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3 From noisy parties to robberies — police have a bird's eye view of what's happening on the ground.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Eastern Gate craft and bake sale
WHEN: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville Pentecostal church, 6853 Main



18 When Halloween is over, recycle your jack-o'-lantern into a variety of tasty treats.

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Stouffville Tribune

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THURSDAY, OCT. 21, 1999

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

Town's top official dismissed

Restructuring ousts CAO Merlin Dewing

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville's top bureaucrat has been dismissed.

In a surprise move Tuesday, council voted to terminate the services of chief administrative officer Merlin Dewing.

Eliminating the CAO's position is part of a move towards restructuring. If all or some region-wide amalgamation takes place, Whitchurch-Stouffville wants to be ready.



MERLIN DEWING
 Bureaucrat's position eliminated

"I know what's coming down the p i p e," Mayor Wayne Emmerson told The Tribune. "We're talking about amalgamation. We're getting ready."

The CAO job, which paid Dewing \$105,000 a year, will not be refilled. Instead, Emmerson will do double duty, carrying on as mayor and assuming the position of chief executive officer for the municipality.

Emmerson earns \$24,000 a year as mayor and an equal amount for serving on York Regional council.

While the town will no longer pay out a CAO's salary,

See MAYOR, page 8.

AMALGAMATION: Business groups demand action from politicians

Merger plan ordered

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

York Region municipalities should be amalgamated by the spring, so voters can elect a new slate of leaders next fall, business leaders are urging.

"We would like amalgamation to start in 2000 so, in the election, you would know whether to vote for one or two or three mayors," said Ruth Burkholder, president of the

Markham Board of Trade.

Frustrated by York politicians' inability to deal with the issue for the past five years, and worried the province is about to impose its own merger plan — chamber of commerce leaders met Friday to tackle the issue themselves.

They are demanding the region immediately conduct a financial analysis of amalgamation options. The chambers are polling their

members this week, asking for options to study — with anything from one mega-city to four municipalities being the most likely choices.

Burkholder said the region could complete the financial analysis quickly if it hired consultant KPMG, which already has experience evaluating amalgamation savings in Ottawa-Carleton.

KPMG pegged Ottawa's savings

at between \$50 million and \$80 million a year, if the 10 municipalities and the region in the nation's capital were merged into one city.

If the seven urban cities were amalgamated, savings would range from \$43.9 million to \$72.6 million annually. Dividing the municipalities into three would save \$8.5 million to \$15.2 million a year.

See FINANCIAL, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEEN

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Lindsay Webber, Melanie Filalithis, Kathy Friedbacher, Bobby Empringham and Jessica Stewart, all of Ballantrae Public School, cheer on classmate Devin Paynter to a third-place finish in the junior boys' division of Tuesday's cross country meet at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.

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