

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**12** Teams travelling abroad for more than just games

Opinion ..... 6  
Gift Guide ..... 9  
Sportsboard ..... 10  
Classified ..... 13

## Hands-on science class draws lots of attention

*SDSS workshops highlight of meetings*

BY JIM MASON  
Staff Writer

Hands-on science as taught at Stouffville District Secondary School is turning heads across the province.

The school's science department presented three workshops to large crowds at a Science Teachers Association of Ontario meeting in Toronto last month.

The new SDSS, which opened this fall, was built with hands-on labs instead of science classrooms.

"Teaching in Stouffville is not like teaching everywhere else," department head Andrew Cherkas said.

It's not a unique approach, but it's rare in Ontario, he said.

But, the approach goes back to the opening of the old SDSS in the 1950s, Mr. Cherkas said.

John Marshall, the original department head, always believed kids should be doing," he said. "It's more important to understand what you're doing than to bull-work your way through an entire course. Some of his ways for doing things are what we're still doing.

"It's how it feels, how it looks and smells, rather than just reading about it."

Mr. Marshall still lives in Stouffville.

The design of the new science labs is being used in other new schools across the region.

See STOUFFVILLE, page 9.

LEVY SO UNPOPULAR, IT DESERVES SERIOUS SECOND LOOK: CONSERVATIVE

## Liberal health tax here to stay

BY MICHAEL POWER  
Staff Writer

Whether or not you approve of the province's four-year-old health tax, don't expect it to disappear after the controversial levy gets a review in the new year.

The province is required legally to review the tax, brought in soon after the 2003 election, which brings in \$2.6 billion each year.

Premier Dalton McGuinty said recently the levy is likely to remain, regardless of whether a review takes place in 2008.

Last week, the Liberals filed a motion that would see a legislative committee review the levy. If MPPs pass the motion when they return to the legislature in the spring, that committee would perform the review in June.

Mr. McGuinty has hinted such a review would be redundant. But the tax remains unpopular enough to warrant taking another look at it, said Peter Shurman, Progressive Conservative MPP for Thornhill.

Introducing the levy was widely seen as breaking Mr. McGuinty's promise during the 2003 election not to raise taxes.

One complaint against the levy

is the difficulty in tracking whether the money goes exclusively to where it should, namely into health care, Mr. Shurman said.

"You can't substantiate that this tax is going to do anything specifically in the health sphere," he said. "The issue is what are you doing to run things more efficiently in the province. I'd like to see the business

See LEVY, page 9.



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### BOXES OF GOODWILL

Pat Houston (left) and Elaine Palmer, volunteers with the Stouffville Lions Club, pack Christmas baskets for needy families at Latcham Hall Thursday.

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