

# Orchard Park tops in Gr. 3 test scores

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agency has suggested only good results, Levels 3 and 4, will be acceptable in the future. Within two years, Hogarth pledged, 60 per cent of the board's third graders will perform at Levels 3 or 4 in reading and writing, and 50 per cent will be at Levels 3 or 4 in math.

(Current board scores at Levels 3 and 4 are 55 per cent for reading, 46 per cent in writing and 39 per cent in math.)

There were flaws in the test, but it is helpful as a tool for "dialogue" between parents and school administrators, said Hogarth.

The test and related surveys provided a wealth of information on each school, but the scores are "virtually meaningless" out of context, warned curriculum superintendent Sharon Craigen.

Principals talked to their staff and advisory councils to find the next steps to improve learning at

each school, she said, adding her department made its own recommendations: "Our intention is to keep getting better all the time."

Asked if the board's results could be compared to others, Hogarth couldn't resist a jab at the area's Catholic board, which had done such a comparison.

Generally, the Catholic board did a bit better. Last week, separate board chair Tina Molinari invited fellow trustees to imagine the kind of results Catholic schools could get if their resources were equal to public schools.

"I'd like to say, 'If I had more resources we'd have junior kindergarten. If we had junior kindergarten, you should see our scores then!'" Hogarth responded.

The public board also exempted more students from the test than the Catholic board. At some local schools, the number of students exempted in a category had a significant effect on the reported results.

## Grade 3 Results, Public Schools

School	Reading %	Writing %	Math %
Ballantrae	75 (42)	78 (36)	78 (30)
Orchard Park	92 (68)	92 (32)	90 (82)
Summitview	76 (49)	82 (46)	67 (29)
Whitchurch Hills	76 (45)	63 (34)	72 (27)
Board	82 (55)	81 (46)	76 (33)
Province	80 (50)	82 (39)	76 (33)

HERE'S HOW TO READ THIS CHART: Each student's test results were recorded as being at one of four levels, with Level 1 showing the poorest understanding and Level 4 the best. Students were expected this time to perform at better than Level 1, so the first numbers on the chart (those not in brackets) show the percentage of pupils at each school performing at Levels 2, 3 and 4. Note these numbers also do not include the percentages of students who were unrecorded or exempted in each test category. The second numbers (the ones in brackets) show only the percentage of the same children who performed at the levels considered good, Levels 3 and 4.

## Hospital granted \$100G

Markham-Stouffville Hospital officials say they are very pleased with the Ministry of Health's recent announcement to provide funding in the amount of \$100,000, which was made in response to a proposal submitted in April for enhanced diabetes service.

During recent years, Markham-Stouffville Hospital has focused on addressing the need for diabetes education and support for the communities of Markham and Stouffville by opening two diabetes clinics for adults and children.

Markham-Stouffville Hospital's diabetes program provides education on lifestyle management and how to reduce the risks associated with the disease and thereby

reduce related complications.

Some \$100,000 of the \$300,000 proposed is earmarked for Markham-Stouffville Hospital and hospital officials state they plan to increase clinic hours to weekends and evenings, implement a satellite outreach education program in the Milliken area, and provide outreach educational support to residents who are unable to go to the hospital or the satellite clinic.

"The hospital is seeing a need to provide more outreach programs, in collaboration with community resources, to keep up with an estimated 19.6 per cent increase in cases of diabetes," says Woodbury. "By providing support to residents in their homes and other clinics we hope to ensure those needs are met."



WALK AROUND THE LAKE: Out for a walk recently in Musselman's Lake are from left: Micheline Philibert, Sharon Busse, Amelia Busse, 3, Samantha Philibert, 9 months, and Julien Busse.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Region will revisit issue before renaming Ninth

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chair of Parkview's Tenancy Association.

The local seniors' petition is seeking to influence regional council. In mid-January, York regional council will revisit the issue, said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

"Regional council will look at it again," said Emmerson. "We have to bring this back. It has more impact on Whitchurch-Stouffville than it does on Markham."

As well, some residents of Markham have expressed strong opposition to renaming the Ninth. Markham Councillor Jack Heath has notified Emmerson that he, too, has received calls from people opposed to the name change.

Heath joins Emmerson in stressing that the opposition is not directed at King.

"With his (King's) lengthy career and valuable service, it is a fitting gesture on the part of York region to see to honour the former chair.

But, I do not believe that renaming Ninth Line is the best approach to take in this instance. A regional building or a new park might be a better alternative," said Heath.

Middleton also pointed out that a name change would be costly to businesses located on the Ninth running from Steeles Avenue to the Musselman's Lake.

"I don't think this was given much foresight. It's too much for us all and it would hurt the businesses," said Middleton.

