

Non-representational, unnamed

Sculpture is cause for comment



GARY FISHER



HILL BROWN



MRS. RAY GRANT

By JOHN MONTGOMERY
STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville now has its very own "objet d'art", prominently displayed in front of the new post office.

The bright yellow sculpture mounted on a metal pole was erected recently to the consternation of some and to the delight of others.

Whether people love it or hate it, one thing is certain, no one in town has missed it. The Tribune decided to hold an on the street opinion poll to discover what local people really thought of it. Those interviewed (at random) were asked first whether they liked it and then what they thought it represents.

One woman, who for some reason preferred to remain anonymous, suggested it be lowered down so the neighborhood dogs could make use of it, and another person, who also requested their name not be used, referred to it as a "pregnant lemon."

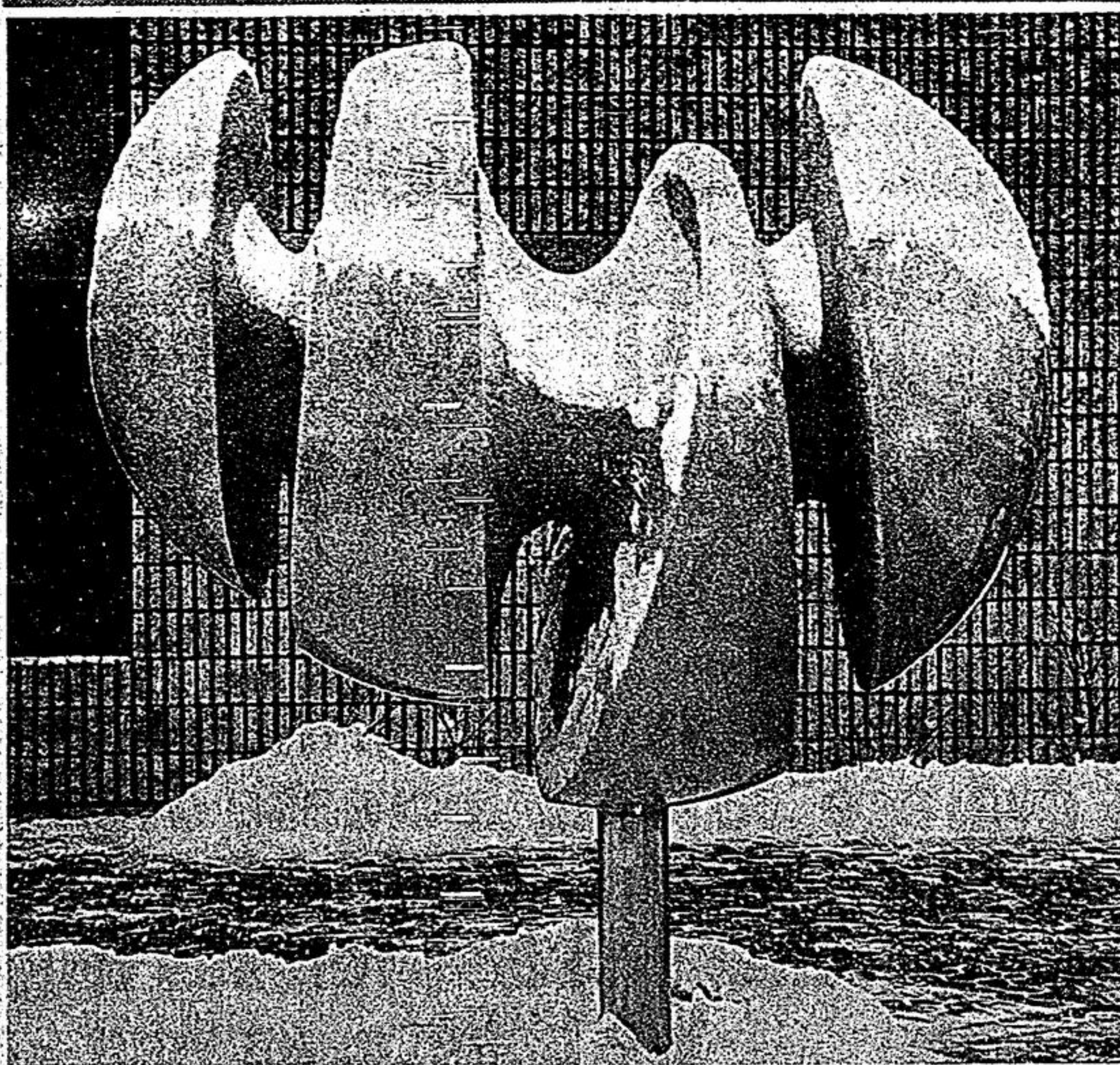
Postmaster Gary Fisher, who has to live with it, told The Tribune he is pleased with it. "I like modern art," he said. "I think it kind of spruces up Main St. It's a conversation piece, isn't it?" It was Mr. Fisher's opinion the sculpture does not represent anything.

