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## Education

# Trustees reject teachers' final offer

By MIKE ADLER  
Staff Reporter

As scores of teachers watched, local public school trustees spoke up one at a time

Thursday to formally reject their twin elementary unions' final offer. The unanimous recorded vote came after the first of four last-ditch days of negotiations

to prevent a strike on Monday. "This offer does not begin to address our need for savings," said York Region Board of Education vice-chair and chief negotiator Karen Barker.

"We ask every employee in this organization to make sacrifices," she added before urging other trustees to vote against the deal.

One local union president in the room loudly responded he was not surprised.

"The parents out there should know that the teachers are interested in the quality of education and the trustees aren't," Fred Mayor of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation announced,

glaring at trustees waiting to meet again in private.

The two-year offer from 3,300 teachers includes no pay increase but asks for the 200 minutes of weekly preparation time teachers had until last year, within a "defined five-hour day."

Union leaders said they are asking for a few minor changes, such as two more paid religious holidays a year. The board, however, said the

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## Spring has... sprung?

Sure sign of spring: Unionville's Mary McIntyre limbers up as Rob Spittle clears a spot at the first tee for her. Unfortunately for Paul Carson, placing the ball on a tee for Mary, the snow divot from the shovel landed on his head. All this took place at the Four Seasons Golf Club in Claremont Thursday. Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

# Future growth target of new group

A flyer being circulated across town targets future growth and how it's being handled in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

This week, a newly formed group, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Residents Association, distributed hundreds of flyers outlining concerns about the town's future which has officially been under review since October.

While local council expects to have a new Secondary Plan in place this spring, members of the new association are worried.

"The process has not allowed residents to express their real concerns," said Jeanne Major, association spokesman. The plan has been the subject of a number of public meetings, local

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## Region

# Stouffville will survive any amalgamation: King

By JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

If York's nine municipalities amalgamated to form a city, one thing is certain: There will always be a Stouffville, York chairman Eldred King told a business audience Thursday.

The birth of the City of York would not mean the death of Stouffville, Vandorf, Ballantrae or Cedar Valley. "They'd remain what they are now - some of the most charming rural communities in Ontario," said King.

Speaking at a Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting, the regional chairman said the current taxation game "pits municipalities against each other." To combat this and to avoid having Whitchurch-Stouffville end up under the umbrella of the Greater Toronto Area Service Board, King strongly advocates York Region becoming a city.

"By erasing lines on a map, we could consolidate services that now overlap or that mirror services already provided by the region," said King.

King told the audience he'd like to see a "simplified responsibility" for all aspects of sewers, water, road, waste management, planning, ambulance services and fire protection as very positive benefits.

The audience, meanwhile, was polite but silent. Only two questions were asked and one had nothing to do with Whitchurch-Stouffville becoming a part of a city.

The whole issue of amalgamation is reaching a fever pitch. Yesterday, Ontario Premier Mike Harris held a special meeting to deal with the subject. Meanwhile, late next week, the provincial government is expected to pass a bill which will amalga-

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