

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE THIS MONTH

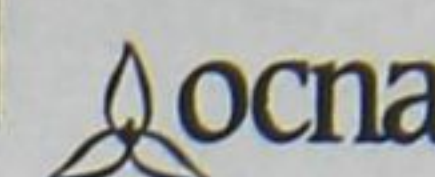
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Mayor Emmerson prepares for his retirement...



Opinion

THE GIFT OF GIVING

In the aftermath of the November election, we would like to acknowledge the hard work of those who are leaving public office and welcome the newcomers taking their place, as well as those who are returning for another term to tackle the challenging task of managing our future.

We would also like to give a vote of thanks to the staff at the municipal offices who keep the machinery of the town running smoothly. In an age of automated telephone systems, it is a pleasure to be able to call and speak to a friendly human being instead of a machine.

When outgoing mayor Wayne Emmerson was preparing to leave his office for the last time, he said that one of the things he will miss most of all is his interaction with town staff. He also pointed out that despite development, Whitchurch-Stouffville can maintain its small town flavour if people are willing to get involved with local events and volunteer their time for good causes. As Christmas rolls around once more, that spirit of community has never been more evident.

From Luke's Bid and Bop to the Christmas lunch at Stouffville Country Market, residents and organizations are willingly giving their time and money to help others. Once again the Stouffville Lions Club is helping local families in need with the annual Christmas Basket Project and the BIA has set up a Salvation Army Elf Tree at the train station, where you can drop off toys and gift certificates for children and teens.

These are just a few examples of how this community opens its heart to those who are in need. If you, your company or an organization you belong to is involved in a project to help others, we would love to hear about it. And don't forget to shop at home this Christmas, because our local merchants are front and centre when it comes to supporting community causes.

For most of us, Christmas means joy, family gatherings and a renewal of hope. But it's important to remember that for those who have lost a loved one, are struggling to survive financially, or are far from family and friends, it can be the most painful time of year.

This town provides proof of the old maxim that it is better to give than to receive. So get into the spirit of giving and have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Letters

Our town has a huge and generous heart

To the Editor:

The Bid & Bop party for Luke Anderson was a very special evening for everyone. It was like a town reunion, giving folks a chance to visit old and young alike.

My mind went back to 1988 when Luke and Bill Anderson spoke to a huge crowd at Markham Fair. It was when (my daughter) Debra was in

Newmarket hospital fighting for her life and the town rallied around for her, and I was speaking at a dinner at the fairgrounds which she could not attend. Luke was right, it was overwhelming, giving a feeling that cannot be explained, a memory that cannot be forgotten, brightening the days ahead and giving us the strength to face tomorrow.

The Bid & Bop was a benefit for everyone. We had lots of opportunities to bid on great items but more important, we all were part of such a special night. Stouffville is expanding but it has a huge and generous heart and will always be like home to me.

Thank you everyone for being there for me.

Terri Ness

Sounding Off

What does Santa do when he's finished delivering all the presents?



NICOLETTE DIDONE

He dances around his house at the North Pole and goes swimming in his pool.



QUINN KEMBER

He opens his presents and eats all the candy canes with his elves.



RYAN WATSON

When he gets done he takes off his suit and his mask and has a sleep.



CATHERINE VIRDIRAMO

First he sleeps and then works and goes on vacation to Florida where it's warm.



HAILEY VANDERBURGT

After Christmas is over he makes more presents until the next Christmas.