

Ground water top concern of protesters

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including Collins, questioned the plan as well as the present operation.

"Our main concern is the ground water," said Collins.

"The existing operation leaves a lot to be desired. They should clean it up before starting this," said Collins.

Emmerson has acknowledged that residents of the area are not as worried about the household hazardous waste depot as they are about the state of the present site.

Immediate neighbors worry that their drinking water is not safe. People have spoken about the possibility of salt finding its way into residential wells.

"And some have told me that that battery acid (from the depot) might seep into the ground," said Collins.

Illegal dumping has also been a problem in this area. The residents are worried that this (waste depot) will attract even more illegal dumping, Emmerson has said.

Emmerson plans to speak to the



EMMERSON

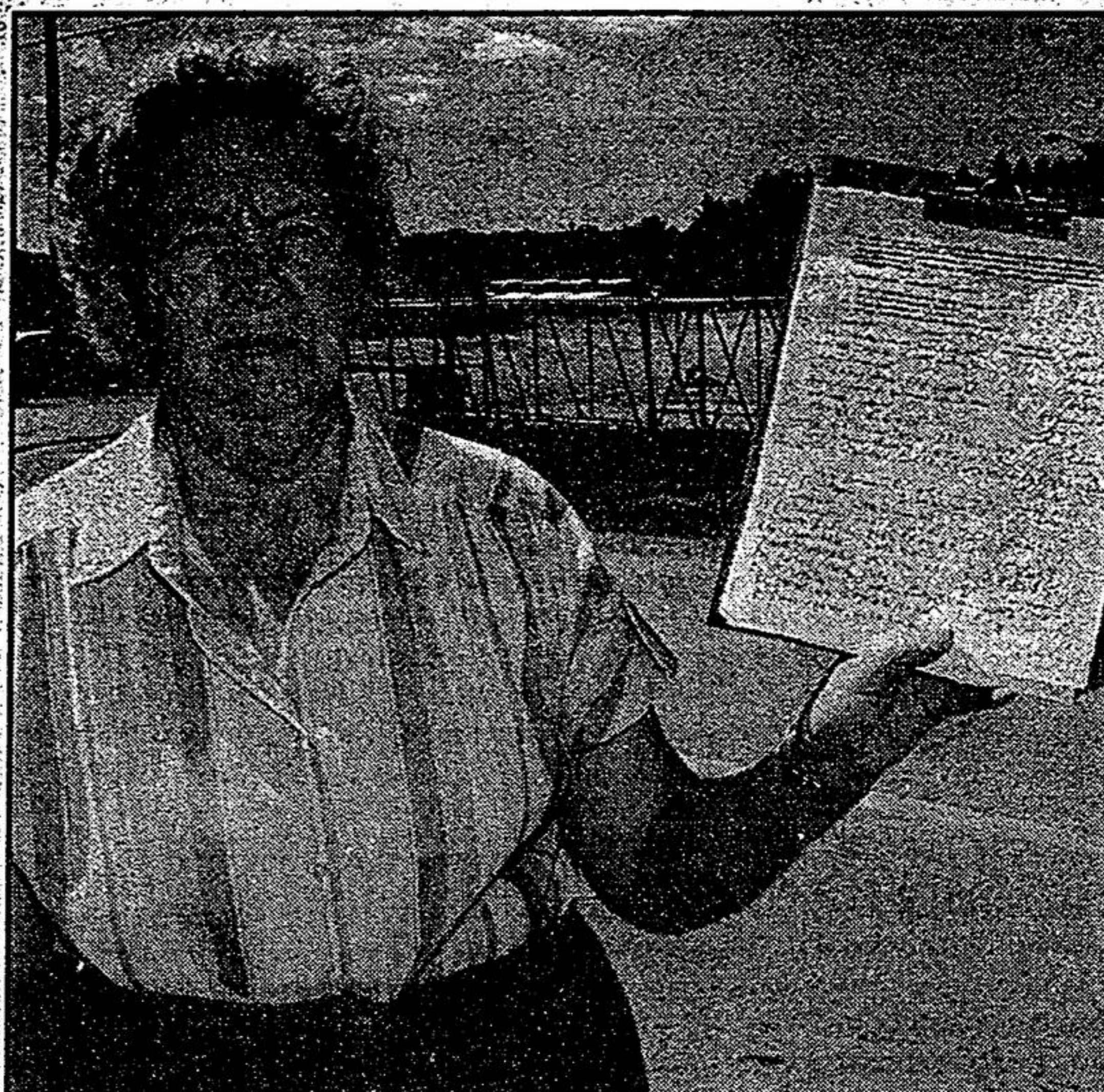
appropriate regional staff about the garbage dumping problem.

