

Trustee reports Academic awards 'an honor'

This is 'Graduation Month'. Not the actual moving up from one level of education to another, but acknowledgement of successes last June. Many of the students to be honored are now enrolled in universities and colleges many parts of Ontario. Some will receive individual awards and bursaries. How important are these to the recipients. Should they be continued? These questions were posed to John McMurray, Whitechurch-Stouffville member on the York County Board of Education, during a press interview this week.

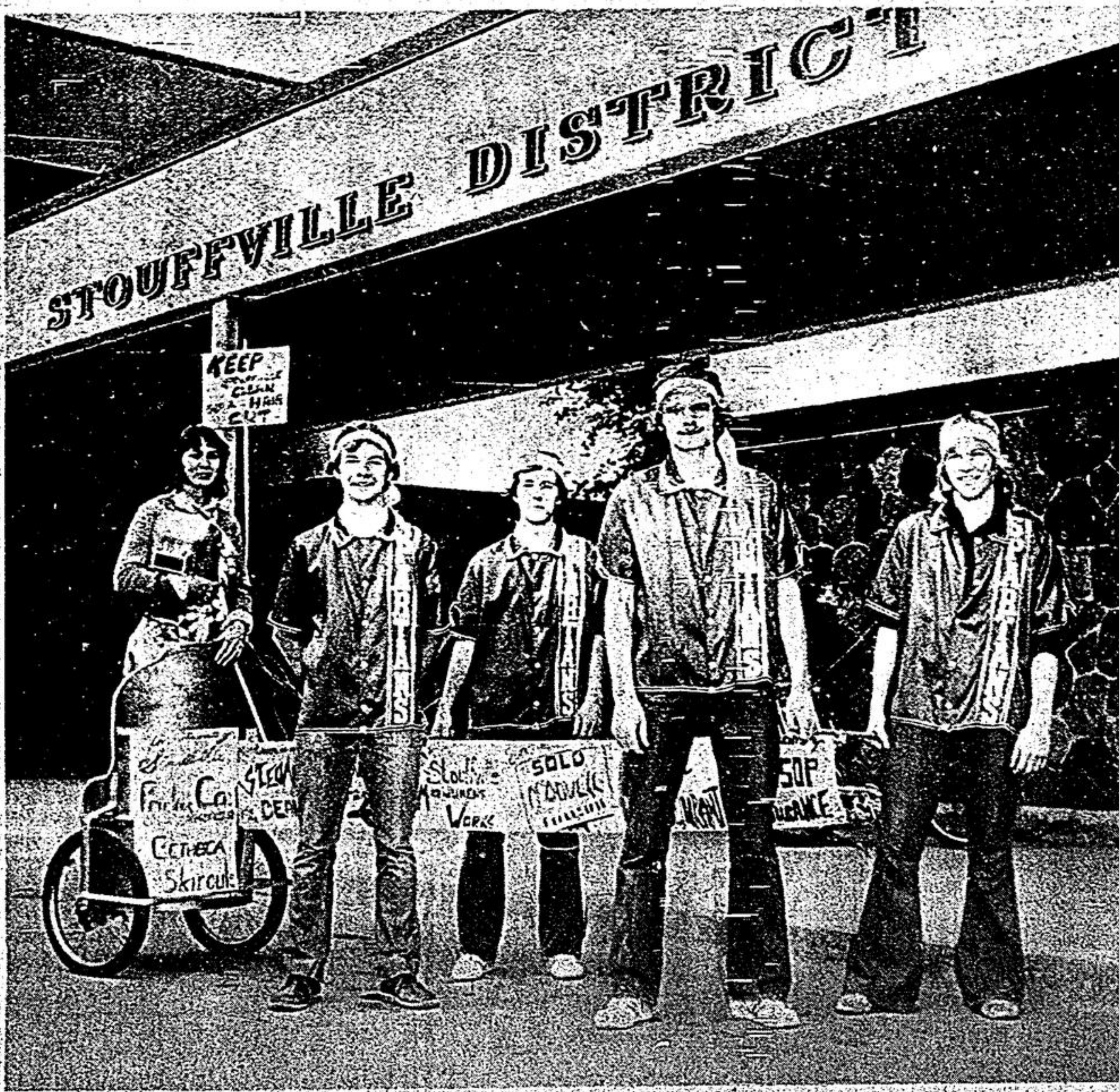
Mr. McMurray said that while Commencement arrangements are completed by the Principal and staff of each school, Board members are very interested in student accomplishments and attempt to attend as many of these programs as possible. He favors the continuance of academic awards, claiming them to be helpful to students who advance to some form of higher education. "From the look in their eyes, these awards are appreciated," he said. He noted too, that the honor of the occasion is also shared by the parent. Mr. McMurray said that while there was talk of discontinuing Ontario Scholarships, he felt the Department had reconsidered the cancellation and would carry it on.

Question: How serious is the talk of teacher resignations in York?
Answer: I don't know how much stock to place in such reports. I do know

that the Board is anxious to get the problem settled and the committee is ready to re-open discussions at any time. We have only so much money to work with and anything over the Department ceiling will be born by the taxpayer. I dislike the negative approach. Such an attitude never solved anything. The trouble is, should such a thing come about, (and I hope it won't), it's the student who suffers.

Question: There's little talk concerning drug use in schools today. Is the practice being ignored by students?
Answer: In my opinion, the less publicity given the problem, the better. There is no lessening of concern by parents but after the onslaught of two years ago where kids were turned into nothing more than 'vegetables', I would hope to-day's young people have come to realize what the effects can be. There's no doubt that drug use is still practiced, but I feel it will die a quiet death.

Question: Do you feel a school library could serve the needs of the general public?
Answer: Students will use a public library, but the general public would be hesitant to use a school library. Co-operative projects of this kind have been tried, but didn't prove satisfactory. "Adults don't seem to feel at home in a school and in most cases, the location is not satisfactory." I feel that if Whitechurch-Stouffville is to have a new library, it should be a separate unit, planned and constructed by the town itself.



Question: Do you favor student trips in Canada? Outside Canada? Who should cover the cost?
Answer: As far as the Board is concerned, student trips are still at an experimental stage. The one out West, last term, was very successful. There's nothing like travel to broaden one's outlook on life. However, I dislike the thought of parents being 'pressured' into paying their son or daughter's way. Personally, I favor outings as a family group rather than classroom excursions.

This entry defeated all rivals in the Chariotthon, held on the grounds of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Friday. The driver is Kim Lewis. The 'pullers' are Wayne Feasby,

Don Reesor, Rick Briggs-Jude and James Ally. The real winner was the March of Dimes, expected to net close to \$1,000 from the project.
Jim Thomas

Meet Jan. 30

PCs to select candidate

ONTARIO RIDING—The date for the choosing of a Conservative candidate in the federal Riding of Ontario has been set for January 30. This was a decision of the area's Progressive Conservative executive at a

recent meeting in Uxbridge. The Conservative nominee who will be selected by more than 900 delegates from all sections of Ontario Riding will carry that Party's support into the national vote expected in the spring.

Organization details are now being planned for the selection of delegates to the nomination gathering which will be held in the Uxbridge District High School.

Several prospective candidates have indicated their interest in the nomination and campaigning for delegate support is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

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