

Band brings schools together

Whitchurch-Stouffville, Markham elementary students team up with music

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Every Wednesday afternoon, they came on foot or by mom's taxi — lugging trumpets, horns, drums and cymbals behind them.

Since October, the 79 members of the York Region District School Board's Area East Band have converged on Markham's Reesor Park Public School

for weekly rehearsals.

The Grade 7 and 8 students were selected for the band by the music teachers at their schools.

They have been working under the guidance of teachers Wendy Dickson — who started the band about 10 years ago — and Debbie Partch, who has been teaching the band for at least seven years.

April has become "touring month" as the group performs for students at each of their own schools.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, members come from Ballantrae, Whitchurch Highlands, Glad Park, Orchard Park, Summitview and Dickson Hill.

In Markham, they hail from E. T. Crowle, James Robinson, Franklin Street, Reesor Park and William Armstrong. A special performance will be given at R. H. Crosby Public School, which doesn't have a music program.

The Area East Band's final performances of the season are 9 a.m. Tuesday at Summitview in Stouffville and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, at Markham District High School.

Over the 10 years that Ms Dickson has been leading the area band, she's noticed that many of the students continue with music in high school.

"A few make it a vocation to teach or perform," she noted.



STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

ON THE CURVE TO SUCCESS

Curves for Women in Stouffville held its second Food for Friends drive for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank recently, collecting about 2000 pounds from club members. Shown with the bounty are owner Wendy McMillan (left) and manager Sandra Higgs. A similar drive by the Markham Curves collected about 700 pounds.



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