

# New chamber president urges member support

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Arrigo said 1992 was a year of some achievement but acted more as a stepping stone to future years where the chamber must establish and develop new priorities.

"We need to maintain a stable

presence and develop better member inter-action - we need to get out and meet new people," Arrigo said.

Johnson, the first female president since 1988, said members often failed to show support toward chamber events

last year and vowed to "be very aggressive" in obtaining new members for 1993.

"At many times we had no support. We have 150 members - where have you been?" Johnson said in her opening speech at Wednesday night's elections

held at the Maples of Ballantrae.

She urged the 45 chamber members in attendance to help its 1993 executive become an aggressive lobby group to promote economic revival in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"There are more than 650 businesses in Stouffville and they should belong to the Chamber. We need them," she said.

Johnson urged members to offer their time during 1993 for even the smallest of jobs, in order to help the group maintain "one strong voice."

"You're only as good as the numbers - we can't just function with (executive members) doing everything," Johnson said.

The 1993 Chamber of Commerce board of directors is as follows:

President - Helene Johnson, retired accountant, 1st vice president - Ruth Armstrong, insurance broker, 2nd vice president - Harold Van Dyke, owner of Van Dyke's Tree Service, Secretary - vacant, Directors: Andrew Mair, *The Tribune* general manager, Brian Littlejohns, landscape architect, Raj Sethi, owner, Golden Eagle Art Galleries, Trent Flack, sales manager for Dean Myers, Rob Shannon, manager, Stouffville Country Flea Market, Mary Anne Fleming, Stouffville Sun advertising rep.

For information on how to become a member of the chamber, call its business office at 642-4227.

## Benefit helps local family

Stouffville residents are invited to enjoy the sounds of live Country music tomorrow and help out some down-and-out neighbors at the same time.

April Mayer has set up a benefit for Ballantrae residents, Frank and Bessie Spataro, former owners of the now-defunct Frank's Pizza, and their 15-year-old son, Joe.

The Spataro family has suffered more than its share of hardships during the past few months, including losing all of their belongings in a fire that destroyed their home last month. A furnace blew in their Ballantrae home on March 7, destroying all their clothing, furniture and most of their sentimental and personal belongings. Coupled with the recent loss of their business the Spataro's are in need of some community support - and Mayer is offering a way for neighbors to help them out.

She has set up a country music benefit at Markham's Footloose club, located on Hwy 7 one block west of Hwy 48. The Classic Country Music Reunion bands, have offered to perform free from 2-6 p.m., tomorrow, Sunday, April 18. Residents who wish to attend are being asked to pay a \$5 cover charge (\$1.75 for children,) proceeds of which will go to the Spataro family.

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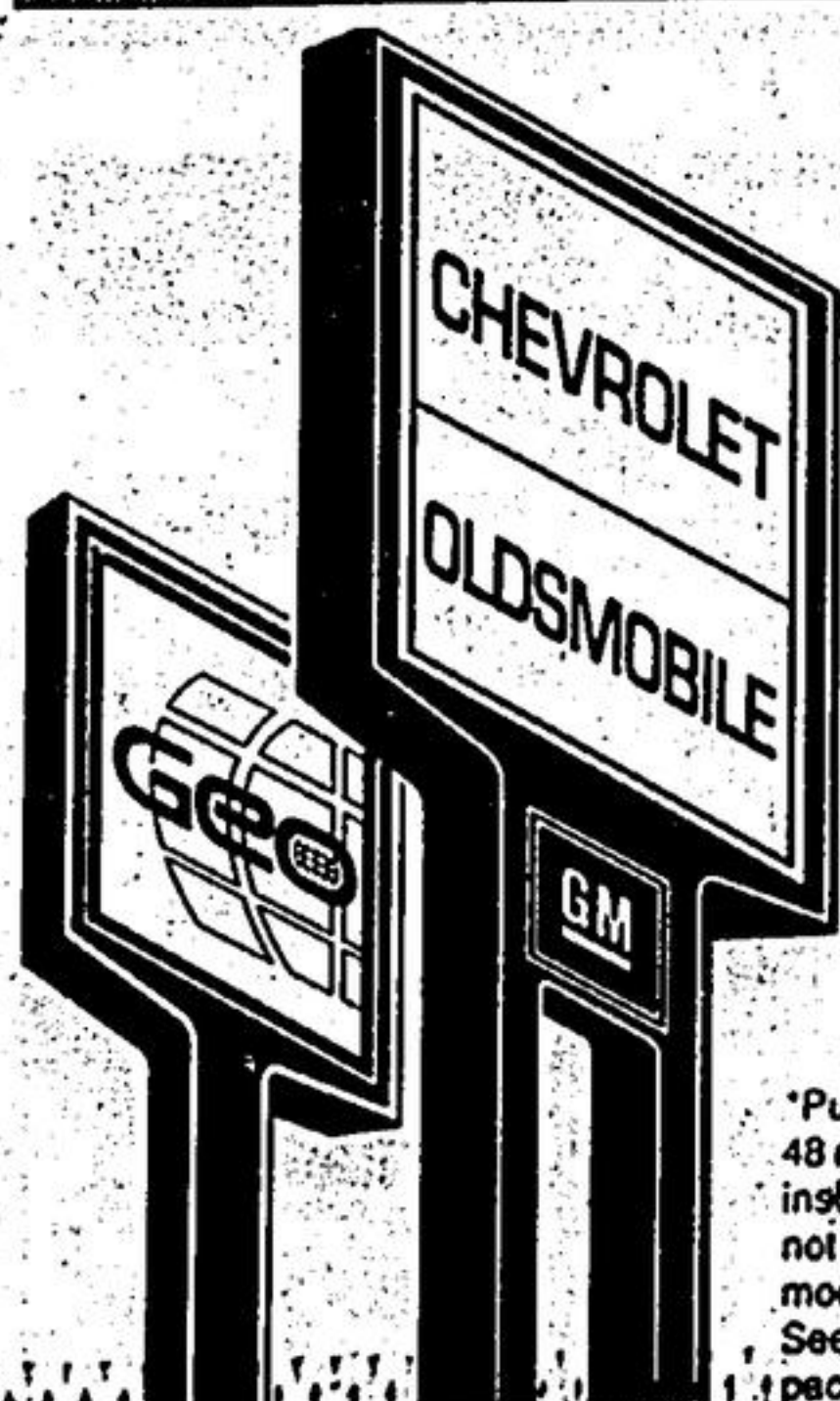
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