

# Candidates show passion for issues

**JOAN RANSBERRY**  
Staff Reporter

To build or not to build a town hall, the need for a library expansion and what to do about drunk teenagers were issues on the voters' minds who attended the all-candidates meeting at the Stouffville District Secondary School Friday.

More than 150 people witnessed two mayoralty, 10 ward candidates and one acclaimed councillor prove that they can think on their feet.

Candidates for the upcoming election had no trouble responding to touchy questions linked to the town hall and to the library. While most voiced strong opposition to building a multi-million dollar administrative facility, everyone wants to expand the library now.

Ward 1 candidate Steve Pliakes suggested a wait-and-see approach be taken when dealing with major expenditures.

"We must be prepared and wait and see what the province has in store," said Pliakes. "Municipal boundaries will be altered. Only then, will we be able to make concrete and wise decisions."

Ward 1 challenger Frank Martino said his area deserves a Secondary Plan which promotes the "appropriate ratio of residential, commercial, industrial, farm and business mix to maximize quality of life in our community." Martino also wants a sound barrier between Highway 404 and adjoining residential properties.

Opening the high school gym at night as a way to get troubled kids off the streets was suggested by Ward 2 candidate Mark Carroll. As well, Carroll is worried about how the town tackles planning.

"Developers come and go. They come for the money and go with it with not much consideration of the impact it leaves on both the residents and the environment" said Carroll.

Ward 2 opponent Helene Johnson got a round of applause when she addressed the issue of drunk teens passing out in town parks. "Where are the parents?" asked Johnson.

Johnson, president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, stressed the need for the town to play an active role in bringing employment to Ward 2. Johnson said she's a team player

who'll bring benefits to her ward.

Ward 3 candidate Sophie Engelis said she's "strongly opposed" to building a new town hall and suggested that money earmarked for such a facility could be redirected to youth programs. "With the real threat of amalgamation of our municipalities, I do not feel that it would be in our best interest at this particular time," said Engelis. As well, Engelis said her campaign is focusing on planning and environmental matters.

Ward 3 challenger Peter Dobrich said he's "pro development" providing it's "well thought out and planned with input from residents, developers and staff."

Also, Dobrich said he'd rather see a new library and town hall in Whitchurch-Stouffville then "have the \$12 million amalgamated to pay bills in Markham or Richmond Hill."

Ward 4 Councillor Cliff Dunkeld, the only member of council acclaimed, said he'll continue to work hard.

"I never missed a council meeting in six years," said Dunkeld. "I'll take a positive look at all industrial and commercial wishing to locate in our town. I'll support

recreation and culture programs for all ages."

Ward 5 incumbent Judy Scala was blunt: "Let's not fool ourselves, the next three years will be critical to the future of our community and to our lifestyle," she said. "Your town council has to continue with a plan of action to acknowledge and realize where we want to be in the overall picture of municipal restructuring."

Also, Scala said she'd like to set up a residents' group that will be able to "brain storm" about many issues facing the town.

Ward 5 challenger Judy Saabas said Whitchurch-Stouffville needs "some fresh new faces and new ideas."

She added, "This is not the time to close our eyes and hope that financial and government issues go away. It is time to show leadership, and make certain that the citizens come out ahead of any game that might be played." Saabas is against building a new town hall. "I don't believe, at this time, it is wise for council to spend any money on a new municipal building that may be obsolete in three years," she said.

Ward 6 incumbent Mark

Kostandoff told the crowd he does not believe in government "by letter to the editor."

Instead, Kostandoff said, "I believe in local government by consultation and consensus among council members, staff and the public."

Kostandoff said he fought "long and hard" to convince fellow councillors that building a new town hall-library facility was wrong.

Restructuring at all levels of government is occurring, said Kostandoff. "We cannot continue the old ways of tax and spend," he said.

Ward 6 challenger Sue Sherban said during the past three years, the town's commitment to strong quality of life has "stagnated." Sherban added, "Our obligation to preserving and regenerating our historic roots of a proud and solid community is no longer as strong as it once was. It needs to be rediscovered."

Sherban said there's a "lack of open and responsible government on small issues as well as large capital projects."

"Why is this administration so scared of holding public forums," Sherban asked.

## Teacher walkout not expected Wednesday

**MIKE ADLER**  
Staff Reporter

The danger of a province-wide walkout by teachers was not immediate at press time yesterday.

New Minister of Education Dave Johnson was still meeting representatives for Ontario's five teacher federations. At least two of the provincial union presidents had said they wanted to strike this week if the talks on Bill 160 didn't go well.

But local union leaders said they had no reason to expect a strike, at least before Friday.

