

**INSIDE:** Letters ..... 6  
 Registration . 11  
 Sports..... 21  
 Classified.... 22

**7** Weird winter weather plays havoc with grapes at wineries of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Stouffville Rotary Club's 'A Taste of Spring'  
**WHEN:** Monday, 6 to 9 p.m. (905-640-6608)  
**WHERE:** Sleepy Hollow Golf Club, Tenth Line



**16** At the Schools: The perils of pot; college or university; and York Region's arts high.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

# Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 48 PAGES

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2002

TO REACH US: (905) 294-2200

20 years later  
 Markville a success story

But many merchants 'went broke' early on

BY MIKE ADLER  
 Staff Writer

Ontario Premier Bill Davis was there to cut the cake the night before Markville Shopping Centre opened.

That was 20 years ago, but Lindsay Ko can remember people dancing to a band at the mall's Centre Court while waiters offered canapés.

"Tony Roman was mayor at the time. The place was packed," recalled Mr. Ko, who had put his store, Ko's Gifts, in the mall after he drove along Hwy. 7 and saw the structure under construction.

But the mall, starting with 140 stores and half a million square feet, opened in the midst of a recession and it may have arrived too early. Markham took years to provide the population increase necessary to guarantee prosperity for the mall's merchants.

"The first couple of years were very tough, very hard," said Vincent Mallozzi of Vincent Hair Design, another original tenant.

"A lot of people went broke."

Still, Markville — which doubled in size in 1990 and is under expansion again — has 32 tenants left from its 1982 roster, including such venerable names in Canadian retail as Thrify's, Fairweather and Laura Secord.

Mr. Ko said he has adjusted his products and prices over the

See **SECOND**, page 4.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE COMMUTERS BENEFIT FROM TRANSIT PLAN

## WIDER ROADS, MORE TRAINS

BY CAROL COOPER  
 Special

Expanded GO train service to Stouffville and an Uxbridge extension are among proposals for Whitchurch-Stouffville in the York Region Transportation Master Plan draft overview presented to town council on Tuesday.

Along with adding new regional roads and widening others around

the region, the 30-year proposal aims to double the number of trips taken on public transit in morning rush-hour. The plan envisions one-third of all commuter rush-hour trips to Toronto will be taken on transit.

The plan also proposes rapid transit service, either bus or light rail and subway for the region.

Under the proposal,

Bloomington Road would be widened in Whitchurch-Stouffville as well as sections of Vivian, Aurora, Stouffville, Kennedy and McCowan roads, Woodbine and Warden avenues, the Ninth and York-Durham lines and Hwy. 48.

New GO stations are being suggested for the west side of Hwy. 404 at Stouffville Road and Hwy. 404 at Bloomington Road on an extended

Richmond Hill GO train line. These stations could be used by Whitchurch-Stouffville residents, Paul May, director of infrastructure planning for the region, said later.

Local bus service, connecting to a rapid transit network, is also proposed in the plan. A population of between 12,000 and 15,000 warrants such a service, Mr. May said.

See **BUS**, page 5.



STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

### MANIACS CONTINUE A STOUFFVILLE TRADITION

The cast and crew of Music Mania are preparing for their 42nd annual variety show, April 25 to 27 at Stouffville District Secondary School. Taking a break at a March Break rehearsal party were (from left) music director Marg Butcher, producer Sharon Baxter and chorus members Liz Lightfoot, Brad Hallam and Heather Bergman. See story on page 5.

**E.M. Automotive**  
**OIL CHANGE**  
**\$19.95**  
 9441 Hwy. 7/48  
 Unit 5  
 (Hwy. 7/48 & 16th Ave.)  
 2 km N. on 297  
 905-572-1242

**HONDA**  
 North Markham Honda  
 4611 Hwy. #7  
 (west of Kennedy Rd.), Unionville  
 905-477-2451

**MOVING TO SERVE YOU BETTER!**  
**HONDA**  
 Watch for our  
 Grand Opening  
 Event 2002

**2002**  
**HONDA QUALITY DEALER**  
 North Markham Honda has been presented with the prestigious Total Quality Dealer Award from Honda Canada Inc. for 2002.

**Sutton GROUP**  
**Town and Country Realty Ltd.**  
 640-0888