Stouffvillethismonth

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The Stouffville Santa Claus Parade gets underway at 2 p.m. Dec. 6. Last year's parade featured bands, clowns and floats from local schools, churches and businesses. Here young parishioners from Christ Church Anglican welcome in the 2002 Christmas season.

When Wayne Emmerson first became mayor nine years ago, his goal was to try and serve the town for three terms.

Having accomplished what he set out to do during a period of unprecedented local growth and change, he has stuck to that decision, albeit with mixed feelings. "I'll really miss the contact with the residents and my staff," said the veteran politician. "The staff have been really good to me."

What he will not miss is being on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. "I'm looking forward to a normal life, not going out to dinners and meetings at night. I want to spend time at home with my family." His life as a private citi-

zen began with a move from his home in downtown Stouffville to the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club.

During Mr. Emmerson's tenure, a second ice pad and the new pool/library complex were built. He established the Mayor's Youth Fund, which raised almost \$140,000 for local programs and sports equipment for young people in town. His New Year's Eve celebration at Memorial Park, a personal initiative that quickly became a tradition for many local families, gave him particular satisfaction.

With help from people and organizations in the community, including the Lions Club and vol-

unteer firefighters, he organized outdoor skating rinks, horsedrawn sleigh rides and a grand firework display to wrap up the evening. He has now returned to a full-time position with Schell Lumber, where he's worked for more than 30 years. "It's a great" family business and they have been very good to me."

He believes that the community can retain its small town atmosphere if people continue to participate in local events and support local causes. After nine years at the helm, he thinks it's time to move on and let other people bring a fresh perspective to the table. "I wish the new council the best of luck."



WAYNE EMMERSON

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