

# Saddlery business leaves town

MIKE RUTA  
Staff Reporter

One of Whitchurch-Stouffville's most respected businesses is moving to Uxbridge.

Schleese Saddlery Service has purchased a 2.7-acre lot in the Uxbridge industrial Park from York Pacific Ltd.

The deal closes at the end of May, said Schleese general manager Earl Rothery.

He said a spring ground-breaking is planned and the new 10,000-square-foot building may be ready by late fall.

Schleese currently makes saddles in a converted schoolhouse near Kennedy and Bloomington Roads. Rothery said the 5,400 square feet of space there is not large enough for the growing business.

"The growth just continues and with our manufacturing requirements we just can't do it out here anymore," he said.

"We'd been looking for a long time at a lot of different spots. That was the one spot that had enough

room. "The price was right and the location was good in terms of our employees," said Rothery.

Schleese employs roughly 21 people who will work out of the Uxbridge site.

Rothery said about 70 per cent of Schleese's customers are in the United States with others in Europe and Australia.

The company is a winner of numerous business awards and has been featured in The Wall Street Journal and on The Discovery Channel.

Jochen Schleese was the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce's Business Entrepre-



SCHLEESE

neur of the Year in 1997.

This Tuesday, the local committee of adjustment will vote on a minor variance application by York Pacific for the new Schleese site.

It would allow a reduction from 50 to 35 per cent in the landscaped area on the industrial lot. Uxbridge Council voted Monday to support the application.

A second manufacturer may also move in to the industrial park.

The COA Tuesday night approved a minor variance application from York Pacific, owner of 18 lots in the park, concerning a roughly 15-acre site covering three lots.

York Pacific, with the support of the township, had applied for relief from provisions of the Rural Employment Area zoning.

The COA decision means the proposed manufacturer can limit their landscaped open space area to 10 per cent and have outside storage on all portions of the lands except for the front yard.

The bylaw states that 40 per cent of the lands must be open space and only 20 per cent of the area can have outside storage.

# SDSS concert band leaves for 12-day tour in British Isles

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

Yesterday, seven adult chaperones and 46 members of the Stouffville Dis-

trict Secondary School Concert Band arrived in Ireland to begin a 12-day performance and tour of the British Isles.

The cost of the once-in-a-life-time trip was offset by year-round student fund raising, including the annual

grapefruit and oranges sale, a chocolate bar sale and a raffle.

Some of the parents played a key role in the fundraising, while local service clubs, including the Legion and the Lions Club, joined along local businesses to chip in. Meanwhile, the town contributed pins and other memorabilia for the Stouffville students to hand out on their travels.

Under the guidance of music director Doug Walker, the concert band, made up of students from Grade 10 to 12, will perform in St. Brigid's School in Kilarney, St. Patrick's in Dublin and Waterford Crystal in Waterford and Currie Secondary School in Edinburgh.

As well, the group will visit Trinity College, the Book of Kells, Phoenix Park, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park and the Ring of Kerry.

The Stouffville entourage will then cross the Irish Sea to Wales to go onto Ironbridge England for a two-day stay.

While in England, the concert band members and chaperones will tour Shrewsbury. There, they're slated to perform at the local abbey, followed by an evening performance at the 300-year-old China Works.

The group will then go onto Scotland for three days. The Bonnie Isle visit includes Braveheart tour of Edinburgh, Stirling Castle, National Wallace Monument and Callander, where they'll visit Rob Roy and Trossach Visitor Centre.

The experience will wind up with a traditional Scottish evening and show-



ON THE ROAD: SDSS band pack up their instruments for their trip to Ireland. In front are Brooke Maddock, Kristin Duggan and Sarah Blenkhorn.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

# Gallery provides showcase for local talent

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long-time gallery volunteer, recalled the early days. "This room (now the gallery) was to be a general purpose room available to the town. Then Ron and Lynda Baird, and the group that they brought in, had the idea that there should be a gallery and that this was the ideal place."

Its proximity to the library made it accessible to all residents. It was named for Art Latcham, the local philanthropist who donated about \$35,000 to the building program, Sanderson explained. A gallery committee was formed and voted to commission portraits of Latcham and his wife, which are still on display in the library/gallery complex.

When Perry left in the early 90's, she was succeeded by director Roz Pritchard and part-time curator Stephanie Springgay. The two positions were amalgamated when Christopher Jackson was appointed director/curator.

One of the few public galleries in Ontario, the Latcham Gallery has received funding from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville through the public library, as well as from the Ontario Arts Council membership fees and fundraising events such as the annual Art and Silent Auction and Beyond Craft, the pre-Christmas sale of unique, one-of-a-kind items.

It has provided a unique showcase for up and coming artists, many of whom live in the area, and has been used extensively by local schools as an educational resource.

Art students from Stouffville District Secondary School have participated in an annual exhibition and the gallery has also exhibited the works of local elementary schools in the area every year.

As well, it has offered art classes for adults and children, art appreciation courses, internships, and lectures and talks on current exhibitions.

The gallery, which is supported by more than 100 volunteers, is well-known in the artistic community and has attracted many visitors from outside the area.

# Volunteers help keep Mobility Transit afloat

From page 1

\$14,000 from the province. But, the province has cut its funding so we're asking the town to pick up the difference to give \$25,000 in total," said Morley.

Transit officials are looking into offering the service to Goodwood residents. "We'd like to work with Uxbridge to link into Goodwood," said Morley.

Morley and Britton emphasized that fundraising and volunteerism play a key role in keeping Mobility Transit alive. The local service is the envy of many municipalities, said Morley.

The 14 volunteers are mindful of costs. As well, the volunteers are adamant that this service is affordable for all its users. Keeping the \$2 fare as is, means an ongoing commitment by the 14 volunteers. Last year, a golf tournament raised \$18,000, bingo revenue totalled \$3,175, while ticket sales for Go Transit earned Mobility Transit about \$7,000.

Records show that in '97, Mobility Transit made 3,379 individual trips. Of those, 54 per cent were for medical appointments, nearly 30 per cent were for shopping and 10 per cent of the trips were for social reasons.

Most of the clients are from old age homes, including Parkview, Buckingham Manor and Green Gables.

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