Volunteer fireman Bill Brown described it as a "waste of money" and he added, "It's kind of a weird looking thing. It looks like a sliced lemon. Maybe they're trying to tell us something" about the postal service.

Mrs. Ken Smith of Rupert St. concurred with Mr. Brown's opinion that it looks like a sliced lemon but she disagreed with the rest of his appraisal. "It goes with the present building," she said, and added, "It sure catches your eye."

"I guess it's rather decorative. I'd say I liked it," Robert Lewis of Altona said, but he admitted, "I don't know what it's supposed to be."

Art Latcham was less than enthusiastic about it. "I'll sell it to you," he volunteered and when asked if he thought it represented anything, replied,



Opinions differ greatly

Although opinion is sharply divided on the new sculpture in front of the post office all parties are agreed on one thing. They are all curious about the price. According to Les Mondich, Information Officer for Public Works, the sculpture was commissioned from a Newmarket artist for \$2,500. The lemon yellow sculpture is constructed

of fiberglass and acrylic plastic and is fade and scratch proof. It is apparently non-representational and is unnamed. The artist, Patricia Fulford, specializes in wall sculptures and has had exhibitions in Toronto, Chicago and Florence, Italy.

—John Montgomery

"Not that I know of. Whose idea was that anyway?"

Rose Stevenson gave a very concise opinion. "I think it looks okay but I don't know what it is."

"Well my first reaction was: Wow what is that?" said Mrs. Ray Grant of RRI Stouffville. "I like it," she continued,

"It's bright. It's wild and noticeable. This is what it's all about." She said she couldn't see that it represented anything but added it makes her think of the sun.

"What is it?" asked David Beelby of Stouffville. "I don't know, it looks okay to me. It's pretty good. Adds a bit of

something to the place." In Mr. Beelby's opinion, the sculpture doesn't represent anything.

Susan Lawrenson of Musselman's Lake said she didn't really like it and thinks it's a waste of money. "It represents the foolishness of society today."

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff

Council 1974 productivity 'satisfactory'

STOUFFVILLE — Mayor Gordon Ratcliff took a few moments last week to look back on the accomplishments of council during 1974.

For the most part the mayor expressed satisfaction with council and their productivity. "This has been a very good council to work with. The cooperation has been wonderful," he said.

Mr. Ratcliff listed a few things he was especially pleased with. One of these was the completion of the Baycrest subdivision. "With a bit of fill-in on Manitoba St. we'll have over 100 homes. I think it's a very nice subdivision and is well in the east end."

He pointed out the signing of a subdivision agreement and the

issuing of 29 building permits in the Thicketwood subdivision as a major work completed. "This has allowed us to upgrade the sewage system to the 10th Line and will relieve flooding at the station," he explained, and added, "As part of the subdivision agreement they are obligated to provide an access road to the 10th Line which will relieve traffic on Main St."

"We have engaged an arborist to prune the trees on O'Brien Ave. This is the first time we have engaged them and they are now taking out dead wood so the older trees will live longer," Mr. Ratcliff told The Tribune. He said pruning the trees would help preserve the atmosphere on O'Brien and is a lot more reasonable than

removing and replacing them with young trees.

He alluded to the general upgrading of roads in the rural areas and specifically the chipping of roads in Gormley and Wesley Corners and the extended use of a permanent dust layer on gravel roads by oiling roads rather than using calcium.

"One of the highlights of the year was the public acceptance of the library in larger quarters," he said. He termed the public response to the new facilities as "excellent."

According to the mayor the exchange program between Stouffville and Wallisellen, Switzerland "promoted good

See MAYOR Pg. 13

Trustee Colin Barrett

Push for new school

By TED WILCOX
STOUFFVILLE — The newly elected school board trustee from Whitchurch-Stouffville "will be pushing" to have a new public school built in Stouffville, he said in an interview on Friday.

Colin Barrett, the recent victor in the race for the York County Board of Education, said he still believes one-half million dollars would be wasted in "renovating Summerview."

"Because Stouffville is certain to grow due to the new subdivisions that are going in, he said he favors a new school as "the most practical thing to do."

At the moment, he said, the decision on the Summerview renovations rests with the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Mr. Barrett, of Elm Rd., further outlined other possible

intends to support on the York board.

For board chairman, Mr. Barrett said he is supporting Donald Sim of Markham, "because I think he has the capacity to lead... and secondly because he has the experience to do this."

Regarding teacher-trustee relations he said that "once the teachers are assured that they can communicate directly to the board, I think that there's no question that the relations will improve." In the past, teacher complaints often went through administrative channels and were misinterpreted to the board, he said.

Mr. Barrett added, however, that there has already been more cooperation among trustees, administration and teachers to find out what

would be the best means of communication.

Mr. Barrett also would like for the trustees to have a more prominent decision-making role on committees.

