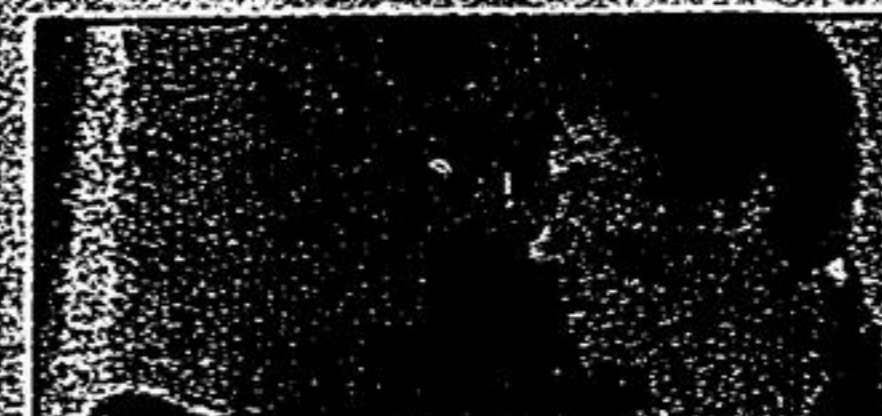


INSIDE: Opinion 6
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12 Persistence in the swimming pool pays off for Nicky Raymer in earning bronze cross

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
EVENT: Friends of the library meeting
WHEN: Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 7 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville Public Library, call 640-2395



8 Jean-Claude Van Damme faces off against the Russian mafia in Knock Off

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GRASSROOTS RALLY

Growth should be studied 'as a whole,' not piecemeal, resident insists

Developing a plan

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Put the brakes on development before it's too late. That's the message a grassroots rally wanted to convey at an outdoor meeting Saturday morning.

The residents will push the town to re-open discussion on its new Secondary Plan before local politicians rubber stamp further development in the community.

Concerned about the way Whitchurch-Stouffville is growing, including the types of development

and land uses getting town approval, new resident Jim Priebe spearheaded the grassroots campaign. He invited others to gather and share their viewpoints, as well. More than 25 people turned up.

"The people attending are worried about development and their inability to influence growth, and its pace and style," said Priebe.

Currently, development is carried out piece by piece, application by application, he said.

"It needs to be addressed as a whole," he said.

As well as individuals, members of

ratepayer groups attended. "We even had a rep from the Citizens Against the Pickering Airport," said Priebe.

While the town recently struck its downtown and area Secondary Plan following a two-year deliberation process, including a number of public meetings, people still wonder how it will affect their lifestyle when the study area's population of 10,000 swells to between 19,500 and 23,500 in a short while, said Priebe.

"Left unchecked, the growth will negatively impact the character of the

See GROUP, page 2



PHOTO/LORI EMMERSON

About 25 residents joined activist Jim Priebe at a meeting in Kinsmen Park Saturday morning to discuss what they perceive as out-of-control growth heading to Stouffville. Here, Janne Major addresses the group.

School board strikes looming

BY PATRICK CASEY
STAFF WRITER

The clock is ticking.

With next Tuesday's first day of class drawing near for York Region's 125,000 students, the likelihood of teacher strikes appears almost inevitable, especially since union contracts expired at midnight yesterday for all of the region's 7,300 teachers.

Only the 2,800 public elementary teachers have guaranteed a resumption of classes next week for their 50,000 students, the lone local union not in a legal strike position.

The district unit of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario resumed serious negotiations with the school board yesterday morning, and Newmarket trustee Karen Barker said she expected talks to continue until a new agreement is reached.

As for the rest of York's teachers, the local situation is no different than almost every other region in the province.

Teacher unions across Ontario have threatened strike action in response to Bill 160, a provincial law that lengthens the time teachers instruct kids, slashes preparation time and creates a longer working day.

However, there may be a possible solution on the horizon. The Near North District School Board in Parry Sound reached a tentative agreement with its high school teachers this week that does not increase the amount of time its teachers are in the classroom.

Under the Parry Sound deal, instructors will continue teaching six of eight 40-minute periods each day, representing 1,200 minutes a week.

The extra 50 minutes now required under Bill 160 will be met by crediting teachers for time spent on such things as on-call coverage, supervision and study halls.

Agreement by Near North District School Board offers some hope for negotiations by local teachers.

See TALKS, page 3.

Ross Dixon
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