

INSIDE: Opinion 6
Savour 16
Arts 18
Classified 25

21 Town's deal with new treasurer falls through as Ed Blackburn prepares to retire

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: In Praise of Hands craft sale
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
WHERE: Vandorf Community Hall



16 Savour the flavour of delectable Belgian truffles at Richard's Fine Chocolates

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 28 PAGES

THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 1998

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

VON nurses will work one hour for free

Going on strike a scary thing for group

BY JENNIFER BROWN
STAFF WRITER

A new contract narrowly accepted by the Victorian Order of Nurses will cut \$300,000 from their wages and mileage allowance.

"This is very demeaning for the nurses of this province," said Judith McIlwaine, of the Ontario Nurses Association. "We have people getting kicked out of hospitals very acutely ill and they are being cared for by these nurses. It is very demeaning to be told you are not worth anything," she said.

In recent months, registered nurses in Ontario hospitals negotiated a 2 per cent wage hike.

But during their negotiations, York Region's VON nurses were told they had to become more financially competitive as they head into the bidding process for home care services.

The VON and other nursing organizations say the province's new process is pitting non-profit agencies against for-profit corporations.

"This is demeaning for community nurses," McIlwaine said. "Nurses in hospitals are considered essential services and so should community nurses."

The nurses decided to accept their employer's proposal last week after management backed off on its original proposal to cut \$500,000 from the nurses' contract.

Last month, the nurses voted in favour of strike action, but when presented with a second offer, decided to take what looked like a better deal.

The VON, which provides visiting

See NURSES, page 2.

TAXES: MPP defends province's tax tools for small business

Chamber turns up heat

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

If the present tax rate doesn't decrease, downtown Stouffville will turn into a ghost town, the owner of a local restaurant warns.

That's the message Maureen Breen, owner of Stouffville's Town Crier, told MPP Julia Munro at the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting

Tuesday morning.

Breen, facing a 130 per cent tax hike, told the MPP her financial prediction after listening to Munro's 30-minute presentation at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club.

Since the province overhauled Ontario's antiquated tax system, many business owners are facing increases exceeding 100 per cent.

Hitting small businesses with hefty hikes will force many to shut down, Breen said.

"My taxes went up 130 per cent. If this keeps up, our downtown will turn into a ghost town. I came here this morning. I, at least, expect to go away understanding how this happened," she said.

