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New Librarian



STRANGE SEASON: Greg Girard, Ryan Pagani and Dean Wywcher try their hands at winter hill cycling at Thicketwood Park. Sliding down was a lot easier and safer than riding down. *Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE*

Region says no to Eldred King Road plans

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Residents, especially seniors, living on the Ninth Line. The seniors, stressing that they

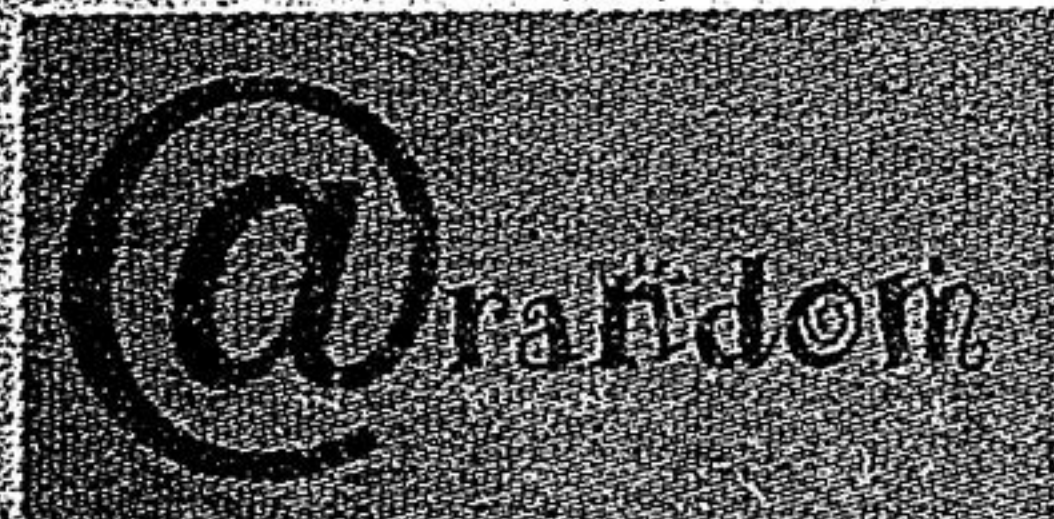
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It's official: The Ninth Line will not become Eldred King's namesake.

On Wednesday, York Regional Council put the final kibosh on renaming the Ninth Line to Eldred King Road in honour of the retiring regional chairman.

In November, King waved goodbye to his 31-year political career which included being mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

At the same time, his regional colleagues voted unanimously to put the wheels in motion to have the Ninth Line carry his name. The move, however, met serious opposition from Stouffville resi-



Honoring Bowes

Harry Bowes, Stouffville's public school trustee for 23 years, will be getting some recognition for his years of service to the community on Jan. 20.

Parents, teachers and the general public are invited to celebrate Bowes' contributions to education from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Glad Park Public School, the newest school in town.

"It's a night to just come out and thank him personally," said Virginia Hackson, who succeeded Bowes as trustee after he retired from the post last year.

Stouffville keeps cap on Hydro rates

■ Town has lowest rates in Ontario, says utility manager Nick Tatone

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

For the second year in a row, Stouffville will have the lowest hydro rates in Ontario.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Commission has adopted a "stay the course" position when it comes to rates, local utility manager Nick Tatone told *The Tribune*.

"The rates will stay as they are for '98," said Tatone.

Last year, the Municipal Electric Association published its annual comparative monthly

report for '97, listing Stouffville as leading Ontario with a \$76 rate, compared to \$81.02 in Newmarket, \$81.15 in Markham, \$82.12 in Uxbridge and \$92.30 in Toronto.

In fact, in terms of electricity, Stouffville outshone 306 utilities across Ontario. "We're doing it again," said Tatone.

About two years ago, Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Electric Commission initiated a radical change, including a restructuring program at the local level.

The results last year were such that the commission was able to give its 3,500 customers

each a \$100 rebate and offer an 11 per cent rate reduction.

"Other municipalities are now modelling themselves after us," said Tatone.

Change at the local hydro electric commission included eliminating six jobs, contracting work out and selling off the utility's assets.

When it comes to the local Hydro, today looks good and the future is even more promising, he added. The commission is continuing to look at alternative power sources to future benefit ratepayers. As well, expanding the system's boundaries to offer the service to the rest of Whitchurch-Stouffville, including Musselman's Lake, and amalgamating with other systems within York Region are also options under consideration.

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