

AUDITIONS

to be held on

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19 Actors Needed

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There will always be a Stouffville: Mayor

(From page 1)
The Who Does What panel is different. As the panel makes recommendations, the provincial government looks at them right away. Meanwhile, decisions are made promptly and things are implemented "as we go," said Leach.

So far, tax reform, transportation, municipal administration and child welfare have been handled and recommendations are being worked on.

Last week, the province sent shock waves across the GTA when it was confirmed that a Toronto super city might be in the works. Such a move would eliminate Metro's six municipalities. Many speculate that under

this plan, the need for change in the general structure of the GTA's 30 municipalities and four regional governments, including York won't be needed.

Despite all the talk and speculation, Whitchurch-Stouffville will escape major change, local Mayor Wayne Emmerson is predicting. Local residents need not worry about being swallowed up by anyone, said Emmerson. "I think we'll be able to hold onto our own," said Emmerson. "We'll be able to maintain our community and its identity. There will still be a Whitchurch-Stouffville in the next century."

Whitchurch-Stouffville council has agreed in-principle to build a new town

hall, valued at about \$2.5 million. Some have suggested that the plan be put on hold because without a town, the need for a town hall disappears. Crombie declined comment on this particular action taken by Whitchurch-Stouffville council. "I wouldn't touch that one," said a good humored Crombie. If the mayor's prediction doesn't pan out and the municipality does cease to exist, Whitchurch-Stouffville won't go down without a fight, said area businessman David Turner. If the local municipality is swallowed up by its big neighbor, Whitchurch-Stouffville will make lots of noise. "They'll choke on us on the way down," said Turner.

Hydro announces huge savings, reserves

(From page 1)
decrease is official. It's 11 per cent," said Tatone.

When the local utility's restructuring program which was put into

place in February, Hydro commissioners predicted they'd see \$344,000 in savings this year. It went way beyond that. They saved \$650,000.

Also, in 1997, the local utility's savings were expected to rise to \$872,000. "Saving rose to \$1,152,000," said Tatone. In February, it was predicted the utility would have \$400,000 in the bank. As of Sept. 30, the bank book shows a figure of \$700,000. "Yes, it's \$300,000 more," said Tatone.

As was promised, customers reaped the rewards. In

early November, half of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Hydro customers received a \$100 credit. Some customers got billed for 29 cents or for 40 cents. The other Hydro customers will receive their \$100 rebate on Dec. 1.

Change at the local hydro electric commission included eliminating six jobs, contracting work out and selling off the utility assets.

The executive development program was a combination of restructuring, re-designing performance, productivity improvements and new rates, stressed Tatone.

While today looks good, the future is even more promising. The commission is now taking a look at alternative power sources to further benefit customers. Also being considered is expanding the service boundaries, and amalgamating with others within York Region, said Tatone.

"From a management point of view in this industry, we can't sit back," said Tatone.

"We have to move forward. Amalgamation maybe the only way to survive. The ratepayers have to benefit."



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