"Sound of Music"

One of the all-time favorite musicals, "The Sound of Music" will be performed at the Factory Theatre in Aurora. The production, put on by Theatre Aurora, will feature performances March 31, April 1-3 and 7-10.

The tempos sing

The Tempos, a professional singing group, formerly of New Brunswick, and now based in Hamilton, will be at the Parkside Youth Centre this coming Sunday evening (March 14) beginning at 9:15 p.m.

Daughter born

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Ross Crust of Ballantrae on the birth of their daughter. Another grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Stan Crust also of Ballantrae.

THE TRUE STORY OF A MAN YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER
HE BECAME A LEGEND YOU'LL NEVER FORGET...

Challenge to be Free

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
Starts Friday

CHILDREN $1.00 ANYTIME

The greatest wildlife and chase story in the history of the North!

STARRING MIKE MAZURKI as "Bacon" and JIMMY KANE as "Del Bacon" - Directed by DAN GARRETT - Produced and photographed by CHUCK O'NEIL
Executive Producer ARTHUR R. DUBS - Music by IAN BERNARD - Title Song "CHALLENGE TO BE FREE" performed by RUTHIE LEWIS - Research by DICK NORTH - COLOR by PFL

DAILY 7:00 & 9:00 SAT. & SUN. 1:30-3:30-7:00-9:00

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MARCH 11th to 21st
SERVICES:
WEEKNIGHTS - 7:45 P.M.
SUNDAYS:
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11:30 a.m.
Evangelistic ..... 7:30 P.M.

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EVANGELIST -
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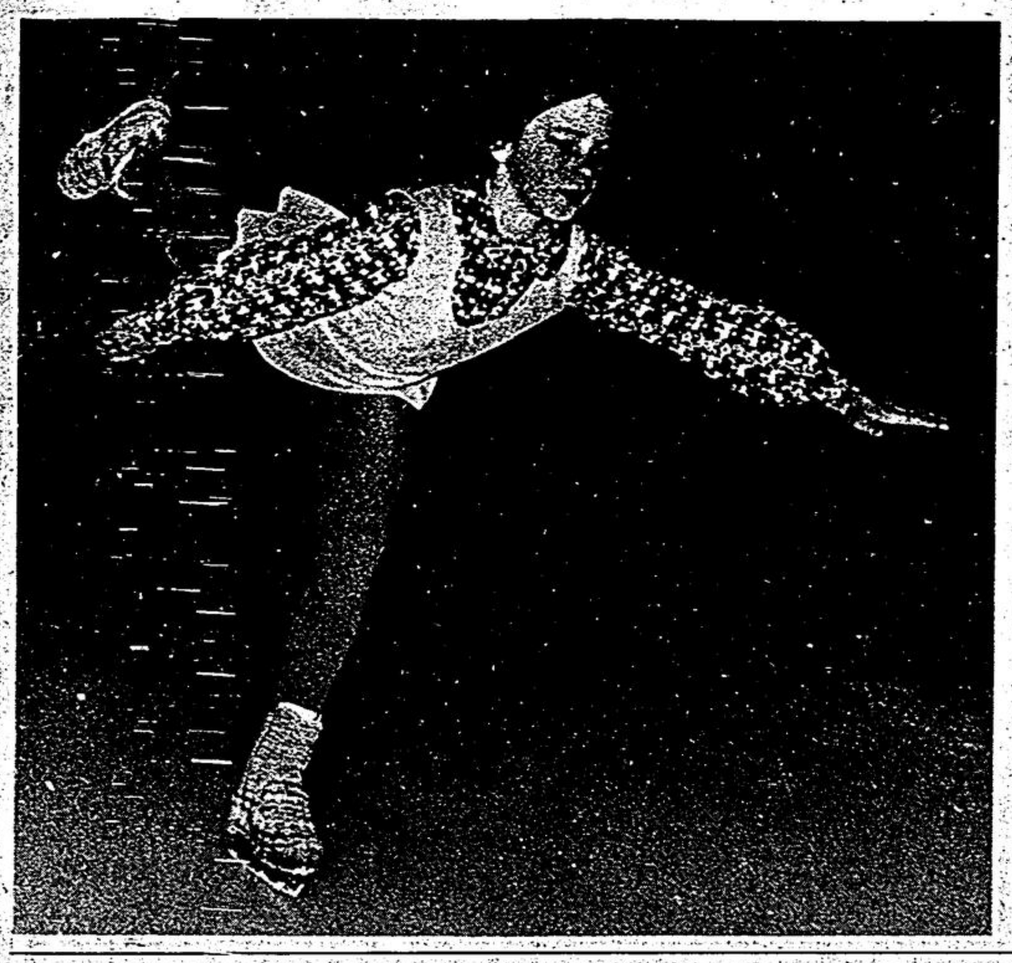
Everyone Welcome — Plan to attend

PASTOR: - REV. JAMES SIDER - 773-4347



Donna Bangay (above) won a gold medal in the mini - Olympics held by Orchard Park Public School recently. Skating was part of the competition. At left, Stacey Lintner tries a spiral and seems to be doing it well.
— John Montgomery

'Mission Impossible' for school board trustees

Budget cuts are agony on lower provincial grants

YORK CTY — Markham trustee Don Cousens summed up York Region public school board's first public deliberation of its 1976 budget here last Wednesday.

