

# The Tribune

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## \$74.1 million budget passed by school board in recorded vote

AURORA — Public school supporters in York Region face a 9.5 per cent tax increase as a result of the York Region public school board budget approved here Monday night.

Board officials said the \$74.1 million, represents an average \$35 tax increase on a home assessed at \$20,000.

Final figures will vary from community to community, board finance and administration superintendent George Ford stressed, and won't be known until complete budget estimates are prepared for Monday night's board meeting.

The \$35 increase is based on a regional mill rate of 18.8 or \$375 per \$20,000 home.

Last year, five of six area municipalities were assessed above the regional rate.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, the 1976 levy on a \$20,000 home was \$14 above the same levy using the regional base.

In King, the public school levy on a \$20,000 home was \$45 above the regional average while the levy on the same home

in Aurora was \$11 higher than the regional figure.

In Newmarket, the public school levy on a \$20,000 home was \$15 above the regional average while in East Gwillimbury the levy on the same home was \$12 above the regional figure.

Last year, Georgina Township was the only northern municipality below the regional average, with public school taxes on a \$20,000 home \$11 less than the region-wide levy.

Following approval of the budget, board finance chairman Bob McMonagle, who opposed the \$74.1 million in a recorded vote, said efforts are underway to prevent a repeat of what he

earlier termed "flim flam" passage of the budget.

The finance committee is currently studying introduction of three-year, zero-based budget forecasts, noted the Markham trustee.

At the same time there are moves towards "a meaningful budget breakout", said Mr. McMonagle, and an earlier budget presentation.

The proposed budget breakdown will include more than 100 pages clearly outlining all costs, he added.

While a report on revamping the budget structure isn't expected for several months, "that's the way the finance

committee is moving now", he said.

"Just wait until the taxpayer gets his bill", said Mr. Weller. "We must start (1978 financial planning) right away. We've got to do something".

Mr. McMonagle and Mr. Weller had pressed for a major budget cut to \$72.3 million from the \$74.3 million first draft.

In a stormy session lasting nearly five hours, the board instead approved the smaller cut and, while not offsetting the mill rate through the use of reserve funds, agreed to use any 1976 surplus funds to cushion the mill rate.

Trustees didn't confirm where cuts will be made, but in a two-and-a-half-hour committee discussion, considered 15 motions calling for specific budget cuts and additions.

When the committee reported at 10.30 p.m., the three surviving motions, which were later received by the board but not acted upon, called for net cuts totalling \$63,000.

Included in the changes was a \$33,200 reduction for complete removal of master teacher time at the secondary school level and a \$2,000 addition for late busing services.

Even that wasn't enough for Mr. McMonagle and Mr. Weller, however, who voted against the \$74.1 million along with Harry Bowes of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Bob Houghton of Richmond Hill, Keith Hargrave of Georgina, Steve Taylor of Markham and separate school representatives John Stephens and Terry O'Grady. Richmond Hill trustee Eric Baker was absent.

## Local trustee says budget could be cut

YORK CTY. — Not happy with only a \$200,000 cut from the York County Board of Education's \$74.3 million budget, Whitchurch-Stouffville

Trustee Harry Bowes voted against approval.

The budget was cut from \$74.3 to \$74.1 million with eight trustees opposing acceptance, in a recorded vote.

"I thought we could have got another \$500,000," off the budget Mr. Bowes told The Tribune.

"We got so far," he said, "and then they decided to vote on that figure. A lot of the new trustees aren't used to spending the time going through it. — They wouldn't go for all the bickering."

The budget as approved will mean a 9.5 per cent tax increase, too much according to Mr. Bowes. He feels the budget should have been kept to the rate of inflation, about 7 to 8 per cent.

## Dump issue to ombudsman

STOUFFVILLE — During a special session of council, following the regular meeting Tuesday night, council voted to present a brief to the Ontario ombudsman by the end of the week.

The brief, prepared by town solicitor Paul Mingay, seeks an inquiry by the ombudsman's office, into the recently approved five year expansion of the York Sanitation industrial landfill site on Highway 48.

Actions taken by D.P. Caplice, Director of Approvals Branch of the Ministry of the Environment are specifically cited. Mr. Caplice received the report of the Environmental Hearing Board, which conducted a year long inquiry into the application. The application

was opposed by the town and by Preserve Our Water Resources (POWR), a citizen's group.

It is feared the dump, which is located above the main aquifer which feeds the town wells, will pollute the community water supply. Permission to increase tonnage at the dump from 150 to 600 tons per day was granted by Mr. Caplice, with provision for more increases during the next five years.

The town's brief will be hand delivered at the same time as a submission prepared for POWR by attorney John Swaigen of the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

The town's paper is a brief document covering 11 major points while the POWR submission is a massive 23 pages documenting the alleged abuses of the ministry and the hearing board.

A motion to hold the next meeting of planning board in the driveway of York Sanitation was defeated by a tie breaking vote cast by Mayor Gordon Ratcliff.



The Schembri family of Goodwood were somewhat surprised when Heidi, the goat they are looking after for daughter Penny Lummiss recently gave birth to triplets. Shown here with the three goats is Lenora Schembri.

## Major town clean-up planned

For the people of Stouffville, Saturday May 14 should be put aside as a day that the community can get together and do something really constructive for the town, namely, clean it up.

On that date the Stouffville Recycling Committee will direct what they hope will be a large number of people to take part in the giant clean-up.

The day will be the culmination of what Mayor Gordon Ratcliff will declare as "Recycling Week" in an effort to tidy up the town.

