-5707

## Community Mennonite Voices



### This Will Lead To Dancing

Contributed by Cameron Kaufman-Frey, Pastor

Here's an old joke for you: Why are Mennonites against having sex standing up? Because it might lead to dancing.

If you don't get that joke, then you may wonder why the Mennonite Church struggles with the issue of homosexuality. Today many people criticize religious people for being conservative on issues around sex. Sometimes I hear comments that make it sound like every person who has religious beliefs has the same opinion: sex is bad. The reality is, as reality always is, more complex.

Mennonite Church Canada has been having a long conversation about the spirituality of sex (or the sexuality of spirit?). We try to discuss what makes for healthy sexual experiences and what makes for unhealthy ones. But it's hard to talk about something so personal.

Johnny Wideman, the Artist Director of local drama company Theatre of the Beat, decided that a good way to encourage conversation would be to write a play. Johnny says, "[T]here is something naturally empathetic and compassionate about live theatre. It's an extremely vulnerable thing which I believe has the power to disarm." The result of his research, creative thinking and response to feedback is a play entitled "This Will Lead to Dancing."

The funny but insightful story is about two teenagers, Sam and Alex. They are sick and tired: tired of their church's exclusive stance and sick because they have been on a week-long hunger strike to protest it. But when word finally gets out, it becomes clear that their cause has struck a chord in their small Mennonite community. Crowds gather outside their church, CBC news crews swarm to follow the story, and Sam is visited by the ghost of Menno Simons who claims he has been sent to help her. Awaiting their church's decision, Sam and Alex must decide whether sticking up for a community who has been spiritually starved is worth the risk of physically starving themselves.

But to produce such a play, Johnny needed help. He approached our congregation to ask if we would consider helping to sponsor the play. Community Mennonite Church had already come to consensus on a statement of welcome for LGBTQ people and saw this as an opportunity to engage the wider community in conversation.

We hope you will join us for a performance of this play on October 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parkview Village auditorium (12184 Ninth Line in Stouffville).

**COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH**  
 12184 Ninth Line, Stouffville • [www.cmchurch.ca](http://www.cmchurch.ca)  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10AM • SUNDAY SERVICE - 11AM**

Comparative Cultures

## First Day at School: 'I Wish You More'

By Kinjal Dagli Shah  
 Stouffville Free Press

There was been much hullabaloo in our house in September. Not because it was Back to School season but because it was my first child's First Day at School. I was as nervous and excited as my four-year-old but I was mostly thrilled that she was about to begin her formal journey into learning.

Much as I hate saying goodbyes, whether temporary or long-term, I love new beginnings. I love thinking of the promise of a new tomorrow, the endless possibilities of a journey just begun, and the prospect of being the mother of a child blossoming in school (yay for free time!)

Amid the reams I was suddenly and unwittingly reading on *Back To School In Ten or Twenty or a Hundred Easy Steps*, there was something about helping your child make positive associations with school. It made sense to talk about one's own positive experiences at school, and about how much fun lay in store for the child, especially one that was going to school for the first time. Except, I couldn't stop talking about school - mine or the one she was going to.

I think my excitement might have become a tad overbearing for my four-year-old, who let me pick her first backpack (I did get her approval), pick out her clothes, and make a First Day of School poster-board. Above all, she didn't

get tired of her shutterbug mother, who wanted photographic memories of her from every angle. I deduce that she is set for the world outside.

For a little girl who had never been away from home for more than three hours at a stretch if that, she did exceedingly well, although I may only be slightly biased. There were a few tears, of course, and also the heart-wrenching last hug where you can't tell if she's clinging to you or you to her.

But as she took her first steps into her first school, led by her kindergarten teacher, I could only wish her more, just like the book I had read the earlier week called *I Wish You More* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. And here's what I said to her in my mind:



### I WISH YOU MORE

- I wish you more fun than fear.
- More slides than lines.
- I wish you more discovery than monotony.
- More rainbows than grey skies.
- I wish you more friendship than conflict.
- More hugs than shoves.
- I wish you more depth than shallow.
- More empathy than finger-pointing.
- I wish you more knowledge than ignorance.
- More passion than indifference.

Write to Kinjal at [kinjal.dagli@gmail.com](mailto:kinjal.dagli@gmail.com)

## 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@bell.net](mailto:stouffvillefreepress@bell.net) or call 905-640-3733. The deadline for the November issue is Oct. 19. For event updates visit [stouffville.com](http://stouffville.com).

