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Tory government shake-up spells changes at library

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

Stouffville has been affected by the province's move to hand over all responsibility for libraries to the municipalities.

The shift is part of the recommendations from the Who Does What panel.

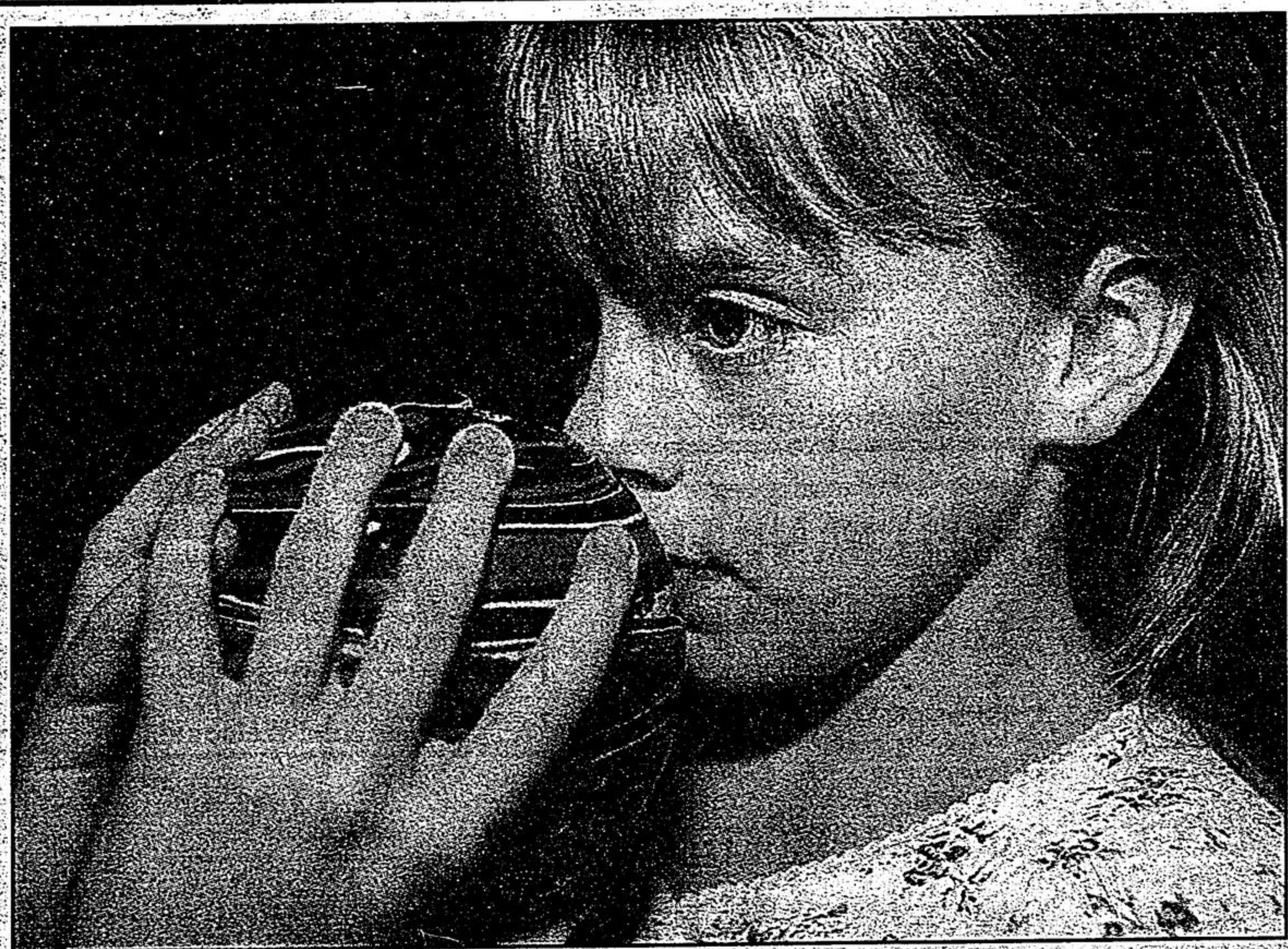
Province-wide, it means libraries in Ontario will lose \$24 million in provincial funding. On the homefront, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will not get annual grants valued at about \$38,000 next year.

The sharp edge of the provincial axe has hit Stouffville before. Last year, library officials saw about \$9,000 trimmed from provincial funding. The latest change could also mean user fees could be charged when taking library material, excluding books.

The 13-member staff at Whitchurch-Stouffville Library won't be affected by the new system, said chief librarian Marilyn Ferguson.

Some library supporters are, however, crying foul, claiming giving municipalities carte blanche over board appointments will bring an end to volunteerism and bring politics into a previously anti-censorship environment.

Local library board chairman Monica Van Morris was not
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All lined up

Katelyn Ross shows plenty of concentration as she lines up her shot during youth bowling action Saturday at the the Stouffville Bowl.

Photo/ STEVE SOMERVILLE

Block Parent group threatened with folding

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Block Parent Association will fold if an executive can't be formed by the end of February.

A last ditch attempt to save

the 200-member association is being made.

"If, at least, three residents don't come forward to help, Stouffville's Block Parents will definitely fold," said association spokesman Maryanne McManus.

The local Block Parents

faced the same fate a year ago. It was salvaged at the 11th hour by three concerned residents.

"We're in the same boat again, if it is not saved, all Block Parent signs in windows in Stouffville will have to be turned in," said

McManus. The main focus of Block Parents is to keep children out of harm's way.

McManus pointed out that if a few interested adults came forward to lend a hand, it would not be a great deal of work for anyone. "Many hands make the load light," she

stressed. Duties carried out include delivering signs and handling the mail.

"There's not a great deal to it and yet it provides such a vital service," said McManus.

Anyone interested in the local Block Parents should call 640-4506.

Eight thousand remain to be tested for hepatitis B

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

The investigation into Canada's largest hepatitis B scare that also touched Stouffville and Markham is over, yet 8,000 people continue to be urged to undergo tests, a health official has reported.

Mary Ferguson, of the North York Public Health Board, said the investigation, involving four public health departments, uncovered 75 cases of hepatitis B.

Nine months ago, 18,567 patients, including some from Markham and Stouffville were notified that their health might be in serious jeopardy.

Of those notified, 10,000 were test-

ed. "More than 8,000 others who had EEGs at the clinics may not yet have had blood tests," said Ferguson.

The patients, including a 40-year-old Musselman's Lake woman, were advised to get tested for the potentially fatal disease.

It was a trying experience for the Musselman's Lake resident.

While tests showed that the woman

was free of the disease, she told *The Tribune* that going through testing and the waiting was stressful for the whole family.

She had an EEG at a clinic to deal with a sleep disorder.

The patients have received EEGs in clinics in Markham, Pickering, Scarborough, Ajax and North York. The clinics have stopped doing EEGs.

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