

Cost high for improved library

STOUFFVILLE — Council last week learned the high cost of improved library service. The request for 1975, described by librarian Lynne Robbins as a "bare bones budget" came in over \$15,000 higher than the 1974 budget. The Library Board is asking for \$67,984 of which \$48,563 would be paid by the municipality and the rest by provincial grant.

According to Mrs. Robbins the book supply in the library is depleted and she included \$13,500 worth of books in the new budget. She said the number of borrowers has just about doubled and consequently justifies the greatly increased budget. "I'm not a pessimist and not a quitter. I am not a miracle worker. Without the support of council by passage of this budget there is nothing more I can do for Stouffville," she told council.

Library Board Chairman Jim Sanders asked council to consider it a basic budget and suggested rather than think of cutting it they might consider enlarging it to allow for the purchase of even more books. The increased cost per capita of the new budget as worked out by the Library Board would be \$1.53. Although this is a tremendous increase it would bring the per capita spending more in line with other area municipalities.

Of seven municipalities listed only Georgina had a lower estimated spending for 1975 and Georgina's was six cents lower. Ajax topped the list at \$9.81, compared to Stouffville's projected \$5.53. Library Board members were told the budget would be dealt with by Council in closed session and Mayor Gordon Ratcliff said he would like to have it finalized by the middle of February.

Trustee to meet with parents

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville area parents concerned about Grade 8 students attending Stouffville Dist. Secondary School will be meeting with Trustee Colin Barrett sometime in February to discuss the matter. Mr. Barrett told The Tribune that parents have been concerned that Grade 8 students were going to the high school instead of completing their elementary education in the public school. Mr. Barrett said the problem stems from a lack of accommodation at the elementary school in Stouffville. A meeting is to be held with Mr. Barrett and the parents.

"I want some direction from the parents," he said. "Although I feel the Grade 8's should be back in the elementary schools, there are restrictions in available programs and playground space." He added that portables might have to be added at the elementary schools to handle the Grade 8 students. The matter was raised at the York County Board of Education meeting Monday night and a proposal to have the board staff prepare a study on the subject was referred to a committee meeting.

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April Fool's Day surprise

York agreement ended

STOUFFVILLE — Local residents April Fool's Day surprise this year may be discovering they no longer have a municipal dump.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council voted last week to terminate the town's agreement with York Sanitation Ltd. for a waste disposal site on March 31.

The contract, signed five years ago, had come up for renewal or termination and council voted to terminate the agreement in accordance with the by-law they recently passed prohibiting dumping at the Hwy. 48 site after April 1.

In a recorded vote, Councillors Cathy Joice and June Button voted against the by-law. Mrs. Joice put up a stiff opposition to the by-law, arguing that the town now has no alternate dumping spot. "I can't support this by-law. The rural areas can get by, by storing garbage but the urban area will be in trouble."

Regional council takes \$1,000 raise

YORK REGION — York Regional Council last week voted themselves a \$1,000 raise, retroactive to Jan. 1.

Council also voted themselves a mileage allowance of 15 cents per mile. Until now there has been no mileage allowance for regional members.

With their new raise regional salaries amount to \$8,000 of which two-thirds or \$5,333.33 is salary and \$2,666.67 is expense money. The expense portion is tax-free.

Council called a special meeting of council for last Thursday and passed a resolution calling for tenders for the collection and disposal of garbage. This was done as a safety precaution in case no municipal dump site can be operational by the expiry date of the contract.

Ivan Norton named fair president

MARKHAM — Ivan Norton RR1, Goodwood is the 1975 president of Markham Fair. His nomination at the conclusion of the society's annual meeting Jan. 22 was won with unanimous approval.

Moving up to his vice-president is Harvey Brown Markham, RR2, second vice-president is Rogers Gardham of Markham and the secretary-manager is an other Markham resident: Gerald Mann.

Six directors were elected for three-year terms. They are: Mac Cosburn, Morley Smalley, Len Cooper, Rogers Gardham, Kay Thompson and Jim Travis. The six junior directors are: Keith Hooyer, Bryan Armstrong, Alf Smith, Bill Snowball, Barbara Thompson and Marion Norton.

