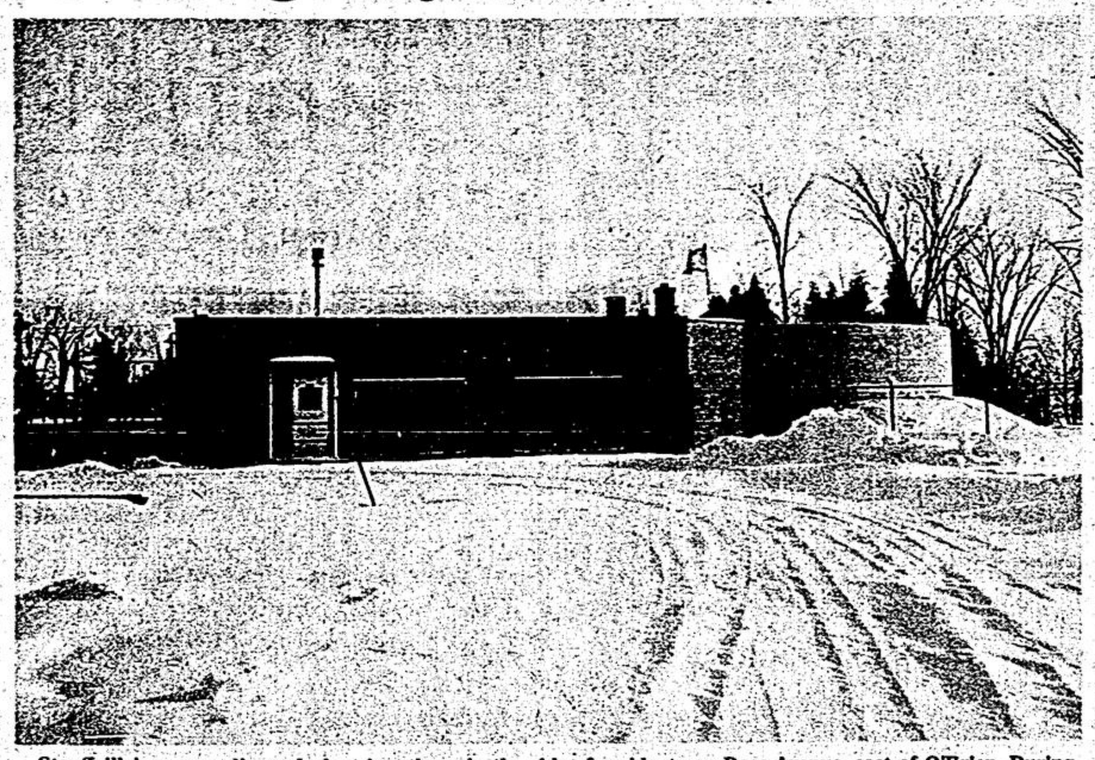
Sewage plant is thorn in side of Rose Ave. residents



Stouffville's sewage disposal plant is a thorn in the side of residents on Rose Avenue, east of O'Brien. During periods of heavy rainfall, a backup occurs into basements and recreation rooms. —Staff Photo

STOUFFVILLE — It is said that a rose by any other name is still a rose. A few residents on Rose Avenue in Stouffville will argue this point and punctuate their feelings with a few descriptive words of their own. Although by no means complimentary, the terminology is indeed appropriate at certain times of the year.

The 'thorn' in the side of a half-dozen Rose Ave. householders, is the town's sewage disposal plant. During periods of flash floods or a rapid spring thaw, the unit cannot accommodate the runoff of surface water with the result that it backs up into the basements and finished recreation rooms of homes in that area.