"I feel we're in the middle of a TV program —," the board vice-chairman said, "Mission Impossible."

And so it was as trustees voted to free staff from a ruling holding them to a 10 per cent maximum increase in municipal mill rates.

"To achieve such a 10 per cent is to achieve ruination in certain parts of this system," Mr. Cousins warned.

His plea was echoed by education director Sam Chapman.

In a two-and-a-half-page memo to trustees, Mr. Chapman stressed staff had met those guidelines on the initial information available from the Ministry of Education.

In its initial estimates, staff budgeted for an 11 per cent increase in provincial grants.

Noting that previous grant increases had been related directly to the average increase in teachers salaries, Mr. Chapman said staff estimated an increase equal to the hike in the Consumer Price Index. (CPI).

"We thought we were tremendously conservative in taking a figure related to the CPI," he explained.

On the basis of those calculations, the board could afford a $68.8 million budget. In the draft budget unveiled last month, expenditures stood at $69.1 million.

Mr. Chapman said staff was "reasonably optimistic" that cuts could be achieved to meet the 10 per cent guideline.

Over the next few months, the roof fell in.

The province announced that grants would be increased only eight per cent while the board discovered that its anticipated increase in assessment would be only six per cent rather than the anticipated eight per cent.

The board had earlier approved a settlement with teachers that hiked its instructional salaries budget by $9 million.

Coupled with the increase was an eventual $134,000 drop in grants from the province.

"Most of the problem is in the pipeline," Mr. Chapman told the two-and-a-half-hour budget session. "The increase in costs were established before the provincial grants."

During meetings with the ministry of education earlier this year, the exact status of the York board became lost in the discussion, the education director indicated.

"I think they did give the correct data but they gave it in such a way that the tongue was quicker than the mind," he explained.

During those talks, there were indications that an additional $154 million would be available to school boards across the province, King trustee Margaret Coburn noted.

While the actual grant figure may have been pinpointed during discussions with the ministry, the province left itself an escape route, said Mr. Chapman.

"If (outgoing board chairman Donald) Sim and I had listened very, very carefully to what (provincial treasurer D'Arcy) McKeough and (provincial education minister Tom) Wells said they left a retreat route," he explained.

Aurora trustee Norm Weller charged that Mr. Chapman was aware as far back as a year ago that 1976 would be a tight budget period for the board.

The taxpayer, unable to bear a major increase in the educational mill rate, wants cuts that will lessen the brunt of the hike, Mr. Weller claimed.

If the current board is unable to produce those cuts, the electorate "is going to clear us out" for a board that will, the Aurora trustee warned.

Mrs. Coburn argued that the 10 per cent guideline is valid for 1977 but not during current budget deliberations.

Achieving the 10 per cent "at the expense of the system is not a good move to make," Mrs. Coburn noted.

Mr. Chapman presented figures indicating an additional $2.7 million could be pared from 1976 spending estimates.

With a loss in provincial grants at the rate of 47.5 cents on every dollar of elementary school cuts, the net effect would be a $1.2 million savings.

The cuts could only be achieved "at a very severe cost in the quality of service to students in the schools," the education director stated.

He stressed he would be prepared to recommend only "a very small number" of the cuts.

Mr. Chapman also warned against major cutbacks in support services.

"To remove service to students in the form of diagnostic teachers and remedial teachers will damage the quality of service to students," he said.

While cuts directly affecting students would have an immediate impact, reductions in support services to teachers would have a long-term but greater affect.

Reductions in the latter category "would break the back of the quality of our system," Mr. Chapman warned.

The board, he said, "is not in the business of protecting staff" but has, as its prime aim, service to students.

At the same time, the board has an obligation to deal in a humane manner with staff directly affected by any proposed cuts.

"If cuts are made in the board room or by senior staff without serious consideration with principals and other staff, carrying on administrative responsibility, it will be more difficult to minimize the impact on the service to students," Mr. Chapman said in his budget memo.

"I'm pleading for a series of consultative meetings with your accountable people," he said Wednesday night.

