

Munro spreads economic good news in town

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Job growth is at a record level in Ontario, 60 members of the Stouffville business community were told Thursday.

Durham-York MPP Julia Munro was the guest speaker at a breakfast meeting hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce.

"Between Feb. '97 and Feb. '98, more jobs were created in a one-year period than in the entire history of our province," said Munro.

The economy is, indeed, on an upswing, stressed the local MPP. "Ontario can, once again, feel confident, prosperous and big-hearted," she said.

When Finance Minister Ernie Eves filed the provincial budget Tuesday, the small business community noticed.

The government is bringing in legislation to cut the small business corporations' tax rate in half, giving business owners some

breathing space. As well, Eves included 36 new tax cuts in the budget. Many of these tax cuts affect small business.

Munro reminded the audience that tax cuts will help more than 90,000 small businesses continue to grow and create jobs in the province.

Residents of Ontario have told the government that they want a strong economy, tax cuts, jobs and growth with an emphasis on work not welfare," said Munro.

In the past year alone, the economy has created 265,000 new private sector jobs," she said.

As well, Ontario's welfare numbers are down by almost 130,000 cases, Munro pointed out.

The MPP also touched on health care, education, child care and crime prevention.

The past two years have been difficult for everyone in Ontario, said Munro. "All Ontario has shared in the sacrifices. People have demonstrated patience and courage in helping to make the necessary changes."



York Region Police Constable Monica Lees shackles Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emerson to McDonald's Restaurant employee Josie Quesada so he can serve customers on McHappy Day Wednesday at the McDonald's Restaurant on Hwy. 48 and 16th Avenue. McDonald's reported that more than \$3 million was raised across Canada on McHappy Day for children's charities.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Under the B: big winners

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When it comes to bingo, Stouffville is the place to be.

For the second time this year, the

provincial Super Star Bingo Jackpot was won at the Stouffville Country Market—Louise Moore of Ajax walked away with \$6,1998 on Wednesday.

Moore is taking a common sense

approach to luck. "You can't win if you don't play," said Moore.

Earlier this year, Daisy Rudd of Uxbridge won \$16,234 in a provincial game played in Stouffville.

In the Super Star bingo, Rudd and Moore competed for the jackpot against thousands of others playing at halls across Ontario through a computer network.

Superstar bingos offer guaranteed major-sized jackpots seven days a week at about 200 participating bingo halls in Ontario.

Introduced a year ago, Superstar bingo is a joint effort of charities, bingo hall operators and the Ontario government.

Wednesday's local charity winner was the Whitchurch-Stouffville Girls Hockey Association.

It's estimated that the province-wide bingo will generate about \$100 million in sales in its first year. Forty per cent of the proceeds is returned to players in the way of prizes, charities pick up 22 per cent, the bingo hall gets 12 per cent, the Ontario government takes 13 per cent, while the remaining seven per cent goes to operating costs, explained Laura Gannon, manager of the Stouffville bingo.



FOR SALE: York Regional Police Sgt. Lloyd Dow shows some of the scores of bicycles which will be up for auction today at the Markham Fairgrounds. Doors open at 8 a.m. and the police auction starts at 9:30 a.m.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Teachers lobby to save shop classes

Teachers of elementary shop and family studies are trying to convince York Region's district school board to save their endangered programs. The board has 22 shop classes and 22 family studies classes for eighth graders this year, and buses some students to schools offering the courses.

Board staff will recommend cutting the classes, said Joe Allin, an associate director. "I don't think we'll be delivering these programs in this form in the future," he said last week.

The programs are relevant and very popular with students, said Al Sikorski, a shop teacher who lives in Markham. "It doesn't make sense. It's an area where kids can't wait to get in the door."

Allin said the education ministry's new science and technology curriculum will cover much of what is taught in Sikorski's design and technology course. "This should not have come as a surprise to the teachers of this program," since the program is rare outside of Toronto, he added. Sikorski, however, said the shop class and new curriculum share only a "minuscule" amount. Teachers will present a case for saving the programs to board trustees at their budget meeting this month, he said.

—Mike Adler

How should school councils operate?

- From page 1
- What should be the relationships among the school council, the staff, the principal, the district school board and the community?
- What kinds of support do school councils need?
- What makes an effective school council?
- The deadline for submissions to the commission, whose web site is at <http://eic.edu.gov.on.ca>, is Oct. 9

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