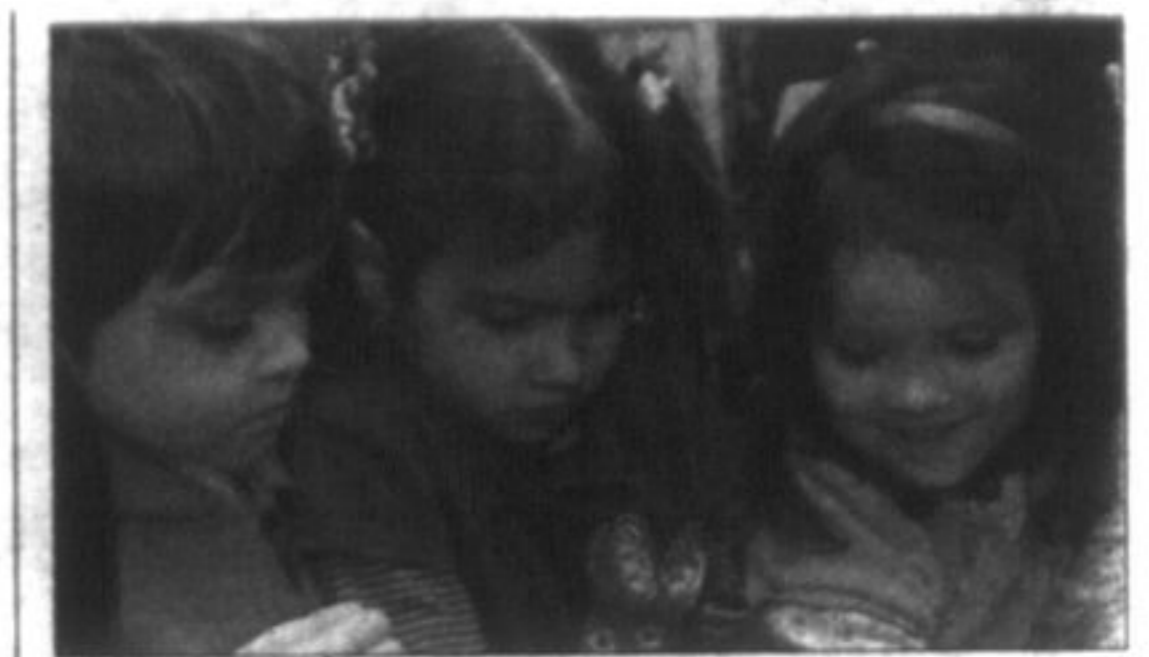


# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 2009 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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## \$1.5-MILLION ESTATE HOME BURNS TO GROUND



STAFF PHOTOS/BILL ROBERTS

Fire rips through a home on Abbotsford Road in Preston Lake, near Bloomington Road and Woodbine Avenue Sunday. The \$1.5-million home was destroyed. Acting Captain Trevor

Wawryk (inset) of Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services works at the scene. For an additional photograph and story, see page 15.

### COUNTRY MARKET OPPOSES NEW DOWNTOWN PROPOSAL

# Is appetite large enough for two farmers' markets?

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
 Staff Writer

It looks like the 100-mile diet may actually turn into the 10-mile diet as a farmers' market is being contemplated for downtown Stouffville.

On Monday night, the town will be holding a meeting for local farmers to voice their opinions on a potential downtown farmers' market.

"We want to hear from the farming community," said Rebecca Mustard, Whitchurch-Stouffville's economic development officer.

"Are they interested in having a market? If so, what will it look like to them?"

"The town is not super-imposing any ideas into this meeting; it's to facilitate discussions."

But, there is already opposition.

The downtown market would not be the only one in town.

The Stouffville Country Market, located on the Tenth Line, offers customers the same type of products — fruit, vegetables, honey, jams, baked goods and homemade breads — the downtown market would provide. But

Ms Mustard noted the two markets would not be in competition with each other.

"We're looking for it to be complementary," she said. "We support the Stouffville Country Market."

Which is news to Norm Clements, operator of the Country Market.

"The town has not gotten behind the market," he said. "It is the heritage site of Stouffville. Why they haven't capitalized on that, I don't know."

Piggy-backing on the Country Market's success makes more sense than starting from

scratch, Mr. Clements said.

"I view it as a missed opportunity because they're trying to create something new," he said. "I think there's a better way to do it."

In order to bring the market into downtown, the municipality is also working with the Business Improvement Area.

"I think it's a great idea. I think anything coming to downtown Stouffville, to get people shopping downtown is great," said Ruth LeBlanc, manager of Stouffville's BIA.

See **DOWNTOWN**, page 7.

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