Work is on after brief interruption

MARKHAM — A stop-work order, issued by the Town of Markham, temporarily halted construction on the site of the Thomson Court Apartment, last week.

The problem, according to councillor Walter Grieve, came about when a start was made on the building's foundation. Only then, he explained, it was discovered that no permit had been issued, although an application had been made back in December.

"I'm not blaming anybody, but there's an obvious gap in the system and the public's not being served," said Councillor Grieve.

Regional councillor Alma Walker attributed the hold-up to "some dumb thing but no big deal".

She said the town's building department head was as anxious as anyone to see the project get underway. "It was just a matter of someone picking up a pen," she said.

A spokesman close to the operation said very little time had been lost and work had since resumed.

Fire area illegal

PICKERING — Establishing a separate fire area in the North Pickering and airport lands is not legal, according to town solicitor Tim Sheffield.

The proposed move by council was intended to improve fire protection in those areas and to increase assessment for the town.

Provincial law prohibits a town from establishing a separate fire area, Mr. Sheffield said.

Plant approved in Unionville

UNIONVILLE — Town planning committee has recommended approval of a re-zoning application that would establish a 31.5 acre industrial area off Kennedy Road, south of Hwy. 7.

The site would accommodate the firm of Rexnord (Canada) Limited, formerly known as Rex Chainbelt.

The company manufactures steel chains and conveyor belts.

The plant would employ up to 300 persons, members were told. No smelting or other pollution - producing operations would be permitted.

Councillor Peter Grosskurth (Ward 1), spoke in favor of the proposal. "It will provide a good assessment and substantial employment," he said.

Councillor Carole Bell (Ward 5), was less optimistic. She voiced concern over problems related to outside storage and voted against the application.

The members argued that because the land is being developed under a single ownership, landscaping and design could be properly controlled to make it attractive.

The committee also suggested that Council support any application to the Minister for an amendment to Parkway Belt regulations to permit industrial designation of such lands.

Stouffville Bowling New

843 triple leads men's league

STOUFFVILLE — Bill Watts led Monday Night Men's Bowling with an 843 triple and 316, 270, 257, single games.

Other scores: Bill White, 736 (258, 252); Rodger Todd, 704 (315); Jack Chambers, 685 (265, 252); Roy Ireland, 739 (264, 252); Ross Baker, 661, (264); Norm Hosking, 682; Norm Ewing, 662 (254); Dave MacDonald, 691 (257, 250); Bill Grove, 653; Wayne McMann, 739 (272); Bob Chapman, 717 (284); Vernon Ward, 764 (280, 268).

Y.B.C. Juniors

Mike Mumford, 652 (193, 222, 237); David Gould, 650, (174, 220, 276); Steve Ireland, 641 (155, 261, 225); Shelly Nesbitt, 616 (155, 261, 225); Dan LeBlonc, 598 (232, 203, 163); Cheryl Gunn, 593 (181, 190, 222); Sharon Dykstra, 586 (176, 156, 254); Gwen Shadlock, 578 (155, 187, 236); Chris Armstrong, 564 (160, 215, 189); Karen Brodle, 561 (219, 150, 192); Susan Armstrong, 548 (213, 156, 179); David Sibbick 505 (129, 249, 127); Sheila Ward, 164, 132; Kim Sleeth, 142; Terry Bishop, 170, 146, 133; Steve Rigby, 163, 191; Scott Conklin, 192, 175; Kelly Long, 179; 127; Liz Bordle, 143, 130, 186; Scott Long, 190, 153; Mark Doble, 181, 138; Suzanne Connor, 132, 181, 127; Shelly Bond, 150, 132, 148; Doug Roberts, 142, 155; Teresa Ewing, 172, 142; Rick Ewing, 200, 175; Gloria Mintz, 162, 218; Billy Budd, 130; Paul Hillerup, 167, 162; Gary Melhuish, 138, 143, 150; Julie Chambers, 179, 127; Jenniffer Watson, 171, 125; Darlene Cogar, 185, 138; John Heikens, 143, 194; Debbie Pattenden, 155, 153, 186; Liana Appleton, 130.

Y.B.C. Bantams

Norman Doble, 366 (164, 202); Gord Leatherdale, 337 (169, 168); Donna Chambers, 327 (190, 137); Cheryl Connors, 299 (164, 135); Todd Marshman, 295 (158, 137); Mandy Vaughan, 293 (158, 135); Cathy Reid, 278 (135, 143); Julie Ireland, 269 (130, 139); Charles Minaker, 161; Kim Tuck, 133; Jill Watson, 139; Lisa Erikson, 137; Stephen King, 146; Jimmy Vaughan, 166; Tammy Bishop, 133.