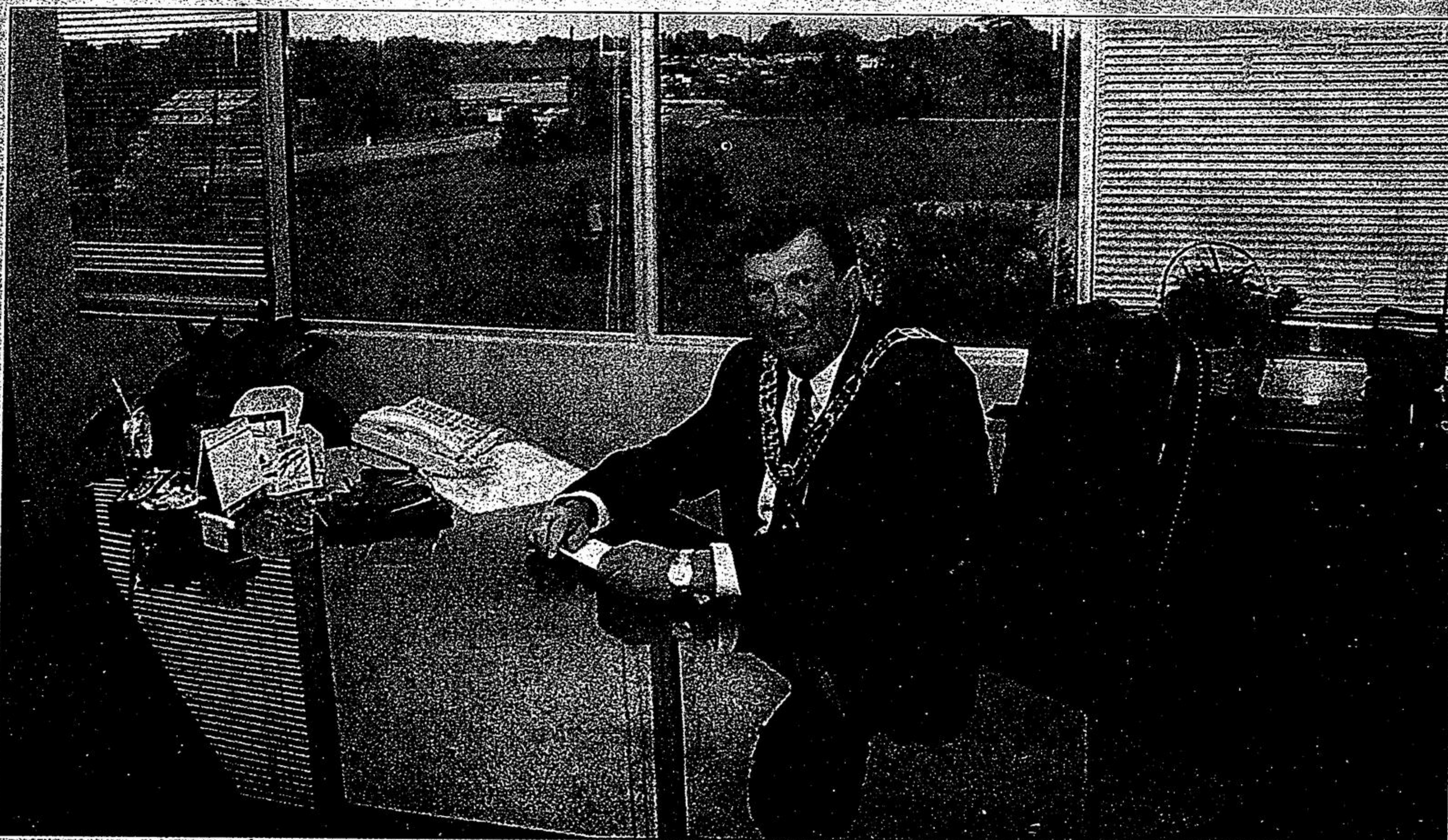
Breen wasn't the only one to

challenge Munro.

Municipal treasurers across Ontario did not get co-operation when dealing with tax reform, town financial director Ed Blackburn said.

"Normally we don't look for media attention, but (treasurers) have been put into a position to defend ourselves," Blackburn

See TAX, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

ROOM WITH A VIEW

Mayor Wayne Emmerson reflects on local issues in his office at the town's new location at 37 Sandiford Dr. Council and staff welcomed regional officials, former mayors and dignitaries to its official opening ceremonies Tuesday afternoon, complete with a ribbon cutting, wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres.

JAKES
Coffman
FISH & CHIPS
Sunday, October 18, 1998
HALLOWEEN BASH
PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUMES
Monday, November 16, 1998
10107
WONIGHT FOOTBALL
7-10-6955

Doug Love
General Manager

NORTH POINTE
CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE
The Little Dealership with a Big Heart
5336 Highway 7 (Just East of McCowan)
294-1440 Toll Free: 1-800-892-2209
www.autonet.ca/northpointe

Sale Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9 am - 9 pm
Fri: 9 am - 6 pm
Sat: 9 am - 6 pm

Service Hours
Mon-Thurs: 7:30 am - 9 pm
Fri: 7:30 am - 6 pm
Sat: 8 am - 1 pm

Help Pick Us Clean Of The '98's
Only 22 left & 17 Days to Go!

'98
Camaro SS
RARE
"The Only One"
\$36,999
Fr. & Taxes

534-80990

THE SUBWAY
SOUPS ON!
(\$1.89 SERVING)
SPECIAL
SOUP AND
SANDWICH
\$4.35 plus tax