

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, AUG. 24, 2006 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 40 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



2 Rural area needs strong voice: councillor seeking re-election

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

No reindeer required

Santa waves from a York-Durham Heritage Railway car at Stouffville Train Station Sunday during his annual trip on the tourist train. The train makes weekend trips between Uxbridge and Stouffville. For more information, including a schedule of special events, go to ythr.on.ca

Dog fight at council over pet day care

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

About 40 residents wearing K9s in Kahoots T-shirts and stickers saying "I support K9s in Kahoots" filled much of the Whitchurch-Stouffville council chambers Tuesday night.

They came to support Darlene Johnson, the owner of the Main Street pet store and doggie day care, who has been told by the town she can no longer operate the day care portion of her business because it is classified as a kennel.

She asked council to amend a bylaw that would also legitimize two existing dog grooming facilities in the downtown core.

She brought in a petition bearing around 150 signatures in support of her business.

Councillors asked her to outline how much of the business is devoted to pet day care and how much to retail so town staff can make a recommendation. The town will also review the general commercial zoning bylaw, written in 1988.

K9s in Kahoots started about four years ago and has about 70 dog day care clients.

The issue came to a head though a complaint to the town after a client's dog was bitten by another dog at the business.

Town staff advised Ms Johnson her business wasn't zoned for doggie daycare after investigating the complaint last August.

Around that time, her doggie daycare business had expanded so much that Ms Johnson asked the building's owner to add a 300-square-foot addition on to the building.

"My business is not a kennel," Ms Johnson told council. "I don't board, breed or treat dogs. I don't keep them on the weekend or overnight."

She believes her business falls within the retail store and personal service usage section of the bylaw. She offers pet grooming, pet photography, dog walking, obedience training, anti-bite and puppy training sem-

See **SUPPORTERS**, page 8.

COMPENSATION SYSTEM
 NEEDS OVERHAUL: ADVOCATE

VICTIM BOARD REVIEW HAILED

BY TERESA LATCHFORD
 Staff Writer

Ontario's ombudsman is investigating the increasing number of complaints about poor treatment of crime victims.

And at least one victim rights advocate said he would like to see a complete overhaul of the agency.

"A criminal is prosecuted within 60 to 90 days of when charges are laid," Canadian Crime Victim Foundation founder Joe Wamback said.

"It may take years for the victims to receive compensation. Where is the balance in that?"

Mr. Wamback nearly lost his son, Jonathan, after three youths beat him across the street from his Newmarket home in 1999. Spending nearly a month in a coma, the teenager needed extensive physical and occupational therapy before returning to school nearly a year later.

"My family got a letter six years after (Jonathan's attack) saying the board was ready to hear my son's case," he said. "We withdrew our claim, quite publicly, to make a statement."

A special response team will be investigating the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin announced yesterday.

See **COMPLAINTS**, page 9.

24hr Drive thru

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