

It's maple syrup time

□ Bruce's Mill goes sappy for the first spring weekend



Photos by Lori Emmerson

Bruce's Mill celebrated Maplefest this past weekend, heralding the arrival of spring. Above, Stephanie Nicoll and Ashley Linkletter go for a ride. At left, Kaylay Duggan and her sister Meagan Cornell enjoy pancakes loaded with maple syrup.

Plumbing changes will harm town: Winters

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

If municipalities take plumbing inspection duties over from York Region it will place small towns "in jeopardy," officials heard this week.

Self-employed Stouffville plumber Tom Winters, agreed with town building director, Bob Bennett that Stouffville would lose money and jeopardize health standards if forced to hire its own plumbing inspector.

Winters said the job, which in large ensures all health regulations are met when plumbing is installed, would become "generalized" if the task is taken on by the town.

"Not to come down on the

building department, but this would likely end up a generalist job - it would be like a dog catcher inspecting the plumbing," Winters said.

He added the boom-town politicians in York are seeing dollar signs when they should be concerned for the health of the communities.

Bennett is recommending council shun the region's plan to pass inspection jobs onto its nine area municipalities because the town can't afford it.

He claims revenues, (\$12,000 in 1992) wouldn't offset a yearly salary the town would have to pay a full-time inspector.

Reports indicate the town's need for inspections has dropped significantly since

1990 when more than 219 inspections were required during a construction boom.

York currently employs 12 inspectors who performed more than 30,000 inspections last year throughout the region.

Most of those were done in Richmond Hill and Markham, reports indicate.

"It works where it is, but some of the bigger boys would like to have it," Winters said.

Sainsbury said an alternative discussed recently at the region was to have smaller towns like

Stouffville, King, East Gwillimbury and Aurora 'share' one inspector who would be stationed in whichever town could afford the space.

"But then you're at the bur-

den of someone else's workload," Sainsbury said.

The town will tell York once again that it is against taking on plumbing inspections because of the costs involved.

Officials oppose more police

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of the region."

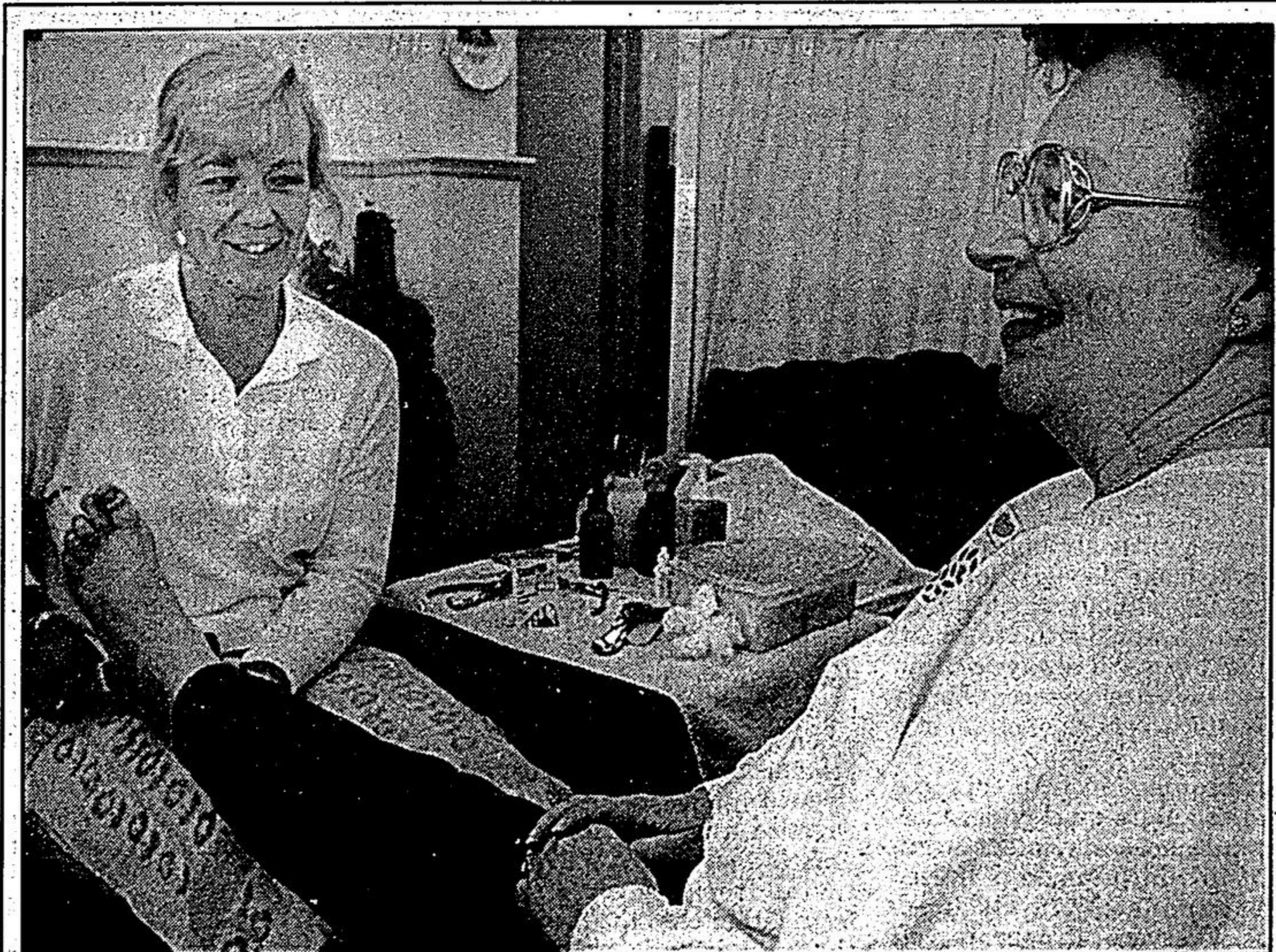
But Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the police force's \$62 million budget eats up the largest portion of York's spending - making up 4.2 per cent of York's 4.9 per cent hike this year.

"I feel sorry for the police but we're all trimming our wicks and if more officers were hired we wouldn't see one more police cruiser in Whitchurch-Stouffville because it goes by population. We've been classed by York Region as a slow growth area," the mayor said.

Officials will send a letter to the association stressing its views.



SAINSBURY



Photo/CELIA BRONKHORST

Aaaah!

Chiropodist Shelley Bourne provides some relief to Eileen Noylander at the Silver Jubilee Club's foot clinic, which runs the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Teen choir arrives Friday

The Teen Challenge Choir, a group with 150 years of drug addiction, alcoholism and crime represented, is coming to Stouffville.

The band members have participated in the Teen Challenge Training Farm, one of Canada's top drug and alcohol

treatment programs and travel, spreading their musical message to youth, across the country.

The Teen Challenge Choir will be at Stouffville Missionary Church at 7:30 p.m. on March 26. Admission is free and all are welcome.

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