

Region proposes strict smoking ban

Regional chair wants all municipalities on side

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

An anti-smoking bylaw for York Region should be passed only if all nine municipal councils first give their permission, regional chair Eldred King suggested last week.

York Region Council may decide today to ask its local councils for special power to pass a tough law which would ban smoking immediately from food courts, restrict it in other places, and make the entire region smoke-free on Jan. 1, 2000.

Provincial law requires only that a majority of the councils — five — pass their authority to regulate smoking to the region.

King said he is aware of the provincial requirements, but regional staff have recommended getting consent from all nine councils. "It requires all of them," he said.

"I don't think we want a bylaw that some municipalities are not in favour of."

Cathy Jaynes, a health department worker spearheading the project, said she was unaware the consent of each municipality was needed. Local councils won't vote on

the bylaw, just on transferring their power to make one, she said Friday.

Such a bylaw would replace the varying rules for non-smoking sections in different communities. Stouffville puts aside 70 per cent of restaurant seats for non-smokers; Markham reserves half, and Richmond Hill 20 per cent.

King acknowledged Richmond Hill has

already expressed its opposition to a regional bylaw.

"It remains to seen what they will do when asked directly," he added. "It's open for debate and it may require some refinement"

King, who plans to retire in November, said he supports the proposed bylaw as a step "society would wish us to take."

Residents and businesses may be split on the issue. When 400 residents in the region were polled last April, 65 per cent said

they'd support making all enclosed public places in the region smoke-free; when 1,500 surveys were sent to businesses, 78 per cent of the two per cent which replied opposed this measure, the region said.

The bylaw would include a six-month "education period" after it is passed, Jaynes said. After that, the region is proposing that warnings and then tickets with a minimum \$115 fine be given to those breaking the bylaw.

Workfare set to start in York Region

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Welfare recipients could start doing volunteer work at local non-profit agencies after this week, when its manager says York Region's workfare program is expected to be official.

Final provincial approval for the region's workfare plans should come within days, John MacKinnon said last Friday.

Officials say workfare here will mean able-bodied people have to do one of three

things after spending four months collecting welfare: job training, a job placement or "community participation" with a non-profit agency.

Sole-support parents with children in school will be exempt until Jan. 1, but after that they'll participate too, said social services administrator Joanne Simmons, who expects Ontario Works in York Region to be running by Oct. 1.

The region is still looking for a private company or companies to handle job placements, said MacKinnon.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees opposes workfare but the district council president for CUPE's York Region locals says they won't stand against community agencies who get workfare clients as volunteers.

"(In) other places it might be a problem; it's not going to be one here," provided they have volunteered to work with that particular agency, said Brad Black.

"They're allowing people to volunteer" for volunteer work, he explained last week. "That's the key difference."

But MacKinnon said workfare volunteers won't have a choice of agency.

"The agencies are going to have the opportunity to choose who they want to work for

POLITICS

them," he said.

The region wants the employment activity to be "mutually agreed upon" but will exercise "leadership" with clients in making the decisions, MacKinnon added.

Ontario Community and Social Services Minister Janet Ecker recently admitted the program is developing slowly "in some communities," but she blamed municipal politicians, as well as unions "who've gone out and scared the bejesus out of community agencies" thinking of participating, she said.

In an interview, Ecker recalled how CUPE threatened to pull its funding out from Metro Toronto's United Way in the middle of its annual fundraising drive, if United Way agencies took volunteers from the workfare program.

"These agencies deal with vulnerable people," Ecker said. "Holding them politically hostage, I think is despicable."

The program is a "very positive development" if it can bring volunteers to agencies and not upset the municipal workers' unions, said Wyn Chivers, executive director of the United Way of York Region.

Sainsbury, Marshall not running

At least some rumours have been put to rest: Neither Ward 3 Councillor Margot Marshall nor former mayor Fran Sainsbury will not be seeking positions on Whitchurch-Stouffville Council in the municipal election slated for Nov. 10.

The decision has been made, Sainsbury told *The Tribune*.

"(Mayor) Wayne (Emmerson) is on his own unless someone else challenges him," said Sainsbury.

