

Free Opinion

Giving Back

As Christmas approaches and many families and friends celebrate joyfully, others are struggling to make ends meet, or coping with illness and loss. And for them, this can be the most difficult time of the year.

Fortunately for those facing such challenges, Stouffville has a long tradition of helping out. Our Lions Club is front and centre, collecting toys and food for needy families and selling Christmas trees to support local initiatives. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank is a vital resource for people who find it hard to make it from one pay cheque to the next, or who are out of work with no prospect of a job on the horizon.

The annual Community Christmas Dinner, established 20 years ago by Norm Clements and run by a host of selfless volunteers, has done much to alleviate loneliness for those who are far from loved ones and who have nowhere to turn when the rest of the world is celebrating. Our thanks go out to all the wonderful people who put the needs of others before their own in the true spirit of the season.

With the new year just around the corner, a brand new council is getting ready to take on the challenge of running the community for the next four years. All but two of our seven representatives will be sitting on council for the first time, which must be a somewhat daunting prospect. Their job can often be thankless, but we owe them a debt of gratitude for their willingness to try and make a difference.

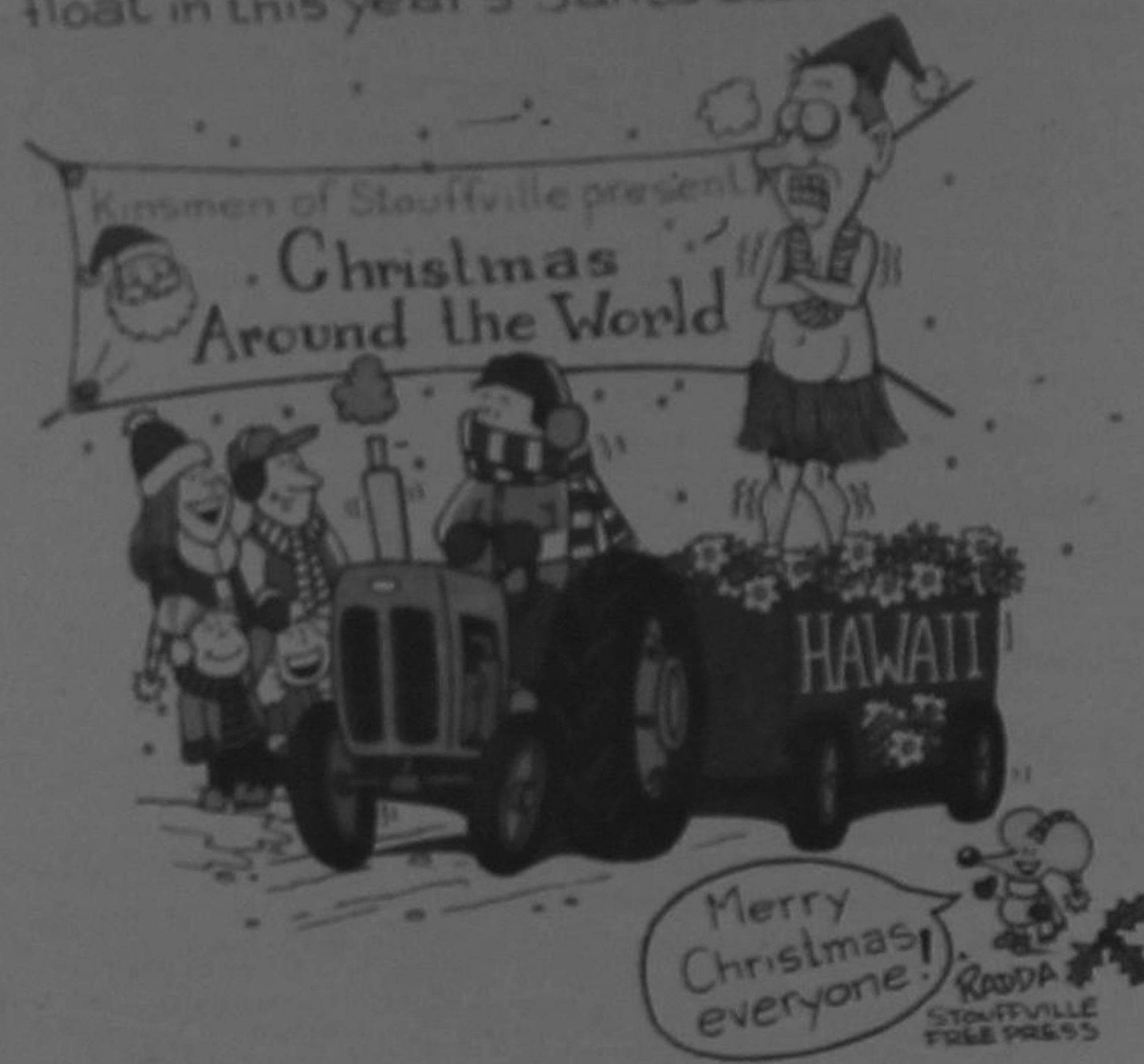
Like most residents we have a wish list for the community. We hope to see a concerted effort to revitalize the downtown, including measures to ensure that absentee landlords maintain their properties and offer reasonable rents to encourage more retailers to locate on Main Street.