According to the current set-up, he said, administrative members have voting privileges on "chairman's committees." Mr. Barrett has submitted a proposal to all trustees that "standing committees" be created instead, and the administrative staff would have only an advisory role.

He said he would like to remedy the situation in which "the administration has run the board."

"I do think that the administrative structure is very ponderous," Mr. Barrett went on. He pointed out that when the

See TRUSTEE Pg. 2

Woman dies in fire

RICHMOND HILL — A 70-year-old resident of Green Gables Nursing home in Bloomington died Boxing Day in an apartment fire in Richmond Hill.

Olive Despotovich was spending Christmas with her foster son, Santos Pankoff, at 60 Laverock Rd. The fire was discovered by her son at 8:30

a.m. when he saw smoke coming from her bedroom.

Police and firemen were called and the fire was quickly extinguished. Mrs. Despotovich's charred remains were found in her bed. The building was evacuated, but the fire did not spread beyond Mrs. Despotovich's room.

"Smoking in bed" was believed to be the cause.



Five people were taken to hospital, two in serious condition, after two cars collided in front of Allan's Shell on Don Mills Rd. on Boxing Day. Barvin Sengupta, 25 of Newmarket, was southbound when his car skidded on the icy road and slid into the path of a northbound vehicle, driven by Mrs. Jane Shibley of Toronto. Mr.

1974 in review Year complete with joys, sorrows

By DON BERNARD

STOUFFVILLE — That was the year that was. Before you know it another year comes to an end with all its sorrows and joys. And 1974 had its share of both of those.

Death and destruction took their toll, but major accomplishments also highlighted the year.

Things started on a positive note with the return visit of a Swiss hockey team to Stouffville. It was pure international goodwill at work as the people of Stouffville welcomed the visitors with open arms.

The Swiss arrived Jan. 10 and played two hockey games in Stouffville and other games in Campbellford, Oak Ridges, Port Perry and Oshawa. The Swiss players were billeted in local homes and the personal contacts made during the visit will long be remembered by all who took part.

On a more political note, was the running battle to close the Highway 48 garbage dump. The increased dumping at the site in the spring caused strong reaction from both the council and people living near the dump.

An appeal to the Ministry of the Environment brought an order to reduce dumping to 300 tons a day, from newly-appointed Environment Minister Bill Newman. Further controversy led to a call to close the dump completely. After a large public meeting at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Whitchurch-Stouffville Council passed a bylaw closing the dump by April 1, 1975.

Meanwhile the Environmental Hearing Board started hearings in November to consider the operation of the dump. It took a month to hear from one witness. The hearings continue in January.

The battle to close the dump continues into 1975. On April 1, Elsie Pearl Campbell, 60 of Ballantrae was killed when her house burned down. Attempts to rescue her by her husband and a neighbor failed. Probable cause of the fire — smoking in bed.

Meanwhile on Feb. 9, the town had its first Mardi Gras which managed to attract perfect weather and enthusiastic crowds. It will be held again in 1975 on Feb. 15.

Perhaps the biggest story of the year was the strike of secondary school teachers that dragged on for 31 days before the provincial government legislated them back to the classrooms. The teachers maintained that the main bone of contention was board of education intransigence and lack of sensitivity to teacher demands.

Whether due to the strike or not, municipal elections saw

See YEAR END Pg. 2

Claremont woman hurt

Fund started for Oshawa family

CLAREMONT — Residents of this Hamlet have started a fund for an Oshawa family, whose home was gutted Christmas Eve. Three children died in the blaze.

It is called the Rivers' Fire Fund. Irma Rivers, the former Irma Redshaw, was badly injured when she attempted to rescue children sleeping on the third floor.

Mrs. Rivers was born and grew up in Claremont and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Redshaw.

Dead are Michelle Rivers, 4, and Richard Fraeser, 12, both children of Mrs. Rivers. The other child was Terry Francis, 3. The father Ronald Rivers was wrapping presents at a neighbors when the fire broke out.

Mrs. Rivers was in the house and attempted to remove the burning Christmas tree, and

then fought her way to the third floor where five children were asleep. After helping three of the children to safety, she jumped.

She is in critical condition in Wellesley Hospital with broken legs, cuts, burns and broken jaw, and sustained burns to 40 per cent of her body and one lung collapsed.

The fire started with the Christmas tree although apparently the lights were not on at the time.

Injured in the fire were Mary Francis, her three-month old daughter Michelle, Sherry Fraeser, 7, and Troy Rivers, 2.

Ironically, Mrs. Rivers' brother Alan Redshaw, two weeks ago started a relief fund for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Taylor whose two children died in a fire at their home Dec. 13.

Sengupta, Sunil Sengupta, a passenger in the car, Mrs. Shibley, her son, David, 11, and daughter Lisa, 13, were all taken to York Central Hospital. Mrs. Shibley and David were in serious condition and the lad was later transferred to Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. Svend De Bruyn