

# Town supports golf club assessment request

STOUFFVILLE — may be forced out of concerning property Hollow vice-president Council last week stated  
Sleepy Hollow Golf and existence if the province assessment. Terry Collier to Whit that the proposed  
Country Club fears they passes certain legislation A letter from Sleepy church - Stouffville assessment on a market

value basis would be a "major hurdle" to the continuing existence of golf and recreational properties in Ontario.

Council complied with a request from Mr. Collier that a resolution be passed supporting "the current level of assessment for golf course properties in Whitchurch-Stouffville." The resolution was to be sent to the Willis Blair Committee, a provincial group established to hear public reactions to the proposed new assessment procedure.

The new method would be to assess property on its market value as determined by "the highest and best use of the property regardless of existing zoning," said Mr. Collier.

"This...would result in dramatic increases in our tax burden," he added. "The Sleepy Hollow Board of Directors is convinced the club could not survive because the cost per member to meet this tax burden would be insupportable."

## No access hampers clean-up

STOUFFVILLE — A clean-up along Hillside Drive at Musselman's Lake was hampered because there is no public access to the shoreline.

A letter from Paul MacLean, senior supervisor for Experience 76, said that the group, working under the South Lake Conservation Authority to pick up litter on public property, "cannot venture onto private lands to complete this type of endeavor."

The town had requested, on June 1, a clean-up of debris in the area.

The group did manage to complete some of the work necessary, however, the letter said.

"You stick with me and you'll get what you want," quipped the auctioneer, Alvin S. Farmer, for the third time that night and his

delighted audience guffawed at his droll delivery. Old Alvin was really in top form today.

In rapid succession he sold old vacuum cleaners, dishes, musty rugs, gorgeous antiques, atrocious paintings and a mind-boggling assortment of utterly useless objects at astronomical prices, to his spellbound audience.

"Oh, here's a beauty," he would exclaim in pleased surprise, as another object was put on the block, and his innocent enthusiasm

would trigger another round of wild bidding. Alvin S. Farmer, now in his 70's was certainly staging a comeback.

For several years he had been troubled by ill health, including several near disastrous bouts of bronchitis, but as he expertly played the crowd it became clear he was back in form.

Mr. Farmer started as an auctioneer's apprentice at age 16 after hearing W.F. Silversides, a man still fondly remembered around these parts, conducting a sale.

"I heard him sell," said Mr. Farmer, "and decided, 'this is for me.'" Apparently, Mr. Silversides agreed.

"The year I was out of mink, I had budgies," recalls Mr. Farmer with a mischievous smile. "I guess there were about 300 of them. I sold them to the Quebec stores for about \$17 a piece." He chuckled, "and then there were the rabbits, of course." Mr. Farmer renovated some of the idle mink cages and went into Angora breeding.

After the court settlement he went back to mink again but was eventually forced out of the business by rising feed prices.

"It used to be 5 cents a pound for feed and you'd get \$30 for a fur, but in 1974 it cost me 20 cents a pound for feed and the pelts only brought in \$12. The little fellow's out. You just can't make it."

But Mr. Farmer isn't bitter about the turn of events. "What's the use of going out and making a lot of money and giving it all to the government," he laughed.

Of course that doesn't mean that nothing is being raised on the Farmer property. "I have canaries now," he said nonchalantly, "but nothing big, only about a hundred."



Alvin S. Farmer of Gormley is well known for his expertise as an auctioneer. Here he is still going strong after five hours of non-stop huckstering. "I can slug all day and sell all night," says Farmer, who also belongs to a male quartet. —Annegret Lamure

Now in his 70's

# Alvin Farmer still strong as the consummate auctioneer

By ANNAGRET LAMURE

GORMLEY

"Seventeen...seventeen...seventeen...seventeen...now eighteen...eighteen I got...now nineteen...nineteen...nineteen...nineteen...all in order...sold! — to number 85." A large stack of used towels is passed to a beaming elderly woman of ample proportions sitting near the front.

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## Citizen concern on dump needed now, says reader

Dear Sir,  
Suddenly one morning — you turn on your faucet in Stouffville:

1. The water smells peculiar.
2. The water tastes peculiar.
3. The water is a strange colour.
4. Or even worse — there is no water!

Will you be concerned enough then citizens to call the Town Offices to question the cause?

Well you may be three years too late. The mayor and members of council will not be able to help you. It will be too late to save our water supply. As you well know we are approximately 1,000 feet above sea level and the red tape at Queen's Park causes the wheels of the "Big Blue Machine" to grind ever so slowly.

The time and cost to bring an alternate water supply to Stouffville from Metro will be phenomenal. Are you and your family members prepared for that day?

Society in general has a strange new philosophy which dictates "Don't act now! Pay later!"

FRANCES SAINSBURY RR 2, Stouffville

CNR is asked to have clean-up of local grounds

STOUFFVILLE — The Canadian National Railway is being asked to spruce up their premises in Stouffville.

Council voted to write to the CNR asking that they improve the appearance of the old station in Stouffville, which has been boarded up.

"You should point out," said Councillor Becky Wedley, "that the centennial year is coming up."

# HOLIDAY SALE

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## Ontario's school bus safety regulations are everyone's responsibility.

### This is what you can do to make sure they're observed.

Your Ontario Government needs your help in protecting our province's school children. So we urge you as a motorist to drive with extra care whenever you see a school bus in front of you or coming towards you.

You will recognize the school bus by its chrome-yellow colour. And whenever it flashes its alternating red signal lights front and rear, you must stop. In fact, all traffic from both directions must stop.

This is true everywhere in Ontario... on highways, country roads, and city, town or village streets, and regardless of the speed limit. The penalty for disobeying this law is a fine of up to \$100 and 4 demerit points.

The only exception is for motorists going in the opposite direction from the school bus on the other side of a multi-lane highway divided by a physical barrier.

There is something else you can do, as well. Instruct your children to follow the school bus safety rules learned at school — to help the bus driver by behaving quietly and by keeping seated until it is time to leave the bus.

For more information on school bus safety and the School Bus Stopping Law, write to:  
Public and Safety Information Branch  
Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
1201 Wilson Avenue  
Downsview, Ontario M3M 1J8

Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
James Snow, Minister

William Davis, Premier

Province of Ontario

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