We would also like to see a higher percentage of our budget directed towards the arts and our wonderful, but woefully underfunded, library. Getting a commitment to arts funding has always been an uphill battle, and the benefits to the town are often overlooked. A thriving arts scene can attract more people, in turn supporting restaurants and retailers, and creating a true sense of community.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!

Free Thoughts

Charlie might be regretting his choice of float in this year's Santa Claus Parade...



Free Laughs

Local Cafe Supports MS Fundraiser

Joe Rizza (centre) is flanked by incoming mayor Justin Altmann (left) and Frank Giovannelli of Foxtail Property Services who helped him raise \$500 at the All In To End MS fundraising poker tournament at the Stouffville Cafe Nov. 14. Monica Moran photo



On Nov. 14, the Stouffville Café donated space to Joe Rizza and his charitable cause to end multiple sclerosis (MS).

The "All In To End MS" poker tournament went on for hours, as many local residents put on their game face in what Joe Rizza described as "a very successful night".

Joe, who has been battling MS for the last nine years, said, "It was about time I began doing something more about the awareness of MS and contributing to the cost that goes into research for the disease."

With the help of friend and newly-elected Stouffville Mayor Justin Altmann and life-long friend Frank Giovannelli of Foxtail Property Services, "We have taken a few steps in the right direction," said Joe.

"Their contributions are greatly appreciated, along with everyone who showed up and participated. Without the help of the Stouffville Café this would have been a much more expensive evening," he noted.

"This is just the first of many MS fundraisers I will be hosting in town and I plan on doing events of this sort for many more years to come." Joe is already working on his next poker tournament, planned for next April. While the date has yet to be set, Joe has promised he'll get the word out to the community to encourage as many people as possible to participate.

"Don't worry, you'll hear about it through Facebook or right here on the walls of the Stouffville Café," he said.

Capital Gains

Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.

Edward Abbey

The problem with Marxism is the proletariat isn't going to rise up against capitalism and consumerism. The only time they'll rise up is during a commercial break to either go to the bathroom or grab more beer.

Jarod Kintz

The hand that gives is among the hand that takes. Money has no fatherland, financiers are without patriotism and without decency, their sole object is gain.

Napoleon

In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections, organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy.

Matt Taibbi

The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.

Winston Churchill

Our economy is based on spending billions to persuade people that happiness is buying things, and then insisting that the only way to have a viable economy is to make things for people to buy so they'll have jobs and get enough money to buy things.

Philip Slater

Advocates of capitalism are very apt to appeal to the sacred principles of liberty, which are embodied in one maxim: The fortunate must not be restrained

in the exercise of tyranny over the unfortunate.

Bertrand Russell

Modern capitalism needs men who cooperate smoothly and in large numbers; who want to consume more and more; and whose tastes are standardized and can be easily influenced and anticipated ... what is the outcome? Modern man is alienated from himself, from his fellow man and from nature.

Erich Fromm

Capitalism is like Japanese Knotweed: nothing kills it off. If there were only two people left on the planet, one of them would find a way of making money out of the other.

Jeanette Winterson

Under capitalism, man exploits man. Under communism, it's just the opposite.

John Kenneth Galbraith

Capitalism, with its reduction of human experience to labour, production, and capital, seems more responsible for changing societies' regard for the quality of life during the Industrial Revolution. If humans are only valuable as workers, their bodies are preserved and physical pain avoided not because of empathy, dispute, and beauty, but so that they can continue performing as cogs in the machine of production.

Patricia Vieira

Criminal: a person with predatory instincts who has not sufficient capital to form a corporation.

Howard Scott

Stouffville Free Press

Whitchurch-Stouffville's independent community owned newspaper

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@rogers.com

The Stouffville Free Press is published monthly by the Stouffville FREE PRESS Inc. and delivered by Canada Post to most residences and businesses in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Goodwood. The press run is 15,300.

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