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Education \$ concerns

STOUFFVILLE — Alleged cutbacks in provincial education funding have prompted the holding of a meeting at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Wed., Dec. 7.

The decision, approved by the Home and School Associations of Ballantrae, Dickson's Hill, Whitchurch-Highlands, Orchard Park and Summitview, follows a seminar held at Aurora High School, Nov. 4.

Local educators fear Queen's Park will soon enact legislation that will place an even greater burden on the local taxpayer. They claim provincial funding is now less than the 60% originally promised.

Bob Cressman, Director of Education for the Region of York, will be the guest speaker. Bill Ballinger, York-Durham MPP has been invited.

The time is 7:30 p.m.

"This meeting is not only to enlighten parents who have children in the public school system, but for all taxpayers who have an interest in how their tax dollars are spent," explained Lesley Van Ven, vice-president of the Ballantrae Parents' Association.

Band toots its horns

STOUFFVILLE — On Thursday, (to-morrow), the instrumental excellence of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School will be fully appreciated.

S.D.S.S. will present its annual pre-Christmas Band Concert at the Markham Theatre, Warden Avenue, Unionville.

Starting time is 8 p.m.

Performances will include the Grade 9 Band, the Sr. Band and selections by the school's Jazz Choir.

The concert will run two hours. Tickets are available at the Theatre box office, \$5.75 adults, \$2.75 students and seniors.

A visit from Santa Claus is anticipated.

Busy man

Santa will be the busiest man in town on Saturday.

He'll be riding in style in a parade that will include floats, bands and a circus of clowns.

The colorful event begins at 2 p.m. from the intersection of Stouffer Street and Tenth Line North and concludes at Stouffville Place Mall. Judging will take place at one. This difficult task will fall to businessman Neil Patrick; councillor-elect Doug Alles and Cathy Richardson of the Rec. Centre staff.

A reality

It's Blue Box Time in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The Town-wide recycling program begins Dec. 1.

Blue boxes have been distributed across the municipality, one to every home. Apartments and business places are not included.

The pick-up of recyclables will occur same day as regular garbage collection.

All awards presented
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A happy homecoming

By JIM THOMAS

Forty-one days after entering hospital, 17-year-old Debra Surman returned home.

The initial reaction, one of shock and sorrow, had changed to joyous celebration.

Debra, seriously injured in a single-vehicle accident near Newmarket, Oct. 16, has made a remarkable recovery. While still weak, she was able to walk from the road to the house aided by a helper on each arm.

The atmosphere inside the lobby of York County Hospital was one of ecstasy and anticipation. Three SDSS classmates, Stephanie Barclay, Tonya Holst and Lori Woolford accompanied by close friend Laura Campbell of Guelph University, stood impatiently in the hall. A white stretch limo, provided by Century Limousine Inc., of Ballantrae, was parked nearby.

A cheer went up as Debra wheeled into view.

Wearing a "Don't Worry, Be Happy" sweater, she smiled in obvious delight at the unexpected reception.

At the approaches to town, signs at Lloyd Britton Auto Sales, Betz Pools and Patrick Motors, displayed the sentiments of all residents. "Welcome Home Debra, We Love You," the Britton signboard read.

People stopped and waved. A gentleman holding a video camera recorded the joyous event.

Yellow balloons and ribbons, rippled in the wind at 53 Manitoba Street. A banner, artistically drawn by Stouffville's Jim Brazier, was attached to the garage door. It repeated the "Welcome Home" message.



Debra Surman, (right), and Terri, her mother, give the thumbs-up sign on their arrival home, Friday. Debra spent 41 days in hospital following a near-fatal auto accident near Newmarket Oct. 16.



"Welcome Home Debra, We Love You," read the sign at Lloyd Britton Auto Sales, Main Street West. Cards signed by more than 1,000 friends help buoy up Debra's spirits during her stay in hospital.

Two councillors praised

By RUTH BURKHOLDER
 S.T.O.U.F.F.V.I.L.L.E.

"Sometimes you voted with me and sometimes you were wrong."

With tongue in cheek, Nov. 22, Jim Rae summed up his eight years on Whitchurch-Stouffville Council.

Councillor Rae did not seek reelection Nov. 14. His successor is councillor-elect Nick Tatone, Vandalia Road.

"Fellow members" lavished praise on Councillor Rae. Both Roni Robb, (Ward 2), and Wayne Emmerson, (Ward 4), said

they'd often approached him for advice; advice that was always freely given.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said she'd learned much about things like litres and 2-4-D. She expressed appreciation of his concern for the farmer, a dying breed in Whitchurch-Stouffville, she said.

"We'll all miss you," she concluded.

"I didn't think I'd done so much," Councillor Rae responded. "And to think, I could have charged you all a consultant's fee."

Mr. Rae said he had no intention of leaving town and hoped to help out in some capacity as a volunteer.

Councillor Robb described Councillors Rae and Sanders as two main 'pushers' for recycling. It was fitting, he said, that the Blue Boxes should be distributed while Councillor Rae was still in office.

"You have done a great service to the municipality," he said.

