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Downtown, young people in mayor's inaugural plans

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

It's official: Mayor Sue Sherban is presiding over Whitchurch-Stouffville. On Tuesday evening, a standing-room-only crowd witnessed the swearing-in ceremony in which Mrs. Sherban took the oath of office to become the new mayor.

The 45-year-old former councillor from Ward 6 defeated Steve Pliakes and Randy Mole in the Nov. 10 municipal election.

Also taking the official oath, administered by lawyer Michael Bigoni, at the inaugural meeting were councillors Ken Ferdinands, Phil Bannon, Clyde Smith, Susanne Hilton, Harry Bowes and Rob Hargrave.

'OPEN DOOR' POLICY

During her inaugural address, Mrs. Sherban said she is adopting an "open door" policy with the citizens.

"I will be working on getting more information into the citizens' hands, through quarterly newsletters, town hall meetings and public focus groups," she said.

"I am currently working on creating a committee of business leaders to look at broadening our tax base by attracting more business and industry to our community," she said.

Stouffville's downtown area can expect some special attention in the next three years.

"I believe we need to celebrate our heritage by protecting our downtown core and I am committed to see the town take a strong leadership role," she told the audience.

Throughout the election campaign, Mrs. Sherban stressed the need to look out for the youth in the community.

Young people were not left out of her

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Thrill of the hill

Taylor Clifford (front) and Mitchell Price, both 10, slide down backwards during their first sledding session of the season on the toboggan hill in Stouffville Memorial Park Saturday.

PHYSICIANS NOT ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Doctor shortage hits Stouffville

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville has a serious shortage of family doctors.

Dr. Donald Petrie and Dr. Peter Izso are two of eight family physicians practising medicine in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Like most of his colleagues, Dr. Petrie is no longer accepting new patients. His patient load is beyond full.

"You can't look after the ones you're committed to," he said from his Main Street office. "You can't look after the whole world. There's a limit."

While Dr. Izso continues to accept new patients, he admits it's getting difficult. "People are moving in from all directions. Yes, we're short of doctors," he said.

In Ontario, there's one family doctor for every 1,204 people. In York Region, there is one doctor for every 1,598 people. However, in Whitchurch-Stouffville, eight family physicians are serving a population of 23,000. The local doctor-patient ratio is an alarming one to almost 3,000, Dr. Petrie pointed out.

POPULATION GROWING

"With the population expected to expand, the situation can only get worse," he said. "There's a definite shortage."

Doctors refusing to take new patients is not isolated to Whitchurch-Stouffville. The Ontario Medical Association recently reported that provincially, only about 12 per cent of general practitioners in Ontario are accepting new patients. The remaining 88 per cent of primary

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