

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2004 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**17** We're moving! And taking our old home with us

Letters	6
Calendar	15
Sports	18
Classified	20

## Mom runs Boston Marathon for needy Africans

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Robin Steckley of Stouffville has more than one reason to complete the upcoming Boston Marathon.

Crossing the finish line of the 26-mile event April 19 will give the mother of 11-year-old twins a strong sense of accomplishment. It will also help Mrs. Steckley raise money for an impoverished East African village.

Stouffville Igoma Project matters a great deal to the 45-year-old runner. A few months ago, Mrs. Steckley issued an appeal to friends, neighbours and strangers to send in pledges linked to the marathon.

### \$15,000 GOAL

Mrs. Steckley's goal is to raise \$15,000. So far, \$8,530 has been pledged. "Every penny counts," she pointed out.

The latest donation, a \$1,500 gift, came from the Stouffville Lions Club. She appealed to council for support at Tuesday's meeting.

Mrs. Steckley took on the Igoma project as a personal initiative because she cares about the 42,000 people living in the poverty-stricken east African village.

Mrs. Steckley took notice last year when Stouffville Missionary Church, where she worships, urged the town to enter into a humanitarian partnership with Igoma.

The prompting paid off, endorsed by council and backed by the provincial and federal governments, the project kicked off in late December.

It's the first time a town agreed to look out for the needs of another town, project chairperson Peter

See WE, page 16.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Cheers to hospital

Whitchurch-Stouffville Councillor Ken Ferdinands, his wife Colleen (right) and Margie Smith enjoy Markham-Stouffville Hospital's 14th annual gala, Under the Tuscan Sky, at Le Parc in Thornhill Friday. The event drew 900 supporters and raised about \$900,000. For more, see photos on page 11 and Jim Mason's column on page 6.

## 'SHE SAT AT BUDGET TABLE' FORMER COLLEAGUE ARGUES

## Mayor blames previous councils

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Mayor Sue Sherban is blaming poor planning by former councils for the proposed 12-per-cent municipal tax increase that led the new council to shut down the March 4 budget meeting.

"(Previous) councillors didn't have the political will to increase taxes," she said in an interview. "They wanted to lessen the impact to residents and look good."

She was a member of the previous two councils.

Mrs. Sherban cited reinstated payments into the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System after a five-year hiatus, the increased cost of fire and emergency services and inflation as factors in the municipal tax increase.

For 2004, the town must contribute \$200,000 into the retirement fund, which represents 3 per cent of the operating budget.

### RESERVE MONEY USED

Mrs. Sherban stated previous councils failed to take inflation into account when striking budgets.

Some funds were taken from reserves to pay for operating expenses, she said.

The town is going with a 2.6-per-cent inflation rate.

"She sat at the same table as I did," former councillor Mark Carroll said.

"We planned and kept the services running the way the town and the residents expected us to. Rather than blame the past councils, (Mrs. Sherban and the current council should) sit down and work out the budget."

See TOWN, page 8.

**EUREKA**  
CANISTER VACUUM CLEANERS  
from \$59.00  
Sales, Service & Installations  
**MARKHAM VACUUM**  
905-478-2273  
4355 Hwy. #7, Unionville (beside railway tracks)

**Ford**  
HOUSTON

**MUSTANGS**  
New and used to choose from  
**01 GT COUPE STD - \$19,995**  
Liquid gray & dark gray leather.  
Incl. FORD 33P 5 year warranty

**FEATURE CAR**  
with 24,000 km

**HOUSTON FORD LTD.**  
5785 Main St.,  
Stouffville, Ontario  
905-640-4541  
www.houstonford.com

**Easter**  
**Carats**  
**B. Barthau Jewellers**  
6312 Main St.,  
Stouffville  
(905) 640-4646  
www.hoopickofdiamonds.com