

School offered to Catholic board

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things, it has gone downhill." She's not alone.

"I think it's probably overdue," said Wayne Emmerson, a former Stouffville mayor who attended the school in the late 1960s and early '70s.

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Board chairman Bill Crothers, whose three children also attended the high school, said the new school will "continue the proud tradition, spirit and values of the Stouffville community" in a modern educational environment.

He said preliminary planning for the school will now advance to the detailed planning stage with site plans, construction schedules and

preparing staff and students for the transition.

As for the old school, the public board is bound to offer the old property to the York Catholic board free of charge before placing it on the market, but a spokesperson for the public board said it's too soon to tell what kind of interest the 50-year-old building might generate.

Asbestos will be removed from the school starting later this month, as part of a board-wide program in older schools.

There is no indication of any danger to students as asbestos fibres were not exposed prior to this removal, board spokesperson Ross Virgo said.

The announcement of the new school also coincides with a change in leadership at SDSS.

Current principal Tony Lewis is preparing for a new assignment as principal at Middlefield Collegiate Institute in Markham; he will be replaced by Arlene Smith, who takes the helm at Stouffville District Secondary School this fall.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to open a new school in a growing York Region community," she said.

"We will be keeping residents fully informed as we proceed with the development of the new Stouffville District Secondary School."

Hundreds of SDSS alumni here on weekend

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

A collection of student portraits will keep the memory of Stouffville District Secondary School's 50th anniversary alive for years to come.

Created by former art teacher John Roberts as demonstration portraits during his classes from the 1970s to 1993, the 28 works will be dedicated to the school Saturday at 11 a.m. during the opening ceremonies at SDSS. The drawings will form a permanent display in the library.

Mr. Roberts, a Stouffville resident, is a founding member of the Roadside Painters, whose members

paint and sketch at roadsides to capture the landscape and make pictorial records of old barns that are in danger of being torn down. In addition to writing for an art magazine, Mr. Roberts is writing a book on making landscapes look alive.

ARTIST LIKES OUTDOORS

Mr. Roberts wants to see more artists work outdoors "so their paintings look like they are growing", he said.

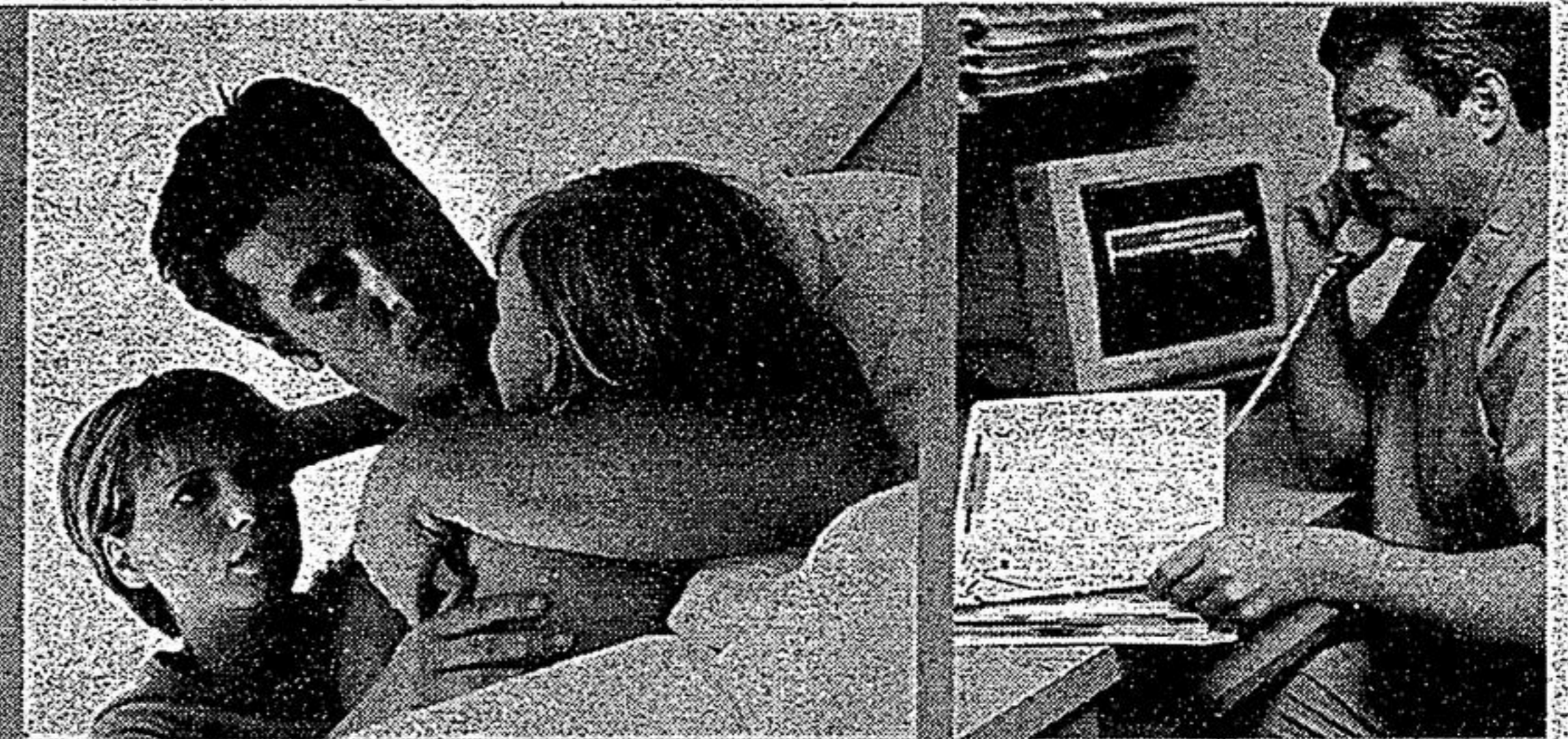
Hundreds of former students, teachers and staff will descend on the school Friday night to kick off the reunion at a wine and cheese reception. More than 1,000 people

have registered for the 50th anniversary event. Another 300 or 400 are expected to register on the weekend, SDSS principal Tony Lewis said.

Prom dresses from the 1950s and 1960s, tuxedos and gowns worn by high school band members in the 1950s and original photos of the construction of SDSS will be on display during the weekend.

A social takes place at the Stouffville Arena Saturday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

A supply of yearbooks from 1955 onwards will be for sale at the reunion at \$10 each and the 50th anniversary yearbook will also be available.



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