

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, NOV. 15, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 28 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



9 Mike Bullard's stand-up revival stops in Ballantrae next week  
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## LEST WE FORGET

Bronson Bowie, 4, watches the laying of wreaths during a Remembrance Day service at the Stouffville Royal Canadian Legion cenotaph Sunday. For additional photographs, see page 3. For our view, see editorial on page 6.



THE MEMORY OF  
 OUR GLORIOUS DEAD  
 WORLD WAR 1, 1914 — 1918  
 WORLD WAR 2, 1939 — 1945  
 KOREA — 1950 — 1953  
 AND TO  
 THOSE WHO SERVED



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

SOME MERCHANTS FLOURISHING, MOVING HERE, WHILE OTHERS SUFFER, CLOSE

# Living next door to Wal-Mart for a year

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
 Staff Writer

The good, the bad and the indifferent. A year after Wal-Mart opened on Hwy. 48, retailers are telling a variety of stories. The giant retailer opened its 160,000-square-foot super-centre Nov. 8, 2006. Boasting a large grocery section, it was one of just three in southern Ontario. Some businesses in Stouffville

have been affected. The Stouffville Business Improvement Area is mounting a stepped-up advertising campaign to help its downtown shops. "There is no question" some retailers are hurting, BIA president Eric Button said. "But we don't know the extent." While no formal survey has yet been done by the BIA on the impact, it could be done next year. The fact that businesses would

be affected comes as no surprise. "We knew it would happen," BIA manager Ruth LeBlanc said. The forte of the downtown is that its shops are eclectic, Mrs. LeBlanc said. "When you go into the little specialty shops," she said, "you will find things you will not find (at Wal-Mart) and that is what we want the downtown to be: a unique shopping area." The BIA's ambitious advertis-

ing campaign in local newspapers is designed to let know about the downtown's unique character. That campaign is coupled with downtown events put on by the BIA year-round, such as the Festival of Lights Dec. 1. A couple of shoppers on Main Street this week, Loretta Risto and Barbara Lloyd, said they do go to Wal-Mart, but return to the downtown area for hairdresser appointments, lunch or to go to the drug

store. "I do make a special effort," Ms. Lloyd said. "If I can buy from one of the local shops, I will." The coming of Wal-Mart has offered employment to many people, from teenagers to seniors, many of whom want part-time employment. "In that aspect, it is very good,"

See PROFITS, page 7.

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