

Caretakers to ratify agreement

YORK CTY. — Although details have not been released, caretakers reached a tentative settlement with the York County Board of Education, Monday. The proposed contract is of

one year duration commencing on Jan. 1, 1976. The caretakers will ratify the agreement March 21 and if it is approved the board will deal with it at the regular meeting Monday, March 29.

The board caretakers were seeking parity with their counterparts in the separate school board. Contracting out of service was also an issue in the protracted negotiations.

History-making 'first' for us

STOUFFVILLE — This week is a history making "first" for The Tribune. The newspaper is featuring a full process-color picture on its front page.

Dog loses life saving two men



Three year old Stacy Rae is not quite sure how to react to this frisky week-old spring lamb. Lambs are supposed to be cute and cuddly but this one displayed a rather unsettling tendency to jump

straight up in the air with all four hooves flying in different directions. On account of this habit a restraining hand from Stacy's father Bob was necessary. — John Montgomery

STOUFFVILLE — The persistence of a German Shepherd dog named Soul saved the lives of two men, in an early morning fire Friday on the Uxbridge — Whitchurch — Stouffville town line.

Perry Feor and Russell Eugene fled the house located on the town line, about half a mile north of the Stouffville Rd. They were renting the house and barn from Century City.

Mr. Eugene told The Tribune that he was asleep in his room and was awakened when his dog Soul started pawing at his arm. He pushed the dog away, but Soul persisted.

Finally Mr. Eugene opened his eyes and saw smoke in the room. He jumped out of bed and ran into the hall and roused Mr. Feor, who was sleeping in another room.

The two men ran downstairs, just before the stairs caught fire. According to Mr. Feor, there was "a lot of smoke" and the men could not make it up the stairs.

Soul and Mr. Feor's yellow Labrador retriever, Major, never made it down the stairs. Both dogs perished in the blaze. The two men tried to extinguish the blaze, but to no avail.

Mr. Feor, clad only in un-

derwear, ran barefooted to a neighbors to call in the alarm. When firemen arrived about 6:17 a.m., the downstairs was an inferno.

Stouffville Fire Chief Walt Smith said the actual fire was contained in one downstairs room, but moved up the staircase. It was difficult to extinguish quickly because it burned into the walls and up into the attic.

He estimated damage at \$35,000. Both men lost all their possessions in the fire.

The stone house, which was the former Howard St. John farm, is estimated by Mr. St. John to be over 100 years old. While there was extensive damage inside, the structure of the house was not damaged.

In an added act of kindness, a collection was taken at the Winter Nights Concert Friday evening at Latham Hall. About \$50 was given to the two men. Since their possessions were fully insured, Mr. Feor and Mr. Eugene gave the money to Chief Smith for the Fire Department Benevolent Fund.

The two men are looking for another place to live with a barn and some land to keep their horses.

Council seeks speed reduction in Ballantrae

STOUFFVILLE — Council last week passed a bylaw requesting that the province lower the speed limit on Highway 48, through Ballantrae, from the present 45 miles per hour to 35.

The matter has been discussed last month in council and was referred to public works committee.

The committee recommended the limit be lowered to 40 but Councillor Becky Wedley introduced an amendment to reduce it further to 35.

"I've got a lot of calls since it appeared in the press," Mrs. Wedley said, "people there are worried about children crossing the highway to and from the school bus."

Mrs. Wedley argued that many other hamlets on provincial highways have 35 mile per hour speed limits and she maintained that the request "is not out of line."

"I am just afraid that in asking for 35 we might not get anything," commented Councillor Mervyn Baker.

Mrs. Wedley replied, "People are prepared to petition if we don't get it."

Mrs. Wedley's amendment passed.

Maple syrup festival at museum

BOGARTOWN — The annual Maple Syrup and Pancake Festival at Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum is slated for this coming weekend and March 27 and 28.

During the month of March, the maple trees on the museum property are tapped and the sap gathered. It is boiled in a huge cauldron outside and maple syrup made.

School children from various area schools visit the museum to see how maple syrup is made. The culmination of the activities is the annual festival.

Pancakes and coffee are available for \$1. The museum will be serving the hotcakes this weekend (Saturday and Sunday) from noon to 5 p.m. The following weekend, March 27 and 28, it will be repeated.

The museum is located on the Vivian Rd., just west of Woodbine Ave.

Debenture

STOUFFVILLE — Debentures up to \$250,000 have been approved by the Ontario Municipal Board to finance the new municipal library.

Notification from the OMB was received at the March 9 regular meeting of council.

Region lowers limit to 25 mph on 9th

MUSS LAKE — Regional Council last week approved lowering the speed limit on the 9th Line in the Musselman's Lake area to 25 mph.

The action came when council considered a clause in the engineering committee report. The report favored the lower speed limit, but recommended that the section of the road be returned to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff told regional council that the road should remain under regional jurisdiction as "most of the traffic is from outside" the area.

"It should belong to the region," the mayor said. That recommendation was deleted and the lower limit was approved. The new speed limit applies to the 9th Line from 500 feet south of Hillsdale Rd. to 450 feet north of Cedarvale Blvd. The rest of the 9th Line, north to the Aurora Rd., will have a speed limit of 35 mph.

Unfairly singled out

E.G. trustee justifies statements

VANDORF — East Gwillimbury Trustee Joy Horton feels that she was unfairly singled out by fellow trustee Don Sim on a point of personal privilege last week.

Mrs. Horton said that she herself had never indulged in personal attack and her statements to the press came only after she was thwarted in attempts to have budget issues brought out into public.

