

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Town fifth most popular with new businesses

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Once developments such as big box plazas come to town, other businesses perk up and take note, Mayor Sue Sherban said.

In fact, Whitchurch-Stouffville is the fifth most popular place in the province in the eyes of companies who are looking at new locations. That's due to a skilled, well-educated workforce and a location close to Toronto, she added.

There are two big box shopping complexes in the works in Stouffville just north of 19th Avenue: the Lebovic Enterprises Ltd. proposal for more than 341,000 square feet of retail space on Ninth Line and Geranium Corporation's even larger proposed complex on Hwy. 48 south of Ringwood.

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL

Over the past few months, a number of commercial and industrial enterprises have knocked on Whitchurch-Stouffville's door to see if the municipality suits their line of trade.

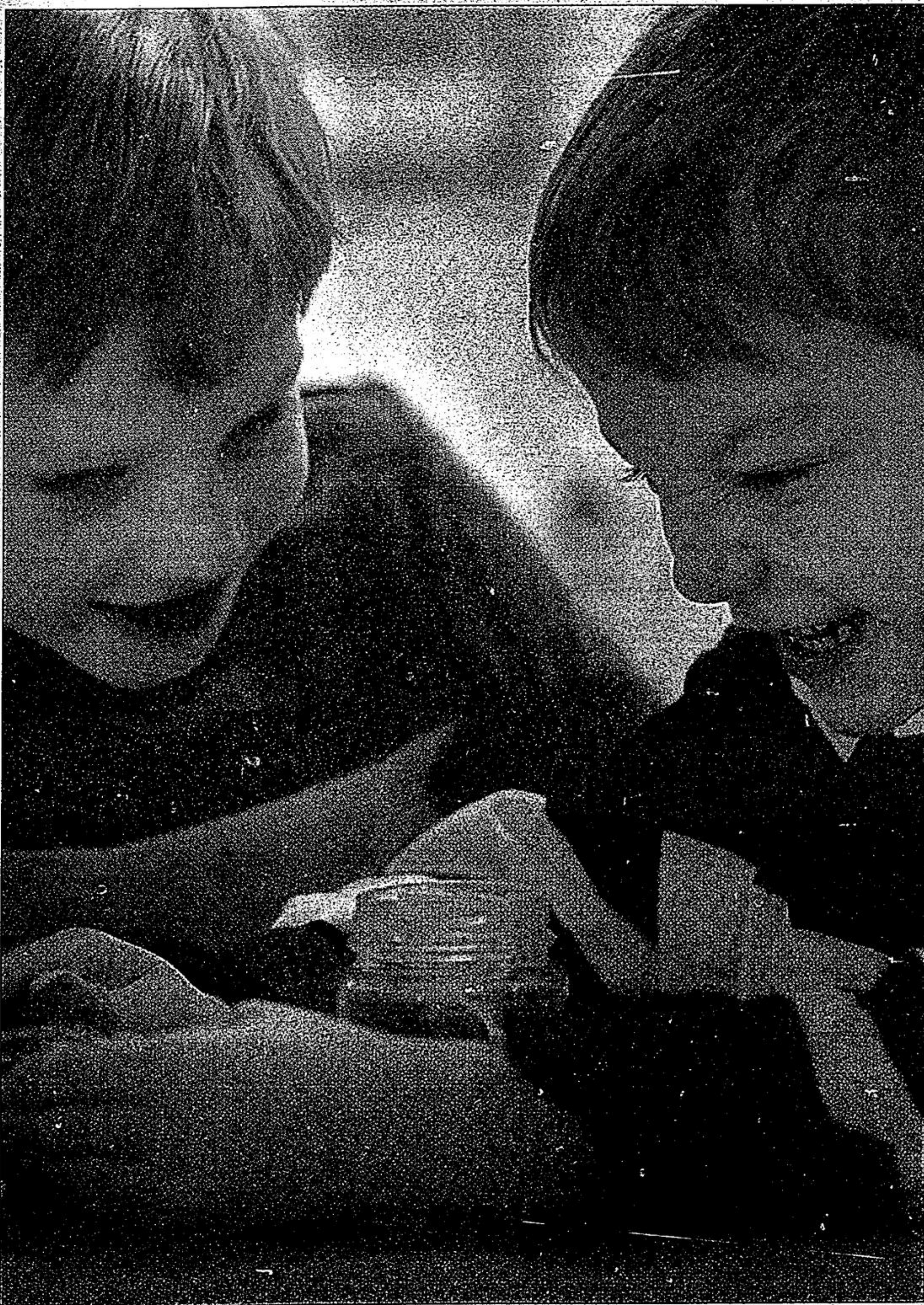
Many inquiries come directly to the mayor's office or to Marc Pourvahidi of the finance department, Mrs. Sherban said.

In recent months, she's heard from two hotel chains, a car wash and a private tennis club. A medical supplies manufacturing company is also eyeing the town.

It has only been about a year since the big box developers indicated interest in southern Stouffville. Their doors aren't anticipated to open until 2006.

The Royal Bank is also looking at a new location in town, the mayor said.

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STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Making a face

Robbie Krawczuk (left) and Jonathan Kanoopoulos build a snow globe during a winter break workshop for children at the Latham Gallery in downtown Stouffville Tuesday. For more photographs from the event, see page 3.

COMMUNITY LEADERS URGE FEDS TO GIVE MORE

\$4M 'not enough' for tidal wave relief fund

BY MIKE ADLER
 Staff Writer

As the enormity of the disaster is revealed, leaders of York Region's South Asian community are urging Canada to increase its promised aid to their tidal wave-ravaged homelands.

"We told them emphatically it is not enough," Vel Basavaiah of Markham, a trustee of Shiva Vishnu Mandir in Richmond Hill, said at an emergency meeting Tuesday night.

As local temples, churches, groups and individuals all struggle to raise funds and gather supplies, the \$4-million federal government pledge seems paltry to some.

EXPECTED MORE

"We expected a lot more. To be honest, some of us are even angry," Amar Ery, president of the Vedic Cultural Centre in Markham said Tuesday. "Every day and every hour, more people are being dug out."

Trustees of the Ganesh Temple in Richmond Hill, which serves mainly Tamil-speaking members from Sri Lanka and India's southeastern states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, told Richmond Hill MP Bryon Wilfert Canada should be sending \$10 million to Sri Lanka alone.

"Practically everybody has some uncle or aunt (caught in the disaster) back home," Shiva Vishnu treasurer Nathan Bahirathan of Scarborough said.

"A couple known to us, they were in the fourth and fifth floor of the building and they got killed. You can imagine the intensity of that (wave)," Shan Shanmugas of Markham added.

Mr. Wilfert, who stressed the gov-

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