

Closure of area church has national benefits

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The closure of a Ringwood church has paved the way for the opening of new places of worship Canada-wide.

With \$85,000 in seed money from the trustees of Ringwood Congregation Christian Church,

the Congregational Christian Churches of Canada (CCCC) set up a trust fund to aid church "planting" across all of Canada, explained Stouffville resident Mac Keith.

The Ringwood church community was founded in 1824.

Church members built the place of worship in 1868. It served the community for about 130 years.

However, in recent years, the congregation in Ringwood shrank in size, forcing a church closure two years ago.

"It was down to about a dozen people," said Keith.

"It's unrealistic to keep a minister on for such a few."

Last week, the gift from the Ringwood congregation was reported on the front page of the church's national newspaper.

The money which came from the sale of the property is now being used to help with the birth of new churches, said a proud Keith.

The CCCC is a going and a "growing" concern nation-wide, said Keith.

Special council meeting set for Wednesday

The newly elected Whitchurch-Stouffville council will hold a special council meeting on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. at Latcham Hall.

Two items are on the agenda: a taxation issue followed by a planning matter, reports town clerk Michelle Kennedy.

As well, the regular council meeting will be held on Jan. 19 at Latcham Hall.



READING TIME: Laura Lehming takes time out to read a book during a visit to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library on Saturday. The library offers numerous programs of interest to youngsters.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

Strike rebate deadline approaches

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Friday is the last day families can file to get a "fairness pay-

ment" resulting from the Ontario teachers' strike.

Both area school boards have forms parents can use to claim \$40 for each day of the strike — a maximum of \$400 for public school families and \$200 for Catholics in York Region, where separate school teachers cut the

provincial walkout short with their own local, legal strike.

The separate board has said Catholic parents may get their money by the end of January.

The public board, with more claims to process, won't be ready to pay until sometime in February.



PARADE'S BEST FLOAT: Andrew Vincent and Blair Seeley receive the Mayor's Award for best overall float in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Santa Claus parade. On hand to present it to the employees of Budget. Following are Mayor Wayne Emmerson and past Kinsmen Club President and parade chairman Gary Gornik. Other winners included the Shriners for most original float.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stouffville to collect generators, chainsaws for ice storm victims

Stouffville is doing its part to help out fellow Canadians suffering from the ice storm, which has battered eastern Ontario and Quebec.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson told *The Tribune* Monday that the town has put Don Whitehouse of the works department in charge of co-ordinating the shipment of chainsaws and generators to those in need. Anyone who has such equipment to donate is asked to call Whitehouse at the town offices, 640-1900.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is joining municipalities across Canada in its efforts to help those hurt by the ice storm.

York Region is sending help to the South Frontenac area, north of Kingston. On Monday, the region sent four trucks, staff, equipment and generators to the area.

"The region and many of our area municipalities had already made substantial commitments to help throughout eastern Ontario last week," said Regional Chair Bill Fisch.

"Now, we are providing that extra measure of assistance in a more co-ordinated way."

Fisch also praised the many private businesses and individuals who had volunteered time and equipment.

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