The fair dates for this year have been set at Oct. 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Fairgrounds sale could fall through

MARKHAM — Town Planning Committee was presented with an ultimatum, Tuesday—approve a change in zoning for the fairground site or see the deal go down the drain.

Mr. Fleischmann said that should his company withdraw from the deal, it would likely lose the initial down payments (\$50,000) plus other expenses.

The Markham Fair board has agreed to purchase the Stanley Watson farm on 18th Ave, east of Highway 48. That deal was to close this week. The board however needs the money for the old fairgrounds to pay Mr. Watson his \$468,000.

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Ira Fleischmann, spokesman for Ira Young and Associates Limited said the closing date on the transaction was Jan. 29 (yesterday). He said the would-be purchaser could no longer carry on without some commitment from the municipality.

With three members absent, including the Mayor, the Town declined to act on the request. Discussion on the issue took place in private.

Edward Phillip Watters, 34, Main St. was arrested at the scene. After further investigation Clifford John O'Neill was arrested at his place of employment in Markham.

He added that workload should increase at salary negotiation time and when the 1975 budget is being prepared. Some trustees put in more time, he added and "all the new trustees seem to be taking an active part in board business."

Ex-cop says drug charge threat forced resignation

NEWMARKET — A former York Regional Police constable claimed Monday that he was forced to resign Jan. 11 after Chief Bruce Crawford threatened to lay a bogus drug trafficking charge against him.

Mr. Percival said he was arrested at his apartment, in front of three witnesses, on Jan. 11 and taken to police headquarters, in Newmarket, where he was questioned for several hours by the chief, Deputy Chief Wallace Harkness and Inspector Donald Hillock.

He admitted he made "a serious error" by not placing the marijuana in the proper holding room at police headquarters, but denied that he was keeping it for trafficking purposes. "I am dead against the use of marijuana," Mr. Percival said. "I did nothing wrong, but I was scared, so I resigned."

Chief Crawford told The Tribune that the raid occurred because Mr. Percival was "under suspicion for violation of departmental regulations, in the broad sense." He said Mr. Percival was never placed under arrest, never threatened with a criminal charge and never intimidated.

Asked if Mr. Percival had any reason to feel he was resigning under duress, the chief said: "None whatever." Mr. Percival served on the York force for the past three years after a 2½-year stint with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department.

Mr. Percival said that in early December he arrested two juveniles near Woodbridge and seized about 1½ pounds of marijuana. (One juvenile is awaiting trial on a trafficking charge, while the other pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana.)

Mr. Percival said his lawyer, Jeffery Lyons, had outlined the incident in a letter to William Lyon, chairman of the regional police commission. He said he has received no reply.

Asked by The Tribune whether he made that statement, Chief Crawford said: "Absolutely not."

During the interrogation, his superiors suggested that publicity resulting from a trafficking charge might be enough to kill his father, who suffers from a heart condition, full public inquiry into the incident.

He said he had refused three times to sign his resignation, but on hearing that statement, he gave in "because I was scared."

Mr. Percival said the chief gave him two choices — to quit, with the assurance that the story would not reach the newspapers, or be suspended from the force and charged with trafficking in marijuana.

Chief Crawford denied offering those alternatives.

When police raided his apartment, they found a briefcase containing marijuana

warrant, told me I was suspended from the department and I was charged with drug trafficking," Mr. Percival said.

Environmental hearings Feb. 4
STOUFFVILLE — Environmental Hearings on the York Sanitation dump site resume 10 a.m. Feb. 4 at Latham Hall and will continue for the week.

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Raise 'well-accepted'
STOUFFVILLE — Salary increases to trustees have been "well accepted" by the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Colin Board told The Tribune this week.

Chief states crime up 12.7%
NEWMARKET — Crime increased 12.7 per cent in 1974, according to a report by York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford.

