

# Stouffville Secondary looks to community for a new direction

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) is turning to the community for input on the future of education at the school.

The school has invited selected community members to attend focus group discussions Jan. 19 in an effort to gather information and ideas on how the school can better serve its students, staff and community.

Participants will include local business people, clergy members, politicians and parents selected at random.

"The community is our most valuable resource," SDSS principal Alan Dickson told *The Tribune* recently. "We want to take advantage of that fact, we want all our clients in the community to feel welcome in the school, to feel they are a part of educating the students." SDSS guidance head Doug McCammon said the focus group idea was being done "as a response to an expressed feeling from students and staff here that we needed to involve the community more in what we're doing."

"It will be group brainstorming," said McCammon. "It is being done elsewhere as well. We want to know what things the school should start or stop doing, or continue to do."

SDSS staff member Diane Patterson has outlined a list of themes which staff and students would like to see addressed at the discussions. They include the community, cooperative education, physical aspects of the school, assessment and evaluation of school programs, and the celebration of the arts.

"The next step will be to put things into action," said McCammon. "If there are some good ideas, we'll go for them."

Dickson said there would probably be further focus groups down the road, and added he is also hoping to establish a parent-teacher liaison group at the school.



Photo: S. JOERD WITTEVEEN

## New life members

From left: Aurelia Smith, Ruth Sheppard, Marjorie Smith, Gladys Clarkson, Aldine Sinclair, Eleanor Johnston and Marion Murphy received life membership pins on Monday to become charter mem-

bers of the Stouffville Legion Ladies' Auxiliary. Marian Castle, Mary Lintner, Earla Malloy, Dorothy Hurd and Elsie Sanders were also inducted into the charter.

## Tree farms offer more than just trees

KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

Cutting down your own Christmas tree is a great way to get into the spirit of the season, and there are a host of tree farms to choose from in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area.

The elves at Horton's Magic Hill Tree Farms on Ninth Line, north of Bloomington Road, are determined to make your tree cutting experience a memorable and warm family event, stressed Barry (The Big Elf), as he merrily dispensed Kleenexes to all and sundry from the fluffy duck around his neck.

"We have a hundred acres and 200,000 trees here," said Santa's helper proudly. And you're welcome to pick your tree from the entrance area, or take a wagon ride and look further afield. Horton's also supplies saws for tree-cutting and sleighs for pulling small fry or for carrying back your prize. When you get back to base, drop into the Munch House for mouth-watering barley soup or hot dogs, and steaming hot chocolate, piled

high with marshmallows, available every weekend.

Once you've warmed up, visit the theatre next door and watch Santa's elves busy at work, or get your child photographed onstage with Santa himself. Barry is a magician, as well as an elf, so don't forget to catch his magic show, which is held outside when it's warm enough and in the theatre on chillier days.

Warm your hands and toast marshmallows by the big outdoor fire, then take the kids to the beautiful old barn where they can jump in the haystack, slide down the big red slide or swing on ropes. "We hire someone to watch the kids," Barry advised.

The barn, fortified by beams hewn from trees on the property, also contains a museum of original tools and implements, such as hand saws and spinning wheels, and a display of Indian artifacts. The Big Elf advises you to set aside plenty of time to visit the farm. "The average family spends two hours here." For more information call 888-1738.