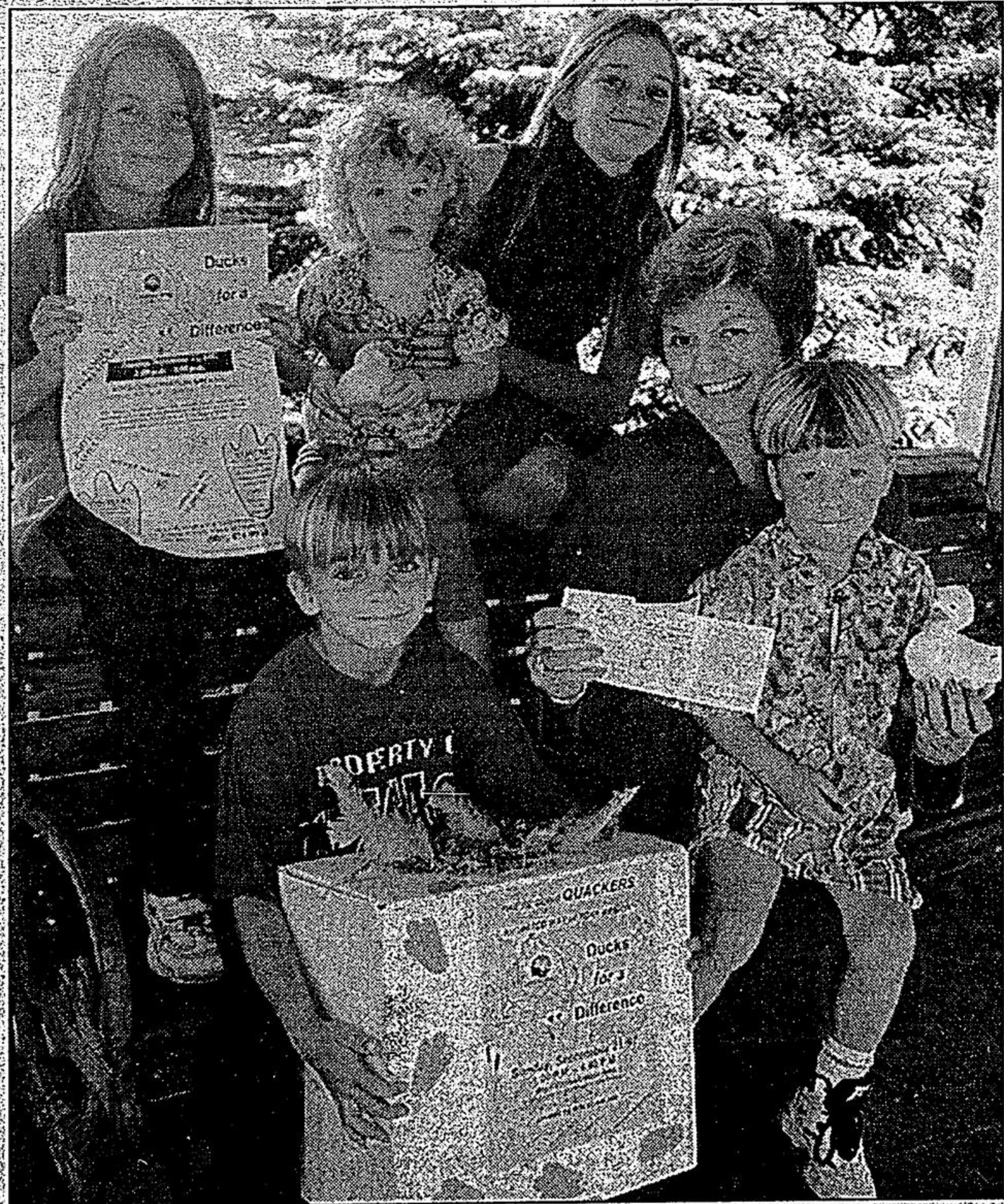
Sainsbury and her husband have sold their Ninth Line farm. The couple plans to live

with their daughter for a while and to do some travelling. "Then we'll house hunt," she said. Also, Sainsbury will continue with her real estate career.

Marshall, whose municipal political career spanned about 15 years, said her plan is to get involved in the golf business. Her son owns a course in St. Lucia. As well, Marshall said she'll spend more time in her "apartment in Scotland."

This summer Peter Dobrich announced that he's filed papers to run in Ward 3.

—Joan Ransberry



JUST DUCKY: The United Way of York Region presents its Ducks for a Difference campaign kick-off on Sun., Sept. 21 with arts and crafts, games, face painting and much more at Boyd Conservation Area in Vaughan. Clockwise from top left are: Alexandra Hurst, 8, Jennifer Roswell, 2, Lindsay Hurst, 11, local United Way fundraising chair Fran Sainsbury, Robbie Roswell, 3, and Miles Hurst, 7, holding the ballot box. Highlight of the day is a rubber duck race and ticket holders will compete for prizes, including the chance to win \$1 million. For tickets or information call 640-1142 or 494-9974, ext. 231.

Photo by LORI EMMERSON

Pages of messages written for Royal Family

Hundreds of Stouffville residents signed condolence books expressing their feelings to the Royal Family on the tragic death of the Princess of Wales.

People left messages in pages and pages in a book set up at the Anglican Parish of Christ Church on Sunset Blvd.

Similar messages were left in a book of condolences set up by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

As well, more than 500 signatures and messages of sympathy filled 55 pages in a book on display at the York Region headquarters in Newmarket.

NORM'S FURNISHINGS
EST. 1979

Kitchen, Dining & Bedroom Suites
Fine Rustic Furnishings
(905) 640-0125
(905) 640-6146
18 Ringwood Drive & Stouffville Country Market

5 PC. COUNTRY DINETTE
You receive a 42"x42"x60" table with carved apron, and four arrow back chairs.
Constructed of solid wood and oak veneers.
\$599⁰⁰

5 PC. OAK DINETTE
You get a 48"x48"x72" table with carved apron & 4 double press back side chairs.
Constructed of solid wood & oak veneer.
\$699⁰⁰

7 PC. OAK DINETTE
42"x66"x88" double pedestal table with carved apron and 6 wheat sheaf chairs.
Constructed of solid wood and oak veneer.
\$999⁰⁰

COMPLETE THE SET WITH THIS MATCHING BUFFET & HUTCH

OAK BUFFET & HUTCH
Featuring solid oak raised panel doors, leaded glass, felt lined drawers, this 50" wide buffet & hutch will complete your casual dining decor. Also includes 2 pot lights, antique brass handles & oak veneers.
\$899⁰⁰

BLOW OUT

ORTHO 1000
8 ft. 6 in. deep
SINGLE \$159⁰⁰
DOUBLE \$169⁰⁰
QUEEN \$199⁰⁰