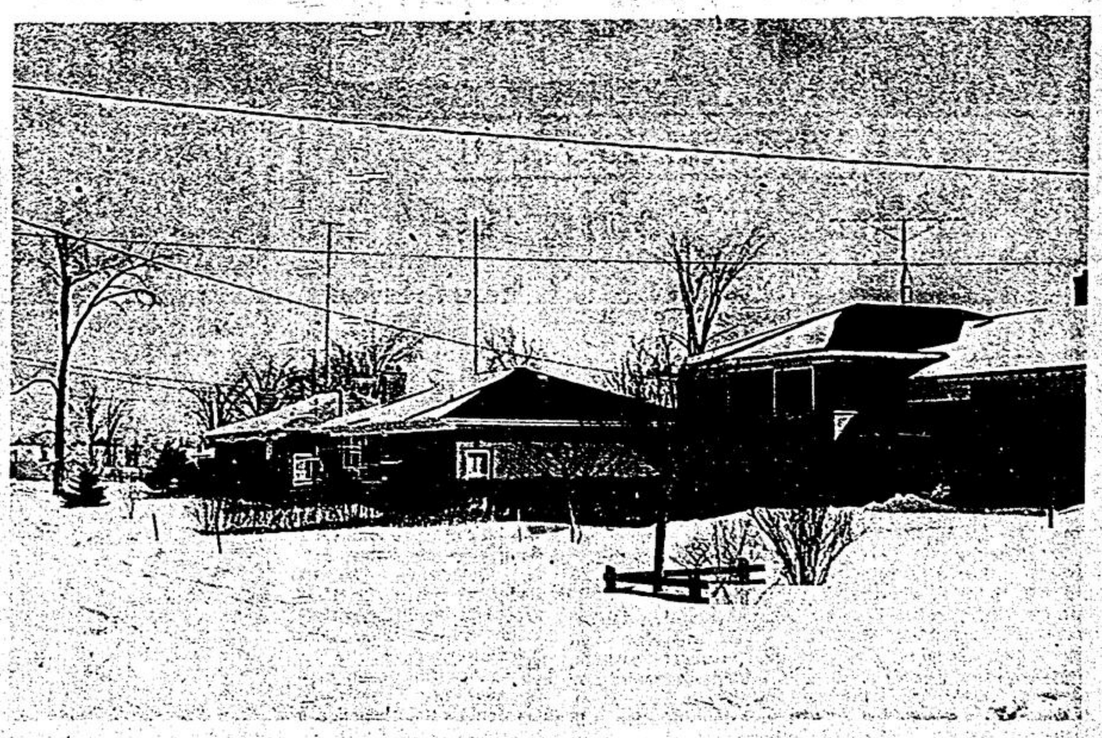
On Thursday, residents attended a meeting of council in force, hoping to find a solution to the problem. Reeve Ken Laushway ruled, however, that the matter should be discussed in committee with the press not present. His recommendation was opposed by deputy-reeve Bill Parsons but supported by three other councillors and carried. One homeowner has submitted a bill to the town for $725 and this account has been turned over to the insurance adjusters for the municipality.

The council has argued in the past, that residents could alleviate basement flooding by installing 'traps' on sewer outlets within their own homes. Some have done this and others are planning to do so. Whether this will totally eliminate the problem is not yet known.

Reeve Laushway has stated that the plant is of sufficient size to accommodate the flow of raw sewerage which, on a normal day, is less than 5,000 gallons. During heavy rains, however, the flow has been known to exceed one million gallons or double the regular load. Since the plant site is low, the entire area becomes flooded and a backup in the line occurs. Auxiliary pumps are often pressed into service if the hazard is noticed in time. Even these have difficulty on occasions in keeping ahead of the flow.

The problem is not confined to Rose Avenue residents only. Several on Russell Street have also been affected.

With the contemplated erection of 140 homes in Stouffville's west end, the council proposes to enlarge the capacity of the sewage plant, but not in 1968.



A few of the homes affected are shown here. The sewage plant can be seen at the extreme left. —Staff Photo

Silver band

The Metropolitan Silver Band of Toronto will present an evening of instrumental music in St. Andrew's United Church Hall, Markham, Friday, March 8, at 8 p.m. The proceeds from the concert will go to the Second Markham Cub and Scout Group. Village Police Chief, Fred White is a member of the band.

Past flood problems

STOUFFVILLE — Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gibson moved into their new home on Rose Ave., Jan. 9, 1959. Since that time, they and others in the area have been plagued by basement flooding due to the houses' proximity to the town's sewage disposal plant. Problems during the past nine years experienced by the Gibson family and some of their neibors are listed:

From 1959 to 1962, basements flooded three times, all following heavy rains.

