

# Markham expected buyer of Stouffville utility

From page 1

Markham, an Ajax-Pickering-Uxbridge group and Ontario Hydro.

Dobrich is expecting Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro to be sold to Markham.

The town has no choice but to sell the utility, Dobrich stressed. "It would be a nightmare to try to run it under the new system," he said.

The 3,500 local customers represent a small percentage of the total power users in Stouffville. Most of the others are served directly by Ontario Hydro.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville distribution component represents only about 12 per cent of the overall residential electricity bill. The other 88 per cent is already completely beyond the control of Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro.

The pending sale of the local service is part of a province-wide move to get rid

of municipally owned electric utilities. Of the 309 utilities spread across Ontario, 254 are left.

Major changes came in October 1998 when the province passed the Energy Competition Act (Bill 35) as a way of introducing competition in the wholesale and retail sectors of Ontario's electrical utilities.

Provincial legislation will deregulate Ontario Hydro industry by this November.

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## CORRECTION

The story *Watchdog group urges boycott of Kraft foods* in The Economist & Sun/Tribune Thursday, June 8 gave an incorrect date for the launch of the boycott.

Infact is launching its boycott July 10. We regret the error.

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