Jean Belisle, co-ordinator of the recycling committee explained that a lot of people had expressed concern over the garbage that was building up on many of the streets. She commented that, "we've asked every organization in town to join us in cleaning up the town, and if we get enough people we would also like to clean up the parks and the stream."

Recycling in Stouffville is a relatively new endeavour, it started in June 1974. Mrs. Belisle, who has been with the group since its inception, said that one of the first things that had to be done was to go to Unionville to see how their recycling depot operated.

Their first place of operation was at an old garage on Market St. where they stayed for one year. At that time they had four bins and 15 volunteers; they still have only four bins but have increased their volunteer numbers up to 40, who work once a month for two hours.

council for another location in September 1975 and received permission to use the building built for that purpose, on Park Dr. across from the swimming pool in January 1976.

There have been some changes since they first started, as the committee is now under contract with Ralph Spademan, who also has the general garbage contract.

Mrs. Belisle has credited Mr. Spademan with putting the recycling operation in the black. Mr. Spademan picks up all four bins and charges \$25 a pickup, per bin. He does not charge rental fees for the bins.

They made \$1,000 last year but most of the money went into buying a glass bin. Mrs. Belisle said that "we would have donated the money if not for the cost of the bin, which was \$750. Luckily though, Unionville had one for sale, and we got it for half the original price."

Also, the recycling depot now has the facilities to accept all cardboard materials, except those that have been waxed.

Concerning the centennial day clean up, Mrs. Belisle pointed out that on March 14 there will be a general meeting to discuss the particulars of the operation.

"As of now," Mrs. Belisle stated, "we are planning to divide the town into sections and then designate groups of people to each section. We are passing out lists to the organizations so that members can sign up, as we need to know how many will be there. I am hoping for close to 400 people to come, but some say

that estimate might be a bit high."

"We will all meet at the baseball park in the morning (See Community page 2)



The Whitchurch Centennial Centre is now officially back in operation following the opening held there Saturday afternoon. Those involved in the ceremony were, from left; MPP Bill Hodgson,



## Sleeping Beauty and the Skinbonians

During last Sunday's rehearsal for Sleeping Beauty and the Skinbonians John Salvini, playing the part of the Queen of Stouffville, was overcome by a particularly uncontrollable case of the

giggles and required a supporting hand from Princess Beauty (Joyce Reesor). Roger Brndjar, the King of Stouffville, looks on. For more details see page 2.

## Two jump from second story escape flame engulfed home

LINCOLNVILLE — Two people had to jump from a second story window to escape a Saturday morning blaze that completely destroyed a house on the 10th conc., north of Bloomington sideroad.

Stouffville Volunteer Fire Department responded to an alarm just after 8 a.m. Saturday

but according to Chief Walt Smith "There was just no chance of getting it out."

Police estimate the fire started between 1 and 7.30 a.m. and was too far advanced to be brought under control when it was discovered.

Chief Smith said the department "presumes" the fire was caused by a malfunctioning space heater.

The house on the west side of the 10th is known locally as the John Williams place as it belonged to that family for many years.

A house guest, Karen Harmser, sustained slight back injuries when she jumped out the window and John Kearns, 23, one of the tenants, hurt his foot while escaping.

The other tenant is Rick Carder, 24. The house belonged to Fublach-Batra of Don Mills.

The house was completely consumed and was levelled right to the ground (See picture page

3.) Some of the charred beams were still burning and smouldering in the afternoon and the owner called the fire department back to dump another 2,000 gallons of water on the ashes.

Firemen were called out again Sunday evening to a minor chimney fire at the home of Gord Forsyth on North St.

## Former bank sold to realtor

STOUFFVILLE — The old Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce building at Main and Civic Sts. has been purchased by Eric Whomsley Real Estate.

The company is presently located on Main St. E. on the main floor of the building which houses the bowling alley.

The bank has moved to a newly completed building at Main and Church Sts.

## Ballantrae community centre officially opened Saturday

BALLANTRAE — A large crowd turned out Saturday afternoon for the official opening of the \$126,000 extension to the Ballantrae Community Centre.

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff was accorded the honour of cutting the ribbon. A short speech was

given by Community centre board Chairman Bill Morrison, by MPP Bill Hodgson and Councillor Bill McNailey offered up a prayer.

Councillor Becky Wedley, a major supporter of the addition, who helped get the project approved by council, told The

Tribune that Mr. Hodgson had been instrumental in getting final approval of Wintario grants.

"His secretary just sat on them," commented Mrs. Wedley.

Of the \$126,000 total cost, \$31,000 came from Wintario, the same from a community centres grant, \$13,000 from the town lot fee account and \$50,000 in the form of a soft services fee from the Felray subdivision.

The old hall consisted of a large room capable of holding 120 people and a second room exactly the same size was added on. The rooms can be divided by a sliding wall or can be used as one large room with a capacity of 240 people.

Three thousand square feet were added to the building and some existing rooms have been redesigned. A series of small rooms in the back have now been combined into one hall with a capacity to hold 80 people. A small lounge type meeting room was added and a cloak room with a capacity to hold 330 coats.

Most groups associated with the centre set up demonstration booths and quite a few saw new members signing up. Several people joined the women's auxiliary which, with the expanded facilities, requires more help.

About 60 people signed up for tennis although as yet there are no tennis courts. It is hoped money for courts will be available this year.

Mr. Morrison, the chairman is optimistic the Ballantrae community will take advantage of the extended potential of the centre.

centre board Chairman Bill Morrison, Mayor Gordon Ratcliff, Councillor Becky Wedley, Councillor Bill McNailey and Councillor Bill Kamps.