

People

# New Optimist chapter looking to assist local youth

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

The Optimists are coming to Stouffville.

And if Ronald Brabender, Marcel Bossi and Doug Benedict have their way, the Optimists motto, 'A friend for youth' will become a highly touted phrase around town.

Three former Markham residents what are still members of the Markham Optimists are hoping to charter a club in Stouffville. They have set June of this year as a target date and already have as many as 12 interested members.

The trio have been holding informa-

tion meetings Thursday evenings at 7:30 at Angie's Eatery.

They are emphasizing the youth focus of the Optimist movement, while stressing theirs is to be a family oriented, co-ed club.

"It's an easy club to join," Benedict told the Tribune. "It's not a men's club, it's a family club. We don't expect you at every meeting, we know people have time constraints."

There are 4,300 clubs across North America with the 175,000 members overall engaging in a wide range of service projects directed toward meeting the needs of a community's youth.

Benedict said the founders of the

Stouffville club are hoping to push the same programs in this town that they have done in Markham and elsewhere.

"The Markham Optimists introduced the first drug awareness into the local high schools. We have sponsored numerous sports organizations and have given many community service awards and bursaries in the high schools. We have also been involved in the Lou Gerhig's Disease programs, bicycle rodeos, the Respect for Law program and with VIP week."

The Optimists have also committed themselves to the recently established Voyageur program which will see the federal government combine with Air

Canada on an exchange program involving youths from across the country. Benedict said the new club would be open to suggestions from the people of Stouffville as to what to work towards.

"We're looking to have the people of the community tell us what is needed and we'll apply ourselves towards it," said Benedict.

"Maybe it will be a drop-in center, a drug program for the high school, helping with sports activities or helping get a pool."

For further information call Ronald at 642-3844, Marcel at 642-3281 or Doug at 642-2929.

## Museum rolls out the barrel

The mastery of a woodworker, knowledge of geometry and an understanding of the properties of wood and metal are important skills to a cooper. Discover these skills at the Whitchurch Stouffville Museum by visiting our barrelmaker hard at work Sunday

afternoons in May. Dan Zaroski will be sharing his skills and knowledge with the public on May 24, 30 and June 7 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Visit his shop in the barn and see him shape wooden staves, construct metal hoops and create a barrel from his well sea-

soned wood. The Whitchurch Stouffville Museum is located on Woodbine Ave. 3 km north of the Bloomington sideroad in the Village of Vandorf. Contact Andrea Wilson, curator or Helen Roberts, assistant curator 727-8954.



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