

# Happy New Year

from The Tribune

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## Politicians show cautious optimism for 1992

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What will it take to get the community back on track in 1992?

That's the question *The Tribune* asked some prominent members of the community in an informal phone survey conducted recently.

It comes as no surprise the economy is the issue foremost on people's

minds as 1991 comes to a close.

A sense of cautious optimism prevails as we usher in 1992 and the economy begins to slowly lift. But a sense of uncertainty still remains.

"I'd like to see these empty shops with some new tenants and the recession come to an end," said Mayor Fran Sainsbury. Stimulating the local economy tops the mayor's list of con-

cerns which need to be addressed in 1992.

The mayor is optimistic that a new and more co-operative council will be able to find solutions to the town's economic woes.

A more co-operative working relationship between the town, the BIA and the Chamber of Commerce is needed to help address these con-

cerns, she said.

York-Durham MPP Larry O'Connor agrees co-operation is the key to getting back on track in 1992.

"We need more co-operation at all levels of government," explained O'Connor.

O'Connor said his constituency has been hard hit by the recession. But he remains optimistic that Canadians

will rally together in the face of adversity.

"We need to find that enthusiasm again," he said.

He said the first ministers' conference on the economy held recently is a step in the right direction.

Government must lead the way in stimulating the economy, said Harry Bowes, chairman of the York Region board of education.

"Somehow there has to be a boost to the economy," he said. However, the NDP government may not be equipped to do the job, said Bowes, who believes free-enterprise is the key to recovery.

"We need more support for business and private enterprise. This will boost the economy and increase property taxes. By improving the economy, than government income improves," he said.

Provincial and federal government "downloading" to the municipalities is a result of the recession, said Bowes.

Bowes believes economic hardship will be a fact of life for some time to come.

"I would like to see people working towards solving the world's problems," said Rev. Wayne Reed of the Stouffville United Church.

Even though the recession has crept into everyone's life, "we're still better off than others," said Reed.

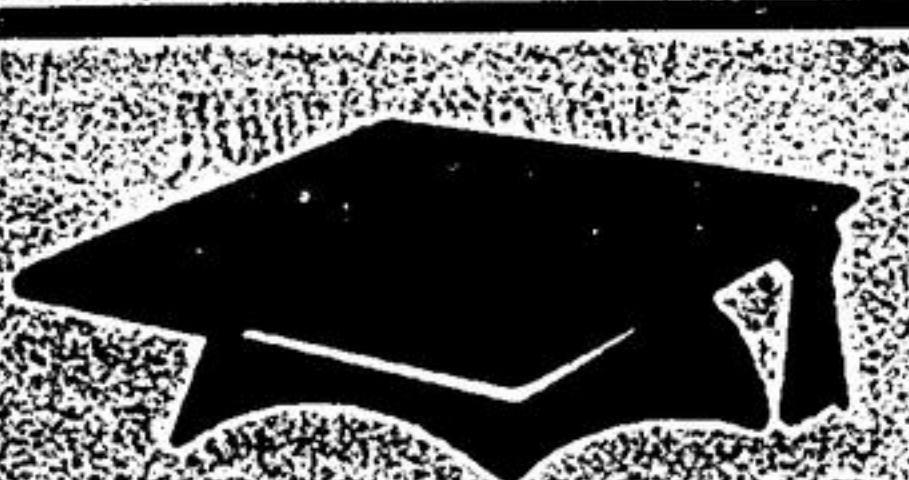
Reed cites the political upheaval and economic hardships being experienced by the citizens of the former Soviet Union.

Because of local concerns, more important global issues have been largely ignored, said Reed, who wants to see less emphasis on personal problems and more emphasis on helping others.

Robyn Magee, director of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Foodbank, echoed Reed's comments.

"I'd like to see people put other people's needs in front of their own," said Magee. Magee believes community involvement is the key.

"The more we give out, the more we get back. We should be looking within the individual (for solutions)," she said.



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