



Leafs on the links

At left, veteran leftwinger Wendel Clark takes a few practice swings at the yearly Leaf's charity golf tourney, held at Emerald Hills Golf and Country Club in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Below, the usually staid Ken Dryden, president of the Leafs, enjoys a laugh before setting off in his cart for the day's round. Funds raised in the tournament go to various children's charities, the Maple Leafs Minor Hockey Fund, Read-with-the Leafs literacy program and the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness.

Photos by STEVE SOMERVILLE



Contract leads to cutbacks in sports

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cutbacks. "Obviously, it's not like it used to be," he said. "We're just not going to be able to have the same programs, largely due to matters of dollars and cents. We're simply going to have fewer activities and fewer teams."

Leonard said teachers' attitudes have changed because of an expectation for them to continue to do more with less. "They just feel they can't give as much as they did in the past. They haven't had a raise in over five years."

Connell said while coaches have come forward for the above mentioned programs, the future of such things as morning hockey and the school's popular lunch-time sports activities will depend upon whether volunteers can be lined up. "The physical education teachers will be supervising the gym at lunch in the same way other teachers supervise the cafeteria," said Connell, who said teachers and parents will be asked to assist with the lunch time programs. Student Athletic Council co-presidents Brenda Robbins and Chris Weatherill will administer the programs.

Connell said other areas will probably be affected as well. "I can't see as many exhibition tournaments as we had in the past, partly because of a lack of supervisors, and partly because of a lack of funding."

The school has made up for a lack of board funding for extra curricular programs in recent years by holding fruit drives and other fundraisers.

Victory for region's unionized workers

Municipal workers' unions in York Region were cautiously accepting a surprise victory Thursday, after Ontario's Con-

servative government promised to make major changes to its new labour bill.

Rotating strikes and eventual-

ly a province-wide walkout had been threatened over Bill 136, which would have imposed contracts on some public sector workers with no possible appeal. The government now says that mechanism and other parts of the bill the unions disliked will be dropped.

Before the news broke Thursday night, members of all Canadian Union of Public Employee locals in the region were called to meet today. Strike votes would have been held, some that same night, said Brad Black, president of CUPE's York Region district council.

"If we did not have the threat of a province-wide strike do you think (Premier) Mike (Harris) would have changed even a word of the bill?" he asked yesterday.

The Harris government, in changing the bill, has "compromised" in a way that gets the union's cooperation during the coming round of amalgamations — its objective all along, he said. "I think the government has really got what it wanted."

Black complained that he was ignored after asking for York Region Council's support on a similar resolution.

Municipalities in York Region had sent letters to AMO "asking

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for what ended up being Bill 136" before it was drafted, according to Black, who wouldn't say which communities he was talking about. "We know there were three," he said.

AMO changed its mind because its members were told they would be "held accountable" for the bill, and that there would be unrest because of it, Black said.

~By Mike Adler and Kathleen Griffin

Ward 2 has contender

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

A candidate has come forward to run in Whitchurch-Stouffville's Ward 1 in the upcoming municipal election.

Steve Pliakes of Vivian Road has filed the appropriate papers indicating his intent to run in the Nov. 10 municipal election.

The seat which takes in Gormley and Vandorf and surrounding areas became vacant following the announcement from Councillor Ivanka Bradley that she is not seeking re-election in Ward 1 and after political hopeful Chris Dymond withdrew from the race.

Pliakes has lived in Ward 1 for 23 years. Semi-retired, he's married to Lilly. They are the parents of two married daughters and the grandparents of four.

A life-long interest in politics in general and a concern about his community in particular are the reasons behind Pliakes seeking a position on local government. "I've always loved politics," said Pliakes. "I feel that I've gained

from the (Ward 1) area and I want to give something back. I'm mature enough to contribute to the running of things."

Pliakes served two years on the York Regional Police Services Board from 1992 to 1994.

The local election campaign is not without issues, stressed Pliakes. The proposal to build a household waste disposal facility in Ward 1 in the Warden Avenue area concerns Pliakes. "I will do everything I can to fight this," he said.

"Stouffville is viewed as a dumping ground. We've suffered enough. We've had enough."

Last week, Mayor Wayne Emmerson told *The Tribune* that he's hopeful that the regional waste facility will not find its way to Stouffville.

Emmerson stressed that recently York Regional Council directed staff to look at Aurora and Newmarket when searching for the site to take household waste such as paints and oils.

Still, Pliakes said he will keep an eye on the issue.

Thicketwood neighbours lobby for safer streets

A 40-name petition calling for a reduction in the speed limit on Stouffville's Thicketwood Blvd. along with a request for "Children At Play" signs are being reviewed by Whitchurch-Stouffville Council tonight.

Residents want the speed limit set at 40 kilometres per hour, while staff has recommended it be 50 kph.

The town recently received a letter from concerned residents living on Thicketwood Blvd. asking for help from the town to control speeding between the new subdivision and Booth Drive.

Staff has backed the residents' request for the "Children At Play" signs. Staff also suggested the residents take advantage of the Traffic Watch program which is designed to have local residents help police the streets.

~Joan Ransberry

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