

THE TRIBUNE:
Stouffville's No. 1
Newspaper

Classmates bid touching farewell

Stouffville United Church was filled to overflowing Friday afternoon, as the community said goodbye to David Giles.

David was a 17-year-old student at Stouffville District Secondary School and a lifelong resident of the town. During the visitation at the funeral home the day before, and at the funeral itself,

his young friends turned out in overwhelming numbers, shocked and numbed by his loss.

Rev. Robert Nightingale's address at the service was moving and eloquent; his compassion for David and his family and friends clearly evident. He talked about the young man's

life; his passion for dirt bikes and snowmobiling; and he talked about coming to terms with a life tragically cut short. At the end of his address he read Mark Giles's beautiful poem, written in memory of his younger brother.

Sarah McLachlan's hauntingly

lovely song, 'I Will Remember You,' was touchingly performed by Sarah Blenkhorn and Ashleigh and Kristin Duggan in a fitting tribute to a classmate and friend, whose brief life touched so many, and who will not soon be forgotten by those who knew and loved him.

Ballantrae fire hall likely in '98, chief says

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

A full-service fire hall in Ballantrae and the surrounding area could be a reality within a year.

Money for a new fire hall, expected to be included in

the next municipal budget, will enable the town to better serve Ballantrae, said Fire Chief Bill Brown.

Two weeks ago when Whitchurch-Stouffville council gave the green light to a 57-house development to include a parcel of land

for the new fire hall, no one was happier than the local fire chief.

"It can't come too soon," said Brown. "We've needed a new fire hall there for about 15 years."

If all goes well, the new fire facility will be "up and running" in a year's time, said Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld. "Yes, we could have it up in '98," said Dunkeld.

While Whitchurch-Stouffville will elect a new council on Nov. 10, it's doubtful that anyone will oppose the project when the budget is struck in the spring.

Some unfinished business does remain: The land has to be deeded, the site plan is to be arranged, tenders have to be put out and a design has to be picked.

"And, we'll have to figure out if it will be one or two floors or if it will be multi-use," said Brown. "For example, it could include an ambulance (service)," said Brown.

A new fire hall could mean more firefighters for Whitchurch-Stouffville. "That's a possibility," said Brown.

While amalgamation is the way of the future for much of the Greater Toronto Area, fire stations in small municipalities are not about to close.

One option recommended in a York Region study is to amalgamate fire services in the region's large municipalities: This means that Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Vaughan could be tied together, said Brown.

As for the smaller municipalities, Whitchurch-Stouffville, King and East Gwillimbury will continue to operate independent fire departments. There could, however, be sharing of such things as training, said Brown.

In the spring, Savoia Development Ltd. and its owner Joe Zappone will start building the single-family homes on 92 acres on the west side of Highway 48, north of Aurora Road.

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