# Editor's mail

It has not been my policy to write your newspaper on many occasions to inform the public on my position as their representative on Council as the activities of Council have been reported regularly and generally in an unblased manner. However, on occasion, it is my feeling that certain matters have been unintentionally reported incorrectly or have been omitted and this can, in many instances, totally misconstitue the meaning and the intent of a council member or even council as a whole.

Very little has been reported to Council in the past two years on police activities as discussions of police matters were handled either by the Police Committee or by the Police Committee sitting as Committee of the Whole of Council with other members invited.

There have been discussions in Council concerning the operation of the Police Department in general and various suggestions have been made by the writer, who is neither a member of the Police Committee nor the Fihance Committee at the present time. However, it is my feeling that I was elected to express my opinion, east my vote, or express my dissatisfaction on any matters pertaining to Council regardless on which Committees I sit.

In general, the responsibility and scope of a local Council member in the County of York has been so reduced that there is very little scope remaining to a local councillor to govern or substantially alter or reduce real property taxes. Assessment and Welfare are now administered at the County level and of course, there is a regional school board which has the power to set its own budget and the local municipalities only function is to collect same. At the present time even the function of the County Education Committee in relation to the regional school board is, to say the least, somewhat up in the air.

I feel I owe the taxpayers an explanation on my position regarding the Police Department due to the Police Chief's Report. The editorial concerning same in last week's Tribune questioned my propriety in requesting the Police Chief to explain various recommendations contained in his report and disagreeing with him on the advisability of implementing certain recommendations contained therein.

The Police Report was placed on my desk and I saw it for the first time on arriving at the Council meeting. I was the member of Council who was not in favor of the report being read as, with due deference to the opinion of the Editor, when a report has been presented to open council, then the report is, according to any procedure or rule that I know of, open to discussion, criticism and explanation if personally presented as was the case in this instance. I am certain it was quite obvious to the Reeve that my reason for objecting to the report being read was that there were certain items in the report which I was going to question and certain recommendations with which I was not in favor . . . and these are as follows:

Firstly, paragraph feur of the first page of the Police Report reads as follows . . . "During 1968 the training program had to be curtailed somewhat due to the increased work load, changes in staff, etc., however, it is the duty of every police force to keep itself up to date and this can only be accomplished with a regular training pro-

Secondly, paragraph one of page three of the Report which pertains to the first part of my objections, reads as follows . . . "The Department was left considerably short handed at times during the year due to annual holidays, statutory holidays, attendance at police college and changes in police personnel. It was necessary to give members of the department a total of 56 days as annual leave, a further 10 days as statutory holidays, 42 days for attendance at police college and 7 days between changes in personnel, for a total of 145 days. In addition, members of the department were off duty a total of 6 days due to illness . during the year."

Thirdly, paragraph four on page five of the Report pertaining to Parking Violations, which reads as follows ... "A total of 214 parking tags were issued to motorists during the year, for parking their vehicles in illegal places. With the present personnel, this department is unable to properly patrol and enforce the two hour parking limit on Main Street, and it is my recommendation that a By-Law Enforcement Officer be engaged for this purpose, as well as the investigation and prosecution of all By-Law offences in the Municipality.

The municipalities of the Southern Six Municipalities from Stouffville to Woodbridge have been endeavouring for some time to at least establish some sort of a bargaining unit or amalgamation of the police forces in the area which, to date, has strictly been an exercise in futility with no agreement as to any matter entered into at the present time. The local Council has little or no control over the local Police Department except by way of approving the Chief's salary or entering into an agreement with the force, other than the chief, and to this date, our council has not been able to arrive at any Agreement. My feeling is that we should give the same benefits in Stouffville as other municipalities - at least in the area of the Southern Six and failing to reach an Agreement at this level would leave no other alternative but to wait and see if the larger Municipalities in the Southern Six can arrive at a satisfactory agreement with the Police Forces in the area or on their failing to do so, it would then be up to the Police Department or Departments not settling to arbitrate their agreement or agreements as the case may be.

We have increased the force to a total of five men, including the chief. There has been no change in the area of the Municipality since the annexation of 1960. The population is approximately 4,000 which gives us one police officer for every 800 people and I am informed that this is adequate in accordance with the views of the Ontario Police Commission.

It is quite obvious that Council does not wish the twohour parking strictly enforced or do not wish a further restriction as it has not been decided up to the present time to install parking meters and this is the only way I know to strictly enforce parking violations. Hence, I feel hiring a full-time by-law enforcement offcer would be an unwar-ranted and uncalled for expense on the taxpayers.

In relation to the matter of the Police Training Program, it is my feeling that Council should take a further look at this matter in view of the certainty of Regional Government — the only question being when it will come into effect and what area it will comprise. We have carried on a program at the expense of the taxpayer and until the end of the year, we have paid the officers the sum of \$500.00 in lieu of all over-time. Now, however, with no agreement reached in 1969, Council is in the position of having to decide whether or not it wishes to continue the Training Program, pay the officers additional money for attending and possibly over-time for officers filling-in while another officer is on course. One officer who attended the course, resigned last year and there is, of course, nothing to prevent any other member of the department from either leaving police work entirely or moving to some other police department. For these reasons, I am of the opinion that any further Training Program should be delayed until an Agreement is reached with the Police — at least for the present year.

