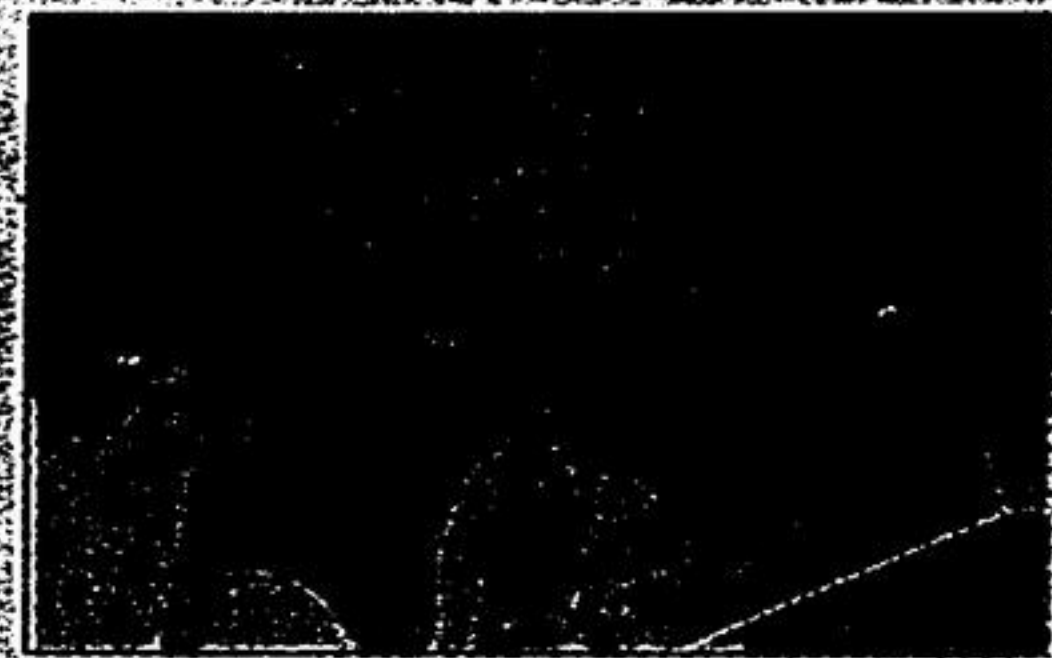


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, OCT. 23, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



21 Ex-Guess Who guitarist helps put song in Ballantrae students

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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Plenty to choose from

Kimberley Kerr, 5, of Toronto takes her pick from the pumpkin patch at Hoult's Monster Pumpkins on Hwy. 48, north of Ballantrae Saturday.

Smallest ward big on development

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Ward 4 is Whitchurch-Stouffville's smallest ward with the smallest number of voters, but its building boom along Main Street is almost audible.

An overwhelming majority of the new businesses coming to Stouffville over the past several years have chosen to locate on the Main Street strip between Ninth Line and Hwy. 48.

What was once Stouffville's only indoor mall now is home to the No. Frills store and more recent additions, the LCBO outlet

and Shoppers Drug Mart. Tim Hortons restaurant built an on-site driveway to cut down on bogged-down coffee-seekers on Sandale Avenue. Swiss Chalet and Harvey's were built across the street and the A & P relocated from its former plaza into a store more than twice. The arrival of Sobeys widened the choice for local grocery shoppers.

Several small strip plazas with fast-food restaurants, video stores and dollar stores have cropped up. Two plazas, including the former A & P plaza, are undergoing major facelifts.

The retail building boom means heavy traffic at rush hour and Saturdays have become a fact of life on Stouffville's Main Street. To make access into the new retail and other businesses easier, a large number of stoplights have been installed on a relatively short stretch of road.

Plans are under way to widen Main Street to four lanes starting from Hwy. 48 and extending to Ninth Line. Construction could begin as early as next year. Another east-west road, Hoover



See THREE, page 10.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION DEBATE IN STOUFFVILLE

Growth hot-button issue with voters

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville's pending population explosion dominated the all-candidates forum Monday night.

On Nov. 10, voters will choose from three mayoralty candidates, while there are contests in four of the town's six wards: Councillors for Ward 1 (Ken Ferdinands) and Ward 3 (Clyde Smith) were acclaimed.

More than 300 people filled the auditorium at Stouffville District Secondary School where Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason acted as moderator for the event, hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and the Sun-Tribune.

While the three mayoralty and 12 ward candidates touched on policing, downtown revitalization, vandalism, a theatre for the performing arts, road improvements, agriculture and alternate sources of energy, the rate of growth kept returning to centre stage.

It's predicted the town's population will swell to more than 40,000 within 20 years. There are six large subdivisions approved for the community of Stouffville.

At the end of the meeting, the three mayoralty candidates were asked where they stood on the planned development.

Sue Sherban said she voted in favour of the growth, as it is in keeping the town's secondary plan. Steve Plakes said he voted against the planned subdivisions "90 per cent" of the time. Meanwhile, Randy Mole challenged Mr. Plakes, accusing him of voting for development at some council meetings.

Growth will translate into noise.

See ENVIRONMENT, page 16.

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