

Chamber of Commerce charter is sought here

STOUFFVILLE — Local business people last week decided to form a Whitchurch-Stouffville Branch of the Chamber of Commerce rather than form an independent business association.

During a meeting last Tuesday night at Latham Hall 30 businessmen signed an application to form a local branch. Although about 80 people attended the meeting only 30 signatures were required on the application.

Jack Chambers was elected as provisional president, Graydon Card as vice-president and Maureen Henderson as secretary. A committee consisting of 13 people were named and they were to have met early this week to define the aims and objectives of the fledgling organization.

It was felt that by joining a large organization the local business people would have a stronger voice and through the national organization would be able to influence policy beyond the local level.

Members of the executive from the Georgina Chamber of Commerce spoke at last week's meeting.

Pickering cashes in museum

PICKERING — The Town of Pickering will receive nearly nine times the amount they were originally offered by the federal government for the site of the museum located in Brougham.

The property was expropriated for the now-defunct Pickering Airport.

According to town clerk-administrator Noel Marshall, negotiators for the town and the federal government have settled on the sum of \$528,000 for expropriation.

The funds include the cost of relocating the museum to Greenwood, which is to proceed this year.

Council approved the settlement Monday night.



Kinsmen defeated the Lions in the tug-of-war held during the Mardi Gras Saturday and as can be seen from this picture they gave their all against the firefighters. Unfortunately for them the firemen were victorious. This year's event, sponsored by the Lions, featured many new events and drew a large crowd. More pictures page 9.

John Montgomery

The Tribune

VOL. 89 NO. 41 WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, FEBRUARY 17, 1977 20 CENTS 16 PAGES

Council 'receives' petition that urges Lehman pond be saved

STOUFFVILLE — Support for keeping the Lehman pond as part of a Dulverton subdivision park appears to be growing, as a petition with 162 names in favor of the proposal was received Tuesday by planning board.

However, to date council's position is that the nearly one-acre pond north of Manitoba Ave. should be drained for safety reasons.

The issue was brought before council the previous week

by John Garbutt of Manitoba Ave. He had sent the town a letter recommending nine steps that could be made to improve pond, but leave it essentially as it is. He appeared before council in person to expand on his suggestion.

"Most people I've talked to think the whole area should be left alone," Garbutt said. "I've lost some support for this proposal because some don't even want it cleaned out."

Garbutt claimed that his plan would render the pond safe, but retain it in essentially a natural state. He strongly criticized some suggestions that a baseball diamond or soccer field could be established in that area, once the pond is filled in.

"All the neighbours are dead set against having this kind of thing in their back yards," he said. He also suggested a committee might be established to study such matters when they arise, in the same way that some municipalities now have groups which make recommendations on historic buildings.

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff pointed out that ground in the surrounding area is very porous, leading to swamp-like conditions. Garbutt predicted that draining the pond would actually produce an upsurge in the mosquito population locally. Birds and frogs would be driven out, he said, and there would be no control over insects.

Council members generally seemed unimpressed by the arguments in favor of retaining the pond. Councillor Bill Kamps pointed out that the new Dulverton subdivision would put a population of about 2,000 people in that area. He felt the neighbourhood park proposal, supported by council, would best serve the interests of these people. Kamps also pointed out that the conservation area is

nearby, and remains basically in a natural state.

"It seems a bit much to have both a pond and the conservation area," he said.

The planned population increase was a factor cited by several councillors. Councillor Eldred King was emphatic in his support of the drain-and-fill scheme.

"I think we've got everything out of perspective," he said. "That whole area will change when we've got 500

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Grade 8 pupil is top speaker

Marie Couperthwaite, a grade 8 student at SDSS, won first place Monday in the York County public speaking contest.

Miss Couperthwaite, who placed second in the Lions public speaking event, spoke on the dangers of smoking.

Area 2 finals were held at Orchard Park Public School Monday afternoon.

Only narcotics stolen in pharmacy break-in

STOUFFVILLE — Sometime Wednesday morning Cliff Aiken's Pharmacy on Main St. was broken into and a quantity of restricted drugs was stolen.

"They knew exactly what they were after," Mr. Aiken told The Tribune. He explained that the narcotics cupboard was entered but that nothing else in the store had been stolen.

