

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 2008 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



5 No slim pickings this year; big harvest in pumpkin patch

Economy	3
Transportation	4
Sports	13
Classified	16

LEMONVILLE SINGER EYES BROADWAY

A.J. de Boer wins town scholarship at YRMG celebration

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

A.J. de Boer normally sings in the bedroom of his family's Lemonville house.

Last Saturday, the 13-year-old performed to a full house at Markham Theatre. The occasion was the York Region Media Group's eighth annual Celebration of the Arts concert.

A.J. was one of more than 40 young people from age 6 to university age from across the region who were presented bursaries to continue to improve their singing, dancing and acting. They made it through a series of auditions to be awarded at the gala.

A.J. received the \$1,000 Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville bursary, after singing Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah.

"I was kind of nervous to start, but then I felt fine," the Grade 8 student at St. Mark Catholic School in Stouffville said. "That's the biggest crowd I've ever sung to."

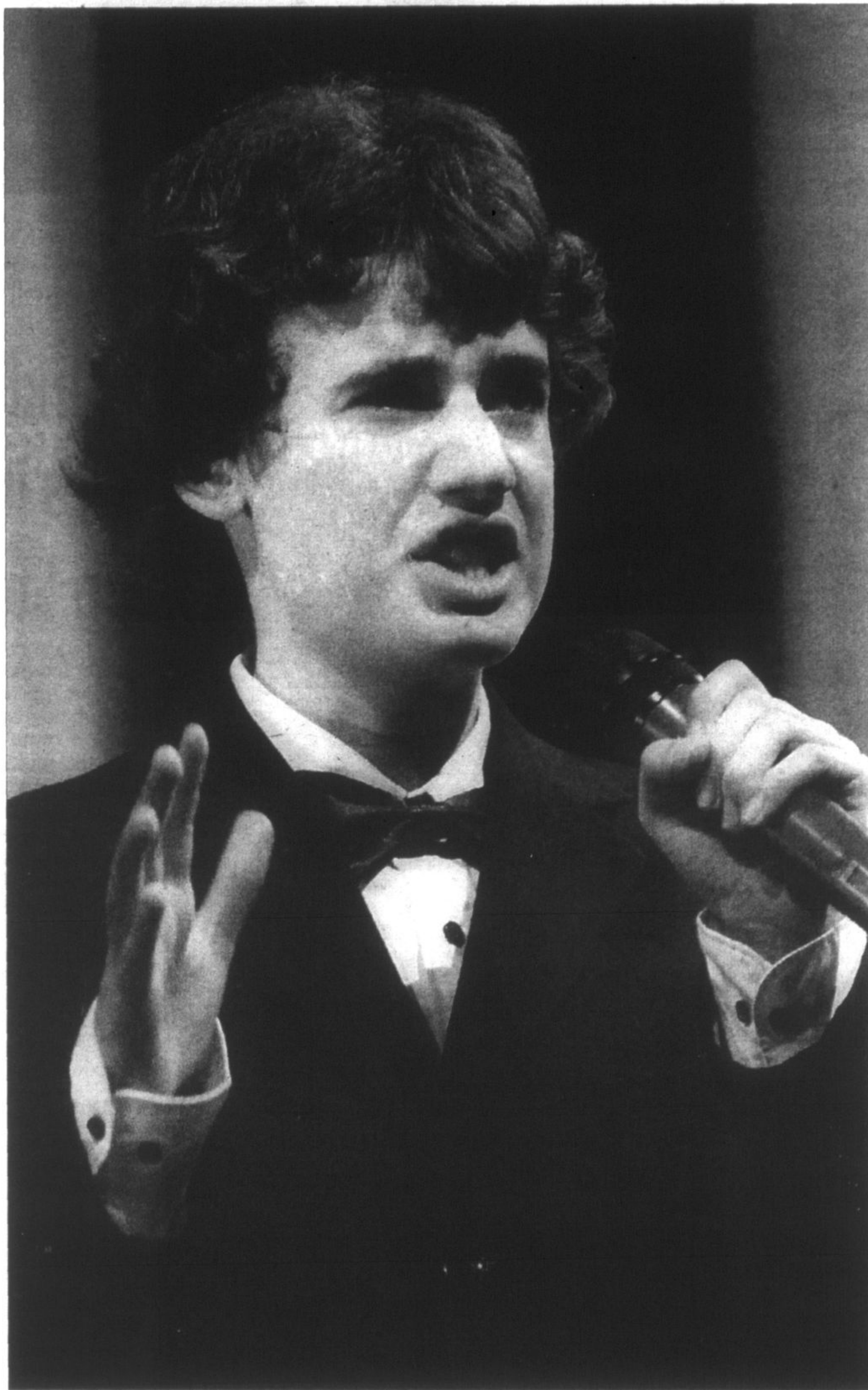
It won't be the biggest ever, he hopes. A.J. has dreams of singing on Broadway, after, hopefully, attending the arts program at Unionville High School next year and then the prestigious Julliard School in New York City.

He started taking lessons 18 months ago at the suggestion of his mother, Silvana de Boer.

"I didn't really want to," he said, "but I got over that and I really love it now."

You may have heard him sing the national anthem at Stouffville Spirit hockey games or at area talent shows.

Ian Proudfoot, publisher of The Sun-Tribune and the York Region Media Group, started Celebration of the Arts eight years ago.



PHOTO/MIKE BORISKO

A. J. de Boer, 13, performs before a full house during the York Region Media Group's Celebration of the Arts at Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts last Saturday. The Lemonville resident was awarded the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's \$1,000 scholarship at the event.

For more information, go to yorkregion.com

Town speed limits falling

But not enough for one disappointed councillor

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Tuesday's council meeting was "all about changes" for Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

But not as many as Councillor Rob Hargrave was hoping for.

Council voted in favour of lowering speed limits from 50 km/h to 40 in some areas.

Mr. Hargrave proposed an amendment to the motion to include several collector roads including Hoover Park Drive, Reeves Way Boulevard, Mantle Avenue and Tenth Line up to Main Street, all streets within his south Stouffville ward, Ward 6.

"I'm totally dismayed," he said. "My constituents and residents along Hoover Park have always asked to have that (speed limit) lowered, and this was the perfect opportunity to do so."

Mr. Hargrave made two amendments to make the changes in speed, both of which were not supported by any members of council.

"It's too bad there weren't more people there to see how people in certain political power don't really respond to the needs of the residents and constituents in an area that has a huge concern," he told the Sun-Tribune. "It's very unfortunate."

Some of the changes to speed limits include lowering the speed limits from 70 km/h to 60 on St. John's Sideroad from Kennedy Road to Woodbine Avenue and dropping the speed from 80 to 60k on Tenth Line just north of Forsythe Farm Drive.

Paul Whitehouse, director of public works,

See **UP**, page 7.

Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs
27 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM
294-8030

FALL PERFORMANCE PACKAGE
\$6888

Don't open your hood to strangers. For peak performance this fall, bring your vehicle home to Honda for a comprehensive multi-point inspection, including a Genuine Honda oil and filter change.

*Available for most Honda models. Taxes not included. Provincial environmental fees, if any, excluded.

MARKHAM Honda

www.markhamhonda.com

BRING IT HOME TO HONDA
8220 KENNEDY RD. MARKHAM
1-866-430-1512

Sutton GROUP

Town and Country Realty Ltd.
Brokerage
905-640-0888