* * *

Letter of complaint sent to town council requesting that something be done. Letter was signed by all residents affected.

* * *

Alarm system installed at disposal plant.

* * *

No flooding problem experienced during next four years, attributed in part to the conscientious work of the plant operator, Mr. Fosdick, now deceased.

* * *

Basements flooded again in 1967. It is understood that no one was on duty at the time or responsible for keeping a close check on the signal system.

* * *

Neighbors discussed some form of action but unfortunately, the matter was allowed to drop.

* * *

Some residents in the area installed "traps". Such action was taken by Mrs. Norman Burton, unable to cope with flooding problem any longer. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jennings wished to protect their finished recreation room. Others contemplating similar installations.

* * *

"Traps" will not solve the problem completely. The real problem is in the inadequacy of the disposal plant.

* * *

Even with "traps" it is feared that a heavy rain or spring thaw may heave the basement floors if the backup pressure is sufficient.

* * *

Water enters not only the drain (like a fountain) but also comes up through the cracks in the floor, around the pipes of the laundry tubs and the large pipe leading from the toilet to the basement floor.

* * *

With the planned erection of 140 new homes in the west end of town, residents fear that the situation, already serious at the disposal plant, will be beyond control.

Fox bounty

ONTARIO COUNTY — Ontario County has been notified by the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs that the province is terminating the payment of bounties on foxes. A total of $400 was paid out by the county last year.

Men — Part of the familiar saying, "Men often make passes at girls who drain glasses."

Town resident charges negligence

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the reeve of Stouffville, Ken Laushway, from a resident on Rose Avenue, Mrs. Muriel Gibson, outlining in detail the problem of flooding in the basement of their home, due to a backup of sewerage from the town disposal plant. Copies of the letter were also sent to all other members of council and the Clerk accompanied by an account for $725.

The letter reads:

February 23, 1968

Mr. Ken Laushway,
c/o Sanitation Department,
Village of Stouffville, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Laushway:

Only by chance did we discover that we had water in our basement — a member of the family happened to go down stairs. At it's rate of entrance, another half hour would have made our automatic washer (new), dryer, and furnace inoperable, as well as seriously damaged a chesterfield suite, tables (also new), TV, sewing machine and various other furniture and appliances which we could not have hoped to replace. Disaster was temporarily averted through "chance" and a telephone call to Mr. Ralph Corner who, in turn, set the necessary wheels in motion:

We consider the town entirely responsible for damage done, through **negligence at the disposal plant** — the alarm system did not operate, one pump was turned off and the other pump did not "kick in" when needed.

This is the second time in 1968 that water has entered our basement. On the previous occasion, Mr. Gibson was required not only to clean up the resulting mess, but also to remain off work (depriving us of income) to "keep watch" over the basement. However, that occasion followed several days of rain and so we were alerted and did not complain though we were nevertheless very disturbed about it. The fire department was called upon to pump out the sewer main in front of our home, to prevent further flooding. Incidentally, pumping raw sewage into an open ditch in a residential area, can surely not be a very sanitary measure.

During 1967 we had flooding in our basement a total of four (4) times, varying in depth up to 18". Each flooding required much work in cleaning up. Each flooding caused much damage involving great expense.

It has been suggested that we put in a "trap". Perhaps, we should, but first and foremost, I do not consider it our responsibility. We are paying taxes for a sewage system that is giving us unsatisfactory results. The town should make the necessary adjustment since it is the town that is at fault. Secondly, even if I didn't feel the town responsible, we do not find it as easy as some to come across an extra $300 or $400 to do the job.

The mental anguish involved has been very great. We have never been able to leave home for any lengthy period of time and should it rain while away, we have always been obliged to hurry home to prepare for flooding. The situation has reached a point where we hesitate to go to bed at night, for fear of what we may find in the morning. We have been unable to finish the basement and use it as we should be able. Our only improvement in ten years (the only one we dared make) has been to put in dividers which are suspended 18" from the floor. Our basement is now not only waste space but a burden we could do without. It is difficult to state anguish in material terms, but I have done so (very modestly, I think) on the enclosed invoice. This invoice also lists damage done to material goods and labor involved in the February 22 clean-up.