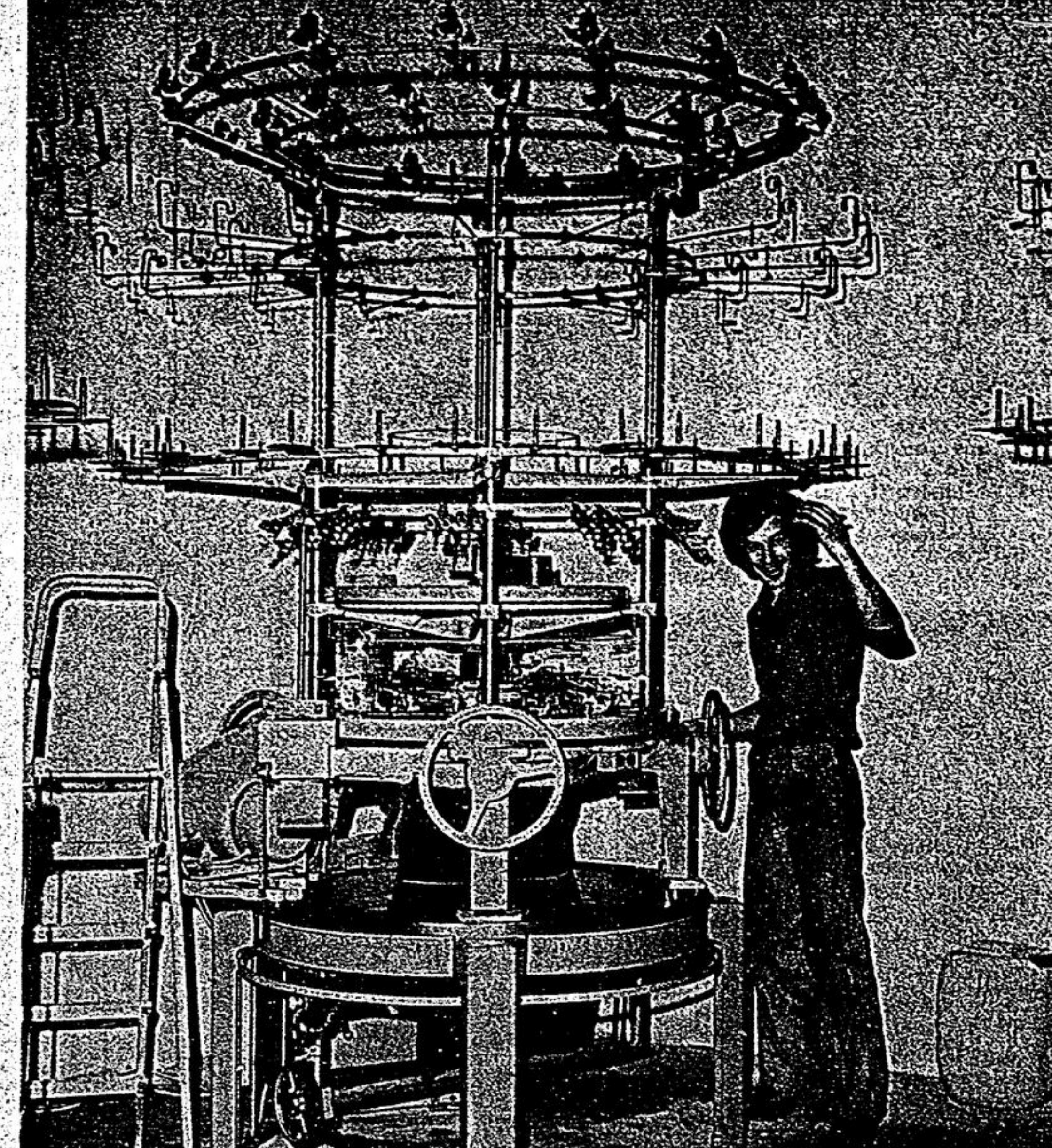
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Manager of the newly opened Horpan's Knitting Co., Stephen Milissa is shown here with a machine that turns thread into wool. The business located on Hwy. 48 was moved lock stock and barrel from Germany where it operated for 16 years. Rudy Pantic, the owner in Germany, is now partners with Dimitri Nastic, a Markham resident who formerly owned the Golden Lamb Tavern. There has been some delay in getting the plant open as transformers had to be installed on all the machinery which is wired for European electrical systems. According to Vera Nastic the knitting company will specialize at first in a polyester fiber called trevira and will later expand into wool garments. Sweaters, dresses, skirts and men's shirts will all be designed by themselves and made of the fiber. Mrs. Nastic said the Pantics had visited Canada several times and they liked the country so much they decided to emigrate. — John Montgomery