

Your new Parks and Recreation Guide is here

Whitchurch-Stouffville homeown- ers looking at a minimum four per cent tax hike this year?

# The Tribune *Stouffville*

Vol. 105 No. 9 A Metroland Community Newspaper Wednesday, March 3, 1993 20 Pages 50 cents

## Region to spend \$100K on consultant

LISA QUEEN  
Metroland Staff

York Region is set to spend \$100,000 on a consultant to see if it should take the plunge into

economic development. The region's economic development steering committee approved the expense last week, although council still

must ratify that decision. Committee members explained it makes more sense to sink money into a consultant now, rather than realize years

down the road that the region has wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on an unnecessary economic development department.

The consultant will investigate whether a regional department is needed and how much money it would need to operate properly.

If the consultant decided a regional department makes sense, he will then determine its role, given the flurry of other economic development initiatives now emerging.

For example, mayors in the Greater Toronto Area are trying to establish a GTA economic development office, and the provincial government this month created a super-ministry to handle economic concerns.

Markham councillor Fred Cox suggested it may be time York Region municipalities gave up their economic development departments and focused on a regional effort.

But he admitted that may be unrealistic, given the parochial attitude that has gripped politi-

cians over the past two decades.

"I think this is one area, if there is one area we can agree on as a region, it should be economic development," Cox said.

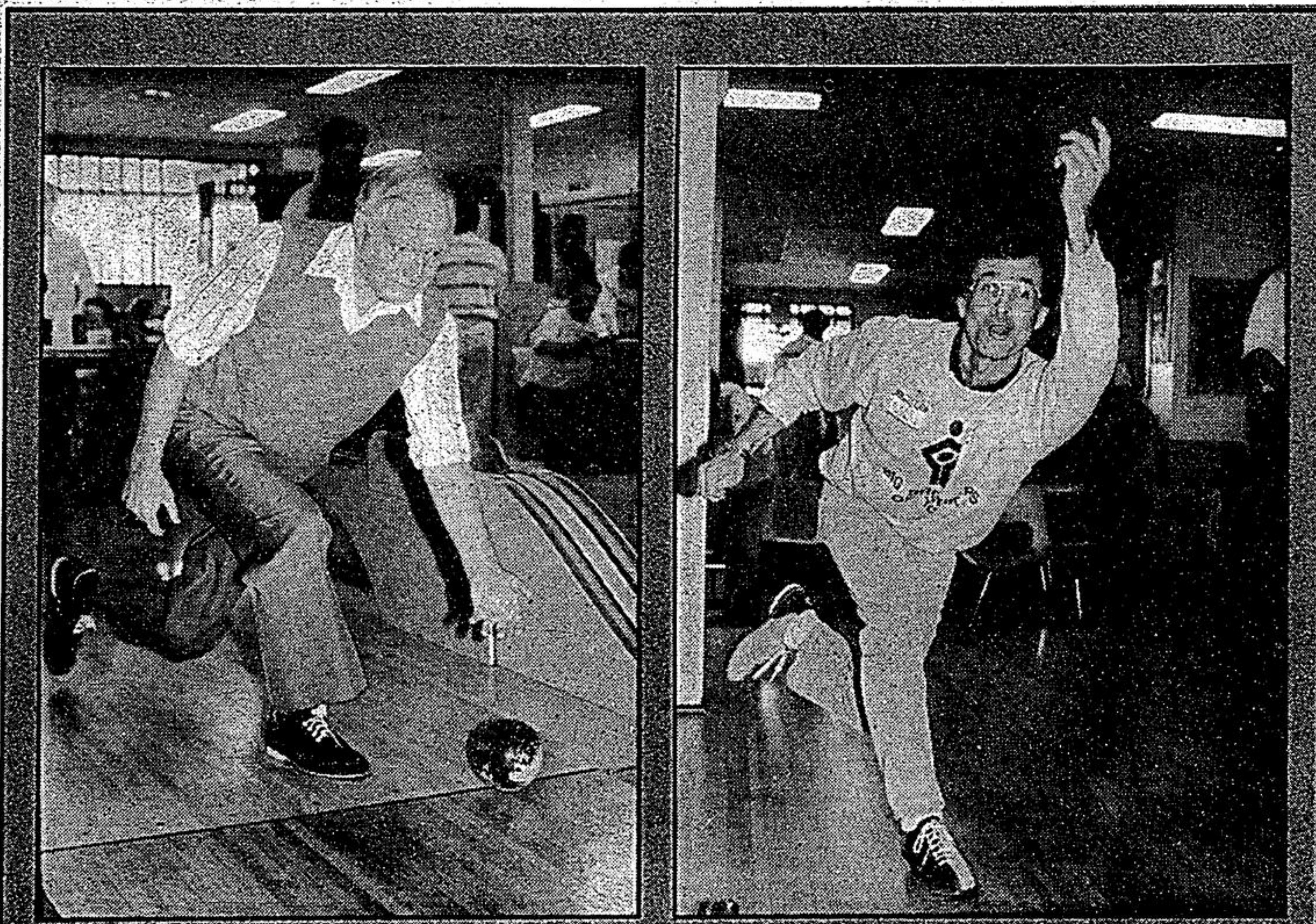
"But I'll call a spade a spade. Markham is competing with Richmond Hill and Richmond Hill is competing with Vaughan (for new business and industries.)"

