

# The Mayor Reports

From the Town

## of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Each week, Gordon Ratcliff, Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, discusses issues of current interest to ratepayers in the municipality. Residents wishing replies to particular problems, may contact the Mayor personally, or write 'The Mayor', c/o The Tribune, Main St., Stouffville.



**Question -** The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Financial Statements for 1972 were published last week. What are your comments on them?

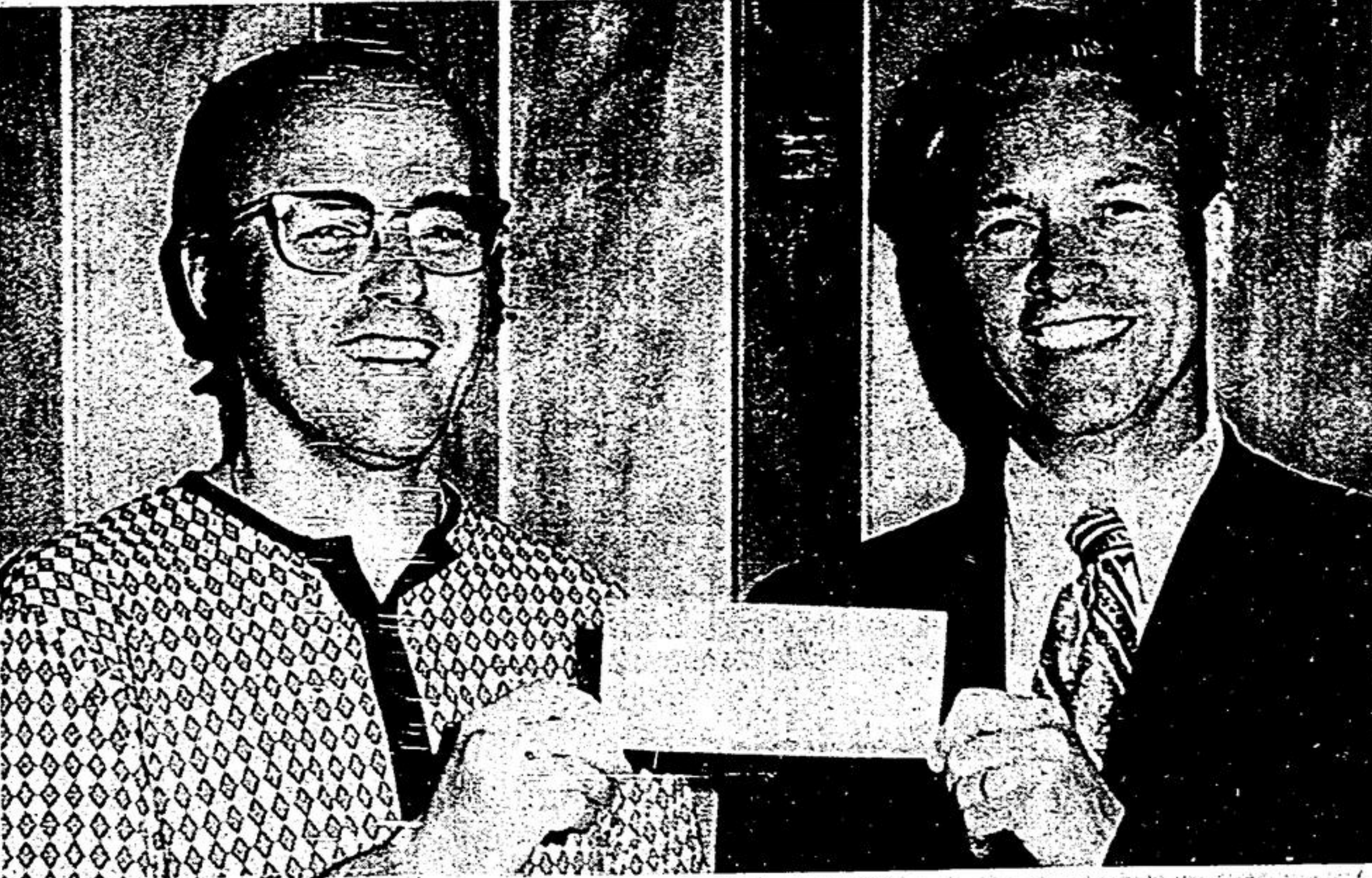
**Answer -** The Town is in very strong financial position. Our general surplus has increased from \$38,000 in 1971 to \$103,000. Through staff efforts to reduce our tax arrears, tax revenue was increased from \$1,604,000 to \$1,903,000. Since January 1, the tax arrear collections have been very satisfactory with an amount of over \$130,000 being received. Our overall expenditure for the past year was some \$2,143,000, an increase over '71 of \$43,000; general revenue increased from \$2,117,000 to \$2,208,000. Although we have not struck our mill rate for this year, I anticipate no increase in taxes.

