

# Residents find out if taxes to go up or down

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

Clutching their property assessment notices in their hands, Whitchurch-Stouffville residents are lining up at the Ballantrae Community Centre.

While the most often asked question of "how much will I pay in taxes?" can't be answered at the centre's Community Assessment Information Session, other questions can.

The local information session began yesterday (Monday) and will carry on until 8 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents will get information on their taxes when the municipality strikes its 1998 budget at the end of the month.

Assessment clerk Donna Waters stresses that she can only deal with issues relating to assessment.

The sessions were organized by the regional assessment office, giving people a chance to discuss the new Current

Value Assessment (CVA) which was recently introduced by the province.

Waters said she expects "a busy three days in Stouffville."

CVA will raise taxes for some and lower it for others.

Town treasurer Ed Blackburn advises all residents to take a hard look at the assessment notices, to read the included information, attend the sessions and to ask questions.

By doing a bit of research, some people may find out they have grounds for an appeal. People who feel their property has been unfairly assessed can appeal to the Assessment Review Board, Waters points out.

One way to question the notice is to find out what a comparable property has been assessed at, advises Blackburn.

The last time Whitchurch-Stouffville was assessed was 1984. Property value has increased in the past 13 years, but it does not compare to Toronto. There, property was last assessed in 1940.



LOTS OF GST: Music Mania organizers hosted a Goods, Services and Talent (GST) Auction Saturday night at the Stouffville Legion Hall to raise funds for this year's production. Here, auctioneers Bob Lewis and Dave Duggan show off some of the items up for bid. Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

