

SPCA offers pet portraits

Pet photographer Dorothy Puddester, a volunteer at the Ontario Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, has come up with a way to raise funds for the society.

Ms. Puddester provides her expertise to take portraits of family pets on a monthly basis at the York Region branch in Whitchurch-Stouffville, donating the proceeds to the Ontario SPCA. Her next visit is on Dec. 7, from noon to 4 p.m., and you

can book your pet's portrait by calling 1-888-668-7722. It's a great Christmas gift for the whole family.

Examples of the photographer's work can be seen on the society's website at www.ospca.on.ca. The society is also sponsoring Pet Photos with Santa between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Dec. 14 and 20 at the new Petsmart store in Newmarket. For more information visit the website or call the telephone number above.

Stores plan extended hours

Most downtown stores will be open Monday to Sunday during December, with late shopping on Thursdays.

The newest store on the block, Alabaster Box, which is located in the former Flanagan's Folk Art building, will host special Saturday afternoons with Santa. Children of all ages are invited to drop by, tell the jolly old elf what they want for Christmas and enjoy a free candy cane. Santa will be at the store 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 6, 13 and 20.

REGISTRATION

Whitchurch-Stouffville SOCCER CLUB

for 2004 Outdoor Season
for Children born 1999 and earlier

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2003**

at the Stouffville Arena on Ninth Line
10 am to 2 pm

Register Now -

Prices increase after December 31

Sponsors, referees and
coaches are needed

Plus men's and women's leagues
for players aged 18 to 55

www.wssc.info

<<http://www.wssc.info>>

E-mail: admin@wssc.info

<<mailto:admin@wssc.info>>



Stumbling through Stouffville

with Bruce Stapley

BRUCE UNCORKED

If the success of a Christmas season can be measured by the extent of good cheer shared with family and friends, I should be in for a most festive few weeks later this month as my latest hobby bears fruit in the most literal sense.

For it was in May of last year when, driven by a combination of curiosity and frugality, I walked into one of Stouffville's make your own wine outlets to check out their merchandise. Ontario being the last bastion of Women's Christian Temperance Union sobriety, however, I was forbidden by law to sample even a drop, having to instead take the word of the proprietor that his product was comparable, if not superior, to much of the vino made commercially.

I decided to take a flyer, and after six weeks of anxious anticipation I nervously uncorked my first bottle of Australian Chardonnay, took a sip and was delighted to discover it was quite comparable to the \$10 brand name stuff from down under that we had long ago dubbed our "house wine".

A year and a half, and a fair amount of trial and error later, we have reached the point where our basement wine cellar now boasts no less than 14 labels. This vast variety has come about partly as a result of conning friends and relatives into splitting batches so we could all try as many types as possible. I haven't had any dumped back on my doorstep so they must be happy

with it too.

My best friend, a wine snob from way back, was thrilled to see me finally learn that there was a world of difference between a Syrah and a Sangiovese. By way of contributing to my ongoing education, his Christmas gift to me last year was a 900 page tome by renowned wine teacher and authority Karen MacNeil called *The Wine Bible*. He even agreed to go halves with me on a couple of batches and admitted to being somewhat impressed - although I would discover later that he and his wife ended up using theirs primarily for cooking.

Half the fun of my new hobby has been trying to learn the lingo associated with viewing, smelling and tasting the wine. Gord Moorey, who runs Wine Wine here in town, gave me a chart including the endless fruits, nuts, spices, and even animals, tars and chemicals to which the aroma of a wine can be compared. Although I must admit I'm yet to detect even a hint of eucalyptus, dry musk, or cat's urine in the wine I've made!

Lately, I've expanded my horizons and tried making a few of the home made beers offered at the do-it-yourself outlets. Another success, as the brown ale we made is not unlike many of my beloved British brews!

So with Christmas drawing nigh all that remains is to gather with those who are dear to us, bring out a few bottles of my new pride and joy, and toast the season.

Cheers!

Local swimmers triumph at games

by Micole Ongman

This fall, Stouffville's Junior Lifeguard Club went to Mississauga's Cawthra Pool for the 2003 TYR Ontario Junior Lifeguard Games. A team of 12 dedicated swimmers were rewarded with excellent results.

Seven finished in the top 10 in their respective age categories. Greg Clubbe, 11, won a first in Obstacle Swim and Throwing Accuracy, and a fourth in Object Support. Michelle Cinnamon, in the same category, got a first in Throwing Accuracy.

Alyssa McManingwell, 10, got a

fifth in Object Support. Special congratulations to first-time swimmers Ann Creighton, 9, who won a first in Object Support, a fourth in the Obstacle Swim, a fifth in the Lifesaving Medley and a sixth in Tow with Fins; and to Elisa Tucci, 10, who got a third in Throwing Accuracy.

The team represented the Town with excellent sportsmanship and great spirit. With the Ontario Games completed, swimmers are looking forward to the upcoming games and will continue their training to improve their lifesaving skills. A spe-

cial thank you goes to the Mayor's Youth Committee for sponsoring the team at this event and to the parents for their enthusiasm and support.

In November, Stouffville participated in the Telegames, and in May the team will travel to Mississauga once again for the National Championships. Swimmers between 7 and 15 years of age who are able to swim 50 metres and tread water for one minute are welcome to join. For more information, contact coach Yorick Tong at the Lebovic Leisure Centre, 905-642-7529.

Deluxe

It's always hard to separate
home from work.



Model
1028



Model
724



Work Smarter. Work Faster.
With Ariens Smart Features.

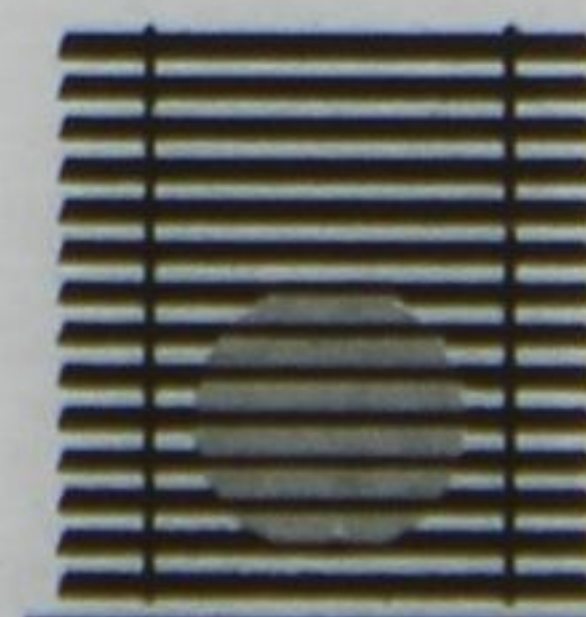
Call for prices

Hutchinson Farm Supply Inc.

www.hutchinsonfarmsupply.com

14183 Hwy. 48
Stouffville
905 640-2692

Season's
Greetings FROM



**SHINE
-A-
BLIND
CANADA**

Professional Window Treatment Specialist
BLINDS & SHADES

• CLEAN • SELL • SERVICE

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL

905 642-5555