Cox is also worried that a regional economic department will amount to nothing more than another level of bureaucracy.

He added the only way to lure business to York Region is to get the provincial government to drop its anti-business mentality and to encourage the region's school boards to drop their unpopular lot levies.

"Right now this region is not competing as competitively as other regions in Ontario," agreed chief administrative officer Bob Forhan.

He noted Mississauga recently dropped its industrial lot levies to attract new business.



Roll on

Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld (left) and Doug McCammon of Big Brothers were among the participants in the annual Bowl for Big Brothers at the Stouffville Bowling centre Saturday.

### People

## Howard Mills has great outlook

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Howard Mills is 80 years young.

The long-time Stouffville optician who operates out of the shoe box sized kiosk on Main

St., just east of Ninth Line, celebrated the milestone Friday with a steady stream of well-wishers.

"People have been so good to me," said Mills, pointing to a sign in front of his shop pro-

claiming his new octogenarian status. "It's surprising. I don't even know who did up that sign. People have brought in cards, coming in for visits, and the girl who delivers my paper wrote 'Happy 80th birthday' on the front of my paper today."

Mills spent much of the day laughing, joking and reminiscing with visitors who included old friends and

(Please See Page 3)



Howard Mills at his optician's booth on Main St.

## Minimum 4% tax hike for residents?

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

Are Whitchurch-Stouffville homeowners looking at a minimum four per cent tax hike this year?

Interviews with local and York Region officials indicate this could be the case.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's mayor has confirmed in several interviews with *The Tribune* that residents can expect a "slight" municipal tax hike this year.

How slight is slight?

Fran Sainsbury has stated the town's 5,600 homeowners should brace themselves for a marginal hike - an inevitability following 1992's zero budget increase.

"Realistically there will probably be a slight increase," Sainsbury told *The Tribune* in an interview last December.

It takes a one per cent tax hike to raise \$45,000 revenue in the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, *The Tribune* was told during an interview with assistant treasurer Holly Kirby last month.

For example, the already-approved pay hikes for town staff total a \$133,000 portion for 1993.

(Council of 1991 approved salary increases totalling \$266,000 for

(Please See Page 3)

## PM's leaving no surprise for local Tories

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's decision to step down as Progressive Conservative Party is being accepted as a timely departure.

Like many others Marjorie Nielsen, the outgoing president of the local Progressive Conservative riding association, was not surprised by the Prime Minister's decision.

"I think probably it was the best thing to do at this time," she remarked. Mulroney has said he does not want to hurt the party, she continued.

Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville MP Bill Attewell, is sure the decision was a difficult one for the Prime Minister. But the position does take a mental and physical toll.

"He has done a great deal to solidify our party and make it truly a national party," Attewell noted. Mulroney will certainly have his place in history. But given the period in which he has led and the tough fiscal management decisions he has made, constituents were not happy with Mulroney, Attewell concluded.

- Roger Belgrave