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Fight's on to save post office

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The fight to keep Stouffville's post office open to retail customers is strengthening and

Candidates off and running to Oct. 25

ROGER BELGRAVE
Staff Reporter

The race is on and local candidates for federal government are putting their campaigns into gear.

Almost immediately after the election call, local candidates were setting up headquarters.

Reform candidate Joe Sherren has had an established base for quite some time, orchestrating volunteers from 5990-16th Avenue, unit 218. The telephone number there is 471-9470.

Progressive Conservative and incumbent Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville MP Bill



SHERREN

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has the attention of Canada Post.

Local politicians last week agreed to back a meeting between Canada Post officials and a residents' committee,

known as the Save the Post Office Committee. (SPOC.)

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice will act as council's representative at the meeting where the town will join a unified front of opposition to the federal corporation's move to end retail service at the Main Street office.

SPOC member Stephen Sword told *The Tribune* this week that a community-wide petition addressed to Markham Stouffville MP Bill Attewell asking Canada Post to retract its decision has more than 1,400 signatures.

SPOC plans to formally present Attewell with the petition Monday evening and ask what he plans to do on the residents'

behalf, Sword added.

Attewell said he will help the group work out a strategy and promises to take concerns to Canada Post.

Attewell said the federal government hasn't got "absolute control" over the crown corporation and pointed out that Canada Post hasn't received subsidy for several years.

"But there may have been a major area overlooked such as the convenience factor. This might not have been researched very well (by Canada Post)," Attewell said.

Sword said residents met last Thursday to map out strategic protest plans and decided to hold a multi-media "lemon-aid" extravaganza demonstration in

front of the post office on Monday, Sept. 20 at noon. The group will rally around the big lemon statue in front of the office where town crier Marcel Bossi will proclaim the objections to the proposed service changes. Everyone is invited to listen to live music, enter a number of contests including a plackard competition.

The group is also hoping to meet "face to face with decision-making administrators" at Canada Post to discuss what factors were behind the public corporation's decision.

A private meeting between SPOC members and Canada Post is expected to be set up in the committee room at the town offices in the next few weeks.



