

**INSIDE:** Opinion . . . 6  
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**10** The Humane Society will listen to residents' fears about its new Stouffville complex.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Bet Your Booties, a dance musical  
**WHEN:** Friday, March 31, 7 p.m., Tickets \$7.  
**WHERE:** Parkview Village Auditorium, 640-1940.



**20** Families can play an important role in helping wildlife in York Region.

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## OMB appeal about pool could be over Tuesday

*Town has two days to quash resident's appeal*

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 Staff Writer

The fate of Stouffville's \$5.5-million indoor pool and library complex could be determined Tuesday.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has two days to get ready to officially ask the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to "squash" private citizen Stephen Sword's application concerning the plan to build a 31,000-square-foot twin facility on Memorial Park South.

Sword declined comment on the issue.

Tuesday's hearing will last one day and involves "a motion to dismiss" the matter. The motion comes from the Town; an OMB spokesman said.

The OMB official at the hearing could make a decision before leaving the municipal office on March 28 or he could take up to 48 hours before notifying the town of the decision.

If, during the pre-hearing, the OMB decides Sword has a valid point, the issue will proceed to a full OMB hearing. If Sword's appeal is thrown out, the challenge is over and construction of the indoor pool and library will get under way immediately.

The multi-purpose facility would be ready for use next year.

During the recent tendering

See MAYOR, page 2.

## A TOUCH FOR BUSINESS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Gary Bouwmeister, owner of A Dutch Touch Bouwmeister Landscaping Ltd., won the business entrepreneur of the year award at Wednesday's Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce annual awards. For the full story about the awards and the winners, see page 3.

## Leadership challenge has support, MPP says

*MPP Frank Klees wants to lead new Canadian Alliance*

BY JENNIFER BROWN  
 Staff Writer

He's the unknown candidate, the dark horse with all the right connections.

Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees says he has set his sights on leading the nation and doesn't have time for those who suggest he doesn't have the experience to lead what could be Canada's next federal political party.

If the formation of the new Canadian Alliance Party is approved by Reformers during this weekend's referendum in Calgary, the MPP from Aurora will step up to his biggest challenge yet.

"I just came off a week of criss-crossing the country with a tour that started in New Brunswick and ended up on Vancouver Island," said Klees one morning last week. "I met with a lot of people and I'm very encouraged. There is a great deal of support for the Canadian Alliance and for my candidacy. There are people committed in every province in terms of campaigning for us."

According to reports, candi-



FRANK KLEES: Oak Ridges Tory MPP is delighted with show of support from across the country.

dates are out beating the bushes looking to secure upwards of \$1 million to launch the campaign to be leader.

Last week, Klees was reserved in his comments about his ability to raise that kind of money, but he says support for his cause exists in just about every corner of the country.

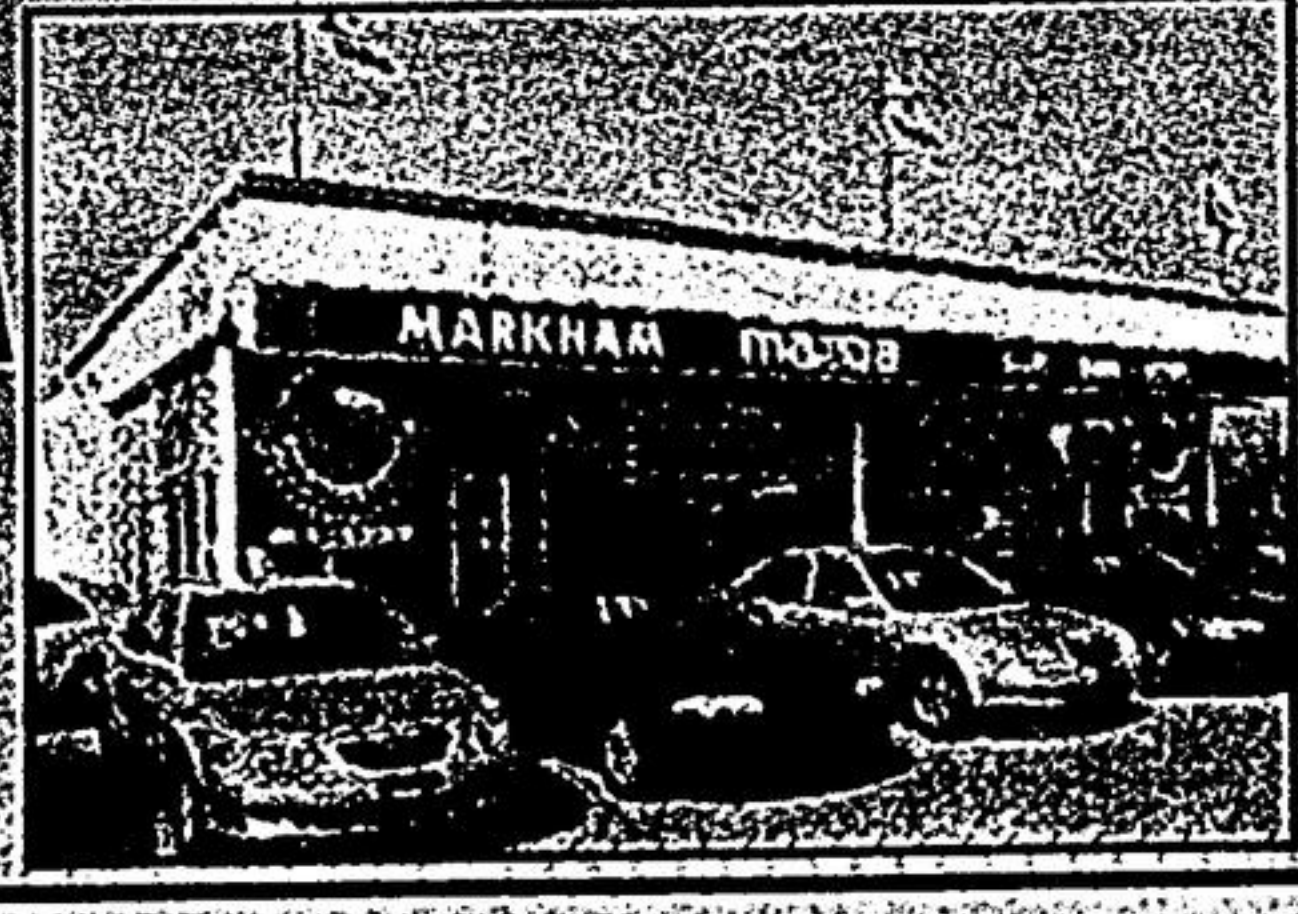
A veteran Tory strategist, Klees is no stranger to back-room politics and knowing what it takes to launch an effective election campaign.

Klees first ran for the provincial Progressive Conservatives

See TORY, page 4.

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