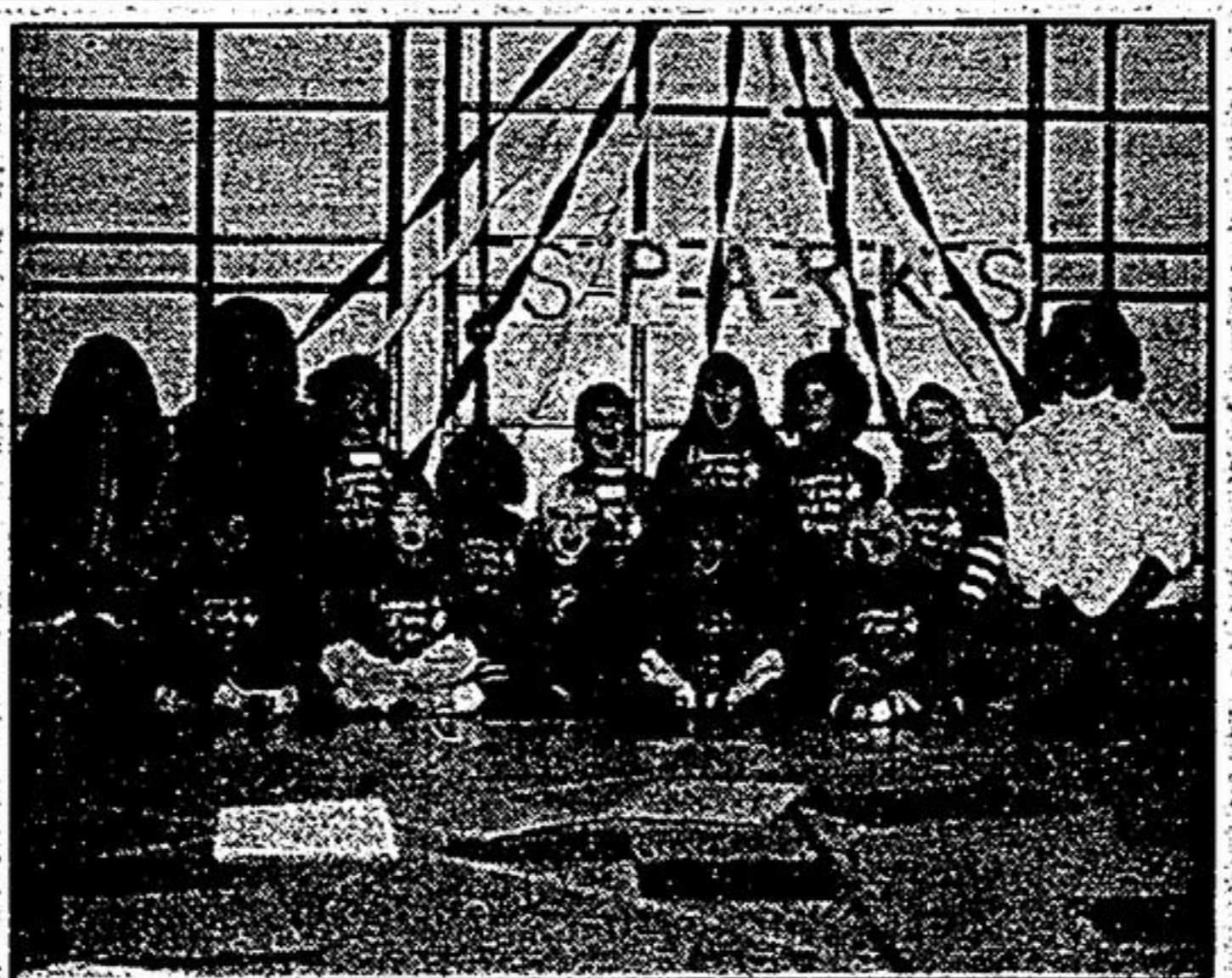
## New group starts

When Keli Carroll wanted to enroll five year old Samantha in Brownies, she was disappointed to learn that her daughter was too young.

"I contacted the Girl Guide Commissioner in Musselman Lake and she told me about the Sparks program." Sparks, a special program for five year olds, is part of the Girl Guide sisterhood and is similar to Brownies, but less formal, explained Carroll.

"They've never had it in Stouffville and Ballantrae, and we were the first to start it up here." The group began in October, and meets every Wednesday evening at Ballantrae Public School. The program lasts approximately an hour, but could easily be extended to an hour and a half, Carroll said. The group is run by two adults and now has 12 members, and everyone wears a uniform sweatshirt or T-shirt, with "I promise to share and be a friend" inscribed on it.

"It's great for the kids and a lot of fun for us as well." The junior leader is Natalie Coultice, assisted by Janet Ruhl. Sparks' members are Laura Friedbacher, Kristen Hoeller, Laura Leav-



The Sparks is the newest group for children.

itt, Jennifer Hamm, Amy Ruhl, Andrea Lott, Lauren Forbes, Melissa Latcham, Alana Clark, Eleni Maltezos, Samantha Carroll and Jana Montgomery.

For more information on the program, call Keli Carroll at 640-5142 or Stella Coultice at 640-3250.

## New skating hours offered for holidays

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville invites you to come and join the fun of public skating with your friends or enjoy an impromptu game of hockey during shinney times at the Recreation Complex.

### Public skating times

Saturday Dec. 19: 7-8 p.m.  
Sunday Dec. 20: 2-3 p.m.  
Monday Dec. 21: 1-3 p.m.  
Tuesday Dec. 22: 1-3 p.m.  
Wednesday Dec. 23: 1-4:30 p.m.  
Sunday Dec. 27: 2-3 p.m.