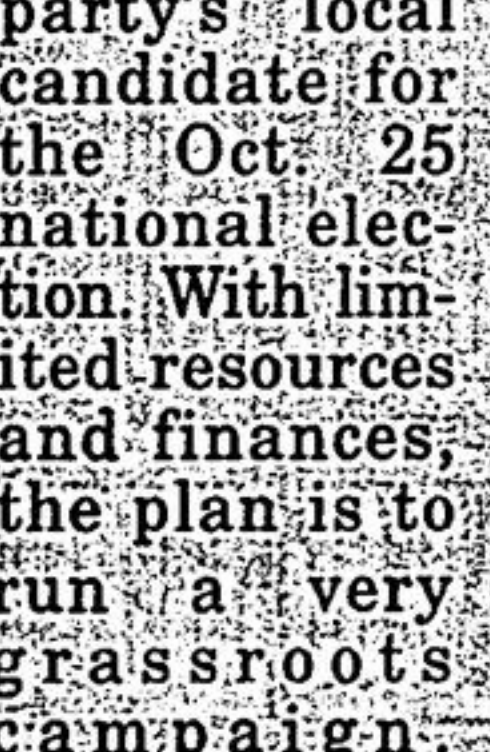
SHERREN



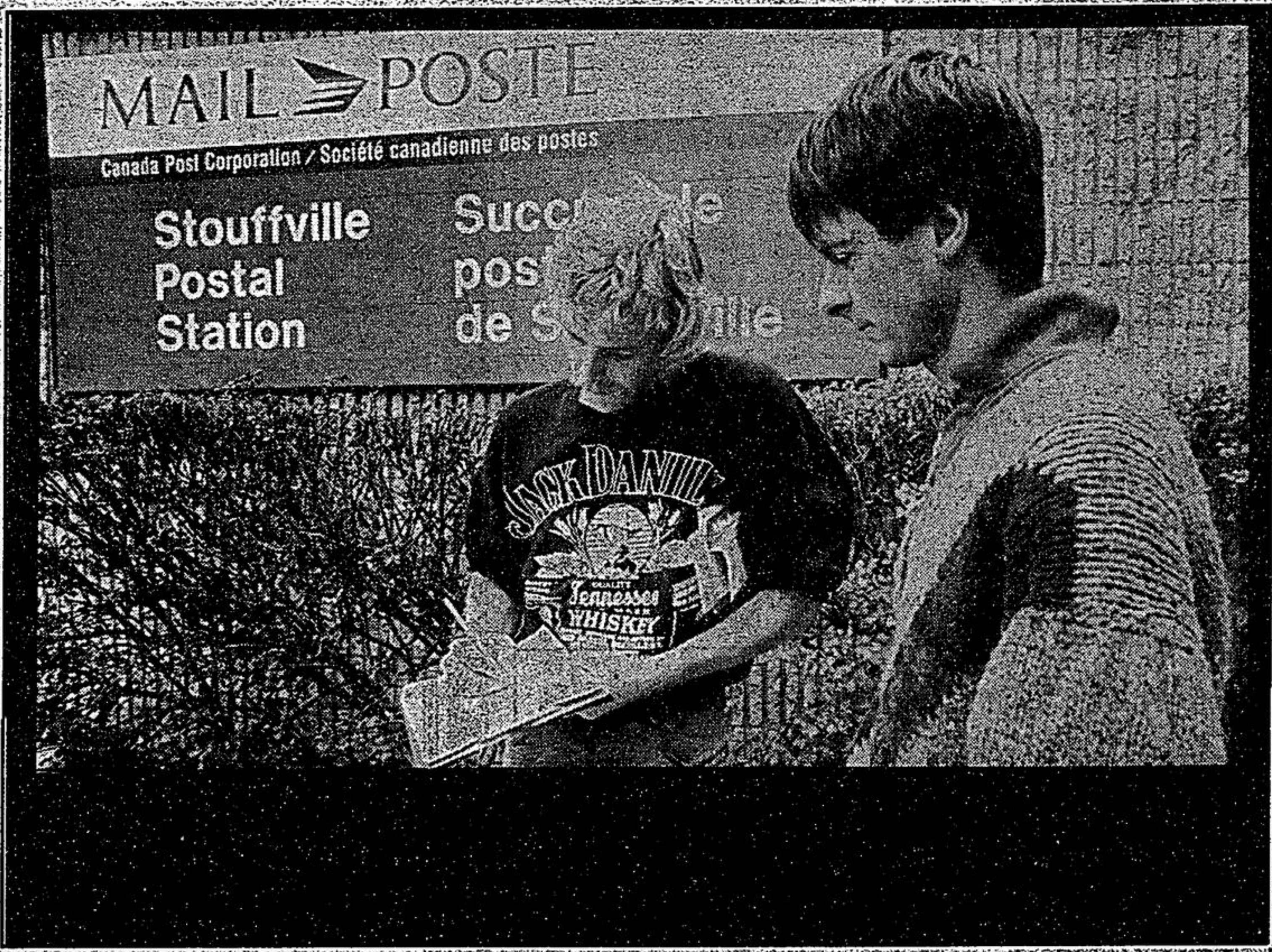
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Welfare investigators eliminate \$2.4 million in claims

York Region welfare fraud investigators have saved taxpayers more than \$2.4 million in 12 months after workers terminated 306 files from York's mounting welfare rolls, a report stated last week.

And the region plans to continue its crack down on welfare fraud if politicians approve the hiring of two additional investigators to monitor an increasing number of suspicious "situations," the cost benefit report outlined.

York's community services and health committee last

week recommended the region hire two additional workers to "investigate potential fraudulent situations" through its newly-formed quality assurance department, which began operations in July, 1992.

The department workers also investigate duplicate payments or overpayments through other agencies, such as Unemployment Insurance (UIC) and would review all files to ensure claims are up-to-date and remain eligible for social assistance.

The department completed a random client audit of

1,100 files since last December in which nearly \$500,000 was recovered or payments reduced. A total of 306 cases were also terminated from the welfare rolls, resulting in a \$2.4 million "cost avoidance" to the region.

But York needs the additional two investigators to handle an increased number of investigative referrals in order to continue the crackdown, the committee recommended.

(Please see page 3)

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