The thief, or thieves, made off with between \$150 and \$200 worth of codeine tablets and demerol. Surprisingly, there

was heroin in the cupboard that was entered but it was left untouched.

A window in the stock room was broken to gain entry, the cupboard was pried open and the office window was used to leave the premises.

According to Mr. Aiken this is the third time his store was entered. The first time, a number of years ago, nothing but cigarettes was stolen, but since then thieves have left the cigarettes alone and concentrated on drugs.

Winners chosen in Lions Club public speaking competition

STOUFFVILLE — Winners in the Lions high school speaking competition, held Monday night, were Indie Persaud for the juniors and Mary Anne Hulshof for the senior students.

These students competed in each of both the junior and senior category. Second among the juniors was Cheryl Stelling, followed by Nancy Ku. Ted Powers was awarded second place in the senior speeches and third place went to Tim Brazier.

The junior speeches were from three to five minutes in length and the seniors had to speak from four to six minutes. First place speakers in both categories won \$30 and a trophy, a trophy and \$20 was awarded for second place and third place winners received a trophy and \$10.

Miss Hulshof spoke on junk food, Mr. Powers' speech was on television and he gave a dissertation on the education system.

In the junior category Indie Persaud spoke of the lack of sportsmanship in modern sports, Miss Stelling's topic was the Bermuda Triangle and Nancy Ku gave a talk on the "Jewel of the Far East", Hong Kong.

After giving their speeches the contestants drew, by lottery, the topic of an impromptu speech. They were given some time to work up some material and they then delivered the second talk.

Miss Hulshof drew considerable laughter from the

Lions when she delivered her impromptu speech on the topic of baldness. She said that although bald men were often subjected to such comments as "Hey buddy do you need a shine?" they didn't mind because, "All bald men have a good sense of humour."

Speeches were heard

following the Lions dinner, which was also attended by the public school winners who were presented with trophies.

Geoff Sherrer, Tim Humphries and Marie Couperthwaite were on hand to receive trophies from Lion Howard Christie. The fourth public school finalist, Zena Kamocki, was not present.



Lynn van Maris was one of the many local girl guides out canvassing for heart month last weekend. The woman being asked for a donation is Elizabeth Buller.

Public school cost to taxpayer going up

AURORA — Whitchurch-Stouffville public school supporters with a home assessed at \$20,000 face a potential \$35 to \$42 increase in the educational portion of the 1977 tax bill, according to a preliminary York County Board of Education budget unveiled here last week.

A homeowner who paid \$356 in public school taxes last year will pay between \$391 and \$399, according to current projections.

The highest possible increase is still less than that in 1976 when public school education taxes in Whitchurch-Stouffville climbed \$47.

The 1977 increase represents a 10 to 12 per cent mill rate jump projected by board officials.

During the Wednesday night session, trustees were presented with preliminary spending estimates totalling \$74.3 million, up 9.2 per cent from 1976's \$68 million.

An increase in grants, assessment and spending would normally limit the mill rate hike to eight per cent, board finance and administration superin-

tendent George Ford told trustees.

Mr. Ford, however, estimated mill rate increases in the 10 to 12 per cent range due to the use of deficit and surplus accounts to offset the 1976 tax increase.

Last year trustees approved a 16 per cent tax increase, using about \$1.3 million from the 1975 surplus and the reserve for working funds to cushion a projected 25 per cent tax hike.

Last year's action has been felt in this year's budgeting, education director Sam Chapman told last week's session.

"In '76 we did not pay our way," he explained. "We spent more money than we raised."

Aurora trustee Norm Weller said last year's decision to use the reserve and deficit accounts "will haunt us."

"That million and three was the biggest single mistake the York County Board ever made," he added. "There's no way this budget can go through without major surgery."

Trustees have an op-

(See Preliminary page 3)

Girl who loved animals died in farm accident



Funeral services were held on Saturday, Feb. 12 at the United Church, Stouffville for Donna Lynn Jackson, age 12.