I shall not express an opinion as to whether or not our Police Force is comparable with other Police Forces in our area, however, various suggestions have been made to the Police Committee by myself and the Reeve and the only answer we have received is to "put it in writing" and I am now "putting it in writing" by way of a letter to you and not by way of a letter to the Chairman of the Police Committee or Police Department and this should not be taken as a criticism of the individual members of the present or past Police Committees, but my own personal feeling is that certainly some of the suggestions had merit and should have been implemented or some action taken. W. G. Parsons, Deputy-Reeve



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### Stouffville merchant attends Hardware show

Graydon Card (centre) of Hendrick's Hardware, Main Street, Stouffville, looks over new products at the 1969 Canadian Hardware Show, Toronto. With him are Donald Hunter (left) and Alex McLeod, Brant--Gilbert A. Milne ford Building Suppliers.

Greenwood boy

#### piano exams Honor standing in

By Betty Pegg GREENWOOD-Stephen Byberg has completed his Grade 3 piano

the Royal Conservatory of Music, with honors. The tests were held at . Whitby Ladies College. Mrs. G. Willson, Brock

examinations, as set by

Road is his teacher. The annual ovster supper. sposored by the Board of Stewards and the men of the church will be held March 19.

Proceeds from the Valentine Tea and Bake Sale at Vallevview School amounted to \$208. The money will be used to sponsor the Grade 8 graduation banquet and pin awards. The lucky draw prize of a radio was won by Mr. Kollard. The bouquet went to Mrs. Tor-

to Elva Elson; the Avon prize to Mrs. Milton Mowbray and the Valentine cake made by Mrs. Ralph Lee to Garv Stevens.

The World Day of Prayer meeting will be observed March 7 in the Greenwood church at 2 p.m. Mrs. Frank Webb will give the address.

The Father-and-Son. Mother-and-Daughter banquet will be held at the C.E. Centre, Feb. 23, the Scouts, Cubs. Guides and Brownies will parade to church at the 11:15 a.m.

service. Unit 2 of the United Church Women met at the home of Mrs. George Lee. Mrs. Ken Brooks' presented the devotions. Mrs. Doug Morden chaired the business meeting in the absence of the unit leadrance; the cup and saucer er, Mrs. Sid Pugh. The

guest speaker was Mrs. Tom Frew. She told of her trip around the world. Former residents Mrs. Tony Gardiner and Mis Edith Omerod, now of Brooklin, were guests.

The many friends of Mr. Homer Jackson are sorry to hear that he is in hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown, Patti, Paul and Susan were Sunday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Brown and

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Brown of Oshawa had dinner Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pascoe.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Pascoe visited Friday evening with her grandmother in Scarboro.

## Driver lailed

PICKERING TWP. to-be.

43, of Centennial Road, pleaded guilty to charges of dangerous driving and leaving the scene of an accident. He received two year consecutive sentences on each charge.

The Aug. 16, 1968 accident killed Wendy Furniss, 15, of R.R. 1, Pickering, and Sharon Ellis, 18, of Bracebridge. Miss Ellis was to marry Miss Furniss' brother Jim the following day.

The head-on collision maid for Miss Ellis...

A Toronto man has been sentenced to four years in prison for driving charges involving the death of a teen-aged Pickering girl and her brother's bride-

Joseph Michael Starr,

occurred on Sheppard Ave. near Durnford Road in thick fog. Miss Furniss was to have been brides-



Here's a mechanically fit good used car with lots of driving miles left to go! A darn good price for this 6 cylinder auto equipped with automatic transmission. Finished in lustrous black with contrasting red interior. Lic. #K55810.

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Come In And Talk To The Patrick Men



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## Pretty wedding

By Ada Steckley RINGWOOD - Miss Sandra Taylor and Mr. George Fifield were married Saturday afternoon in the Ringwood Christian Church.

Mrs. C. Hoover, Mrs. A. Summerfeldt, Mrs. E. Brownsberger and Mrs. Fred Steckley were entertained to lunch by Mrs. Frank Atkinson.

Miss Shirley Steckley visited her parents, Thursday evening on the occasion of a birthday supper for her father, Mr. Fred Steckley.

Mrs. Peter Ferguson visited with her son, Ray and family and attended a birthday party for her 2 year old granddaughter Saturday afternoon.

#### Caribbean cruise

By Lillian Jamieson BALSAM - MT. ZION -Mr. and Mrs. Don Sander-

home of Lady Ritchie. Miss Helen Parrott of Chalk Lake gave a very interesting talk on the women of Arabia where

son have left on a 3-week she has been as a missionary for the past five years. Mrs. Wm. Newman, Mrs. Lloyd Wilson and Mrs. Burnett Jamieson attended the Valentine tea at Greenwood school Satur-

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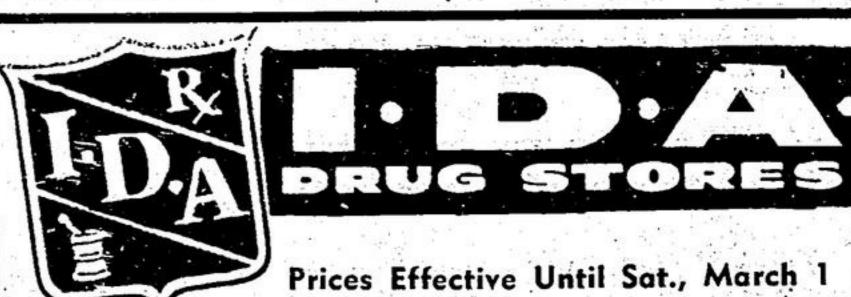
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