### EDUCATION

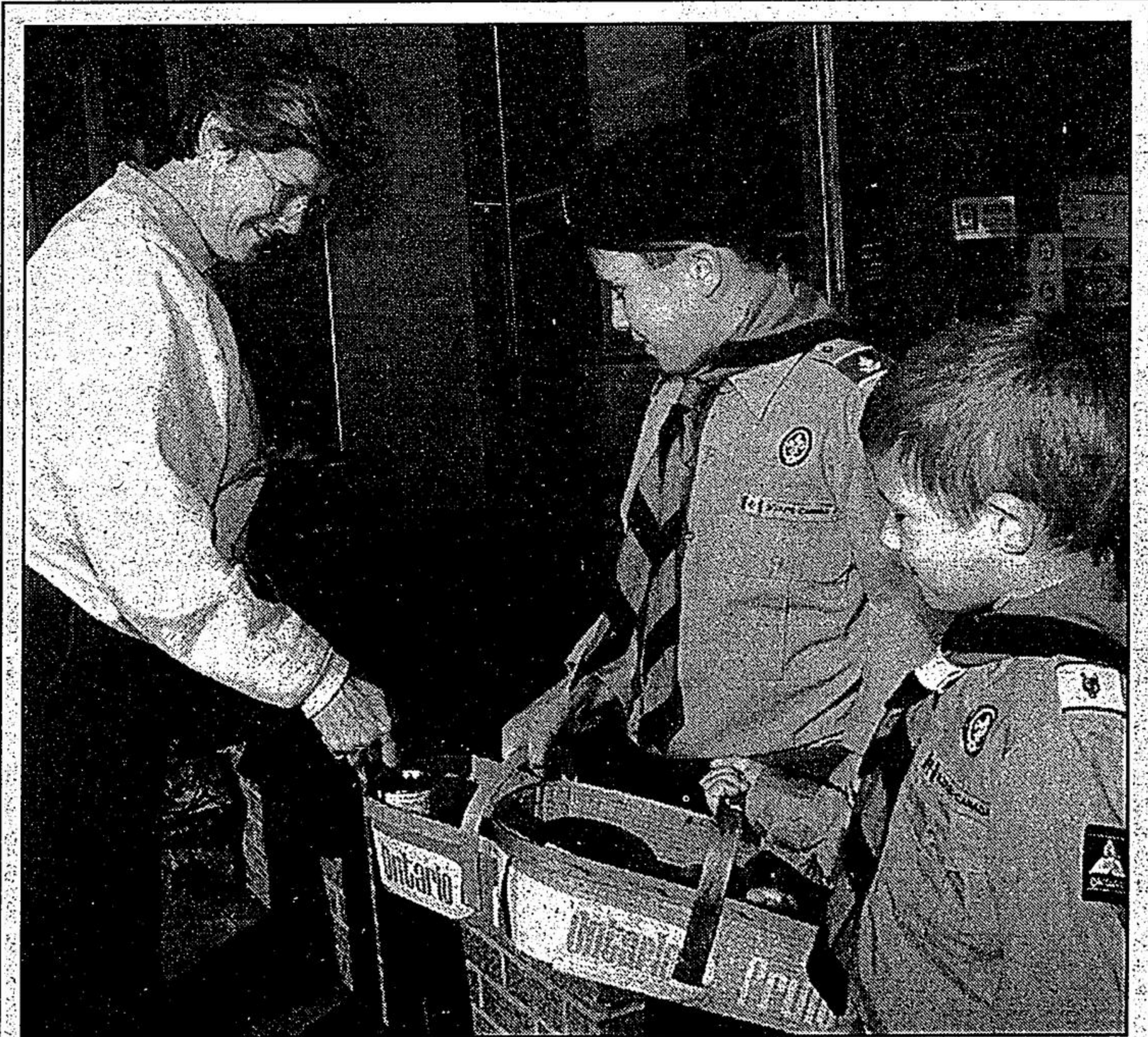
"By noon tomorrow, we'll have some clear direction," Lynn Johnston, president for York Region's public high school teachers, said yesterday afternoon.

Johnston underlined his respect for the new minister, saying Johnson is "extremely intelligent" and seems willing to talk.

A Friday walkout would have the advantage of giving the two sides a chance "to do some rational thinking" over the weekend, Johnston speculated.

Another union leader said she still expects teachers and the public will get at least 48 hours warning before a strike. "I don't really know when it's going to happen, if it's going to happen," added Pam Gillan, who represents women teachers in local public elementary schools.

The standoff is "extremely stressful for teachers," and for parents listening to news reports, she said, "because they're hearing mixed messages."



AN APPLE A DAY: Brigita Whitman (left) buys an apple at the Stouffville AP from 1st Stouffville Scout and Cub Jules Manias, 10, and Jamic Bartle, 7 on Saturday.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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