

# What's up

in Whitchurch-Stouffville

## Until Sept. 12

**It's About Time.** Fascinating exhibit of timepieces, and a brief history of time. Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, Vandorf. Call 905-727-8954 for hours of operation.

## Until Sept. 26

**Silver Memories.** Commemorative Exhibition featuring artists from the last quarter century. Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main Street. Call 905-640-8954 for hours of operation.

## Sept. 6

**Labour Day.** Last holiday of the summer. Enjoy the long weekend and take a moment to say thanks to the workers of the world.

## Sept. 7

**First Day of School.** Don't sleep in and miss it!  
**Back to Blues Choir.** First rehearsal for winter season. 7:30 p.m. Christ Church Anglican, 254 Sunset. Singers in all sections welcome.  
**Town Council Meeting.** Council is expected to decide whether to put further study into the Clock Tower Theatre proposal. 7 p.m. 4th Floor, 37 Sandiford Drive.

## Sept. 13

**Men of Note** First rehearsal of season for Stouffville's male choir. 7:30 p.m. Stouffville United Church. Come join us, tenors particularly needed!

## Sept. 16

**York Durham Academy of Performing Arts.** Information meeting for performers young and old for exciting new season of shows. 7 p.m. Orchard Park School. See page 4 for full details.

**Latcham Gallery Gala 25th Anniversary Celebration.** Retrospective exhibit, refreshments, meet the artists! Everyone welcome. 7 p.m. 6240 Main Street.

## Sept. 19

**Annual Terry Fox Run.** 1-4 p.m. See page 15 for full details.

## Sept. 21

**Town Council Meeting.** 7 p.m. 4th Floor, 37 Sandiford Drive.

## Sept. 25

**Chamber of Commerce Car Rally.** Call the Chamber at 905-642-4227 to register.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteer and help save lives. **Canadian Blood Services** needs volunteers during weekdays in the Stouffville area. Service groups are also welcome. Call 416-313-4614 to apply.

The **Stouffville Community Policing Centre** needs volunteers to assist with office administration, crime prevention and community outreach. For information call 905-642-1238.

The **Buckingham Manor Retirement Home** needs volunteers who can commit two to three hours weekly, bi-weekly or monthly to help out with residents' activities such as carpentry, model building, crafts, musical entertainment, bingo etc. Mothers with infants are welcome for a senior/infant visiting program. Call Marianne or Elaine at 905-640-6660 for details.

**CHATS (Community Housing Assistance to Seniors)** has a waiting list of seniors in need

of services, including transportation (mileage paid), weekly visits, lunch out volunteers and Meals on Wheels drivers. For more information, please call toll free 1-877-452-4287 ext. 6013.

The **Whitchurch-Stouffville Recycling Depot** is looking for volunteers. For more information, visit our web site at <http://worknotes.com/ON/Stouffville/Recycle> or e-mail [recycle@enoreo.on.ca](mailto:recycle@enoreo.on.ca)

**Girl Guides of Canada** needs girls and women to help with unit meetings, organizing and running special events, and administrative work. High school students welcome. Call 905-640-4084 for information.

The **York-Durham Aphasia Centre** needs kind, caring and enthusiastic volunteers to work with adults who have communication disorders at our Stouffville location. Our program provides a rewarding experience for clients and volunteers in a relaxed atmosphere. Professional staff provide training and support. For more information contact Bonnie at 905-642-2053.

**Whitchurch-Stouffville This Month welcomes community event listings from churches, arts groups, service clubs and other non-profit groups and organizations.** Please send a brief synopsis of upcoming events by e-mail to [boycehome@interhop.net](mailto:boycehome@interhop.net), fax to 905-640-8778 or mail to 34 Civic Avenue, Stouffville, Ont. L4A 7Z5. The deadline for October submissions is September 21.

# Rural Reflections

by  
Ruth  
LeBlanc



## A Vigil for John

We all share in experiences that either enhance our lives or shake us to our very human foundations. Up until a few weeks ago, the worst summer experience I'd had was the bad weather and having our fish Fred die. Then tragedy struck.

In mid-August a local teenager, John Chaput, was the victim of a freak accident. Combine highly flammable liquid with a match and you have John receiving second and third degree burns to his upper body.

Since entering Stouffville High, John has been a regular fixture at the BIA office. Witty and kind, spiced with the impatience of youth, I have grown to care deeply for this great guy. Hearing the heart-breaking news, I could only pray that the drugs could keep the pain at bay. They couldn't and they wouldn't, but for the moment it was all I had.

The day after this awful accident kids trickled into my office with stricken faces and a sense of hopelessness. I suggested to Carly McLean, a local teen, that there was something we could do. We could rally all of John's buddies together and hold a prayer vigil that very evening.

By 1 p.m. the calls were out and cell phones were ringing. We dropped in to see the Chair of the BIA, Eric Button, who along with myself is a great advocate of our youth, and always encourages their involvement in our activities. He agreed it was a great idea and would help in the healing process, and Carly and I set out on a mission for our Johnny.

The place was the basketball

court, John's second home, and the time was 9 p.m. At Stouffville Missionary Church, the amazing staff arranged to have Pastor Tim come to lead the prayer vigil. We grabbed two new basketballs and Carly made gigantic cards for all the kids to sign when they arrived and later give to the family.

Then the magic started to happen. At 8 p.m. they started to arrive. Small groups of somber-looking teenagers stood waiting and talking quietly. All types, shapes and sizes came, and by 9 p.m. with John's brother Rob, his grandmother and uncle and aunt and cousins, we were over 70 strong.

It was very dark when we assembled. Subdued youth came together in a large circle with heads bowed. A pin could have been heard if it had dropped. Standing beneath the stars with words to God to help heal John and comfort his family and friends, I was moved beyond words.

You can be sure some of these kids are not regular attendees at church, but faith and love for their good friend brought them together. They are real, they feel and what wonderful people they are. Together, we ended with a final moment of silence when we all sent our personal prayers to John.

We hoped that maybe for that one moment John would feel peace and no pain. The next morning we found out that the tube in his throat had been removed and he could now speak.

We all like to believe in miracles and maybe, just maybe, our prayers will be answered for John.

# HERITAGE TRAIN RIDES

Saturdays & Sundays

Dinner Train

Murder Mystery

Dinner Train & Murder Mystery - limited seating  
Reservations required.

[www.ydhr.on.ca](http://www.ydhr.on.ca)