If the hazardous waste facility gets the green light, waste from both Whitchurch-Stouffville and Newmarket will be housed there.

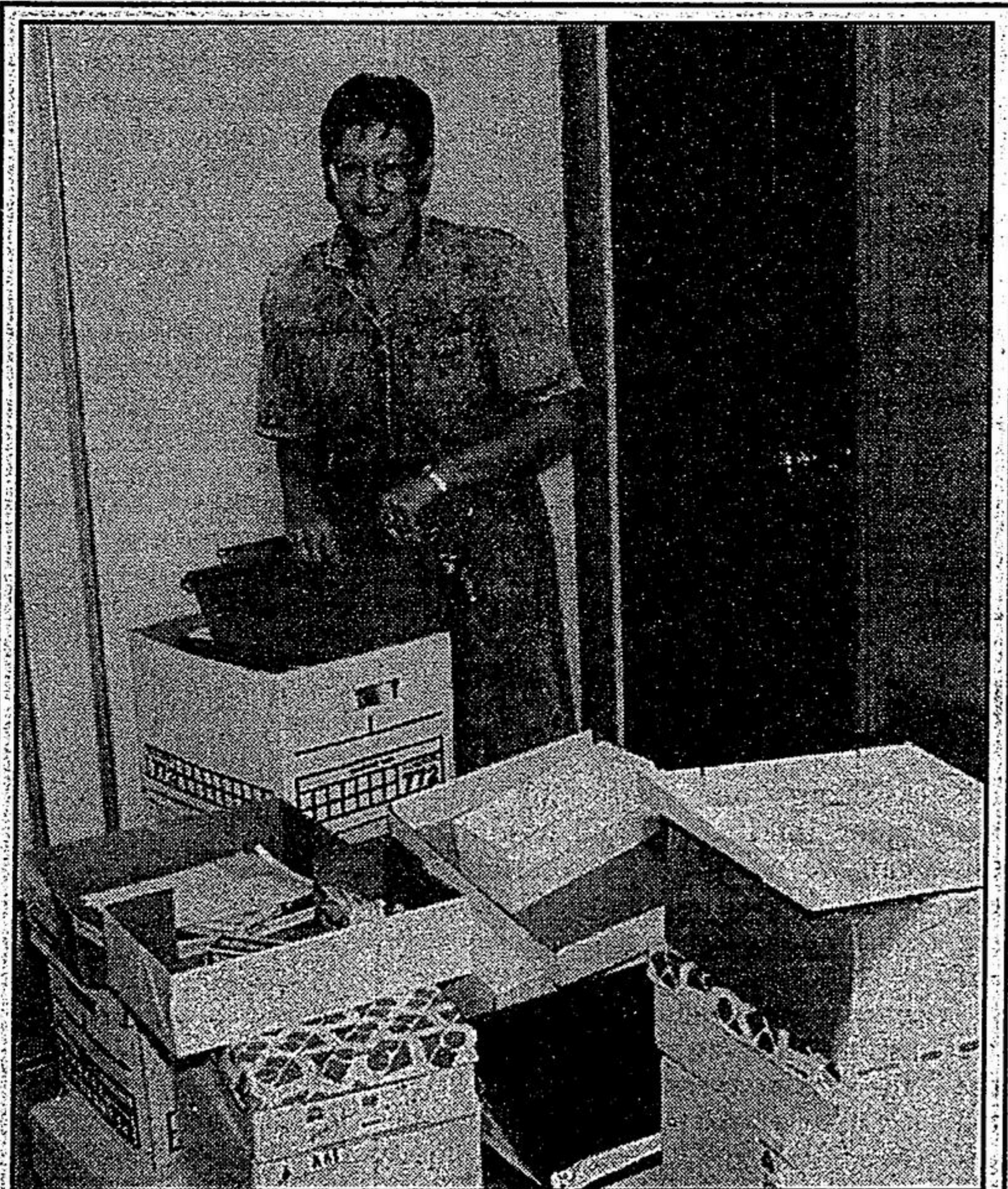
Before a regional facility can be built here, the plan must undergo public scrutiny and be approved by Whitchurch-Stouffville council, stressed Emmerson.

The issue will be presented to the public and to council on September 9. Presently, household waste, which includes paints, pesticides and oil, are taken to mobile collection units, which are set up for a few days once a year at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Complex.

Stationary depots are viewed as not as costly, more convenient and safer. Also, they're overseen by the Ministry of the Environment. Last year, 927 vehicles dropped off hazardous waste at the mobile unit in Stouffville, while 2,945 vehicles dropped off hazardous waste at a mobile unit in Newmarket.



