

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 40 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



3 Students get environmental lessons at Bruce's Mill water festival

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School boards get \$6M to teach autistic kids

Specialized instruction modifies behaviour

BY MICHAEL POWER
Staff Writer

Starting in September, school boards must provide specialized instruction for students with autism, Education Minister Kathleen Wynne announced.

"This is what (those in) the field have asked us for," Ms Wynne said, adding the province will spend \$6 million to make it happen.

"There needs to be more capacity in the system for teachers to be able to work this way with students with autism," she added.

The specialized teaching method, known as applied behaviour analysis, involves modifying a child's behaviour by manipulating the environment. The technique can be used to teach behaviours such as brushing teeth or tying shoe laces.

The directive comes in response to a report from the Autism Reference Group. Made up of parents, educators, service providers and others, it was asked for recommendations regarding autistic students.

The announcement, made Thursday in Markham, includes training for teachers and other staff on how to use the teaching method, she said.

Between six and eight representatives from each school board will be trained during the

See TRAINING, page 8.

SHERBAN, BANNON IN FOUR-WAY RACE FOR PROVINCIAL CONSERVATIVE NOMINATION

Ex-mayor vs. deputy mayor

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Provincial Conservatives in Oak Ridges-Markham have a choice.

A four-way race, slated for June 2 at 10 a.m. at Markham's Brother Andre Catholic High School, includes a former mayor, deputy mayor and two community activists.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's former

mayor Sue Sherban and deputy mayor Phil Bannon and Markham residents D'Arcy Pigott and Gayani Weerasinghe are vying to join the provincial political scene to represent Oak Ridges-Markham for the Conservatives.

Ontario will go to the polls Oct. 10.

Earlier this week, the local Liberals picked Helena Jacek as

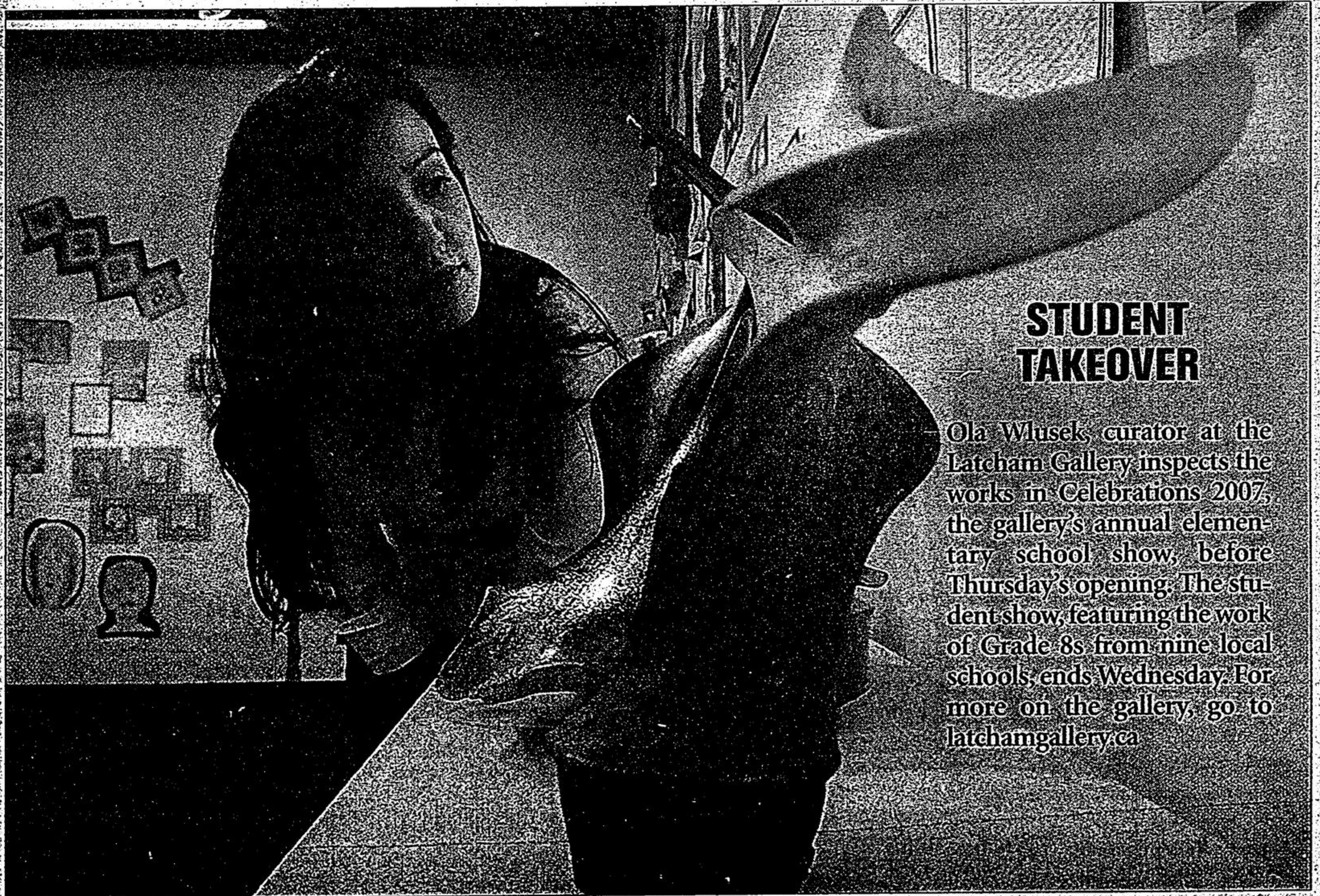
their candidate to run once again, while the New Democrats have yet to determine who'll carry the party banner at the local level.

Elected in 1997 as a local councillor, Mrs. Sherban was the mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville for one term before being defeated by Wayne Emmerson in November. She also served on the board of directors of Markham-Stouffville

Hospital.

Mrs. Sherban and her husband, Peter, have three grown daughters. Marking his second term on Whitchurch-Stouffville council, Mr. Bannon, 55, is deputy mayor. A retired staff sergeant with the Toronto Police Services, following 32 years of service, Mr. Bannon has also owned a transportation company.

See A1000, page 7.



STUDENT TAKEOVER

Ola Wlusek, curator at the Latcham Gallery inspects the works in Celebrations 2007, the gallery's annual elementary school show, before Thursday's opening. The student show, featuring the work of Grade 8s from nine local schools, ends Wednesday. For more on the gallery, go to latchamgallery.ca

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