

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 44 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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Students learn of vets' sacrifice

Veteran of Holland liberation visits Markham High

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

You could have heard a pin drop in the auditorium at Markham District High School Thursday when a Second World War veteran gave an account of his war years, including the liberation of Holland.

It's been 60 years since the Canadian Armed Forces liberated Holland. Veteran Murray Jacobs, 83, has not forgotten.

"Holland was overrun by Germans in May 1940," Mr. Jacobs said. "When the Canadians finally arrived in 1945, there were major battles.

"We fought bridge by bridge, house by house. People were starving. Germans had cut off food, coal and electricity. Furniture was burned for heat. It was called the Hungry Winter. Many perished."

Mr. Jacobs told 100 students, including 27 exchange students from Amersfoort, Holland, about Canadians sharing food with people of Holland.

"Canadians were first in and we fed people whatever rations we had," he said.

Joining the war effort when he was 20, Mr. Jacobs was with the Fourth Armoured Troop Workshop-Royal Canadian Electrical

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MAKE YOUR OWN KINDA MUSIC



Katherine Wheatley performs an original song for senior classes at Stouffville District Secondary School. The school kicked off its new songwriters club by hosting performances by several of the mentors who will help students find their musical voices.

High school teachers vote 90% for strike

Public board, union still hopeful deal can be reached

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

York Region's high school teachers voted 90.1 per cent in favour of strike action Wednesday.

The "vast majority" of OSSTF's 2,600 York Region members voted, district president Terry Price said.

"Our members have been without a collective agreement since September and I am pleased to see that they have supported their negotiating team with such a strong strike vote," he said.

He said he hopes the vote would convince the government to provide the resources needed to reach a fair contract.

Every one of OSSTF's bargaining units, representing 50,000 provincial members, has to be in a position to take sanctions as of April 4, Mr. Price said, adding there are several options besides a full-blown walkout.

"A strike for us means anything from work to rule to hit-



GERRY HARRISON: Bargaining chairperson says salaries and workload are key issues.

ting the bricks," he said.

The key issues are salaries and workloads, said Gerry Harrison, OSSTF provincial executive officer and District 16 bargaining team chairperson.

"One of the aspects is the funding based on (provincial) government guidelines which suggest salary increases of 2, 2.5 and 3.5 per cent over the next four years," Mr. Harrison said. "That's difficult in light of the economic forecasts. We've seen what doctors and nurses,

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