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The Tribune

Stouffville Weekender

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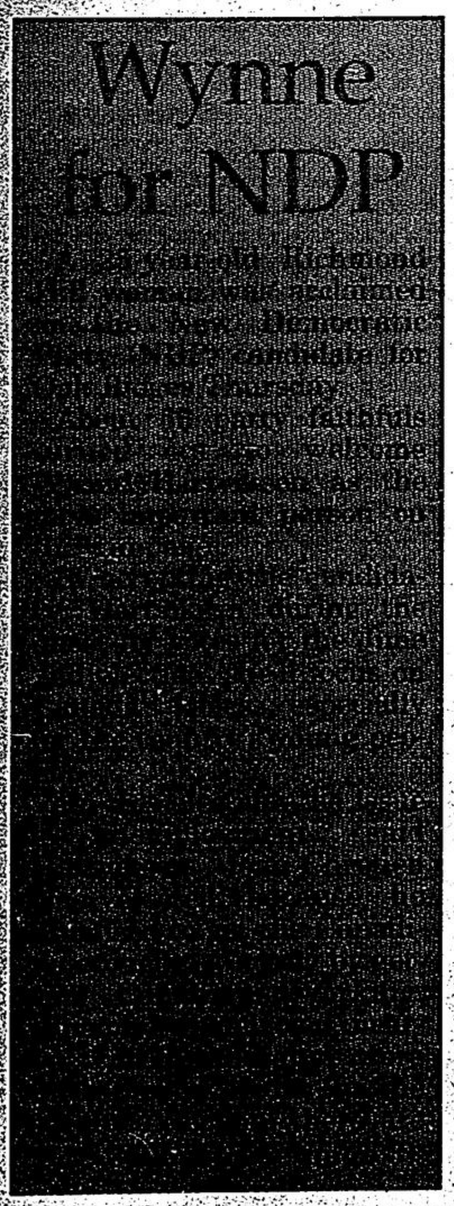
GTA

York safe from amalgamation for three years

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Now that Toronto and Chatham are mega cities, attention shifts to the rest of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), including Stouffville.



When it comes to York Region, the province will take a hands-off approach for a while, York chairman Eldred King has suggested.

"Nothing will happen here for the next three years," said King.

While a hiatus is the most likely thing to happen, it's not to suggest that the province isn't targeting York for a major shake up, King stressed.

"There certainly will be changes. I only hope it's in the right direction," he said.

Days after Toronto was declared a mega city, Chatham and 22 surrounding communities will be amalgamated into one municipality called Chatham Kent with 18 elected officials instead of 141.

The amalgamation in Chatham does not mean a thing to Whitchurch-Stouffville, said Mayor Wayne Emmerson. He's long contested that this municipality is big enough and affluent enough to stand on its own.

King, meanwhile, would like all of York's municipalities to blend together to become a city.

The birth of a city would not mean the death of Stouffville and its hamlets, King has stressed.

Another scenario for York would be the setup of a GTA Service Board. While the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce supports this board, King doesn't share the

(Please see page 3)

Help on the way

Assisting the people of Manitoba, from left, The Tribune's Ruth Leblanc, Robert Van Bemmel, of Canadian Tire, Eleanor Dalgleish, new town resident who came up with the donation idea, Murray Emerson, deputy fire chief, and Ian MacKenzie, of Canadian Tire. *Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE*

Help for Manitoba coming from Whitchurch-Stouffville

Stouffville has heard Manitoba's cry for help.

Project Warmth, a four-way partnership made up of local residents, the Canadian Tire Store, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department and *The Tribune* has been launched. The mission is to help the western province's flood victims. The Red River has left a path of destruction through North Dakota and southern Manitoba. In the worst flooding since 1826, the river crested in this provincial capital of 650,000 early yesterday.

While the dike in Winnipeg held, the flood took its toll elsewhere—Thousands of acres of land are underwater, about 25,000 people abandoned their homes and made it to evacuation centres which have been set up in higher ground. Sand bagging is going on 'round the clock; soldiers are everywhere and still, there's no guarantee that the crisis is over. Manitoba is not alone. Help is being mobilized across Canada.

Here in Stouffville, blankets, sleeping bags, non perishable food and bottled water can be dropped off at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Station on Main Street.

Stouffville resident Eleanor Dalgleish was the first to respond here. Dalgleish called *The Tribune* and asked what was being done at the local level to help the flood victims. The query put the wheels in motion.

Dalgleish said the need in the neighboring province is astronomical.

"If everyone does a little, we'll accomplish a great deal," she said.

Ian McKenzie, manager of the local Canadian Tire Store, said the act on behalf of the store is "corporate citizenship" in action. "It's a way we can help," he said,.

While all donations are collected at the fire station through the direction of fire chief Bill Brown, McKenzie will transport the goods to a large Toronto-based depot. From there, donated items will be shipped to the flood areas.

~ Joan Ransberry

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