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Seneca College Stouffville campus given green light

SAL BOMMARITO
Staff Reporter

The path has been cleared for the creation of a Seneca College campus in Whitchurch-Stouffville, it was announced Friday.

The college, along with provincial and federal government representatives, has committed itself to establishing the campus as early as next year, said the chairperson of a special committee to bring the campus to town.

The announcement was made following a special meeting in Stouffville involving town officials, the college's vice-president and federal and provincial government representatives.

The announcement is good news for the community which has been hard hit by the recession, said Courtney Newmarch.

"It's really exciting. It will be a great benefit to everyone," she said.

The campus, which will be dedicated to skills training and retraining, will be "a prototype training centre," she said. The federal and provincial government has allocated around \$1.6-billion for skills training in the next year.

Courses offered by the college may range from data processing to trades training, she said.

The centre would have a catchment area ranging as far north as

Lake Simcoe, Newmarch added.

The news comes at a crucial time for Stouffville residents, many of which are unemployed thanks to the recession and free trade, as well as for struggling businesses, said Newmarch.

Matters were made worse when Tokai, a major employer in town, moved to Mexico, she said.

McNeil Pharmaceutical has also announced it will be closing its doors next January.

The campus, which is expected to attract 800 students per term, will be a boon for local businesses and mean valuable skills training for the unemployed, she said.

"For every one dollar spent on the campus, there will be seven dollars spent on the local economy," said Newmarch.

The location of the campus will be Farmer Jack's Plaza, which has plenty of vacant retail space available, she said.

Initially, the only funds that will be allocated will be for leasing space.

Revenue would also be generated by tuition fees, said Newmarch.

The presentation of a slate of candidates for a standing advisory committee will be presented at the next meeting.

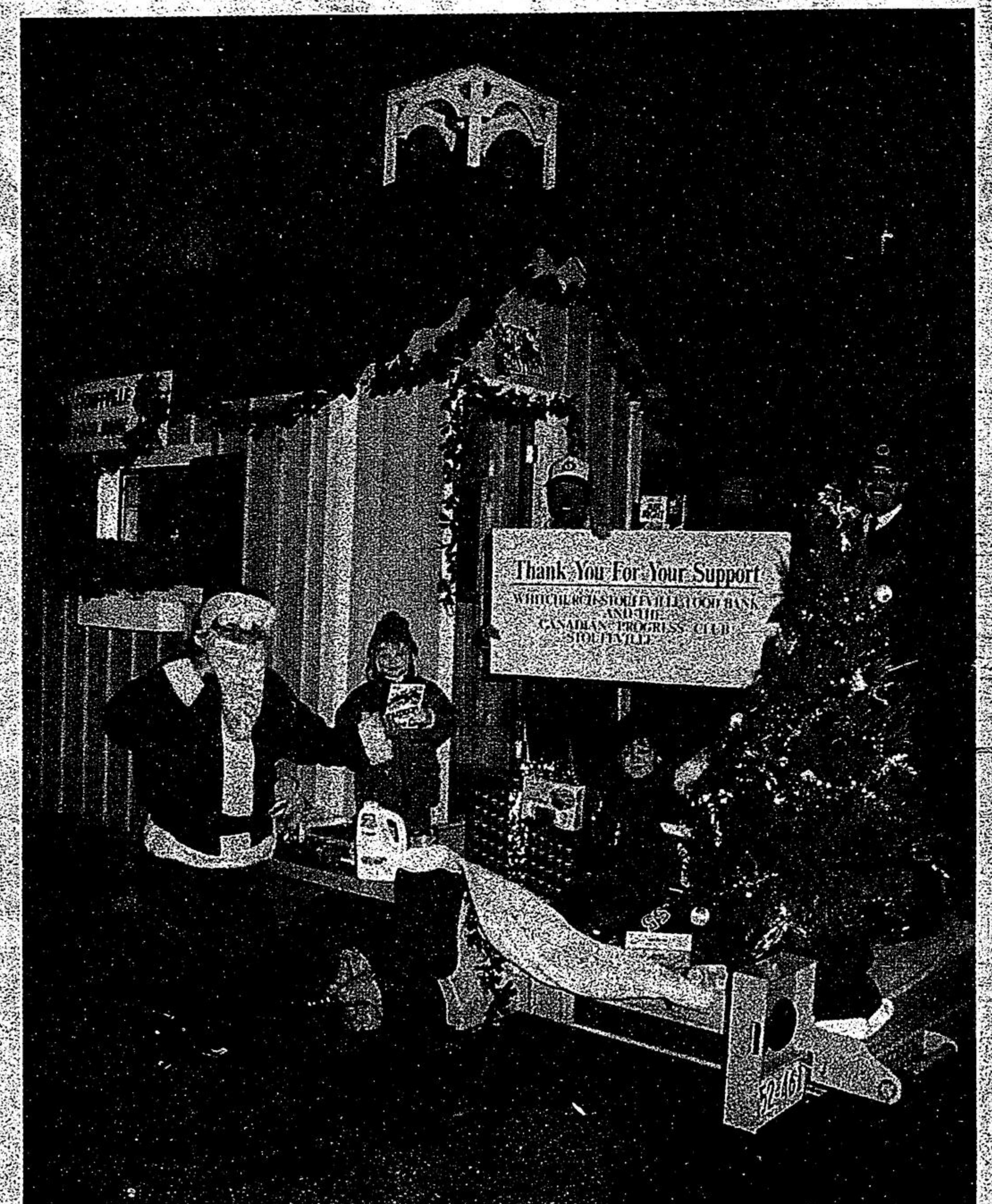
'Cloud' cast over inaugural

A "cloud" has been cast over the inaugural session of the town's new council by a call for a recount of the Nov. 12 municipal election results, says Mayor-elect Fran Sainsbury.

The inaugural session of council, when new councillors are officially sworn in, will take place on Dec. 3, with the first meeting of the new council taking place on Dec. 10. Because of a request for a recount by Wayne Emmerson, who was defeated by Sainsbury for the mayor's position, council will be asked to vote on the request at its first meeting.

"It's not as exciting" as it would have been without the recount vote, said Sainsbury.

If council approves Emmerson's request, "it will cost taxpayers money" to have the ballots recounted, she said. "I'm not sure we should be doing that in a recession. Sainsbury defeated Emmerson by 243 votes. Emmerson is concerned about a difference of 89 votes between the number of people voting and the number of votes received by mayoral candidates. The town says the difference is made up of spoiled ballots."



Photo/ANDRE WOLBERT

Food for thought

The Canadian Progress Club of Stouffville and The Tribune will be lending a helping hand to the foodbank this Christmas. On Dec. 4, readers will receive special grocery bags in The Tribune provided by the local service club, and the club will pick up the bags with non-perish-

able food items along the route of the Santa Claus Parade on Dec. 7. Here, members of the club Glen Brown, John Dart and Joe Champion join Santa Claus and youngsters Dustin Magee, Andrea Lott, and Lindsey Magee (behind tree) in a pre-parade dry run.

SDSS band prepares for Christmas concert

The Stouffville District Secondary School Senior Band is holding their annual Christmas concert.

The event will take place

Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Tickets are \$3 for students and seniors and \$5 for adults.

Also, there is a special family price of \$10. Tickets will be sold at the door and if advance tickets are required, call 642-0275.



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