

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Town first to adopt diversity proclamation

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville is the first municipality in York Region to adopt a proclamation that emphasizes the principles of diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusiveness.

The proclamation was written by the Canadian Federation of Intercultural Friendship, an umbrella group working with police to fight hate crimes, create links between various cultural groups in the region and speak out on incidents of racial intolerance. It works closely with groups in other communities.

The proclamation, passed Tuesday, anticipates the influx of several thousand new residents of various races, cultures and religion to the community over the next few years.

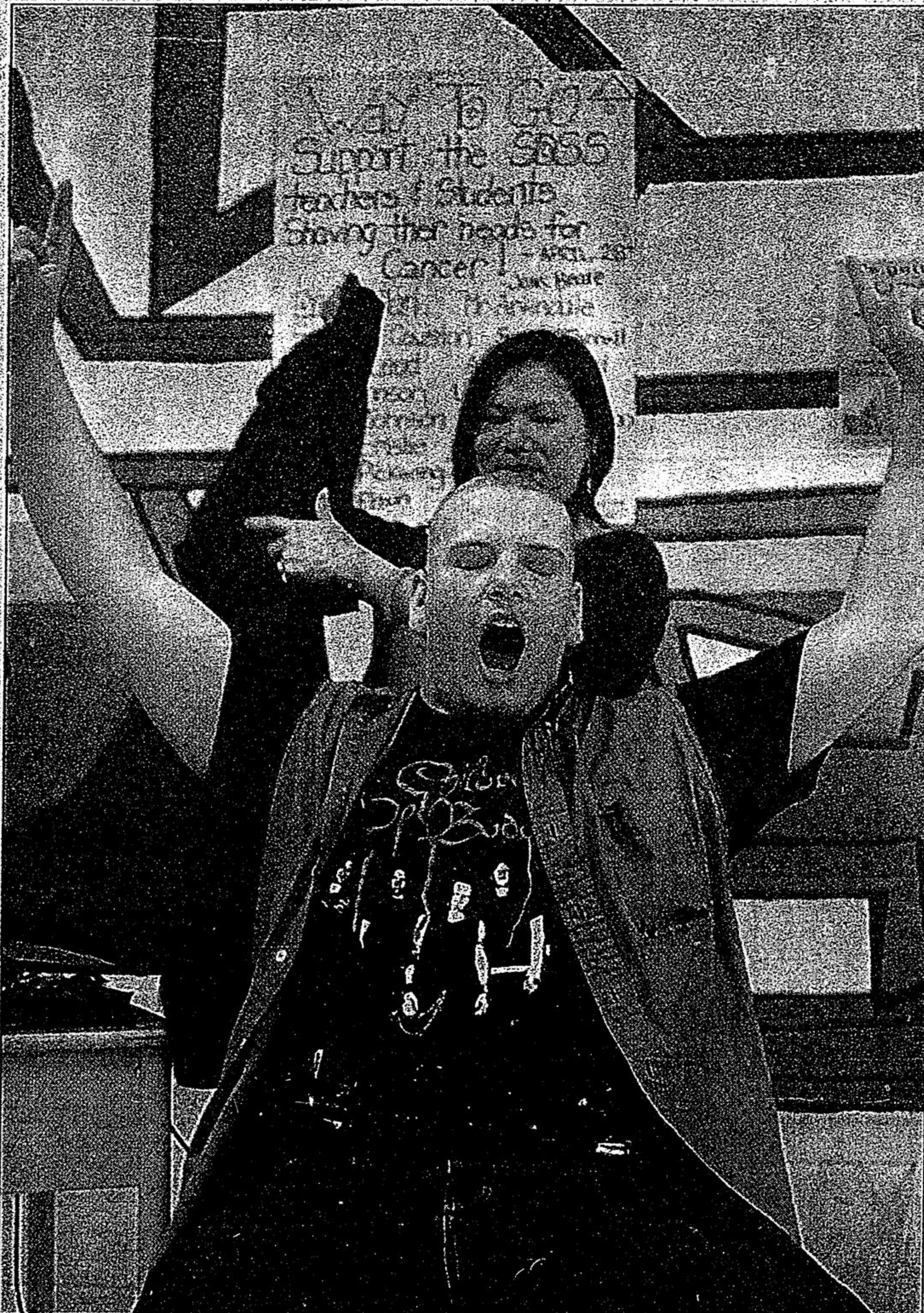
You'll be seeing members from the federation around town soon. They'll be linking with local groups and attend events such as the Strawberry Festival to introduce their programs to the community.

The federation will help you learn more about other cultural groups and have a centralized place to donate to disaster relief to help victims of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters.

Through the federation and York Regional Police, York Region residents have raised funds for earthquake victims in Bam, Iran and Pakistan and mud slide victims in the Philippines, among others.

Councillor Susanne Hilton, the local representative on the federation, has been key in developing the proclamation.

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Loud and proud

Andrew Lloyd, 17, a Grade 12 student at Stouffville District Secondary School, was the first to have his head shorn of its 15-inch locks in aid of cancer research by Diva hair stylist Tina Coleshill at the school Friday. See page 23 for an additional photograph.

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

CABBIE STABBED, DROPPED ON MCCOWAN ROAD

Taxi drivers running scared

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

Safety is on the minds of most cab companies and taxi drivers around York Region after four scary incidents involving cabbies across the GTA this week.

"It's terrible," said driver Mimoun Mazoumi of Today's Taxi in Newmarket. "We're all concerned."

Early Tuesday morning, a Toronto cab driver suffered head injuries after a passenger hit him and took his taxi and another driver was fatally stabbed in the back, neck and chest just a few hours later.

In Richmond Hill Monday, a local taxi driver was slashed in the back of the neck when a fare he picked up near Yonge Street and Steeles Avenue tried to rob him.

He was driving the man north on Woodbine Avenue just south of Major Mackenzie Drive.

The driver was threatened and told to pull over, then forced from the cab and his property and cash stolen. The suspect fled in the victim's taxi north on McCowan Road, just south of Bloomington Road.

The victim flagged down a motorist who took him to a gas station on Bloomington, where he called police. He was taken to hospital and treated for minor cuts to the back of his neck.

Police caught up with the cab in Markham a short time later, but the thief managed to slip through their clutches after ditching the taxi and running into a park near Middlefield

See SAME, page 15.

24hr Drive thru

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