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Vol. 13 No. 10 A Metroland Community Newspaper Saturday, March 8, 1997 44 Pages 50¢ (47¢ plus 3¢ GST)

Tribune Exclusive

Budget '97 will be zero

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Local taxpayers take note. A "good news" budget is in the works.

A \$13.6-million budget, reflecting a zero-per-cent tax increase, is being proposed for Whitchurch-Stouffville. *The Tribune* has learned.

A few weeks ago, Mayor Wayne Emmerson predicted yet another "good news" budget for the town. It looks like

the mayor's crystal ball is right on the money.

If council gives the document the nod on March 17 or 18, the average Whitchurch-Stouffville household will pay about \$524 for the municipal portion of the three-way tax bill.

The Tribune has also learned that at the regional level, Whitchurch-Stouffville residents will each pay an average of \$411 in regional taxes, up about \$20 over last year.

The York Region document

reflects a five-per-cent tax hike. Meanwhile, York's school boards will strike budgets soon.

Here in Whitchurch-Stouffville, the proposed high ticket item is a town hall-library complex, valued at about \$3

million. Also, if council agrees, about \$400,000 will go towards the cost of the new Ballantrae (Please see page 3)

Tooth Fairy's reputation saved by skin of her teeth



The Tooth Fairy visited Cole Fullerton thanks to local plumber Dennis Oliver.

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville plumber saved the day for a world-renowned figure.

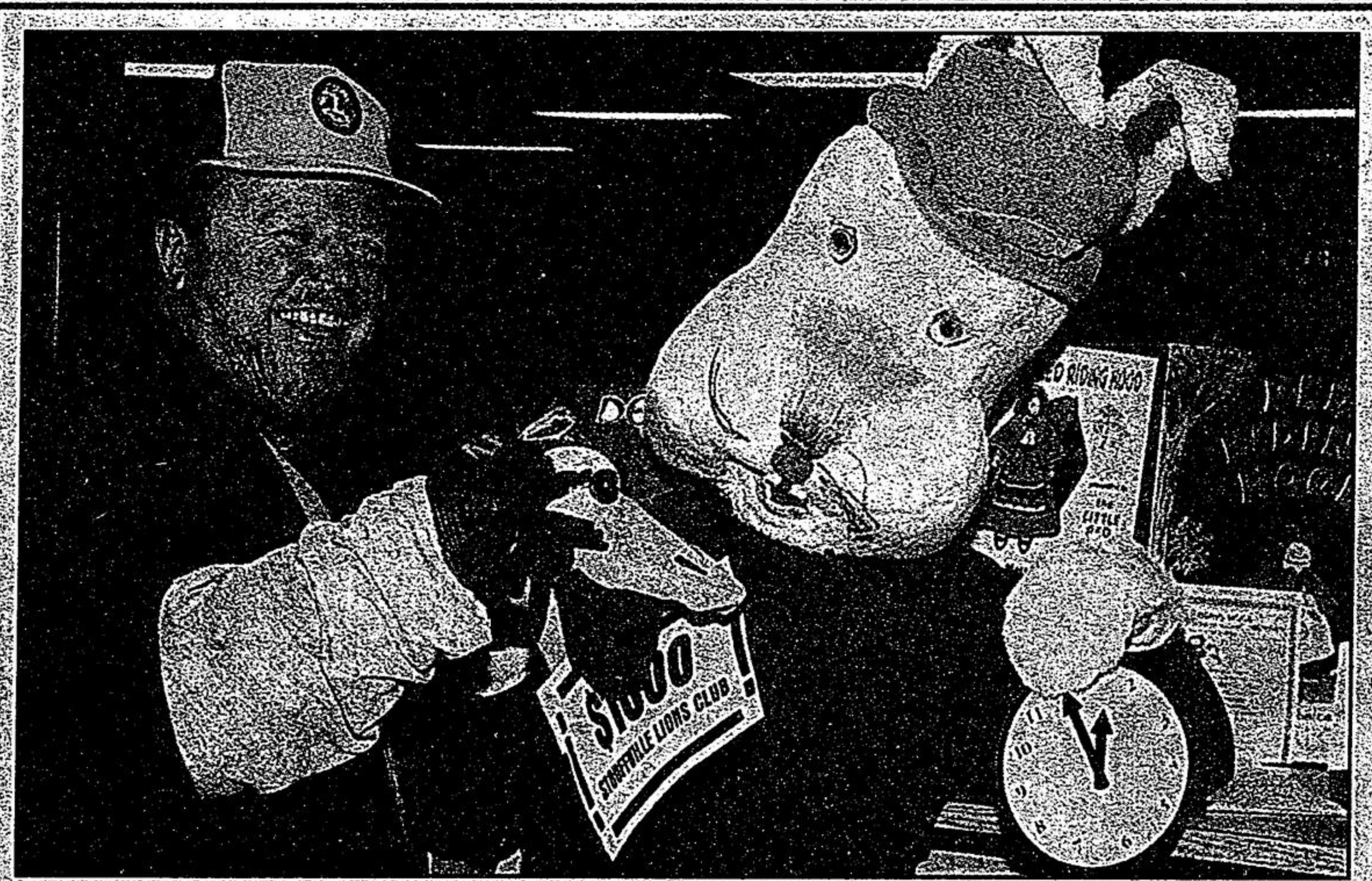
The reputation of the Tooth Fairy and a father-son relationship were in serious jeopardy Tuesday when a little boy's first tooth rolled down the bathroom sink.

The drama began on Manitoba Street. After days of trying to find the courage to pull a loose tooth, Cole Fullerton, 6, met with success.

Despite the fact that Grant Fullerton warned his son that he'd lose the tooth if he didn't put it in a safe place until it was time to put it under his pillow, Cole didn't listen.

The little boy got distracted and placed the tooth on the counter top in the bathroom. Grant spotted the tooth, thought it

(Please see page 3)



Time for a break

The March hare joins Cap Cowan, president of the Stouffville Lions Club in anticipation of March Break activities at the library. The Lions are a sponsor of the events for young people. Photo/LORI EMMERSON

Gallery closer to going it alone

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The Latcham Gallery and the local library board is one step closer to getting a divorce.

A committee has been struck to look into having the 17-year-old art gallery, located in the library complex, stand on its own.

About five months ago, the library board decided to explore the feasibility of having the 1,100-foot-gallery, complete with 242 members, separate itself from the local library board to become an independent body.

The committee is made up of Sharon Maude, David Probert, Doug Alles, Michael Bigone, Charlotte Cave, Martha Gayford, Keith Sunderland and gallery director and curator Christopher Jackson.

Since several galleries (in Ontario) have gone independent, the committee will approach some to find out how it's done and how it's going.

An independent gallery has the full backing of Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson, a library board member.

"They need to be on their own," said Emmerson. (Please see page 3)

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