

# CHATS to expand service in Whitchurch-Stouffville: Egan

**KATE GILDERDALE**  
Correspondent

A recent *Weekender* interview with former councillor Jim Sanders gave rise to concerns about the future of Community Home Services (CHATS) in Stouffville. Executive Director Deborah Egan told *The Tribune*:

"What we're planning to do is re-locate our office in Stouffville," she explained. "We're opening a Markham-Stouffville office, but a decision has not been made on the location at this point. The organization felt that staff, volunteers, and clients should be informed before the plan became public knowledge," but unfortunately it got reported in the paper before we were

able to discuss it with our clients. It sounded as if we were pulling our office out and there was quite a bit of upset. What the agency is looking at is a longer term plan," stressed Egan. "It's not going to happen overnight and we do plan to maintain an office presence at the Silver Jubilee Club."

Staff would still be available at the location half a day a week and volunteers and homemakers would continue to drop off timesheets there. "We'll maintain a local area phone number, but what (a new location) does do is make sure that when clients call our office there'll always be somebody there to respond to their request."

"At present," she noted, "people often have to leave messages on the answer-

ing machine. We want to improve our services to clients, not cut them back. We're pooling our staff resources together between the two offices which

are both small."

CHATS is working to extend community service to evenings and weekends, as well as to provide emergency service

at short notice," she added. "We felt we had a responsibility to inform our staff, volunteers and clients first, before we informed the public."

## Town tree for Clarendon

Clarendon has its own Christmas tree thanks to the Town of Pickering and the local Lion's Club. On Saturday, Nov. 30 the Clarendon Lion's Club members turned out in full force to decorate the tree located at the four corners.

The tree was supplied and planted by the Town of Pickering, said club president Ken Meredith.

The tree lighting took place on Sunday, Dec. 1, with the Pickering mayor Wayne Arthur and regional councillor Rick Johnson present. About 100 Clarendon residents sang Christmas carols and drank hot chocolate after the lighting, said Meredith.

"This will be an annual event," he said.



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