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Spirits high for opener
 Sports page 26



Boosters tout town to industries

JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Reporter

The business ball is rolling in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

From an economic standpoint, things are, indeed, looking up. The Canadian economy is expected to grow by almost four per cent this year, while consumer confidence

and spending is up nation-wide.

Here in Stouffville, success doesn't hinge on either the coat tail ride or the trickle-down approach nor is it being left to chance.

Instead, a lot of work has been done, while plans for more economic growth here at home are well underway, stressed Peter Burdon, chair of the Economic Development Action Committee (EDAC).

On Tuesday during a business luncheon, Burdon will deliver the Stouffer Vision progress report to 22 local businesses which collectively donated \$100,000 towards the \$200,000 fund set up in January to enhance

DEVELOPMENT

local business.

"Each gave \$5,000," said Burdon. "It's an investment. This is not a charity. It's each of us investing in ourselves and in our community."

Operating on a dollar-for-dollar share basis, the town kicked in \$100,000. Burdon is quick to point out that the partnership of government working hand in hand with the private business sector is unique. It gives business an opportunity to have a say in its own destiny, a posi-

tion that's best for all concerned.

"We've heard of towns where growth and development have been left only to the political process or others where the growth was dictated by an overpowering commercial enterprise. Both of these scenarios lead to dissatisfaction. Here in Stouffville, we saw the need to create something different. We seized upon the moment, partnered with our local government and got the ball rolling. We'll go into the new century with an approach that works for everyone," said Burdon.

At some point, EDAC officials

■ Please see page 22. ■



Peter Burdon (left) and Eric Lismanis of the Economic Development team promote the Town of Stouffville.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

@random

What's happening

The old-fashioned steam engines will be huffing and puffing at the Bruce's Mill HarvestFest on Sat. Sept. 20, and Sun. Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shop at the farmers' market and the country bake sale. Enjoy the barbecue, see apple cider pressing, and go for a ride on a horse-drawn wagon. Don't forget to visit the historic mill and take a

hike through the glorious fall colours.

Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children and \$2 for seniors.

Bruce's Mill Conservation Area is located on Stouffville Road, three kilometres east of Hwy 404. For information, call (416) 661-6600, ext. 203.

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 640-2100



MORaine DEFENDER: Uxbridge resident David McQueen chaired the committee which celebrated the Oak Ridges Moraine in pictures and text. The Save The Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) committee aims to raise awareness of the what and where the moraine is, and what needs to be done to preserve the 200-kilometre-long area that includes Stouffville. For the full story on The Oak Ridges Moraine, please see page 23.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

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