

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**3** Scotiabank's birthday party comes to Stouffville

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## Stouffville slips into provincial record book

*Boys, girls teams claim hockey titles*

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
 Staff Writer

Records are made to be broken.

At the same time, they were made to be established.

In winning the provincial high school A/AA girls and boys hockey championships, Stouffville District Secondary School became the first school to claim both titles in the same year.

"It's definitely a first in hockey," provincial spokesperson Steve Sevor confirmed, noting the girls championship has only existed five years.

*'But it's great to see since both teams were classy during their participation at provincials.'*

"But it's great to see since both teams were classy during their participation at provincials," he added.

Jamie Hewitt, Stouffville Secondary's head of physical education and head boys hockey coach, was elated to hear the word of what the clubs had achieved.

"It's a tremendous accomplishment by the kids. They

See CHAMPIONSHIP, page 15.

## WHERE'S THE BUNNY?



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Bumbling magician Hannah Stover (left) and assistant Georgia Aprile make a hasty departure from the stage after failing to produce a rabbit in the hat during the Summitview Public School talent showcase Tuesday morning. Students from grades 1 to 8 did martial arts demonstrations and comedy skits, sang danced and played piano, drums and clarinet.

## TAX HIKE SHRINKS

*Enough savings found to drop 8% increase to 3.9%*

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
 Staff Writer

You'll be dishing out a little less than you thought in municipal taxes while services will be maintained at current levels.

This was the outcome of Tuesday's budget deliberations in Stouffville, which saw the proposed 7.9 per cent hike reduced to 3.9 per cent.

And in a surprise move, politicians agreed to give the Latcham Gallery a one-time grant of \$50,000 to help sustain its operations this year.

The 3.9 per cent increase means the owner of a house assessed at \$330,000 will pay \$896 on the municipal portion of his tax bill. That amount was \$862 last year.

The town's portion is the smallest of the three parts of your tax bill. Last year, the average homeowner paid \$862 to the town, \$1,562 to the region and \$871 for education.

The reduction of about \$440,000 on the \$35-million budget was done by finding more income and making reductions.

"I am very relieved that we were able to reduce the tax increase," Councillor Susanne Hilton said.

At the same time, she said, the town is able to keep services, programs, facilities and infrastructure moving forward.

One cost reduction was achieved through calculating salaries of eight new employees for nine months rather than the full year, since they won't be hired until April. That means a saving of about \$70,000.

In addition, estimates on how many new homeowners would begin paying taxes at various times throughout the year were revamped, resulting in an anticipated extra amount of about \$100,000, treasurer M. J. Pourvahidi said.

Two new fire trucks are in the budget and the hunt continues for locations for a new fire hall in town and a new works facility. The ball keeps rolling for putting an arts and culture centre into Nineteen on the Park in the town's

See MORE, page 8.

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