

Stouffville Tribune

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Town residents want bigger library

Stouffville residents are willing to support the expansion of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library and Latcham Gallery, an extensive library needs study revealed last week.

But before a wide-scale expansion takes place, many important hurdles must be passed, the library's chief executive officer said in an interview last week.

"The results of our study show that people will support an expansion," Marilyn Ferguson said. "But this survey is just the first step in the process and it will be up to town council and the taxpayers to set the priorities for the town."

More than 40 local residents turned out for the Aug. 14 needs study meeting — including York Regional Chairman Eldred King and his wife — to hear the results of the detailed library study.

Tabulated by Fox, Jones and Associates, the study revealed that 43 per cent of respondents would accept a personal tax increase to help finance an expansion of the library.

And of the 738 respondents responding, 615 or 83 per cent, were taxpayers.

Thirty-seven per cent of the residents surveyed said they disapproved of a tax increase while 20 per cent said they didn't know.

"The survey revealed that people would rather pay more than have existing services removed," Ferguson said.

Blackout Sunday in east Stouffville

A transformer malfunction resulted in a two-hour power blackout for many houses in Stouffville's east end Sunday.

The transformer, located in front of 210 Stouffer St. N., went out with a loud "pop" when a feeder cable melted at approximately 12:30 p.m., according to Brian Carter of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Electric Commission, which was called to the scene to repair the damage.

The Stouffville Volunteer Fire Department was called when a neighbor heard the "pop" and reported smoke coming out of the transformer.

Power was reported out on Stouffer St., Vanzant Court, Boyer St., and parts of Main St. E.

The survey was conducted over the past few months throughout the Stouffville area and approximately 12 per cent of the 6,000 surveys sent out to area homes were returned.

Fox, Jones researcher Christina Becker said the 12-per cent return rate was "very impressive" for a survey of this magnitude.

The survey revealed that more women use the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library and Latcham Gallery than men, most library goers are married, and most have a high school education.

And the survey showed most Stouffville residents want more programming, longer hours, a designated children's area, and a "quick pick-up area" for borrowers in a hurry.

"Residents would love a browser's area because a lot of people work and they want a quick-pick selection area," Ferguson said. "It would not necessarily be the latest editions, but it would have topics that are of common interest."

Ferguson said residents would also like the Latcham Gallery to offer more community-related artwork and have a full-time person on duty to answer questions.

"The residents think the gallery is well thought of in the community, but it isn't utilized to the extent it should be," Ferguson said.

