

**INSIDE:** Opinion... 6  
 Living... 9  
 Sports... 11  
 Classified... 12

**4** \$80,000 in "ecstasy" seized in bust. Police say drug used in sex assaults to sedate women.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Sacred music fundraising concert  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Springvale Baptist, 3801 Stouffville Rd.



**9** More and more kids are trading two boards for one as they head for the hills.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

# Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 20 PAGES

SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 1999

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

**THE REGION:** Politicians blasted by furious seniors in fear of losing homes

## Shoreline clean-up next step in restoration

### Musselman's Lake gets environmental TLC

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

The race to save Musselman's Lake is on.

While a clean-up of the shoreline was carried out by professional arborists Friday, council has been told political action must be taken now in order for the lake to survive.

Friends of Musselman's Lake, in conjunction with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, conducted the first portion of the shoreline restoration project. Yesterday's job involved professional arborists volunteering their time and expertise.

A state-of-the-lake report stressing that immediate action must be taken to ensure the survival of Musselman's Lake was delivered by the town's Environmental Advisory Committee to council Tuesday.

Musselman's Lake has emerged as an important problem, committee member Caroline LaFleur said. "There's been lively discussion about alternative strategies to rehabilitate this troubled resource."

York Region health department carried out water testing of Musselman's Lake beach for seven weeks last summer.

The E-coli counts in drinking water in Ontario must not exceed six parts per billion (ppb), while beaches are posted and closed to swimmers at 100 ppb.

There are no lakes in Canada that meet the drinking water requirement, she said.

See ARBORISTS, page 3.

## Tax hikes rile seniors

BY LISA QUEEN  
STAFF WRITER

Gray power took over York Region's council chamber Thursday, as about five dozen seniors complained about huge residential tax hikes under Ontario's new property tax system.

Their anger was divided between the province for what they call unfair reassessment of property values and regional politicians who they say have

done nothing to buffer the impact of the tax hikes.

Business taxes have been capped at 20 per cent over three years, and the seniors pleaded with councillors to start a similar program for them.

Markham resident Alf Copp, 89, and his 88-year-old wife have lived in the same home for 39 years. But a \$1,300 increase in taxes threatens to drive them out.

"We expected to live our lives out there. I doubt it now," said the

frail Copp, who had to be helped to the microphone.

*"I think things are a little futile. Some of us, I don't think we'll live long enough to get things corrected."*

"I don't know what we're going to do. I don't think we can stay there for the rest of our lives. We certainly can't get a job."

Don Bellamy, of Richmond Hill, has been forced to sell off land to pay his tax increase of more than 50 per cent.

He's worried that between the province and the region, politicians will abandon homeowners.

"Sitting back, I think things are a little futile. Some of us, I don't think we'll live long enough to get things corrected."

Some speakers accused coun-

See TAX, page 2.



PHOTO/LORI EMMERSON

### GIVING A LIFT

Dusty Chee-a-tow, left, prepares for his trip to the Canadian Junior Judo Championships by giving a lift to Kerry Lynne Hulshof. She is preparing for competition at the Canada Winter Games, along with Seiji Ishiguro and Kyle Chee-a-tow. The four are members of Stouffville's Sheffield Judo Club. See story on page 11.

**MERCEDES BENZ**  
REPAIR SPECIALIST  
471 8660

SAVING YOU MONEY IS OUR #1 GOAL

DON'T BE PENALIZED BY HIGHER PRICES

ISO 9001

**KoVac mAZDA**

Only 6 In Stock

0 Down \$194/mth

667-1120 PROTECT

**Sutton GROUP**

Town and Country Realty Ltd.  
640-0888