

Open Hearts and Open Homes

Creativity Abounds at Home for Christmas House Tour



By Hannelore Volpe

Bring out your 'inner decorator', polish up your Christmas spirit and support local good causes at Stouffville's Home for Christmas House Tour 2015.

You can't help but get into the joy of this festive season as you visit the eight unique homes on this year's tour. It starts Friday, November 6 running from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and includes a twilight reception at Willow Springs Winery, continuing until 10 p.m.

On Saturday, November 7 the tour goes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes Willow Springs Winery, which will be open for refreshments and demonstrations by local businesses.

This year the tour is again supporting the Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity and the ABLE NETWORK. Last year, the self-guided tour raised \$32,000 and was enjoyed by upwards of 950 people.

Designers' creativity abounds and is sure to inspire.

Last year's tour featured the car that was part of The Great Gatsby movie (see picture top left), a home decorated in a Tiffany jewellery box theme, and a sparkling, glowing twig moose head artfully placed above a fireplace. "All the homes are so different and all the designers are so different, you are really 'wowed'", said tour spokesperson Jacky Messner.

This year the designers have ramped up the traditional red and green a few notches to a veritable colour cornucopia. Tour homes range from brand-new suburban, to rural, to heritage.

"People love to see the history and see that 100-year-old home that the owner loves and has kept authentic," Ms. Messner noted.

The tour was started several years ago by local realtor Rosemary Mauro. Today there is a sizeable committee which prepares for the fall tour beginning in January. It has become so popular there is a waiting list of people wanting their home to be included on the tour.

LEBOVIC CENTRE FOR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT Blushing Bride To Be



Sarah Felschow (second from right) along with her mother Rosanne and friends Natalie Vanderkooy (far left) and Judy Ahamad (second from left) took in Stouffville's first Wedding Show at Nineteen on the Park October 10. The show included vendors and providers of wedding services and products from across York and Durham Regions. Sarah is to be married next March.



Cadence Design House, one of the vendors at the show, displays their custom designed Wedding Stationery. From left to right are Tiffany To, Travis Merrick and Nicole Love.

Bruce Stapley photos

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