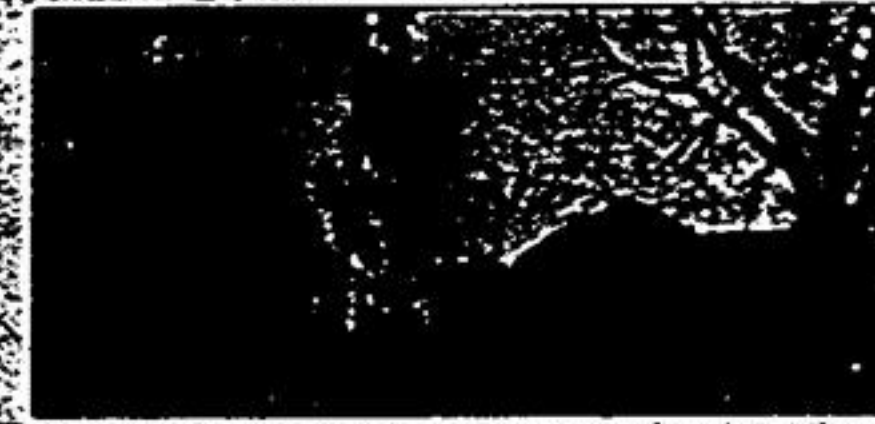


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20 'Signs' of Monday's municipal election are found almost everywhere in the region.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR
EVENT: Country Decorating and Collectibles Sale
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WHERE: Markham Fair

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library



3 What will happen to our rural roots in York Region — the fastest growing area in Ontario?

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Where are the female election candidates?

Less than a quarter of candidates are female

BY ROGER VARLEY
 Staff Writer

Of the 170-odd candidates seeking office in York Region's municipal elections, less than 25 percent are women. And only one quarter of those are incumbents.

The shortage of females is perhaps most noticeable in Markham, where the last council had none, and Georgina, where Margaret Jordan was the lone female on the seven-member council.

In Markham's current race for 13 seats — mayor, four regional councillors and eight ward representatives — just three of the 11 candidates for the regional seats are women. Only one female, Erin Shapero, is among the 20 hopefuls seeking a ward seat.

In Georgina, where Jordan has been acclaimed in Ward 1, the only other female candidate is Debra D'Souza in Ward 2.

By comparison, in King Township both mayoral candidates are women along with five of the 13 council contestants.

The big attraction for females appears to be the mayor's chain of office. Six women are contending for the top spot in five of the nine municipalities: Aurora, King, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

One of the few women running for a council seat is Susan

See NOT, page 10.

Raking in the jamboree money



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Andrew McDougall (left) and Matthew Stierhof of 1st Stouffville Scouts rake leaves at a home on Palmwood Gate in Stouffville on Saturday to raise funds for their trip to the Canadian Jamboree in Prince Edward Island in July 2001.

Teachers won't strike - for now

Job action possible as contract talks with public board fail

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
 Staff Writer

York Region elementary teachers will be in class for now, even though they have not reached a contract with the public school board.

Phyllis Benedict, president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, ruled out a full-blown strike in the immediate future and said there will be no rotating strikes for at least a few days.

Union members were meeting late yesterday in Richmond Hill to discuss possible job action after a marathon bargaining session ended without a collective agreement.

These actions could include withdrawal of extra-curricular activities, refusal to do administrative paperwork or participate in staff or board meetings.

"There's the possibility it could be anything, including a lockout with the board," Benedict said.

But Reid Cawston, chairperson of the board's negotiation advisory committee, said the board doesn't intend to lock teachers out.

The board will keep schools open as long as it can during any job action, Cawston said, even if teachers participate in rotating strikes.

"Obviously, it won't be instruction as normal," he said, adding he hopes parents will be able to drop their kids off at school even if teachers are off the job.

Teachers were in a legal strike position yesterday and no talks are scheduled at this time.

See BOARD, page 24.

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