She said that a letter to the chairman's committee to have her concerns put on the public school board agenda was ignored. A confidential letter to the other trustees still failed to

have the matter brought before the whole board.

It was then, that Mrs. Horton wrote a letter to taxpayers detailing some of her concerns. The letter suggested a number of areas where the board's budget of \$69.1 million could be cut.

Those cuts included — staff cuts by attrition and a hiring freeze; cutting programs or options; putting bureaucratic middlemen, many of whom are qualified teachers, back into the classrooms; eliminate, at least for the time being, "smorgasbord" courses in the high schools; cut out summer

school for this year and some costly optional courses such as flight training.

That letter was dated Feb. 9. In an interview with The Tribune, Mrs. Horton stated that "all I wanted was public exposure" for her budget cutting proposals.

In action last week, the board instructed its staff to consider cutting \$500,000 from the budget. Trustees were asked to submit possible areas that should be cut.

In a front page story in last week's Tribune, excerpts were published of a written statement

by Mr. Sim in which he stated that Mrs. Horton had failed to state specific areas the board budget can be cut.

He suggested that the school board budget was not cuttable beyond the \$500,000 cuts ordered last week. Mr. Sim also accused Mrs. Horton of not having her facts straight and of bringing her concerns to the press before bringing them before her colleagues on the board.

Mrs. Horton maintains that trustees refused to listen to her concerns and that her only alternative was to present her case directly to the taxpayers.

Former councillor vents his wrath

STOUFFVILLE — William Parsons, local attorney and former village councillor, last week exercised his prerogative and appeared before council to vent his wrath concerning a number of issues.

Mr. Parsons, who appeared as a deputation, started out by warning council that "I come here not to praise you."

He began with a criticism of garbage disposal in the municipality. His garbage had not been picked up, he complained, because it was, according to the garbage man, too far from the road.

"I have never seen things so stringently enforced," Mr. Parsons said.

"The municipality has passed a bylaw saying there is no dumping (at the York Sanitation dump), yet everybody else in the world can," he said.

He expressed unhappiness about the calibre of garbage bags required by the garbage bylaw. "Where do you buy these bags according to the bylaw? Spademan didn't know." Apparently he has had a problem with bags breaking.

He suggested the town print an explanation of their bylaw

and that they should sell garbage bags of the required thickness.

"That's not really what I (See WRATH, pg. 19)

Interim bill half '75 rate

STOUFFVILLE — There has been some confusion regarding the interim tax bills issued by the town, according to Mayor Gordon Ratcliff.

Mr. Ratcliff said many people have expressed concern because this year's bill is higher than the one from last year and they are worried that the 1976 taxes will be correspondingly higher.

This is not true, according to the mayor, as the interim billing is 50 per cent of the previous year's bill. As the 1975 taxes were higher than those from 1974, naturally the interim charge is higher.

Municipal taxes are expected to be higher though because of Board of Education and regional costs.

The first installment of the interim levy is due March 31.

OP gravel mining limits worry Councillor Todd

UXBRIDGE — The negative impact of sand and gravel mining is not given due consideration in Durham Region's Study paper 4, in the view of Councillor Eleanor Todd.

The Goodwood councillor, commenting in a letter to the regional official plan, said she is worried the plan would allow sand and gravel to be mined indiscriminately in prime ex-

tractive areas in Uxbridge Township.

One problem she foresees is that lack of adequate roads for transporting the gravel on the source to construction sites.

She said that since Durham has an adequate aggregate supply provided for in its official plan and by laws that there is no reason why gravel extraction should be encouraged in the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Wrist slapped over secondary plan

By DON BERNARD

YORK REGION — Local planner Max Sherman and Whitchurch-Stouffville council received what amounts to a slap on the wrist last week when York Regional Council approved a recommendation from planning committee.

In the report, regional staff complained about local municipalities preparing secondary plans for hamlet areas without prior reference and discussion with regional planning department staff.

Included as an appendix was a clipping from Feb. 26 issue of The Tribune which described the contents of

secondary plan recently completed by planning consultant Max Sherman.

Mr. Sherman, who operates Macroplan Ltd., was hired last year after the Area Services Branch of the region had failed to provide fast enough service. The Area Services branch was later disbanded.

Mr. Sherman had been an employee of the region and had worked with Whitchurch-Stouffville council on a number of studies, before resigning in 1974. When the town withdrew from area services, Mr. Sherman was hired as the planner.

Since that time, a number of reports have been presented.

The Secondary Plan for the Ballantrae-Musselman's Lake area, however is the first major report.

The document was presented to a public meeting Feb. 26 and will be discussed further at the planning board level. Mayor Gordon Ratcliff stressed, in an interview with The Tribune, that the plan is "just in the discussion stage."

The regional committee recommendation charged that, "in many cases secondary plans are being prepared independent of any regional input and without regard to any policies established by the regional council."

Areas of concern involved such things as studies dealing with — urban growth, environmentally sensitive areas, recreational considerations.

The report recommends that York Region's Chairman Garfield Wright, write to the regional area municipalities urging them to liaise closely with regional planning department staff at an early stage in the preparation of secondary plans.

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff queried regional council as to why Whitchurch-Stouffville had been singled out for attention. Mr. POUND said that The Tribune article was included as an example.

Mayor Ratcliff told The Tribune that the regional planning department "knew full well what we were doing" in developing the secondary plan for Ballantrae.

When he (Mr. Sherman) was making up the secondary plan for that area, he was in constant communication with the region," the mayor said.

The mayor insisted that the problem could have been cleared up with a "phone call" without bringing a recommendation forward from the planning committee that specifically singles out Whitchurch-Stouffville.