Legion Ladies Bowling, March 2

Lois Bartley, 693 (231, 251, 211); Betty Turner, 617 (251, 219); Gladys Clarkson, 241; Anne Jackson, 239; Tiny Stewart, 238; Ruth Winterstein, 224; Aldine Sinclair, 212; Opal Lehman, 210; Lois Marshman, 208, 201; Mae Budd, 206; Lil Bichener, 201.

Wednesday Afternoon Bowling League

B. Gaston, 711 (255, 270); C. Whitehead, 204, 229; N. Johnston, 209; D. Swanton, 232; B. Goff, 214; J. Doble, 219, 207; L. Wood, 289; T. Earle, 207; C. Harrison, 218; M. Kent, 211, 212; B. Shearstone, 209; M. Zeppa, 206, 228; D. Collins, 203; L. Thistle, 209; McMann, 223 206; A.M. Mucci, 214.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies League, March 4

Jean Dart, 705 (253, 251, 201); Jean Foley, 700 (289, 226); Lois Bartley, 657 (250, 215); Mary Moffat, 664 (278); Sadie Greenshield, 635 (279); Gaye Lehman, 620 (246, 209); Connie Baker, 610 (223, 202); Irene Reid, 609 (216, 205); June Ward, 265; Betty Hoey, 219, 216; Marion Barton, 282; Elsie Aida, 244; Anna Fretz, 211; Marie Foote, 228; Audrey Holden, 208; Mae Spence, 215; Shirley Knabb, 218; Mary St. John, 202; Barbara Rose, 200.

Thursday Night Ladies League, March 4

Audrey Gibson, 720 (304, 223); Muriel Illingsworth, 203; Mae Daly, 212; Ollie Erikson, 233; Shirley Caterer, 261; Joyce Shadlock, 204; Diane Graves, 222; Jill Vaughan, 212, 206; Barb Melhuich, 209; Gail Hunter, 221, 207; Marg McLean, 245, 202; Lydia McPhee, 241; Freda Fockler, 218; Lois Barker, 224, 202.

Police teams play for Big Brothers

AURORA — The York Regional Police Ontario "B" Champions will take on the Toronto Metro Police Junior "A" Champions in a hockey tilt March 13 at the Aurora Community Centre.

Also, the CKVR (Channel 3) "No Stars" will play the CFTO (Channel 9) "Basset Hounds".

Games start at 8:15 p.m. Proceeds go to the Big Brothers of York.

Margaret Meharg

Hagerman resident dies

MARKHAM — William West, pastor at the Gospel Chapel on Church Street, conducted the service, March 1, from the Dixon - Garland Funeral Home for Mrs. Margaret Meharg, following her passing, Feb. 27 in Scarboro Centenary Hospital. She was 79.

Mrs. Meharg was born of staunch Irish stock in the County of Monaghan. The family home was at Hagerman where she resided until moving to the Village Squire Apartments in Markham, ten years ago.

Mrs. Meharg was an extremely active lady who thought nothing of taking the bus to Toronto, if nothing more than to window shop on Yonge Street.

She loved to babysit and was providing this service for a family on Arrowflight when she suffered a stroke.

Surviving, are four sons, James and Douglas of Markham; Victor in Toronto; Gerald at Stouffville; eight grandchildren and three sisters. Her husband, Jim, predeceased her three years ago.

THE COUNTRYSIDE

The Countryside of
*Bill Anderson *Hank Snow *Ronnie Milsap *Nat Stuckey *Loretta Lynn
*Brenda Lee *Ferlin Huskey *Tommy Overstreet *George Hamilton IV
*Jack Greene *Skeeter Davis *Jim Ed Brown *Bobby Bare.

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Ski Woodnewton,
Cross country ski area,
5 miles north of Claremont
east one mile on Region Road 21 and north on Concession 6 road. No rentals.
649-3044.

STOUFFVILLE SCENE

Euchre, bridge evening

A successful Bridge and Euchre evening was held at Christ Church, Stouffville, Feb. 24. Local merchants who donated prizes for the evening are wished a special thank you from the organizers. Another such evening will be held sometime in April.

Florida vacation

Mr. and Mrs. George Goff and daughter Susan are enjoying a vacation in Florida.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. Ross Varcoe, Jasmine Cres., Ballantrae, who passed away recently.

Christian handicapped

Starting Friday, April 9, the east area of the Fellowship of the Christian Handicapped will hold its meetings at the Parkside Youth Centre on the Gormley Rd. The meeting is at 8 p.m. For information phone 751-7928 or 294-5980.

Nostalgia movies

The last in a series of Nostalgia movies at Christ Church in Stouffville will be presented this coming Friday and Saturday. Abbott and Costello in "The Invisible Man" will be shown Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. Admissions is $1.