Besides being an explanation re. the enclosed invoice, this letter is also an application to the Village of Stouffville to have a "trap" and a sump pump, if necessary, installed in our basement and paid for by the town.

I expect to hear from you in the very near future.

Yours very truly,
Muriel F. Gibson
(Mrs. Harold E. Gibson)
36 Rose Avenue,
Stouffville.

INVOICE

Re: Basement Flooding Feb. 22, 1968
Through NEGLIGENCE at DISPOSAL Plant

Damage	
1. Business Records	
2. Clothing	
3. Boots and Shoes	
4. Toys, Games and Books	$200.00
Labor	
Clean-up	$25.00
Mental Anguish	$500.00
	$725.00

This does not include the almost unbearable odor and unsanitary conditions following each and every one of the floods.

Editor's mail

County road not required

Dear Sir:

Your vague editorial of Thursday, Feb. 15 in no way refutes the well-documented arguement by Uxbridge Councillor Clark Muirhead that the planned highway from 401 to Uxbridge is a multi-million dollar waste.

You say it will be a multi-million dollar benefit to the local residents, but the only example you offer is that a private ski resort operation will probably have a more profitable two or three months next winter.

Also, you imply that as long as the engineers use restraint the local beauty of the area will not be marred. It is an implication I find a little quaint. Since when have builders of superhighways exercised restraint?

As a working journalist it occurs to me that such valuable editorial space would more profitably be given over to an examination of what looks like an embarassing conflict of interest: A local gravel pit operator building what amounts to his own highway with the taxpayers money. That, sir, looks like a very good story to go after.

Sincerely,
Ian Adams
R.R. 1, Claremont
Ontario

Ed's note: It's difficult to obtain the story when there is none. A spokesman for the Road Department of Ontario County has informed the Tribune that the road in question has not yet been assumed by the County and no contract tender for the work has yet been let.

Emergency aid program

STOUFFVILLE—During 1967 a service of assistance called "Emergency Aid" has been in operation and was organized by the Stouffville United Church Women.

We will be continuing this service during 1968. The aim of the organization is to render help on a short term emergency basis. The work is strictly voluntary and no remuneration is desired.

The U.C.W. members feel that this type of service is needed in Stouffville. They feel that, on occasions, circumstances have arisen where people have nowhere to turn for immediate emergency help, especially new families moving into the community.

The service includes: looking after the house and children for a day or part of a day; shopping for groceries for someone who is confined to the home; supplying emergency car transportation to or from hospital or to a doctor's office; doing family washings, ironings or other household chores when a mother is ill; sitting with a shut-in.

The number to call if you desire any of these services is 640-3236.

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HEALTH & BEAUTY AIDS

ALL NEW LOWER PRICES

Now IGA offers you well known, nationally advertised brands of Health & Beauty Aids at new lower shelf prices. Plus added savings of these outstanding features. More proof that at IGA we really care.

FROZEN FOODS
GREEN GIANT VEGETABLES 9 OZ. BEANS IN BUTTER SAUCE, 10 OZ. CORN IN BUTTER SAUCE, 13 OZ. PEAS IN BUTTER SAUCE $1 FOR 41
FRASERVALE MIXED VEGETABLES 2 LB POLY BAG 49¢
SCHWANS FRENCH FRIES 2 2 LB POLY BAGS 89¢
HIGHLINER HADDOCK FISH STICKS 12 OZ PKG 39¢
MORTON'S MACARONI & CHEESE 6 FOR $1

BAKERY TREATS
HOT DOG OR HAMBURG IGA BUNS 2 PKG OF 8 49¢
CINNAMON SUGAR APPLE PIE 49¢
DEMPSTER'S DAINTY KAISER ROLLS PKG OF 12s 39¢

