

NUTS AND BOLTS OF CO-OP



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville District Secondary School Grade 12 student Jeremy Morris (second from left) is the first in York Region to sign on in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, and he'll be working at 410 Auto on Sandiford Drive. Helping him turn the wrench are 410 owner Rick Callaghan, ministry of training consultant Elaine Forde and SDSS co-op coordinator Scott Croucher.

Novopharm workers optimistic after merger

'Nothing to fear' for 200 workers at Stouffville pharmaceutical plant

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Novopharm Ltd. employees, including those in Stouffville, will soon find out if their jobs are secure in the wake of a company merger.

Last week, about 2,200 employees, including close to 200 in Stouffville, learned the Canadian-owned pharmaceutical company had merged with Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. of Israel.

"It's not a sell out. It is a merger with Novopharm," company president Leslie Dan told the *Stouffville Tribune*. Local workers are optimistic about

job security, according to Novopharm employee Carol McBride.

"Rumour has it we will be OK," she said.

And the workers have "nothing to worry about," stressed Dan.

"We're in an improved situation."

Novopharm Ltd., the second largest generic company in Canada with a presence in Hungary and the United States, is owned by Dan Family Holding Ltd.

Novopharm's primary business has been in the development, production and marketing of generic prescription pharmaceuticals, including a variety of

vitamins and over-the-counter products.

In Stouffville, Novopharm manufactures a variety of products, Dan said.

It will be business as usual in Stouffville, the company president stressed.

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. is Israel's largest pharmaceutical company with 80 per cent of its sales outside Israel, mainly in the United States and Europe.

Novopharm has been in Stouffville for five years.

The deal is expected to close March 31.



Joan Ransberry

Weather to remember

Everyone has a favourite weather story. Mine is 46 years old.

On Oct. 15, 1954, the lights went out and they wouldn't come back on. While my dad, mom, sister and brother spent the night hand-milking 30 Holsteins, I hid under the bed. I didn't know it was a hurricane. Nor did I know she was called Hazel. I just knew I was not brave.

I was nine years old and terrified of electrical storms. The farm could blow away for all I cared.

Along with Sandy, the cattle dog, I bunkered down. I'd ride out the storm. After five hours of milking, my father, using beams, boards and stone, reinforced the barn to keep it from blowing away.

When dawn finally broke, I came out from under the bed. I joined the family in assessing the damage: about 10 hard maple and 50 Manitoba trees had been ripped from their roots; the roof on the main barn had sustained minor damage; the loafing barn was gone; the windows in the milk house were broken; and, for reasons only known to me, the cattle dog was missing.

We had no electricity so we didn't know 83 people were dead in Toronto. Some bodies washed up on the shores of Lake Ontario in New York state days later. Hurricane Hazel dumped 300 million tonnes of rain on the area. Enough for me to never forget.

As well, the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, the Manitoba flood and the ice storm of '98 will remain lodged in my memory.

Over the past 100 years, Canada has experienced extreme weather in almost every corner of the country. While the agricultural community is bending over backwards trying to catch the attention of the federal government, the importance of government subsidies and grants can't hold a candle to the weather.

When a farmer looks out the window at 5 a.m., he's not wondering what's on the prime minister's mind. Rather, the farmer is checking to see if the weather fits into the day's work. The farmer knows too well that in one clean sweep, the weather can destroy everything.

• While the Red River Flood in the spring of 1950 is viewed as the worst flood in Canadian history, a flood in the same area in 1997 also left its mark. In the spring of '97, about 2,000 square kilometres of valley lands flooded as the Red River rose, while thousands of volunteers and soldiers fought rising waters for days. Damage was pegged at half a billion dollars.

• On Nov. 10, 1975, a severe storm caused the largest Great Lakes hulk ore carrier to break up and sink in 20-metre-high waves, killing the entire 29-man crew. Soon after, Canadian singer Gordon Lightfoot immortalized the ship in a folk song. As a Lightfoot fan for more than 30 years, I was not surprised when the song became an instant hit.

• One of the most destructive and disruptive storms in Canadian history hit Eastern Ontario and Quebec in 1998 causing hardship for about five million people and costing \$3 billion in damages. For some, power outages lasted for weeks.

We'll all remember.

NOW AVAILABLE in Stouffville, From Our Kitchen To Yours

DELIVERY
SWISS CHALET (416) 439-1000

DELIVERY AREA			
PRESTON LAKE	ALBION RD.	ST. CATHARINES	ST. CATHARINES
WOODBINE AVE.	WARDLEY AVE.	BLOOMINGTON RD.	DURHAM RD. 20
		19TH AVE.	

Monday - Sunday 4 pm - 10 pm. Minimum food order \$8.50