

INSIDE: Opinion 6
 Arts 18
 Sports 20
 Classified 21

2 The separate school board considers adding a fourth religion course to the curriculum.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Hotel (a comedy in Cantonese)
WHEN: Tonight through Sunday
WHERE: Markham Theatre, 305-7469



16 The contents of your fridge might be horrifying, but beware the health hazards.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 24 PAGES

THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 2000

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

ROBERT MIDDAGH SPARKED INTERNAL PROBE OF YORK REGION FORCE

New chief led damning audit

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

York Region has a new police chief and he's the man who led the damning audit of the force in 1996. In a surprise announcement yesterday, police board chairperson Margaret Black announced Robert Middaugh, 56, will start work here Feb. 28.

Four years ago, Middaugh led an

audit which found York Regional Police was badly run and chronically underfunded. His auditors also tipped off the Ontario Provincial Police on 54 irregularities they felt warranted further investigation. That culminated in five breach of trust charges against former Chief Bryan Cousineau, who received a suspended sentence after he pleaded

guilty to two charges. "My objective always in policing has been to determine the real needs of the community, as opposed to one size fits all," Middaugh said in an interview yesterday. "My strategy will be to never stop listening and work toward responding. That's my definition of community policing."

Black said KMPG Consultants

conducted a Canada-wide search and came up with a short list last week. The board interviewed candidates all day Tuesday and the decision was made Tuesday night. "We had a plan to move quickly and avoid speculation and that's what we did," she said. "He seems more reserved. He has experience

See NEW, page 3

Complaints registered on gay billboards

Mayor withdraws support for signs

BY PATRICK CASEY
 Staff Writer

Two days after endorsing a new billboard campaign that promotes the acceptance of gays and lesbians, Markham Mayor Don Cousens abruptly removed the welcome mat yesterday morning.

On Monday, Cousens threw his support behind a controversial advertising campaign in Markham by the York Region chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), an international organization that provides support and education on gay issues.

But after viewing the roadside billboard on Warden Avenue that reads, "Someone You Know and Love is Gay," and listening to complaints from upset residents, Cousens said PFLAG's message is too aggressive and called the sign inappropriate.

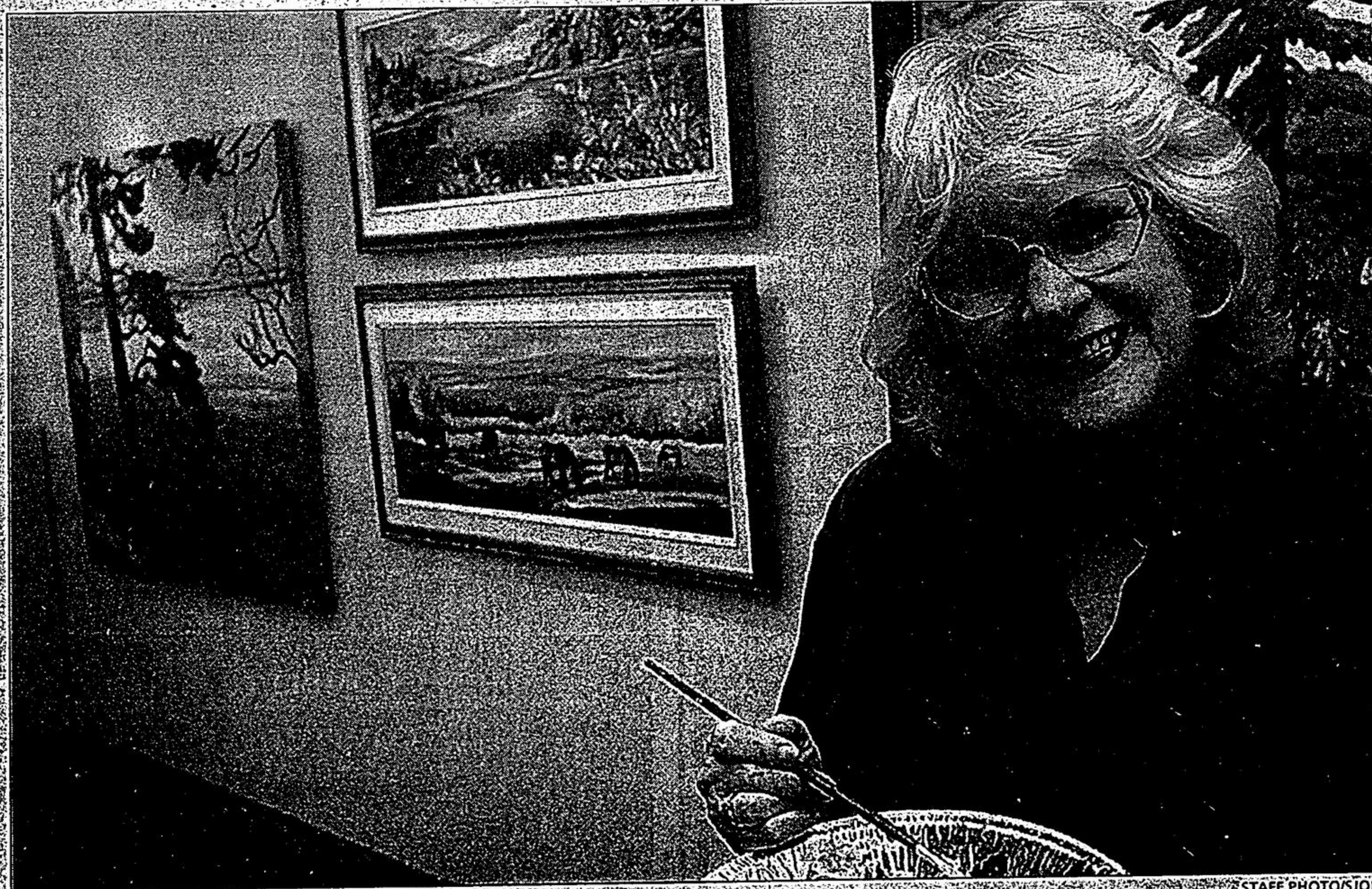
According to Cousens, a father was forced to answer questions from his 10-year-old son after the pair drove by the billboard.

Cousens questioned why the federal government would help sponsor PFLAG's campaign when other special-interest groups could also use the money.

A second poster, "It's Not a Choice, It's OK to be Gay," will be installed Jan. 31 on Woodbine Avenue, north of John Street.

"It's not that I'm intolerant. I

See 'INAPPROPRIATE', page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/JOERD WITTEVEEN

TOUCHING UP

Wanda Martin Hicks travels with her palette to make some last-minute touches as she hangs her art at the Latcham Gallery on Main Street. Her exhibit will continue to March 12.

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.northpointchevolds.com

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

Service Hours
 Mon-Thurs: 7 am - 7 pm
 Fri: 7:30 am - 6 pm
 Sat: 9 am - 11 pm

We at North Pointe Chev Olds would like to wish the community a very Happy New Year. I (Vejay Sariesy) Service Manager would like to invite you to our dealership to take advantage of our new G.M SPECIAL

The Winter Special

Includes:

- Lube, oil, filter
- Rotate tires
- General Inspection

Total cost \$95.00 plus tax

Now for only **\$39.95** PLUS TAX

Receive A FREE GIFT

PAINE RTY
 HAIR & BEAUTY

EYEBROW/EYELASH TINTING WITH A COMPLIMENTARY EYEBROW WAX \$22.95
 6188 KENN ST.
 (905) 640-2299