

Mayor says Council increases justified

"The Council recommended moderate increases for themselves and, in my opinion, are worthy of it," commented Mayor Gordon Ratcliff of Whitechurch-Stouffville, in a press interview this week. The Mayor will receive \$7,500, up \$500 from '73, and the councillors, \$4,200, an increase of \$300 over last year. Mayor Ratcliff said the schedule of meetings kept members very busy. He said salaries paid in other municipalities had been considered in arriving at a decision. With regard to staff employees, the Mayor said the 9.3 percent increase in the cost of living had been taken into consideration. He noted too that there were those who merited increases on their value to the municipality. "We are very fortunate to have such a competent staff," he said.

Question: Was the Whitechurch-Stouffville Ratepayers' Association informed of the meeting, Jan. 31, attended by representatives of the Schickedanz development firm?

Answer: A letter was sent out by the secretary of Planning Committee to the Association president, informing him of the meeting. The councillor for that Ward (Jim Wong) may have informed me of his inability to attend, but I do not recall it.

Question: What is the latest word on the coming of McNeil Industries Limited and Volkswagen to Whitechurch-Stouffville?

Answer: An amendment to the Town's Official Plan is underway to accommodate the Volkswagen firm. Architectural drawings for the McNeil Company should be completed by April 1. The two firms will be working together in an effort to come up with building designs compatible one with the other.

Question: Is there any further word on the new Post Office for Stouffville?

Answer: The Town has heard nothing official. A building permit has not been taken out, nor will it likely be until buildings on the site are removed.



Long-time Stouffville barber is honored by Premier

Bill Hodgson (right), M. P. P., York-North, was in Stouffville, Friday, and called on barber Len Keeping, Main Street West. He presented Mr. Keeping with an engraved

plaque, in honor of his 50 years in the barbering business. It was signed by Hon. James W. Snow, Minister of Government Services, on behalf of the Premier. —Jim Thomas.

Answer sought to impasse

By DON DEACON
YORK CENTRE —
Two crowded meetings

have been held in Woodbridge and Markham where the public sought an answer to the continued trustee-teacher impasse. At Woodbridge those present left with a feeling of frustration. There seems no middle ground on which the two groups will come together. The threat to the future of our students is becoming really grave. I therefore proposed the following:

- (1.) Both parties agree to voluntary arbitration on the principle of "Final Offer Selection" and the teachers return immediately to their classrooms.
- (2.) The newsblackout be lifted so

both parties can fully explain the position they have taken and adhered to.

(3.) If the two groups cannot agree on an arbitrator within one week, the arbitrator will be appointed by the Minister of Education.

(4.) In an open public hearing, the arbitrator will listen to the case concerning contract terms that each side adheres to. Each party will have an opportunity to explain and be fully questioned by the arbitrator and the other party on the written contract terms it is prepared to agree to.

(5.) The arbitrator will select which of the two "Final Offer" contracts he or she considers the more

reasonable and that will be the contract for the current year.

I was pleased that two trustees, present at Woodbridge, indicated they would support this settlement proposal and although the teacher representatives wanted to give the proposal further consideration, many teachers present endorsed it. Certainly it seemed to have the full support of parents and students.

Months of frustrating negotiation indicates there is no middle ground in the dispute. The "final offer selection" principle is the best way under the circumstances for the public interest to be upheld and for the more reasonable party to win its case.

Brief illness

MARKHAM — Service was held from the Dixon Funeral Home, Markham, Jan. 29, for Mrs. Leah Yates, wife of the late Alfred Yates, following her passing, in Acton, Jan. 26 after a brief illness. She was 85.

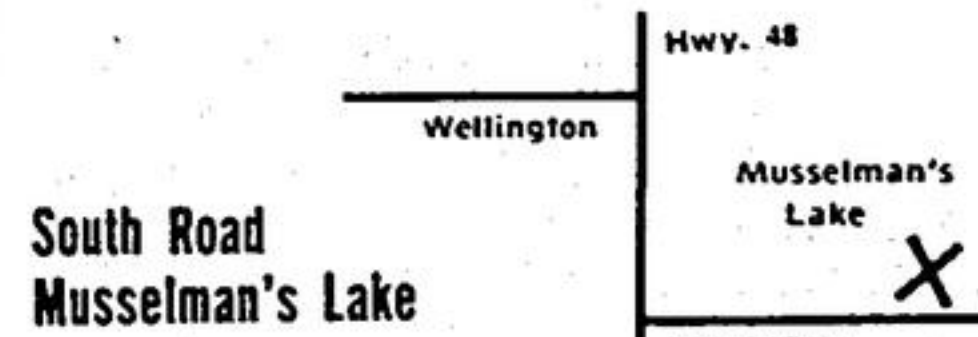
Rev. Gordon Hunter was in charge, with interment, L'Amereau Cemetery. The pall bearers were - Jacob Baker, Wellington Reid, Walter Abraham, Lucien Miller, Lawrence Ferguson and Rene Drisdell.

