

## YOU 177: You'll be asked to share dreams for community

BY SANDRA BOLAN

As part of the new YOU 177 initiative, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library is leading a One Town, One Book program.

"One book programs are a unique way to turn the personal experience of reading into a shared one by encouraging everyone in a community to read and discuss the same book at the same time," says WS Public Library CEO Carolyn Nordheimer James.

Through One Town, One Book readings and activities, young and old will explore dreams for themselves, the community and world. Participants will get to know each other better, develop a shared vision for the future, and start collaborative actions to address needs identified by the community.

The program, which is for adults and children, features the award-winning book *Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom and Wishes* by local author Susan V. Bosak.

"You're never too young or too old to dream," says Bosak. "*Dream* is in a picture book format, but it's written for all ages. It's about hopes and dreams across a lifetime, through history, and into the future. And it starts with a simple question we're asking everyone in Whitchurch-Stouffville - what's your dream?"

One Town, One Book launched with an intergenerational reading of *Dream* at St. Brendan School. The reading included local elders from the Stouffville 55+ Club, students from St. Brendan, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Daniele Zanotti, CEO of United Way York Region.

YOU 177 stands for 1 world with 7 generations, 7 billion people - and you.



It is the result of 10 years of research by the Legacy Project, a Whitchurch-Stouffville-based research and social innovation group Ms. Bosak helped found.

The Legacy Project has joined forces with the Mayor's office, library, Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, local media, service clubs, faith-based groups, schools and seniors' groups.

The Legacy Project will receive \$30,000 from the United Way's In Every Neighbourhood program.

"We are investing this \$30,000 in your town so children, youth, adults, and seniors can come together to share, solve problems, and dream together," said Daniele Zanotti, United Way York Region CEO.

The participants at the St. Brendan's reading of *Dream* presented Mayor Wayne Emmerson with Dream Stars, which had written on them their personal dreams as well as their wishes for the whole of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Some of the students' dreams included career aspirations such as movie producer, video game designer, pilot, professional soccer player, and veterinarian.

Among the wishes of the 55+ Club members were slow residential growth, a place to call their own, and inclusiveness.

During the next year, all Whitchurch-Stouffville residents are challenged to dream bigger through events, activities, and action plans to make the community stronger.

Now it is time for the rest of Whitchurch-Stouffville to share their dreams. The library will become Dream Star headquarters.

For more information, go to [www.wsyou177.org](http://www.wsyou177.org).