## Mayor heads to court

Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Councillor Judy Scala are going to court in Newmarket Monday.

The mayor and Ward 5 councillor were subpoenaed to appear as witnesses in a court case involving the Stouffville Country Market and the Town.

In August, the town's bylaw

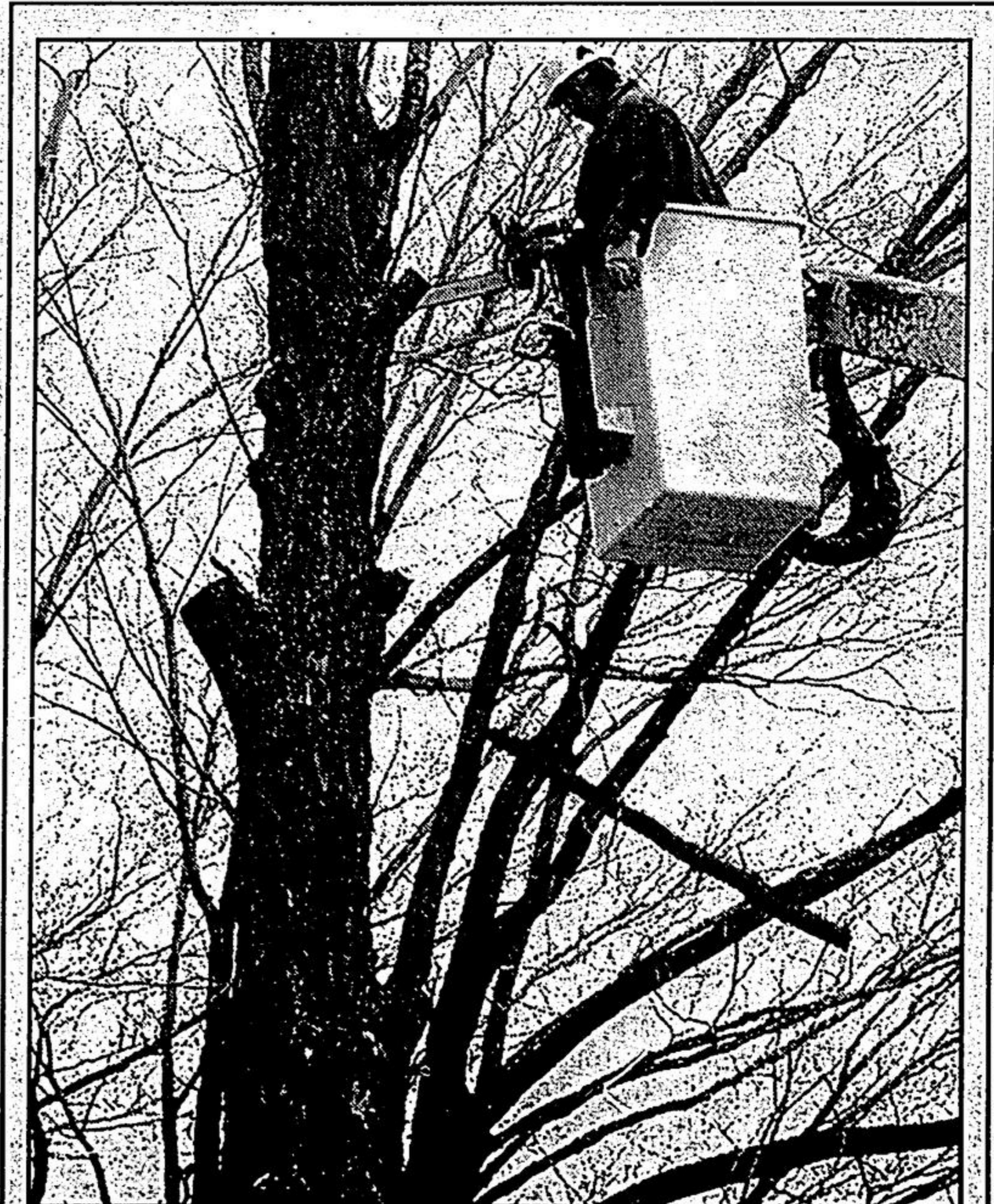
### COUNCIL

officer, acting on a noise complaint, charged Stouffville Stockyards Ltd. with breaking a bylaw in connection with its Memories of Elvis celebration. The event was billed as a karaoke and an Elvis look-alike contest.

The town bylaw stipulates that concerts are not prohibited on the premises.

Scala and Emmerson are to be witnesses for the defense.

— Joan Ransberry



LOOK-OUT BELOW: Keith May of Cressman Tree Maintenance of Cobourg, Ontario, cuts down a dead tree, limb by limb, on Wellington and Lorn Street in Claremont Monday.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN