

JOY TO EVERYONE

Volunteers continue beautiful tradition

Community
Christmas Dinner Marks
20th Anniversary

Twenty years ago, Norm Clements established the Community Christmas Dinner at the Stouffville Sales Barn.

The idea was to offer people who were alone at Christmas an opportunity to celebrate the season with others. Later, the event moved to EastRidge Church on

Tenth Line, and over the years, hundreds of people have gathered at the venue for a delicious meal donated, cooked and served by an army of dedicated volunteers.

"It has grown such that last year we served approximately 275 meals to people seated in the auditorium of the church," said Maurice Smith, who has volunteered at the event with his wife, Jane, for the past eight years.

"The original idea of us preparing meals for small groups to enjoy the company of a few friends has now grown into a much bigger production than was originally intended." A few years ago, organizers started delivering Christmas dinners to those who were unable to get to the church

and in 2013, volunteers delivered a total 247 meals, a number Mr. Smith estimates will rise to 350 in 2014.

"The people running the program feel that the idea of having small groups get together to share a meal in an intimate and personal environment would be better handled if people stayed in their own home with friends and meals were delivered to them," said Mr. Smith.

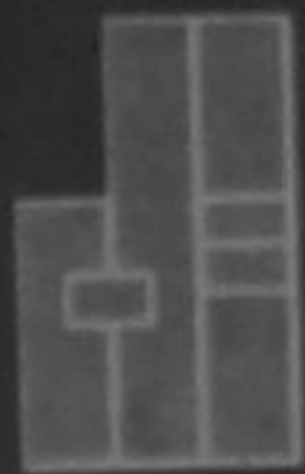
"So this year we have decided that meals will no longer be offered in the large auditorium. We are asking people to come together in a location of their choice. We will prepare and deliver the number of meals requested."

Anyone who would like to have meals

delivered should call the town's customer service line at 905-640-1900 and leave their name, address, telephone number and the number of people who will be attending their gathering. Meals will be delivered on Christmas day between 12 and 12:30 p.m. to locations in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area.

People interested in helping out with preparation or delivery should also call the town and leave their name and number, so that a volunteer can contact them. The Smiths are now running the entire project with the help of many volunteers and the town's customer service personnel.

"As I was recently elected as Ward Two councillor, I am pleased to have this event added to my duties," said Mr. Smith.



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Merry
Christmas

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A Christmas Carol

On Dec. 27 and 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Nineteen on the Park, Motus O Dance Theatre will present its beautiful adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*.

One of the most energetic and heart-warming interpretations of Charles Dickens' classic tale of poverty, misery and redemption, this has become an annual tradition for many local families. Taking audiences on a



roller-coaster journey from laughter to tears and back, Motus O's *Christmas Carol* manages to maintain the deep resonance of the original story with a unique combination of music,

dance and theatre. Fortickets and information visit www.19onthePark.ca or call 905-640-2322.

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22 & 29
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**