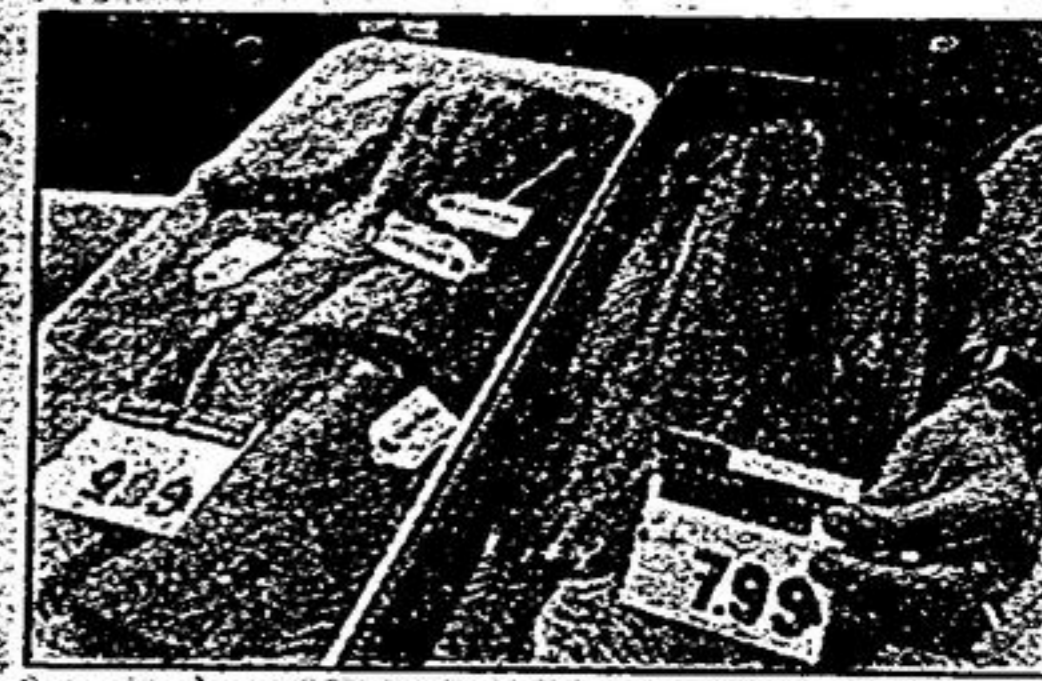


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, AUG. 19, 2006 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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Chris Traber

Series prompts 'paying it forward'

Casting new light on the growing and largely hidden issue of poverty in York Region, as we did with the six-part *Below The Line* series, would not have been possible without the courage of those people most affected.

Poverty exacts a huge toll. Being poor stigmatizes and demeans.

It puts children and adults at risk emotionally and physically. Not having enough money isolates and marginalizes.

No one wants to admit they can't feed their family or provide safe shelter.

That's what one in 10 York citizens endure daily.

Many people declined to share their stories.

Others bravely stepped up. They spoke candidly and, remarkably, selflessly for the benefit of others.

The series struck a resounding chord for those in need and those offering help.

Melanie Piel's faith in people

See SERIES, page 2.

Walk on the wild side



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Pyjama-clad Kimberley Papp (left) and Karen Kennedy walk along Main Street with Steve Hoover's dogs, Willow and Tonka, during downtown Stouffville's Moonlight Madness event Thursday. Sponsored by the Business Improvement Area, the event also featured a concert in Civic Square, sale items at stores and children's activities at the Lions Gazebo.

Apathy spurs on mayoral hopes

Stouffville's Barker in group of neophyte candidates

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
Staff Writer

They're the average joe. The taxpayer.

Not one of the five of them have held elected office before in their communities, but each wants you to make them the boss in November.

All hope to be mayors even if it means taking on veteran municipal politicians.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, Don Barker, 58, has registered to square off with incumbent mayor Sue Sherban.

Many residents are fed up with the "status quo" in Stouffville, said Mr. Barker, who has lived in the town about 30 years.

"I find the majority of people who get elected have inflated egos," Mr. Barker said, adding if he is sent to town hall, he will buy a cellular phone and take calls from residents around the clock on municipal issues troubling them.

"I don't care what their problems are, I will deal with them," he said.

Running against a higher profile incumbent does not faze Mr. Barker, who has business experience in operating an engineering and design and consulting firm, Raydon.

"When your record of service is the way the current mayor is, a lot of people are ticked off," he said. "A civic government job is a lot like running a business. What I want to do is take that business common sense and desire to listen to what people have to say."

Mr. Barker, who heads up the Ferret Rescue

See CANDIDATES, page 4.

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