Mr. and Mrs. Yates came from England in 1914 and settled in Markham Township. Later, they moved to York, Scarborough, and finally Whitechurch. Mrs. Yates lived for 14 years near Ballantrae. Last April, she sold her home and moved to Acton to be near her daughter. She is survived by three children, Daisy (Mrs. M. Johnson) Markham; Norman of Beaverton; and Rheta (Mrs. Roy Goodwin) of Acton.

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* This special rate is available to all customers using an approved water heater supplied through the meter.

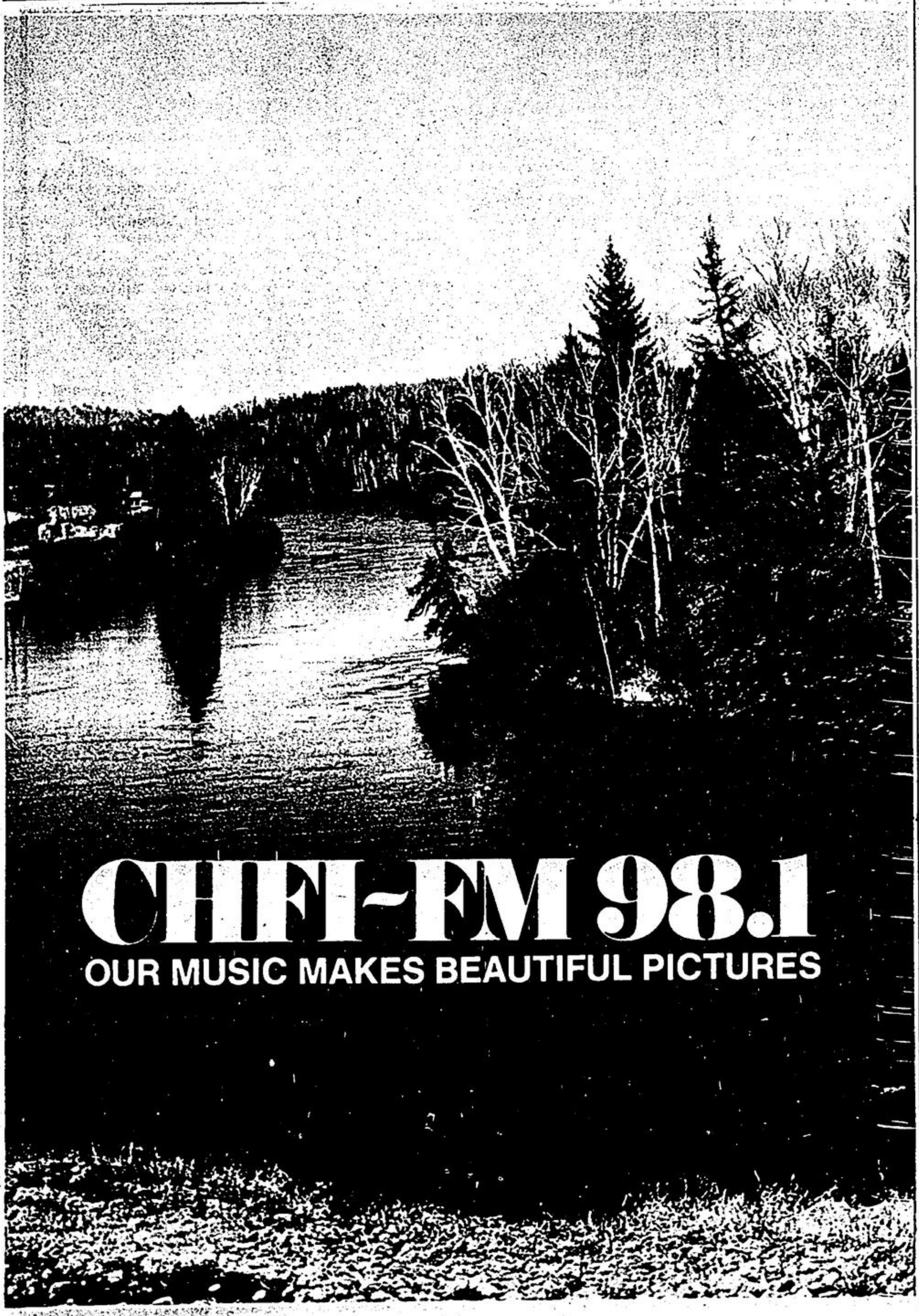
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