BICK'S WHOLE DILLS No Garlic
BICK'S POLISH DILLS
PICKLES 48 OZ JAR 49¢

GOLDEN RIPE-A Savoury Tropical Treat
BANANAS 2 LBS. 29¢
FRESH TOP — PRODUCE OF U.S.A. BUNCH CARROTS 2/39¢
FLORIDA — PRODUCE OF U.S.A. CAULIFLOWER LARGE WHITE HEADS 37¢
IMPORTED — PRODUCE OF U.S.A., CANADA FANCY GRADE ANJOU PEARS SIZE 90s 5/49¢
CALIFORNIA — PRODUCE OF U.S.A., CANADA No. 1 GRADE CELERY CRISP STALKS SIZE 24s 29¢

MED. LOTION HEAD & SHOULDERS 99¢
12 OZ. SIZE SCOPE MOUTHWASH 83¢
DEODORANT BAN ROLL-ON 1 OZ. 73¢
TOOTHPASTE-REGULAR or MINT FLAVOUR CREST GIANT SIZE TUBE 56¢
BROMO SELTZER REGULAR 49¢
VICK'S VAPO-RUB 1 OZ SIZE 49¢
VICK'S REGULAR COUGH SYRUP 1 OZ SIZE 43¢
BAYER'S CHILD ASPIRINS 3 BTL OF 36 $1
SUDDEN BEAUTY HAIR SPRAY REG. OR SUPER 16 OZ SIZE 97¢
TABLETS ANACIN BTL OF 36 45¢

FREE 5 LB. BAG OF GRANULATED SUGAR WITH THE PURCHASE OF 2 PKGS OF 2 WESTINGHOUSE BULBS 25 - 40 - 60 OR 100 WATT FROSTED — AT REG. PRICE

AYLMER CHOICE PEAS & CARROTS 14 OZ TINS 4 FOR 69¢
SWISS & CAPRI ICE WAFERS DAVID'S BISCUITS 16 OZ PKG 53¢

FRESH ONTARIO PORK SALE
SHOULDER ROAST FRESH LEAN LB. 39¢
BUTT ROAST FRESH LEAN LB. 49¢
LEAN, WELL TRIMMED BUTT CHOPS LB 59¢
SWIFT'S PREMIUM RINDLESS SLICED SIDE BACON 1 LB VP 69¢
BURN'S SLICED COOKED MEATS VARIETY PAK 16 OZ PKG 69¢
BURN'S — BY THE PIECE BOLOGNA LB 35¢

IN THE DAIRY CASE
CHEESE SLICES KRAFT C.D.N. 16 OZ. PKG. 65¢
MONARCH PARCHMENT MARGARINE 2 1 LB PRINT 53¢
FLUFFO SHORTENING 1 LB PRINT 33¢

PARAMOUNT FANCY SOCKEYE SALMON 1/2 SIZE TIN 57¢

CORONATION FRUIT PUNCH, GRAPE OR ORANGE FRUIT DRINK 3 48 OZ. TINS 89¢
AYLMER CHOICE FRUIT COCKTAIL 2 14 OZ. TINS 59
AYLMER FANCY CUT, B.L. GREEN BEANS 2 14 OZ. TINS 37¢
BETTY CROCKER CAKE MIXES 2 19 OZ. PKG 89¢
TREND LIQUID DETERGENT 22 OZ BOTTLE 53¢
DAIRY MILK, DARK CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL CADBURY BARS 4 25¢ BARS 75¢

WITH $2. BONUS TAPE SWIFT'S PREMIUM SLICED COOKED HAM 6 OZ. VP.
WITH $2. BONUS TAPE CANADA No. 1 GRADE 3 LB. CELLO BAG COOKING ONIONS
WITH $4. BONUS TAPE IGA SALAD DRESSING 16 OZ. BOTTLE
PRICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 6th TO MARCH 9th ONLY. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES
WITH $10. BONUS TAPE BLEEDEX PAPER TOWELS PKG OF 2
WITH $2. BONUS TAPE FRASERVALE STRAWBERRIES 15 OZ. PKG
WITH $6. BONUS TAPE QUAKER MUFFETS 15 OZ. PKG
WITH $10. BONUS TAPE MAXWELL HOUSE INSTANT COFFEE 6 OZ. APOTHECARY JAR

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