

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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22 SPORTS: SDSS into York Region final; Jr. A Spirit needs a win

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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Hot wheels

Zac Gingras of the host 1st Stouffville Cubs sets his car upon the track as another heat is set to go during a KubKar rally Saturday at Latham Hall in Stouffville. More than 80 Cubs from across York Region built the cars to race at the event. For more photos, see page 19.

New high school could open in 2007

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A new high school is on the books for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

If all goes as planned, the new school could replace the 50-year-old Stouffville District Secondary School as early as 2007.

The school, valued at between \$20 million and \$25 million, will be built on a 15-acre site south side of Main Street and west of the Ninth Line, behind Sobey's food store.

A new high school is needed, SDSS school principal Tony Lewis stressed.

"It doesn't make any sense to pour new money into the old school," he said. "A brand new school is completely correct."

Lewis Morgulis, coordinator of accommodation planning for the York Region District School Board, will outline details of the school plan at a board meeting March 25.

DOUBLE CAPACITY OF SDSS

The new school will be designed to serve 1,600 students, about double SDSS' current student population.

It will probably be a "two- or three-storey" structure, measuring between 160,000 and 170,000 square feet, Mr. Morgulis said.

Meanwhile, funding for the project will come from the Ministry of Education.

Growth is dictating the need for the facility, he said.

"Whitchurch-Stouffville will see 4,600 new houses in the next four to six years," he said.

"It will double the school population. It's not practical to add on (to the existing school)."

The plan, however, is subject to red tape: it must meet a host of conditions.

One condition hinges on the Big Pipe reaching Whitchurch-Stouffville. The major sewer project is expected to be completed within a year.

As well, a large subdivision development

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3% ESTIMATE WAS OVERALL INCREASE: MAYOR Municipal tax hike now pegged at 12%

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville taxpayers are facing a 12-per-cent hike on the municipal portion of their tax bill, Mayor Sue Sherban is now predicting.

While the mayor had earlier announced the 2004 tax increase would be about three per cent, she said she should have pointed out that her prediction referred to the "overall tax increase" involving municipal, regional and educational taxes and not simply the municipal segment.

"I should have clarified that the three per cent (increase) was in reference to the overall tax increase," she said Monday. "The municipal part works out to 12 per cent."

While members of Whitchurch-Stouffville council struck a \$3.6-million capital budget Feb. 10, they're less than a week away from striking an operating budget.

EXTRA \$100 PER HOUSE

If the 12-per cent tax increase becomes a reality on Tuesday, it will mean local taxpayers will have to find an extra \$100 to pay for the municipal portion of their tax bill, Mrs. Sherban said.

"The municipal portion on a \$300,000 house in Whitchurch-Stouffville breaks down to \$940 or an additional \$100," she said.

By the mayor's calculations, the total tax bill on a \$300,000 house in Whitchurch-Stouffville will be about \$3,500.

Passing on a double-digit tax increase can't be avoided, the mayor suggested. When members of council

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