**Oct. 3-4:** 9:30-11 a.m. at Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism, 124 Dickson Hill Rd. Taoist Tai Chi open house. Visit [taoist.org](http://taoist.org) or call 905-640-0117 for details.

**Oct. 3:** 7:30 p.m. at 19 on the Park: Latcham Gallery fundraising gala with live music from 60s British Invasion tribute band. Art and silent auctions, pub fare, dart competition, mystery envelopes. Visit [latchamgallery.ca](http://latchamgallery.ca) or call 905-640-8954 for details.

**Oct. 3:** 8 p.m. at Christ Church Great Hall, 254 Sunset Blvd.: Back to the 60s Dance with hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Call 416-509-5249 or 416-200-7525 for tickets.

**Oct. 5:** 7-9 p.m. at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church: Markham-Stouffville Federal Riding All Candidates Meeting.

**Oct. 6:** 7-8:30 p.m. at the museum: Free seminar on putting your garden to bed. Call 1-888-967-5426 or visit [york.ca/seminars](http://york.ca/seminars) for details.

**Oct. 8:** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at King Cole Ducks: York & Durham Environmental Farm Tour. Call 416-661-6600 ex.5349 for details.

**Oct. 17-18:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: Stouffville Studio Tour featuring 31 artists at 20 locations. For details visit [stouffvillestudiotour.com](http://stouffvillestudiotour.com) or call 905-642-1721.

**Oct. 18:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Stouffville Legion: Country Breakfast. Tickets at the door.

**Oct. 19:** 7:30 p.m. at Latcham Hall: Stouffville Garden Club meeting with guest speaker Darren Heimbecker, owner of Whistling Gardens near Port Dover. All welcome.

**Oct. 20:** 7-8:30 p.m. at Stouffville District Secondary School: Stouffville Toastmasters' Open House. Call 905-640-8980 for details.

**Oct. 21:** 10 a.m.-noon at 111 Sandford Drive: York Small Business Enterprise Centre seminar on social media. To register visit [yorksmallbusiness.ca/events](http://yorksmallbusiness.ca/events).

**Oct. 24:** 1-2:30 p.m. at the WS Museum: Ghoulicious: A Halloween Treat. Call 905-727-8954 or visit [townofws.ca/museum](http://townofws.ca/museum) for details.

**Oct. 24:** 6 p.m. at the WS Museum: Haunted Museum event. Call 905-727-8954 or visit [townofws.ca/museum](http://townofws.ca/museum) for details.

**Oct. 24:** 7 p.m. at 19 on the Park: The Best of Motus O 25th anniversary celebration. For tickets call 905-640-2322 or visit [nineteeonthepark.com](http://nineteeonthepark.com).

**Oct. 24:** 7 pm till midnight at Stouffville District Secondary School

gym. Indian (Navratri Raas-Garba) Dance Festival presented by Madhur-Yatri & Chorus Group.

**Oct. 25:** 1-5 p.m. at 6240 Main: Audition for Motus O's A Christmas Carol. Email [motuso@sympatico.ca](mailto:motuso@sympatico.ca) to register.

Talking Book Library looking for volunteers  
 TBL produces themed audio books in audio format for Canadians who are visually and print disabled. TBL is looking for volunteers in administration or readers to narrate and make high quality digital sound recordings in either English or Chinese (Cantonese) at our studios in Stouffville. Please contact Betty at 905-640-8825 or email [b.leung@talkingbooklibrary.org](mailto:b.leung@talkingbooklibrary.org).

Latcham Gallery is looking for enthusiastic and reliable volunteers to assist with events, gallery sitting, education programs, marketing distribution and more. If you would like to become part of our dynamic team, email us at [info@latchamgallery.ca](mailto:info@latchamgallery.ca). For more information about our exhibitions, education programs and events visit [www.latchamgallery.ca](http://www.latchamgallery.ca) or call 905-640-8954 or drop in to 6240 Main Street, Stouffville.

CMB needs volunteers in York Region. To apply or for information email Filomena Di Ruscio at [filomena.diruscio@cmb.ca](mailto:filomena.diruscio@cmb.ca) or call 1-800-563-0887 ext. 5207.