

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## Elections take worker around world

Ukraine latest stop on  
administrator's tour

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Images, not names on ballots. Fingerprinting voters to ensure they cast only one ballot and compulsory voting are just some of the elements international elections administrator Michael Kennedy has witnessed.

Mr. Kennedy, 54, has been working behind the scenes of Canadian and international elections for about 20 years, but don't call him a political junkie.

"I don't really follow politics because my role is completely non-partisan," the Stouffville resident and former engineer said.

Instead, he is "democracy-building support".

"As an election administrator, I like to contribute to where (I) can make the most assistance to the democratic process," he said.

Mr. Kennedy, who is married to town clerk Michele Kennedy, got his first behind-the-scenes exposure to the election process in 1991 when he was asked to move ballot boxes around during the municipal election.

A few year's later, he became a federal electoral district returning officer.

In 1999, Mr. Kennedy undertook his first international mission as an election administrator in Indonesia.

See **FOREIGN**, page 9.

## PLACE YOUR BIDS



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson poses with Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation President and CEO Neila Poscente beside the town's entry in the annual State Farm Festival of Trees at Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket. Residents can bid on seven smartly decorated Christmas trees, all in support of the hospital foundation.

## WEEKEND FOCUS

# Savex store: landmark or eyesore?

Once busy pharmacy subject of  
town bylaw, fire work orders

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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At one time, Savex Lotto Mart at the corner of Main and Mill streets was a downtown cornerstone.

A full-fledged, bustling drug store in the heart of Stouffville.

Today, peering through the windows, the commercial space is nothing more than four walls and rows of empty racks, which once held stomach and headache remedies, baby formula, chocolate bars and potato chips.

Where once a number of employees served customers, there is only one staffer and lottery tickets is all he sells.

It's been much discussed and questioned by residents and those passing through town.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson even publicly declared it an "eyesore" Monday night during his state-of-the-municipality address to a dinner hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.

The building's owner, Neil Katzman, disagreed.

"I don't think it's an eyesore," he told The Sun-Tribune this week.

Mr. Katzman is facing an order of compliance from the municipality's bylaw and fire departments after losing his appeal Monday

See **SAVEX**, page 8.

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