

Pooled committees will boost town, Mayor says

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
Staff Reporter

Amalgamating three local committees into one will give Whitchurch-Stouffville an economic boost, Mayor Wayne

Emmerson has suggested. Representatives of the Business Improvement Area and the Chamber of Commerce and a town-established economic development committee will pool talents, and meet before the end of the month to set a course of action that will,

hopefully, enhance business growth within the municipality, said Emmerson. The new committee will also meet with the York Region economic development department, said Emmerson. The mayor is taking an optimistic approach to the town's future business

development now that the recession is easing off. Instead of closures and bankruptcies, businesses now see the potential in Whitchurch-Stouffville. "We're gaining instead of losing. Business is coming here," Emmerson said.

Apply now for school council

Parents interested in how the public board's school councils will be set up can apply to serve on the school council advisory committee.

The committee will oversee the start-up of the parent councils which will be in place in each school by June 1996. It will also run a series of public meetings throughout the region to solicit opinion from parents and community members on the school-based councils.

Anyone interested in becoming a committee member can pick up an application at any local school, education centre, public library or call Superintendent Bill Gordon at 764-6830. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 15.

Once the committee is struck, the public meetings will take place at Vaughan Secondary School on Oct. 18, at Markham District High School on Oct. 25, the central education centre at 317 Centre St. in Richmond Hill on Oct. 30, and the north education centre, 130 Carlson Dr., Newmarket on Nov. 2. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

To make a presentation at any of the meetings call Gayle Erskine at 764-6830.

To learn more about school councils, a document called "School Councils: A Discussion and Consultation Paper" is available at schools and libraries.

Julie Caspersen



September outing

Wendy Brooks, with daughter Mandy, 5, and son Robbie, 4, wifes away the time on the bridge overlooking the creek on Main St. near the library Wednesday.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

The dance rolls on at the barns

The dance is on....

At a special meeting held Tuesday, Whitchurch-Stouffville council gave the green light to a dance being held in aid of the York-Durham Heritage Railway at the Stouffville Country Market on Sept. 15. While area zoning did not accommodate concerts on the property, council opted to give the fundraiser the go-ahead because of such a high level of community interest.

Meeting for diabetes patients, families

A specialist of internal medicine will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the York-Durham Diabetes Association to be held on Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Henry Solow, of the

Markham Stouffville Hospital will speak at the meeting to be held in the community room in the Markham Police Station at McCowan and Carlton Rds. The topic of Dr. Solow's talk

Students can surf the 'net at school

By **JULIE CASPERSEN**
Staff Reporter

Trustees debated the merits of giving students access to the internet before approving a plan to get all schools on-line within three years.

Three high schools and seven elementary schools in north York Region have already been connected to the internet as part of a pilot project.

This will be expanded over the next three years to include all schools within the York Region Board of Education.

The internet committee estimates the cost of furnishing schools with the necessary hardware is nearly \$700,000 with another \$254,000 annually to keep the system running.

"We're talking about \$3 per student per year," said Superintendent of Education Joe Allin.

While some trustees and staff members at the recent board meeting raved about the merits of the internet, others were skeptical about the benefits to students.

"Is this not another techno-

logical gimmick? Will it enhance learning in the classroom?" asked Whitchurch-Stouffville trustee Harry Bowes.

And Aurora trustee John West said some schools don't have the basics, such as proper libraries or gymnasiums.

West also took issue with the estimated costs of going on-line, suggesting the price could be much higher than anticipated.

"If we want it, it should be in the budget. If we can afford it, do it," he said.

However, student trustee Aaron Klopp of Keswick made an impassioned plea to the board to move forward with the internet plan. "If we delay we are disadvantaging the students."

The benefits far exceed the cost," he said.

Trustees voted to fund the first year of the phase-in plan to the tune of \$155,000. This includes a \$50,000 salary for a technical support person to head up the implementation of the network. The following two years of the plan were referred to the 1996 budget committee.

French language section to be amalgamated

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moment. However, a proposal to cut down on the number of trustees could see up to 15 fewer trustees making decisions on behalf of local taxpayers and parents.

Crothers said the York public board has an enrollment of 78,000 students, and the population is growing. According to the government report, boards with more than 80,000 students should have between 11 and 13 trustees.

And the 18-member separate board, which oversees a stu-

dent population of 42,000, will have its trustee reps cut to 9. Three of the current trustees are responsible for the French-language section of the board. The task force plan would shift this responsibility to a board that encompasses virtually all of southern Ontario. This board would be one of 15 French boards to replace the current four boards and 74 French sections.

Michel Fortin, chair of the York separate French language section, proposes that the headquarters of this proposed French board be based

in Aurora.

The task force said that a board of fewer trustees will be relieved of some of its responsibilities. But Tina Rotondi Molinari, chair of the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, wondered who will take on these duties.

The trustee reduction won't take place until the next municipal election in 1997.

The task force also recommends capping the yearly trustee salary at \$20,000. The York separate trustees now earn \$12,500 a year while their public counterparts

make \$19,650. Crothers said a report due this fall on the changing face of the Greater Toronto Area will have much more impact on York Region than the board reduction report.

The Golden Commission will effect people here. It will re-organize people in the GTA," he said.

Municipalities in the GTA are putting forth ideas on how the GTA should be governed. Area mayors will meet next Friday to talk about their perception of how the GTA should be run.

Correction

A story which ran in the Sept. 2 Tribune Weekender incorrectly named three Stouffville men as being charged in connection with a marijuana-growing operation.

In a press release issued last week York Regional Police told The Tribune that the men were believed responsible for growing an estimated 1,000 pot plants in a field on the Stouffville side of Regional Road 30. Kevin Stoner, 27, Chris Weidmark, 42, and Daniel Bangay, 27, were innocent witnesses to this investigation.

The Tribune regrets the error.

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