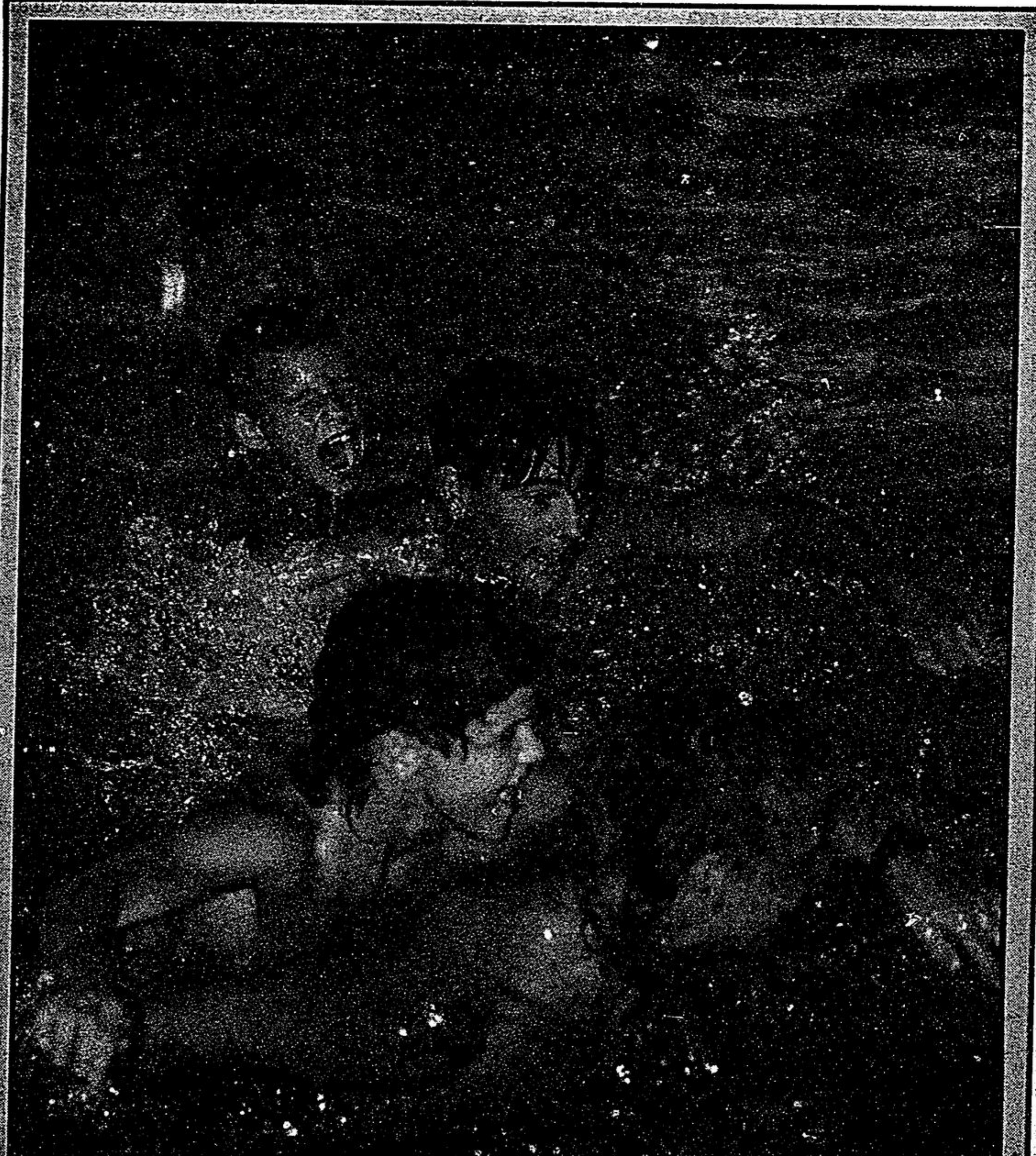
With the needs study survey and public meeting now complete, the initial process of the expansion is almost over.

And if the Library Board — which oversees the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library — accepts the Phase One report on Sept. 6, Phase Two will commence.

"Phase Two is the stage where we look at tax dollars, timing, place, the present site, bookmobiles, branch libraries, having the gallery offsite, all these areas," Ferguson said. "I think Phase One is actually more labor-intensive than this phase."

But more public meetings will be held throughout the planning process to keep residents aware of the library's plans, Ferguson said.

"I firmly believe the taxpayers should have a say in what the town decides to do," she said.



Piggyback express

The staff of the Stouffville town pool held their annual beach party for children Thursday night. A small horde of children turned out for the games and prizes. The staff egged on the contestants through a number of games such as

a balloon toss, wheelbarrow race and piggyback race. Here, contestants make a mad dash for the finish line during the long-anticipated piggyback competition.

Bancroft man charged in collision

A three-car accident on Stouffville Rd. last Monday morning caused some troublesome traffic problems for many local commuters.

According to York Regional Police, Albert Goldman of Willowdale was attempting to turn his 1986 Delta 98 into the driveway of the Spring Lakes Golf Club on Stouffville Road at

approximately 7:30 a.m., when he was rear-ended by a 1979 Ford Custom station wagon driven by Bancroft resident Christopher Davison.

Goldman's car was pushed into the westbound lane and was struck by a westbound 1988 Ford Thunderbird driven by Anthony Alangenvizen of Uxbridge. The drivers were not hurt in the

accident, but all three vehicles suffered significant damage, police said.

And the accident caused a snarling traffic jam for almost 20 minutes.

Christopher Davison of Bancroft has been charged with following too close to another vehicle, police said.

LAUGHS



PILOT



SPORTS

