

# Supporters push to re-open gallery

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

An independent art gallery could be introduced to Whitchurch-Stouffville.

A week after the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Board unanimously closed the Latcham Gallery, a move has been launched to re-open it.

Next Monday at 7:30 p.m., supporters of the Latcham Gallery will meet at Orchard Park Public School to discuss the "preservation and future of this cultural facility," said Sharon Maude, gallery volunteer.

Community interest is such that re-opening Latcham is well worth a try, said Maude. "My phone has rung off the hook since people read in *(The Tribune)* that Latcham Gallery was shut down.

A citizens' group, interested in securing an art gallery "could

form, put together a business plan and come to council and ask for a grant," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Ward 6 Councillor and library board member, Sue Sherban, agrees. "I will support start-up money for an (independent) gallery. I think council would support it."

While the curtain did fall on Stouffville's Latcham Gallery a week ago, that doesn't mean the community can't have an art gallery, stressed Emmerson. "One could be set up at the library or go on its own."

"The walls are there (at the library). The lights are there. It could be at the library," said Sherban.

Tonight, the local library board is meeting to further discuss its budget and the handling of the gallery closure.

While Sherban supported the motion to close the gallery, she still plans to ask fellow board members to prepare a press release explaining in detail exactly why it

closed the facility. "The public has a right to know," said Sherban.

On April 6, Latcham Gallery will be on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Council agenda. There, Maude and a number of others will make a pitch for a stronger and more independent Latcham Gallery.

The 19-year-old art gallery had 213 members, while it's estimated that 9,000 visitors passed through the doors last year. It cost \$68,074 to operate Latcham Gallery in 1997. Of that, \$35,689 came from the local taxpayers, while the rest came from provincial funding, fundraising and membership dues.

## GO service will have to do

While a "seamless" public transit system could be in place across most of southern York Region within a year, it will not include all of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

It could, however, include the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit, said Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

"As for the whole town, we're just not big enough to be included in such a bus service. At least, not yet," said Emmerson, who pointed out the town is already

serviced by GO Transit. In order to justify being part of a regional transit service, Whitchurch-Stouffville would need "a population of 30,000 to 40,000," said Emmerson.

The report on a regional integrated transit system, to be implemented Jan. 1, 1999, is being reviewed by Whitchurch-Stouffville Council.

A task force, including Emmerson and the other regional mayors, is expected to deliver a transit report to regional coun-

cil by May 1. Currently, there are five municipal bus services in York as well as the GO Transit Ridership on transit services in Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Newmarket came close to hitting the 10 million mark in 1997.

If a seamless system is implemented, Whitchurch-Stouffville's Mobility Transit will be part of it. "We're working towards this for sure," said Emmerson.

- Joan Ransberry

## Red tape cancels Chamber show

From page 1 ■ Under a cloud of uncertainty for the last few weeks.

When the town received an application for a temporary-use bylaw from the Country Market, the red tape affected the event's promotion, Johnson said.

The bylaw would give the Tenth Line establishment the legal right to hold such events as the dog show which was held in February, the local

Chamber's fundraiser, this summer's Strawberry festival events, and the Elvis weekend.

In keeping with procedure, the town has to hold a public meeting. All this took time. While council was expected to give the go-ahead for the temporary use bylaw, time ran out to promote the Chamber event properly, she said.

With the show off this year, Johnson is encouraging everyone to support the Chamber's annual golf tournament to be held at the Maples of Ballantrae on May 28.



FAMILY STROLL: Dad Ian Hembruff, pulls a sleepy three-year-old Jeffery along Main Street Saturday while mom Debbie pushes Katie in the stroller.

Photo by LORI EMMERSON



HITCHING A RIDE: Visitors to Horton's Tree Farm last weekend enjoyed a fun-filled wagon ride from the road into the sugar bush. Visitors were kept hopping with sap boiling, pancakes and, of course, tasting the syrup. For more photos see Thursday's *Tribune*.

Photo by LORI EMMERSON

## Road conditions in crisis state?

From page 1 ■ to come up with money for roads.

But Markham Mayor Don Cousens cautioned the account would have a huge impact on today's budgets.

"It's a double-edged sword because everybody says don't increase taxes and we don't want to do that, but they don't like the traffic on the roads," Cousens said. "I think this is a crisis point in

terms of go, don't go." Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor warned it would be difficult to justify taxing property owners now for roads that won't be built for years.

"It's hard to ask current taxpayers to pay for a road that won't appear for 25 years," he said.

"I can't accept that. I can accept a five-year window, that would be reasonable."

Lee Weldon\*\*



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