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3 Childless workers are steaming over having to pick up the slack for colleagues with kids.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Organ recital, German-style dinner
WHEN: Saturday, June 17, 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Bethesda Lutheran Church, 477-1731



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FORMER PRIME MINISTER PRAISES CLARK, SLAMS MANNING

Mulroney blows Tory horn

BY PATRICK CASEY
 Staff Writer

Nearly seven years after tasting defeat, former prime minister Brian Mulroney stepped back into the political spotlight Friday to endorse the struggling federal Progressive Conservative Party and its embattled leader Joe Clark.

Mulroney, who was in Markham

as guest speaker at a party fundraiser hosted by Markham MP Jim Jones, used the occasion to encourage Tories not to abandon the party in favour of the Canadian Alliance, calling the organization "the Reform Party in pantyhose."

Addressing a crush of media and a luncheon crowd following a \$500-a-head golf tournament at Angus Glen Golf Club, Mulroney placed

the blame for the Tories' struggles at the feet of Preston Manning, whose Western-based Social Credit Party transformed first into the Reform Party, then was repackaged as the Canadian Alliance.

"The architect of today's disunity was Preston Manning... he chose to launch a new party, split the vote and give rise to the political fragmentation we know today,"

Mulroney said in a wide-ranging 70-minute speech. "My only astonishment comes from the fact that some well-intentioned Progressive Conservatives are gullible enough to swallow this absurd message."

The Alliance is trying to lure Conservatives to join before the June 24 leadership convention.

See JONES, page 2.

Hydro sale will boost rates, says councillor

Local customers face 8-per-cent hike

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

The sale of Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro will drive up the cost of electricity to the utility's 3,500 customers, a local commissioner is warning.

The sale of local utilities across Ontario doesn't spell good news for all users, especially those in Whitchurch-Stouffville, local Hydro commissioner and Ward 1 Councillor Peter Dobrich said.

Even though the Whitchurch-Stouffville sale could draw between \$5 million and \$6 million, "rates will most definitely go up," Dobrich said. If the Ontario Energy Board agrees, the increase could be about 8 per cent, he added.

However, the rate of increase is capped at 9.8 per cent by the Ontario Energy Board.

A few months ago, Whitchurch-Stouffville council decided to put the wheels in motion to put pressure on the town-owned utility. A call for proposals attracted four candidates, with three still interested.

Contrary to recent reports indicating that Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro will be swallowed up by Toronto, the mega-city is not in the running.

Council is expected to review the submissions by the interested parties at the end of the month. Candidates are utilities from

See MARKHAM, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/JOERD WITTEVEN

ON TRACK

Dave Connell (left) and Julian Franklin were guests of honour as the Stouffville District Secondary School track was named the Connell-Franklin Track. Connell is the retired head of physical education department, while Franklin is former student council president. Both men were instrumental in getting the track installed.

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