## POLICE

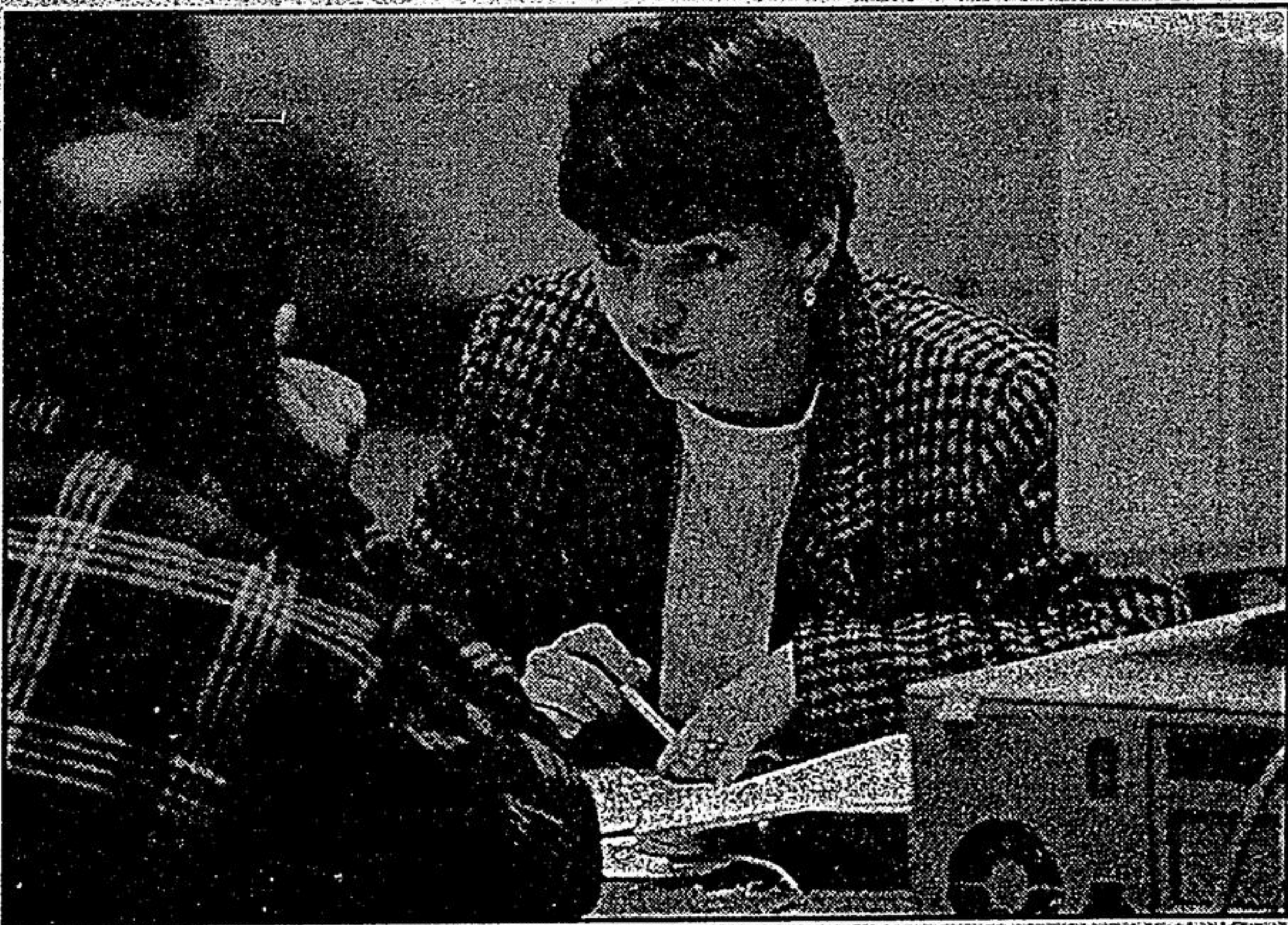
### Vandorf youth arrested

A Whitchurch-Stouffville youth has been charged with possession of a controlled substance after being arrested in Uxbridge.

Police said undercover officers were on patrol Saturday at 12:45 a.m. when they saw two male youths acting suspiciously near King and Ash Streets.

The officers detected evidence of a burnt narcotic smell on both youths. A search revealed that one of the youths had in his possession a pill bottle containing marijuana and two marijuana cigarettes. He was read his rights and taken to the Uxbridge police station.

A 16-year-old Vandorf youth is to appear in court April 3.



TAXES, TAXES, TAXES: Senior Property Assessor Michelle Karja works with owners at Ballantrae Community Centre Monday afternoon. The assessors will be on hand until Wednesday from noon to 8 p.m. to discuss the province's new formula for property assessment. Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

# Acton job appears secure, while head coach demoted

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Keith Acton would appear to have survived the purge that saw Philadelphia Flyers rookie head coach Wayne Cashman relegated to the role of assistant coach yesterday (Monday).

Acton, a Stouffville resident and fourth-year assistant coach with the National Hockey League (NHL) team, wasn't mentioned in the team's Monday morning press conference

announcing that Cashman was giving way to veteran NHL coach Roger Neilson.

The Flyers also announced the demotion of Dave Brown, the team's other assistant coach, who was offered a scouting position.

While Acton couldn't be reached at his Flyers office Monday afternoon, his wife Susan said she hadn't heard anything suggesting her husband's job was in jeopardy.

"I can just assume that no news is good news," said Mrs. Acton. "From

what I've heard on the radio Keith's job hasn't been affected. But I can't tell you for sure."

Mrs. Acton said there had been rumours circulating at the Flyers game Sunday night about the coaching change.

Acton and Neilson are no strangers. Neilson coached Acton as a junior with the Peterborough Petes in the 1970s before going on to coach the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"They have had a friendship for years," said Mrs. Acton.

# Boys leave school, lie across tracks

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tragedy's effect on our cadets and staff with consultation with a trauma team," said Coulen.

The boys left the academy 40 hours before the tragedy, Coulen said. "We know they left with two knapsacks filled with several changes of clothes, food and money. We have learned from their classmates they had planned to go to British Columbia," said Coulen.

The Stouffville youth was in his second year at the academy. The school attracts students from all over the world. "Yes, we have a military theme. The boys are taught discipline. They even iron their own uniforms," said Coulen.

# York sprucing up image with slogan

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tourist brochures.

"It's exciting and the colours are great," Regional Councillor Ralph Aselin, on the region's economic development committee.

Signs with the slogan will also be posted near big visitor draws like Canada's Wonderland and The Briars resort. "to tell people York Region isn't just a place where people come to sleep. We have great tourist attractions," said Aselin, adding such attractions will pay the region for signs.

A councillor for Markham, he also wants some large signs along major highways to include the names of all nine municipalities in the region.

Regional politicians chose the trillium design in January, not knowing the Ontario government would drag its feet over the region's use of the provincial flower.

"Last week, however, the province finally gave its permission," said Aselin.

The region is also planning a \$100,000 ad campaign to catch tourists' attention with billboards, radio spots and space in newspapers or magazines.

Over 1.8 million people visit York Region each year, and if the campaign increases that by five per cent, tourists should be spending \$9 million more in the area, the committee was told.

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