

# Demand shutdown of disposal site



Bob Lewis 'no witch hunt' Merlyn Baker 'must stop it now' Gordon Ratcliff 'never had approval' Ken Laushway 'want concrete answers'

## 'In the name of reason, stop it' — Baker

STOUFFVILLE — When Merlyn Baker allowed his name to stand for election to the 1970 Whitchurch Twp. Council, a main plank in his platform was to stop the dumping of liquid industrial waste at a site east of Hwy. 48. This fight, started on the Nomination Night platform at Vandorf, has had repercussions all the way to Queen's Park. But in spite of the David-Goliath type battle, councillor Baker has refused to quit. He was a principal speaker at the water pollution meeting in Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, April 28.

Only dry garbage was accepted. Suddenly, he said, truck loads of liquid refuse began arriving at the site from Metro, with the amount now totalling in the many millions of gallons. He said that, in spite of tests, it was his opinion that seepage and penetration were taking

place that eventually could contaminate underground streams serving private wells and the Village of Stouffville. "For the sake of a handful of people, more concerned with the making of a fast buck, this hazard continues to exist at the expense of the people of

Whitchurch, Stouffville and possibly Markham" he said. "How would you like me to jump a load of garbage on your front lawn?" he asked. "First, you'd get me to clean it up," he replied, "then you'd lock me up — and rightly so. Then, in the name of reason and common sense — in the name of justice and respect for one's fellow man — in the name of decency, this thing must stop and stop now."



The Bremner dump, the subject of much discussion within recent weeks, was the scene of a fierce fire, April 27, that ignited pools of liquid waste located on the property. Billows of black smoke could be seen for miles. —Peter Harris

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## No approval - Ratcliff

STOUFFVILLE Councillor Gordon Ratcliff, almost as much of a waste fighter as his cohort, Merlyn Baker, told the meeting in Stouffville, April 28, that the dumping of liquid refuse at the Bremner site, had never received Whitchurch Twp. approval. As a representative of the

council as a whole, he said he had been instructed to demand this practice be stopped. Further, he said, a resolution would be presented at the next meeting to back up his demand and the bylaw would be enforced. Mr. Ratcliff read a section of an Ontario Water Resources Com-

mission report, dated Feb. 23, 1967, stating there was a 'slight possibility' that seepage from the Bremner site could affect the water supplies of both Stouffville and 'Musselman's Lake.

## Village reservoir Only 5000 feet away

STOUFFVILLE - Reeve Ken Laushway of Stouffville told the meeting, April 28, he had personally visited the dump site and had found the property to be only 5,000 feet from the town's water reservoirs. "It's difficult to understand why something would be allowed that could ruin our water supply for years to come," he said, "if there's a chance - any chance, that our water could be contaminated, then this practice should not be permitted to carry on."

Mr. Laushway said that pressure from industry, threatening layoffs of 5,000, if the dump was closed, could hardly be compared to a village of 5,000 dependent on a water supply of sufficient quantity to serve 15,000. "What we want are some concrete answers," he continued, "so far, we've run up against a brick wall". He wished the organization, under chairman Bob Lewis, continued success in its attempt to find a solution.

### Editorial

#### Inaction prompts anarchy

The much-publicized anti-pollution meeting, concerning the controversial Bremner disposal site in Whitchurch Township, was held April 28 in the auditorium of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

An estimated 200 students filled the front rows of seats. Their conduct was mannerly — even polite.

But down deep — what were they really thinking?

The pained expressions, visible on many faces, was proof enough.

For they were witnessing 'live', the kind of stall tactics of which the adult world or 'the establishment', is so often accused — and guilty.

It was obvious from the start, the audience, both adults and young adults wanted answers — and action.

From the Township of Whitchurch came assurance of something.

From the Dept. of Energy and resources came assurance of nothing.

John Heaman, who could have poured oil on troubled waters, took the very opposite approach and only antagonized his listeners. The polite applause that greeted his introduction, soon turned to personal criticism. His negative stand warranted this reaction.

It is the attitude of individuals like Mr. Heaman that fertilizes the seedbed of disenchantment, unrest and even anarchy.

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