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# The Tribune

Stouffville Weekender

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Vol. 11 No. 40 A Metroland Community Newspaper Saturday, October 7, 1995 40 Pages 50c (incl. postage)

## Welfare

# 'Snitch-line' would see action here

By JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

Most Stouffville residents would blow the whistle on welfare cheaters but only if they were positive abuse was taking place, an informal survey carried out by *The Tribune* has shown.

In an effort to curb welfare fraud, the provincial government has set up a snitch line and is encouraging residents of Ontario to help nab cheaters. It's a move being welcomed by local taxpayers.



TSUBOUCHI

The '95-'96 welfare budget is \$6.3 billion. This represents 70 per cent of the entire Ministry

of Social Services' budget. Province-wide, the snitch line is expected to save Ontario \$25 million in the next 12 months.

*The Tribune* polled 25 residents, including merchants in the downtown core.

Of the 25 questioned, 21 said they'd call the snitch line providing they were sure of the facts.

Durham York MPP Julia Munro said that in August when the government announced its intent to set up an anti-fraud welfare hotline, residents of Stouffville and Uxbridge called her constituency office to back this particular move to curb fraud.

"They called me for the telephone number," said Munro.

On Wednesday, Minister of Community and Social Services Markham MPP David Tsubouchi announced that the

new welfare fraud "hot line" is now up and running.

People can help combat fraud

by calling 1-800-394-STOP. Also, callers can remain anonymous.

"Every cent that is paid to

(Please see page 3)



Step lively

Gareth Davies, 4, does his best impression of Christopher Robin along the wall at Memorial Park with the help of dad Marsden.

Photo: STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Blind Mission joins fight to ban land mines

By JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville-based mission and a popular entertainer are calling for a world-wide ban on land mines including blinding lasers.

While singer-songwriter Bruce Cockburn has added his voice to the campaign to ban the use of land mines around the world, Stouffville's Christian Blind Mission International has also formally joined the same cause.

Art Brooker, spokesman for the Christian Blind Mission, said these portable and highly effective weapons, currently being used in the context of war, are capable of "blinding indiscriminately" at a distance of one kilometre.

"Within a few years, soldiers, police officers and even civilian bystanders may be exposed to the blinding and permanent effects of the devastating new weapon," said Brooker.

Brandishing a pair of dummy mines at a news conference in the House of Commons in Ottawa, Cockburn said he'd work towards a world-wide landmine ban.

(Please see page 3)

## Testa back to council over complex

October will be a telling month. Before the end of the month, Whitchurch-Stouffville will find out if the plan for a multi-million dollar complex, including a seniors apartment building, an indoor swimming pool and a new library and art gallery, will continue to be reviewed.

This month, local council will welcome developer Gino Testa to the municipal office to have him, once again, outline the details of the mega project, slated for the Main Street-Duffin's Creek area, local mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

Testa is expected to include financial details of the project. "We'll find out what he can or cannot do," said Emmerson.

Construction is expected to get under way in the spring. The project will be built in stages.

While council agreed to have the plan studied, council has yet to give the project the green light, stressed Emmerson.

"I don't know if the library or the pool will be included," said Emmerson. "Council will have to decide that. They (council members) will likely go along with the seniors apartment building, but I don't know about the pool. We'll have to see."

In early summer, in a 5-to-2 vote, council agreed to have staff study the complex proposal further.

From a business stand point, October could turn out to be a good month, said Emmerson. "Other business interest are coming out way," said Emmerson. "October looks promising."

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