NOT IN MY BACKYARD: Helen Collins with the signatures on a petition protesting the gathering and storing of toxic waste at this York Region site at St. John Sideroad and Woodbine Avenue. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN



FIRST TENANTS: Barb St. John, administrator for the local Chamber of Commerce, unpacks boxes at the Stouffville Train Station, where the chamber has set up new digs. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Community councils coming

Three new community councils will be set up across the riding of Oak Ridges, including one in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Residents interested in joining the federal council have until August 25 to get their applications in.

A 10-member federal council will be established in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Markham and Richmond Hill. The brainchild of Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert, the community councils will be up and running in early October. Wilfert explained that council members will provide "input on issues affecting the riding

where the federal government plays a role and will be able to comment on emerging issues to the MP."

Candidates for the councils must be 18 years of age and be prepared to devote two hours at meetings which are held every three months.

There will be no remuneration for participation on the councils. Also, Wilfert stresses that the make-up is non-partisan. Applicants are being asked to provide reasons why they would like to take part. Also, information about the applicants will be welcomed.

For more information call 709-5905.

GO Transit promises longer train

Stouffville will get a longer train in the fall, a GO transit official has promised.

Standing conditions on trains in Stouffville will be improved soon, M.S. Wolczyk, GO Transit's manager of Marketing and Design Services reported to local council on Tuesday.

"We are planning improvements to address standing conditions on the

Stouffville Corridor trains," said Wolczyk.

Ridership on the Stouffville trains has "increased 36 per cent" in the past two years, said Wolczyk.

"One of the (Stouffville) trains has become one of the most crowded on our system."

As well as developing a plan to operate and store "a longer train" by

early fall, on Sept. 2, GO Transit will add two morning bus runs from downtown Stouffville to Toronto's Union Station and two return bus runs in the evening.

The new bus will leave Stouffville at 5 a.m. and at 8:30 a.m. Meanwhile, the Stouffville-bound bus will leave Union Station at 3:10 p.m. and again at 8:40 p.m.

New MP Wilfert has full slate planned

■ Editor's note: This story was inadvertently cut off in Tuesday's paper. We present it in its entirety with our apologies.

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Marking Sir John A's birthday, herbal remedies, junk mail, protecting co-op housing, meeting with local mayors, and finding a secondary home in Ottawa while moving Mom to Stouffville are just a few of the things on Bryon Wilfert's "Do Now" list.

The Oak Ridges MP vows his plate in Ottawa will never be too full for the constituents in Oak Ridges.

"An MP's role is to listen, to try to assist where possible and to be as accessible as one can be," said Wilfert.

Armed with the philosophy that success hinges on the grass roots approach and that an MP is, indeed, a servant of the people, Wilfert has rolled up his sleeves, formulat-

ed an agenda, caught the prime minister's attention, set up two offices, got his mother settled in Stouffville and is finding a home away from home in Ottawa.

At a Monday morning press conference attended by *The Tribune* and sister papers *The Markham Economist and Sun* and *The Richmond Hill Liberal*, the new MP gave an overview of his plans for the new riding, which takes in all of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Richmond Hill and the northern part of Markham.

Wilfert will meet individually with Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Markham Mayor Don Cousens and Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell to discuss ways to improve the relationship between the federal and municipal governments.

"The municipal government is the backbone of a community," said Wilfert, a former municipal councillor in Richmond Hill.

As well, the local MP has joined the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) mayors'

group. A federal voice at this table is needed when the future of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham is being ironed out, Wilfert suggested.

A former history teacher, Wilfert sees a critical need to have Canadians know Canada.

Wilfert has put the wheels in motion to have Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday celebrated Canada-wide. The birthday of this country's first prime minister is Jan. 11, a fact too few people know, stressed Wilfert.

Last week, while in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Jean Chretien complimented Wilfert for his nation-building interests.

As well as holding regular chats with the local media, Wilfert is setting up a 10-member Community Council in each of the riding's three communities. The councils are slated to meet once every three months, and aim to give the people of Oak Ridges a chance to take part in shaping the issues pertaining to the new riding and to Canada's future.

"I just got my first application. It came from Whitchurch-Stouffville," said Wilfert.

At an upcoming Aug. 15 meeting on housing, Wilfert will take a strong stand on issues linked to social and co-operative housing.

In the past few weeks, Wilfert has dealt with legislation concerning herbal remedies and with making sure newsletters from the province and from the municipalities are not linked to Canada Post's recent junk mail ban.

Wilfert stressed that the federal government is open for business in Oak Ridges. He pointed out that his constituency office is located at 225 East Beaver Creek, Suite 231 in Richmond Hill.

His special executive assistant is Imma Trozzolo and his constituency assistant is Vivien Chan. Shirley Head runs the Oak Ridges's Ottawa office, slated to open Aug. 4. Both offices are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call the local office at (905) 709-5905.