

Local student getting a taste of party politics

By BRUCE ETHERIDGE
A budding politician from Unionville is heading to Ottawa next week to challenge political big-wigs on such issues as free trade,

acid rain and the arms race. Tim Hutzul, a grade 12 honor student at St. Robert Catholic High School, is one of 100 high school and college students parti-

cipating in the Forum for Young Canadians. The forum gives students from across the country a chance to see first-hand the Canadian political system in operation.

but I'm not so sure it would be good for Canada politically. Canada could end up being dominated by the States."

He's also looking forward to bandying about ideas on today's hot political topics and "finding out what kids across the country think."

Tim says exchanging ideas "gives you a different perspective on things and helps broaden your own horizons on subjects."

He's heading into the discussion on immigration with the position that, "Canada has a responsibility to take legitimate refugees."

But he approves the recent government crackdown which has tightened up borders and intensified refugee screening.

"The people that come to Canada for economic reasons rather than political ones have been slipping through the loop holes," Tim says.

While the students bring their own ideas to the debate they have to conform those principles to party policy. They'll be "tutored" beforehand with background information on the party and the riding they'll be representing.

Tim's not new to such debates. In grade 9 he was selected to represent his school at a mock United Nations meeting at Queen's University.

The 18-year-old honor student has maintained an average of 84 per cent this year despite carrying four grade 13 subjects.

He also played for the boy's senior basketball team, served on the Athletic Association, was a member of St. Robert's Reach for the Top team, and co-editor of the school yearbook.

He currently plans a career in law but could, "possibly move to politics after." He says the forum will give him the chance to "see if politics is really for me."

From May 2-9, they observe proceedings in the House of Commons, the Senate and the Supreme Court.

Students also take part in a mock cabinet discussion on immigration and stage an always-volatile Federal-Provincial Conference.

They then get the chance to fire questions at members of parliament and cabinet. Tim hopes to buttonhole a few of the Cabinet ministers.

One area he'd like to question the government on is free trade. "It could have some positive effects on Canada," Tim conceded in an interview. "Free trade might be good economically

Naturalists open local chapter

Ducks Unlimited, a coalition of conservationists and hunters banding together to preserve wetlands for waterfowl, will hold a dinner and auction to gain momentum for the new Markham chapter.

To be held Wednesday, May 6 at Cedarbrae Golf Club, the \$40 cost also entitles the purchaser to become part of the continent-wide

organization that boasts 600,000 members.

"It's a private, non-profit organization celebrating its 50th anniversary," says local spokesman Ross Barnhardt.

"In Ontario for 15 years, the group builds dikes and controls water levels and marshes in association with the land owner," says Mr. Barnhardt.

Preserves in the area are lo-

cated north of the town and although there are none in Markham a few sites have potential, he says.

With owners' permission the land can be used for hunting, he says but "Ducks Unlimited doesn't care as long as wetlands are preserved for ducks to nest," he says.

The auction boasts up to 130 items.

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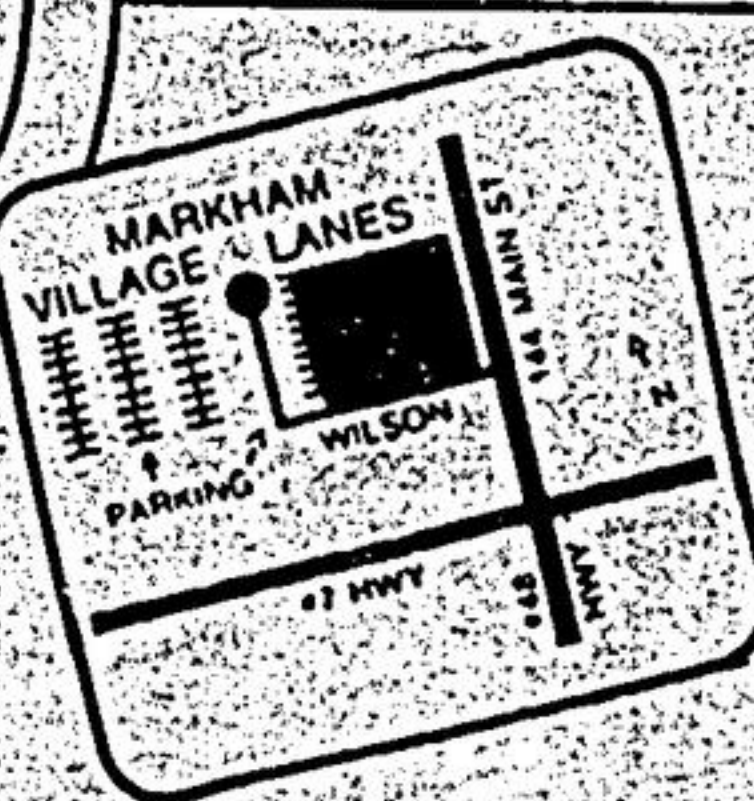


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