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**15** Why did York Region vote Liberal so overwhelmingly on Monday night?

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade  
**WHEN:** 2 p.m., Saturday  
**WHERE:** Main Street, Stouffville



**3** You could get 80 miles to the gallon with this car - but you can't buy one.

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# Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 32 PAGES

THURSDAY, NOV. 30, 2000

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## Liberals set to tackle commuter gridlock

Region's reward for electing five Liberals

BY LISA QUEEN  
 Staff Writer

Commuters, take heart. The payoff is coming. Relief from gridlock is on the way through a national infrastructure program, promise York Region Liberal MPs, who swept the region's five ridings in Monday's federal election.

Consider the investment in roads and pipes a reward for handing Prime Minister Jean Chretien his third consecutive majority government.

The \$2.6-billion infrastructure plan was first announced last winter, with \$100 million spent this year.

Chretien announced, however, he would withhold \$350 million until 2001. A further \$550 million would be spent in the final four years of the six-year program. Now that the Liberals have been re-elected, there's no reason to believe the funding will not be available.

Ottawa will only invest in the strategy if the provinces and municipalities contribute.

Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert is confident the participants will reach an agreement to tackle transportation challenges that are crippling the Greater Toronto Area.

"We are very interested in participating in some kind of program to deal with transportation

See YORK, page 5.

JOB ACTION ESCALATES IN YORK REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

## TEACHERS CLOSER TO STRIKE

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA  
 Staff Writer

York Region's public elementary teachers are one step closer to a threatened full-blown strike.

Starting Monday, more than 3,000 local instructors are expected to report for work 15 minutes before each school day begins, 45 minutes later than they usually show up.

The job action comes days after David Clegg, president of the York Region local of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, said his members will walk out of class unless the public school board makes significant improvements in their collective agreement.

"We will be definitely escalating our job action on Dec. 4," Clegg said Tuesday. "It's been 22 or 23 days

since we've heard from the board and we're not optimistic we will hear anything from them this week."

Clegg said the union would "certainly" look at further tactics, based on whether previous action has brought about change in the board's stance.

But the board and union seem to be worlds apart, with both sides

saying their contract proposals are fair.

The board's latest offer includes:

- No cuts to teachers' preparation time of 150 minutes per week;
- The withdrawal of a proposal to have instructors contribute to their benefits package;
- Guaranteed pay hikes of 2 per cent in each of the next three years.

See SCHOOL, page 7.



PHOTO/CELIA BRONKHORST

### 'BEARING UP' WELL

Several Stouffville residents created bears to donate to the York Region EMS and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department. Loading up the bears at Silver Jubilee Club are (from left) Diane Peak, Janet Mountney, EMS Jonathan Britton, Doris Robertson, Fire Chief Bill Brown and (seated) Doreen Brown and Millie Willcocks. See story, page 10.

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