**Question -** What development do you anticipate for small rural settlements in the northern section of the municipality?

**Answer -** The Area Services Branch has just released a study on Pine Orchard area in regard to establishing a hamlet. I am disappointed in the opinions expressed by their planning branch and their recommendation that a hamlet not be established in this area at this time. I would like to see build up of another hamlet in the northern section of our Town, close to Newmarket or Aurora shopping centres. The Area Services Branch believes that an existing hamlet, such as Vandorf, should be increased as a priority. I hope, however, that their recommendations are just a deferment and that enlargement will come later in Pine Orchard.

**Question -** The Town has proclaimed the week commencing June 17, "Senior Citizens' Week." Have any plans been made regarding this?

**Answer -** Considerable interest has been shown by local service clubs and Mr. Joe Nighswander of Parkview Home. They wish to set up a special program for Senior Citizens' Week and will be getting together to discuss this. More information will be available in next week's paper. Emphasis has always been placed on sports programs for young people in our Town but we should not overlook the senior members of our community who have contributed so much in the past and still do. I know we will all want to give them proper recognition on the week proclaimed for them.



### Music Mania cheque totals \$1,050.29

A cheque for \$1,050.29 the receipts from Music Mania '73, was presented by director Bill Murphy (left) to Wilf Morley, chairman of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Centre Board. A portion of the money will be used to

erect a picnic shelter in the Rupert Avenue Park, and the remainder, to install a Jungle Gym in the Watson Subdivision Park. The presentation was made, May 26, at the high school. **Jim Thomas**

### Lions to improve conservation site

**STOUFFVILLE** — The Stouffville Lions Club is anxious to participate in an improvement program at the site of the Flood Control Area, north-east of the high school. To explain the plan, members Jim Richards and Jack McDermott attended a meeting of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Committee, May 16.

Mr. Richards, of the Lions Community Betterment Committee said the Club had approved the placing of picnic tables on the property, if they would serve a useful purpose.

It was suggested too, that a tree-planting project could prove beneficial in the future.

## Province is holding up the Barrie Go-Train

By Donald M. Deacon, M.P.P., York-Centre

**YORK CENTRE** — Wat a strange situation! On the one hand we have Ontario Premier Bill Davis in Ottawa trying to gouge more money for the Province out of the Federal Government, and on the other we have Ontario Minister of Transportation and Communication, Gordon Carton, apparently telling the same Federal Government that Ontario is not interested in taking their subsidy to put a Barrie Go Train into effect. Perhaps Mr. Davis and Mr. Carton haven't had a chance to chat lately — it is rather difficult these days, when Cabinet Ministers in Ontario can only meet briefly between trips in the Davis' airforce.

It seems strange to say the least of when the Federal Government appears willing to bear the cost of subsidizing a weekday service from Barrie to Toronto, the Provincial Government should indicate that it is interested merely in having a service to Richmond Hill. What is

needed to convince the Tory Government that both services are needed?

Probably the only solution is to have Members of the Cabinet condemned to make the daily journey from northern communities to Toronto down the tortuous length of Yonge Street and the other jammed north-south routes and then have to face the same prospect in the evening after a day's work.

Perhaps it is the CN's estimated cost of \$6.00 per passenger which has frightened off both Ottawa and Queen's Park.

If so, they cannot have examined this figure with any care. It has already been proven by comparing cost studies and passenger traffic on similar runs that the service could break even. Unfortunately the CN appears to be trying to claim depreciation costs on road bed and track which has long been paid for and which, in any case, are already being paid for by freight traffic. Perhaps Gordon Carton needs more convincing. I am sure he would appreciate receiving letters on the subject.

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