Kind words were also spoken of Councillor Wilf Morley. Robb

described him as "an excellent Planning Committee chairman and a great asset to Council."

"He wasn't afraid to speak his piece, even if what he had to say wasn't too popular, he said it," he continued.

Mr. Morley wasn't present for Council's farewells.

Absent also was Councillor Margot Marshall.

The Town's inaugural meeting is set for Tues., Dec. 6 at 7:15 p.m.

Santa will ride in style Saturday

STOUFFVILLE — Santa Claus comes to town on Saturday.

The procession will include more than 30 floats, six bands and a circus of clowns.

The colorful event begins at 2 p.m. from the intersection of Stouffer Street and Tenth Line North and concludes at Stouffville Place Mall. Judging will take place at one. This difficult task will fall to businessman Neil Patrick; councillor-elect Doug Alles and Cathy Richardson of the Rec. Centre staff.

The theme is "Christmas of the Future."

The parade will include local dignitaries MP Bill Attewell; MPP Bill Ballinger; Regional Chairman Eldred King; Town Mayor Fran Sainsbury; Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville Melinda Lehman; Citizen of the Year Jean Barkey and Laina Oad, Queen of Markham Fair.

"It's going to be a great day," Stan Szymkow of the Kin-sponsored parade committee told The Tribune.

Festival of lights

Stouffville's downtown will echo to the Festival of Bells, Friday night.

The event, now in its second year, is hosted by the Stouffville B.I.A.

Activities get underway at 7 p.m.

The evening's emcee is Lorne Boadway.

The sound of chimes from Stouffville United Church will beckon residents, young and old, to gather at the clock tower in the Town Square.

The giant Christmas tree will be lit by Councillor Jim Sanders, assisted by Mr. Boadway.

Music for the occasion will be provided by the Whitevale Bell-Ringers; a choir from Summitview Public School and members of the Music Mania chorus.

Staff from the Stouffville Office of Family Trust will provide hot chocolate. And, yes, Santa Claus will be there with hundreds of candy canes for all good little boys and girls.

Some merchants will be offering refreshments as well.

Down town stores will remain open until nine.



The view was grreat!

Toni the Tiger of Kellogg fame visited Orchard Park School, Friday, much to the delight of staff and students. It arrived courtesy Cameron Balloons of Stouffville, in response to an Enrichment Class study course on "Methods of Flight". The balloon, specially hand-crafted for the Kellogg company, cost close to \$70,000 to construct.

Skating champion

WHITCHURCH — An eleven-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville girl who dreams some day of becoming a Canadian figure skating champion, saw a portion of that wish come true, Friday.

Sandra Shuker, daughter of Ron and Jill Shuker, R.R. 1, Cedar Valley, captured the 1989 Central Ontario Section Pre-Novice Ladies Title with a superb performance in competition at Newmarket.

There were twelve competitors in her class.

The Grade 6, Ballantrae School student, scored high marks in both figure and free-skate performances. She received an engraved medal, a trophy and a bouquet of flowers.

Sandra is a member of the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club and the York Region Skating Academy. She'll advance to Novice competition next year.

Could still be King

YORK REGION — An acclamation for York Regional Chairman Eldred King is a very real possibility.

The election is scheduled for the inaugural meeting Thurs., Dec. 8 at 2 p.m., in the Regional Council Chambers, Newmarket.

Mr. King has indicated a willingness to stand. He took over the important post in September 1984 after Tony Roman entered the federal field as an Independent Member of Parliament.

Mr. King retained the position for a full term from 1985 through 1988.

Action!

Politicians and motorists can soon breathe a sigh of relief.

Automatic traffic signals are being installed at the intersection of Bloomington Road and Hwy. 7 in Stouffville.

Work started Nov. 22 and should be completed in three weeks.

The cost has been estimated at \$370,000.

Mr. King recently released a sponsored Bill Ballinger, MPP of Durham 207. He attributed the delay in similar projects underway in the province.

"This is only one of many things," he said.

Two more pushes for upgrades at this location have been made by Ron King, MPP of Durham 207, and Councillor Jim Sanders of Stouffville and Councillor Wilf Morley of Uxbridge.

Teacher shortage

YORK REGION — The York Region Board of Education has scrapped its Early Retirement Incentive Program due to a shortage of teachers.

The arrangement was established three years ago when the province was experiencing a teacher surplus, Bob Cressman, Director of Education told a Board meeting Monday.

"It would be counter-productive to encourage teachers to retire when there's a shortage," Cressman said.

"Back then, there were people hanging on and we thought it would be an incentive for them to leave," Cressman noted.

"But now, there's such a shortage we have depleted, if not exhausted our supply."

The situation's so serious, if the provincial government doesn't do something to encourage a return to the profession, we'll be scrambling to fill positions like 25 years ago, Cressman said.

Unionville High School principal Ken Cluley urged the Board to continue its Early Retirement Incentive Program.

The policy, he said, had saved close to \$887,000 in teacher salaries.

Replacing experienced teachers at a maximum salary with those having less experience, had resulted in significant savings, he stated.