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# The Tribune

Stouffville Weekender

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Happy holidays from your friends at the Tribune

## Recount widens win

By MIKE RUTA  
Staff Reporter

A mayoral recount on Thursday reconfirmed the election of Wayne Emmerson as mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

His margin of victory actually increased from 73 to 78 votes.

Emmerson was glad any doubts about the election had been erased.

"I'm glad it's over," he said, "I'm looking forward to getting on with my job."

Emmerson said he wished Alles had requested a recount sooner after the November 14 election.

"I've been put on hold for ten days and now we've got a job to do," he said, "I wish it had been held three weeks ago."

Alles said it was important the second tally be conducted.

"I think the air's cleared now and the process will be much better for having done this," he said. "I think the point here is that the process allows for, and it's in the public interest for every candidate to have a scrutineer."

Emmerson said the recount proved that the poll clerks and deputy returning officers do their job.

"Maybe scrutineers aren't needed," he said, referring to ward one candidate Ray Preston, who recently said he had no scrutineers because he trusted the vote would be conducted properly.

The new results show that mayor Wayne Emmerson finished with 2,118 votes and Doug Alles ended up with 2,040. Election-night numbers had Emmerson with 2,114 votes and Alles with 2,041. Fran Sainsbury's total remained the same, at 1,355 votes, and Ken Prentice lost two votes for a new total of 1,284.



PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

## Laughing at the library

Stouffville Library winds down its year of entertainment for children with a highly memorable play called Searching for Santa. Enjoying the program are Alexander,

4, and his dad Brian Powell. The library has become a popular place for parents and caregivers to find amusement for children.

## Few contested ballots

The recount was held at Latcham Hall, with Markham town clerk Bob Panizza filling in as recount officer for clerk Michele Kennedy.

Five counting stations were set up, with roughly 10 ballot boxes assigned to town-appointed individuals.

All ballots were reviewed, including those previously discounted for various reasons.

Candidates were permitted five scrutineers, one per sta-

tion. Alles and Emmerson both sent five scrutineers to Latcham Hall.

The recount took three and a half hours, with Panizza reconfirming Emmerson's election at 12:30 p.m.

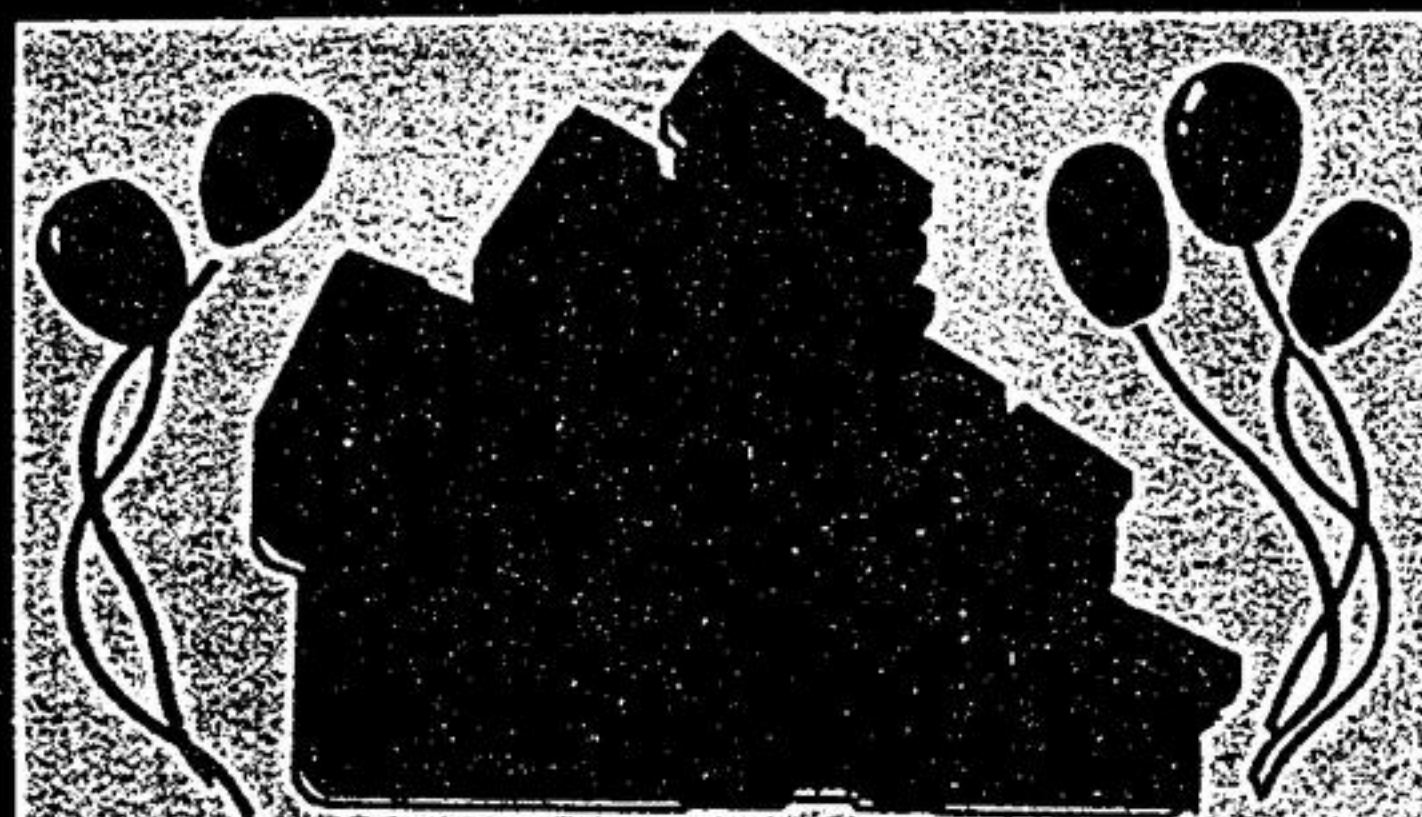
Panizza said there were a few contested ballots.

The majority of these were rejected on election night and were reexamined during the recount.

## Marshall stymied

The province does not appear ready to budge on what they say is a conflict of interest involving ward 3 councillor Margot Marshall. As a newly-elected councillor, the ministry of the solicitor general says it is inappropriate for her to remain as a provincial appointee on the York region police service's board.

The province has sent Marshall a letter stating their position and requesting her comments. She wrote back this week. "To this day I do not understand what difference my letter would make," said Marshall. "You either have a policy or you don't."



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