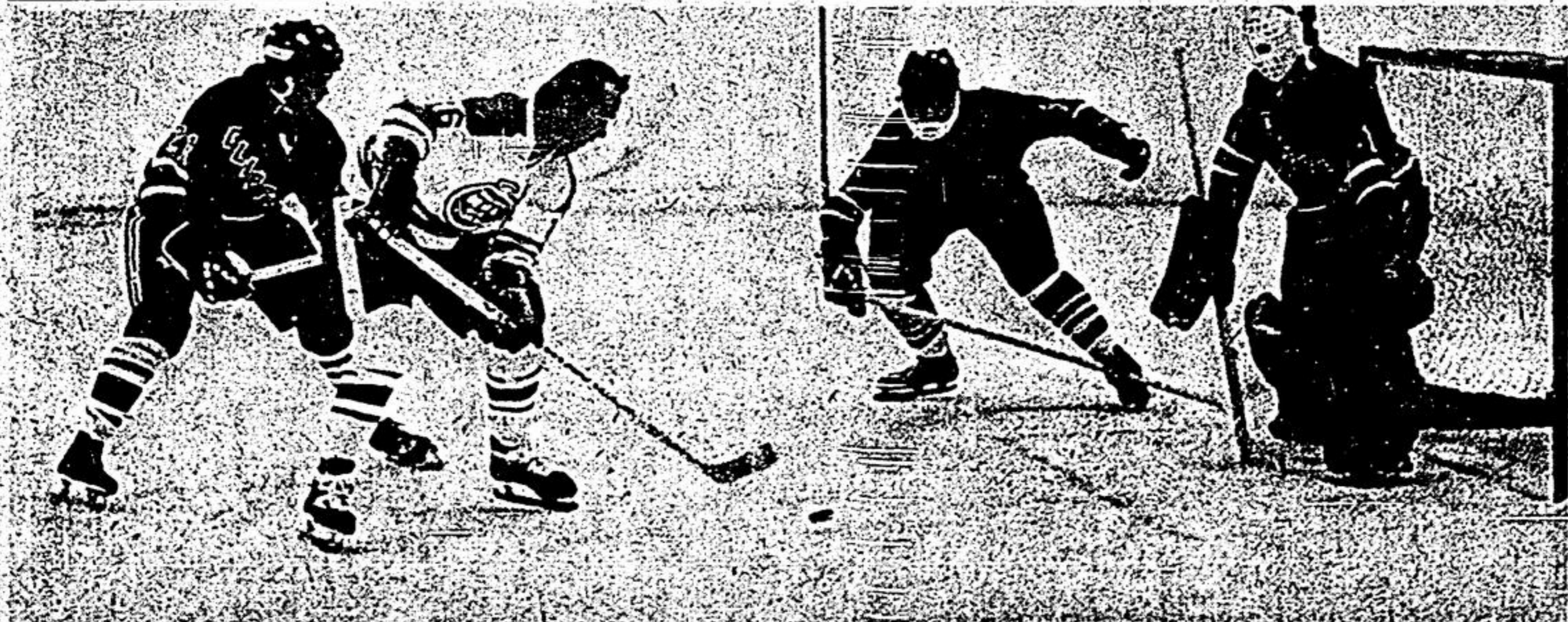
Over 200 people showed up for the funeral, conducted by Rev. J.L. Carter and originally intended to take place at O'Neill's Funeral Home. Lynn who was born June 13, 1964, died at the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto on Wednesday, Feb. 9, following an injury that occurred in the barn at the family

Town after bank's land for parking

STOUFFVILLE — The town will be seeking co-operation from the new Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce branch in an effort to provide more off-street parking.

At a recent council meeting, Mayor Gordon Ratcliff suggested that the bank be asked for permission to use part of the area behind it for parking. The town would put down some gravel and maintain the area.

The Mayor indicated that he thought the bank would welcome the idea. An official request is to be made, and the new parking area may be available this spring.



The biggest crowd of the season saw Andy Bathgate lead the NHL oldtimers to victory over Stouffville's Junior "C" Clippers. Bathgate scored five of the 11 Oldtimers goals, while Perry Brown scored three for the Clippers, including one on a penalty shot. To

prevent injury, no slapshots or bodychecks were allowed. The event was sponsored by the Stouffville Lion's Club to raise money for their activities. Above, Harry Piddhiray attempts to beat Clipper goalie Rick Marshall. Final score was 11-5 for the Oldtimers.

Keith Leach