

**INSIDE:** Opinion 6  
 Infoguide 18  
 Scoreboard 20  
 Classified 21

**18** Eddie Murphy plays a prophet for profit in *Holy Man* opening in theatres this week.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Chamber new business, realty, tax breakfast  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7-30 a.m. (tickets 642-4227)  
**WHERE:** Sleepy Hollow Golf & Country Club



**19** Misbehaving parents can be a nightmare for amateur sport coaches.

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# Stouffville Tribune

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

**TUESDAY FOCUS**

*Steve Sword volunteers to protest society's fiscal fixation*

## A way of life

Sword fears a trend towards fundraising over volunteerism

BY BRUCE STAPLEY  
 CORRESPONDENT

**F**or Steve Sword, the spirit of volunteerism is as much a political statement as it is an offshoot of a commitment to small town living.

Sword has been a fixture in local volunteer circles since setting up residence in Stouffville a decade ago. He is a long-standing member with the town's historical society and recycling group, and sits on the Museum Heritage Advisory Board. He was a member of the parks and recreation board in the early 1990s, helped spearhead the drive to save Stouffville's post office in 1993, and spent a couple of years as a director with the York-Durham Heritage Railway.

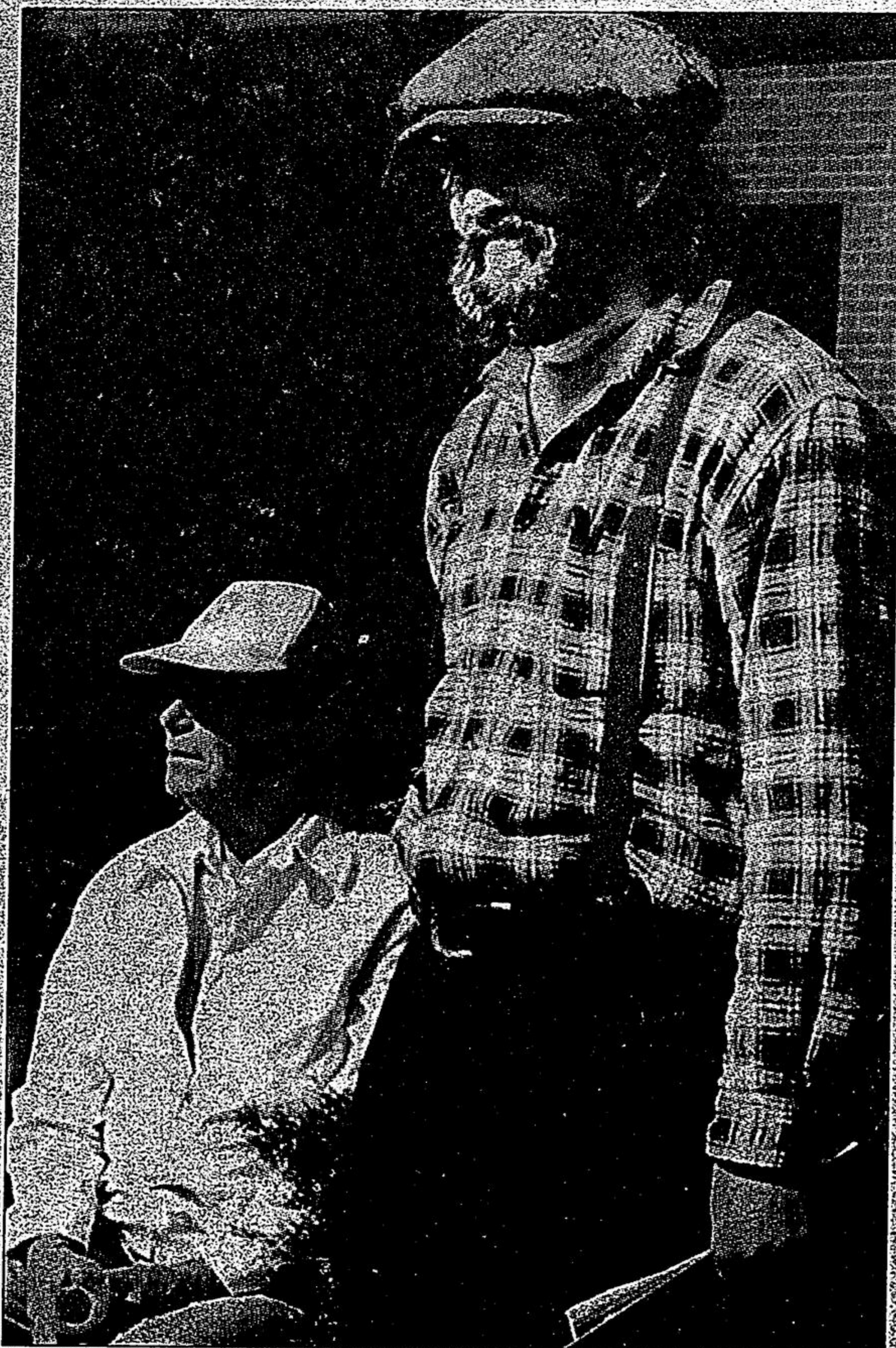
While the 44-year-old Sword views involvement in volunteer activities as a way to become informed on areas of personal interest, he has also been motivated by two other factors. The first involves a decision to seek out a town where he could make a difference when he and his wife, Catherine, chose to say goodbye to London, Ontario after 13 years.

"We wanted a town small enough to get involved," Sword says, who made a point of attending town council meetings when he first moved to town, and even held a position at the town office for a year.

The second reason for immersing himself in volunteer pursuits comes out of a long-held notion that contemporary society has a fiscal fixation.

"For me a lot of it is protest. I don't like the idea where you always have to ask for money when you do something."

Sword, who grew up watching his parents participate in, and in many cases initiate, community activities, began his volunteer career as a university student at



PHOTO/CHERYL JOHNSON

Steve Sword is an active volunteer in Stouffville who believes helping others and getting involved can make a positive difference in a community. Here, Sword gets a historical society walking tour under way Saturday.

See VOLUNTEERING, page 3

## York's 911 system under fire, yet again

*Local call re-routed to Pickering*

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 STAFF WRITER

A glitch in York's 911 emergency system could spell disaster for new residents of the region, officials admitted yesterday.

And Bell Canada is being blamed for not registering new addresses with the 911 system.

One Whitchurch-Stouffville resident experienced the potentially dangerous flaw first-hand several weeks ago after slow response time to a Stouffville fire she was reporting. Kathleen Gibson, of Lori Avenue said the 911 system failed her after the first time calling the emergency number.

Gibson said she discovered her new number wasn't registered when she called to report the field fire outside her home.

Instead of having an emergency response team turn up at her door, Gibson said she got the run-around.

"I dialed 911 and requested the fire department," Gibson said. "I was promptly transferred to the Pickering Fire Department. When I told Pickering fire department that I lived in Stouffville, (the dispatcher) asked me if I could go on hold because he had a real fire emergency on the other line. He asked me to hang up and call 911 again."

What Gibson and the Pickering dispatcher didn't know was that Gibson's address was not registering at the 911 switchboard, located in Ottawa.

York Region has a contract with the Ottawa-based Bell Canada emergency branch for the 911 dispatching. "It may sound strange that it is in Ottawa, but the system works very well," said Newmarket Deputy Fire Chief Ken Bone.

Since the Ottawa dispatcher did not have an exact fix on the Stouffville location, he re-routed the call to

See BELL, page 3

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