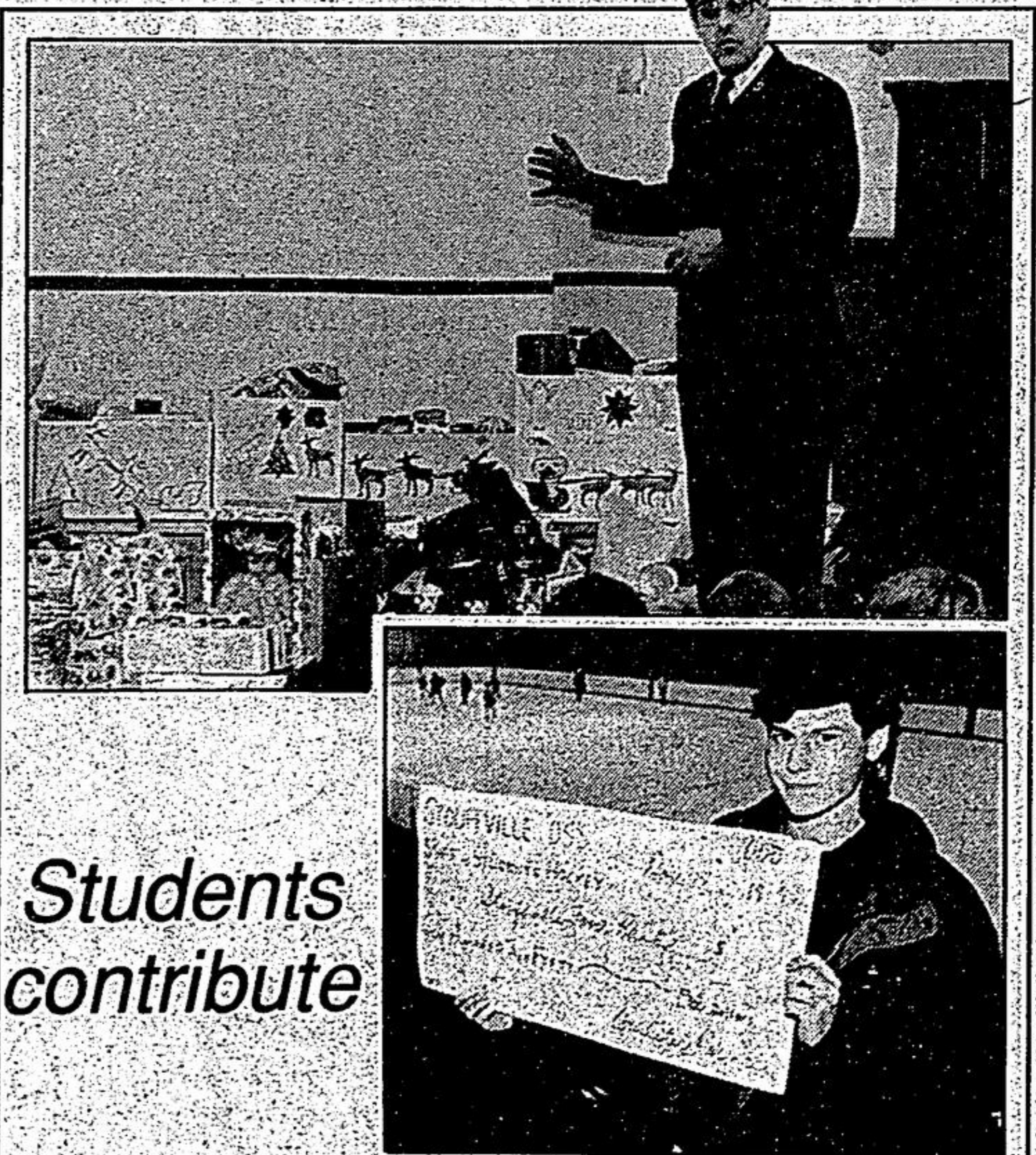
Monday Dec. 28: 6-7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Dec. 29: 6-8 p.m.  
Wednesday Dec. 30: 5-6 p.m.  
Thursday Dec. 31: 1-3 p.m.  
Saturday Jan. 2: 7-8 p.m.  
Sunday Jan. 3: 2-3 p.m.

### Shinney times

Monday Dec. 21: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Tuesday Dec. 22: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Wednesday Dec. 23: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Thursday Dec. 31: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Call the Recreation Dept. at 640-6527 for information.

## Students contribute



At top, Salvation Army Lieut. Phil Franco accepts gifts of food for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Foodbank from children at Stouffville Christian School this week. While at bottom, Jamie Sheridan, president of the Athletic Council at SDSS holds a cheque for \$350 collected for the WSF through entry fees at the student staff hockey game on Tuesday.

**KIDS  
EARN  
EXTRA  
MONEY  
BECOME A  
CARRIER  
TODAY**

Call:  
**640-2100**  
(Stouffville)

### Attention Flyer Advertisers

We can deliver your flyers for as little as 4¢ a piece. So far this year we have delivered 27,394,988 flyers door-to-door in Markham, Unionville, Milliken, Stouffville, Uxbridge, Clarendon, Dickson Hill, Locust Hill, Gormley, Goodwood, Victoria Square, Brougham, Hagerman Corners, Box Grove, Cedar Grove, Buttonville, Sandford, Goodwood, Leaskdale, Greenbank, Udon, Sunderland, Zephyr, Ashburn, Cannington, and all adjacent rural route areas.

We can deliver your flyers on the day you want to the area you want - any quantity from 5,000 to 46,000.

For Advertising and Distribution inquiries call:

Retail Advertising at 640-2100

Classified Advertising at 640-2100

Distribution Inquiries at 640-2100

or Fax your inquiries to: 640-5477

### INSERTS FOR SAT., DEC. 19, 1992

Loblaws  
Woolco  
Zellers  
IGA (Stouff.)  
Cdn. Tire (Stouff.)

\* Selected Areas only