



The romantic attraction of the old steam railroading days is far from gone as was demonstrated last Saturday evening when a large crowd turned out to watch as CN's 6060 pulled into Stouffville station to be filled with water. There was considerable anticipation as children lay on the tracks to listen to the far off approach of the

engine and young and old surreptitiously deposited coins on the track to be turned into instant souvenirs by the massive steam engine. Members of Stouffville's volunteer fire department were out to fill the tank.

— John Montgomery

POWR group asks for broader inquiry

STOUFFVILLE — Council Tuesday night passed a resolution calling for a broadening of the judicial inquiry into Disposal Services Ltd. — to include the operations of the York Sanitation landfill site on Highway 48.

Preserve Our Water Resources (POWR) has made the same demand.

Last week Premier William Davis announced a judicial inquiry into a \$35,000 donation to the Progressive Conservative party by Disposal Services in 1974, when that company was seeking approval of a landfill site in Maple.

Disposal Services and York Sanitation are wholly owned subsidiaries of Waste Management Inc., the U.S. based parent firm.

At a press conference held Saturday afternoon at the Whitchurch — Stouffville municipal building, attended by several members of council, POWR Chairman Frances Sainsbury said, "The judicial inquiry — must look into all the operations and contracts of Waste Management Inc. — if it is to answer the question whether any favours were given in return for the donation."

In 1974 York Sanitation was seeking approval to expand the Highway 48 site and following a 40 day hearing by the Environmental Hearing Board (since renamed Environmental Assessment Board), the expansion was granted.

The expansion was opposed by council, which passed a no dumping bylaw, by POWR and by many residents of the community. POWR and the town have since asked the Ontario Ombudsman's office to investigate the approval.

The Ombudsman's office has agreed to conduct a preliminary investigation into the approval but POWR members felt this could be delayed if the judicial inquiry is broadened.

POWR lawyer John Swaigen told The Tribune an official request to include York Sanitation in the inquiry would be made Monday of this week. Councillor Becky Wedley, who was instrumental in arranging the Saturday press conference, made a point of mentioning that York North incumbent Bill Hodgson (PC) had been invited to attend.

Mr. Hodgson was not present and there was no representation from the York

North Liberals, but NDP candidate Ian Scott was there and made a statement favouring a broadening of the investigation.

When contacted by The Tribune early this week, Mr. Hodgson said he had been notified too late and that he already had a full schedule Saturday.

Mr. Hodgson added he did not feel it proper for him to discuss the issue as the matter "has gone to a public inquiry and as a member of government I can't discuss it."

"I've been working on their behalf since 1969 and went to bat — to get the dumping of liquid waste stopped," he said.

Reading a prepared statement Mrs. Sainsbury said that expansion of the dump from 300 tons daily to an eventual 1500 tons per day was approved in spite of testimony from two expert witnesses that industrial waste dumped at the site would eventually pollute the town's water supply and surrounding wells.

Mrs. Sainsbury mentioned several other alleged improprieties. She said the hearing board had allowed the lawyer for York Sanitation to badge and hound witnesses. "It didn't matter what we did," she said. "Each person had some sort of character assassination."

Mrs. Sainsbury said the chairman of the board had also made derogatory remarks about the witnesses and she accused the Ministry of the Environment of not prosecuting the landfill company for violations of a control order laid down by the ministry.

Mrs. Wedley said the ministry had failed to have early warning monitoring wells installed between the dump site and the town wells although it had been requested by the town.

The ministry, according to Mrs. Wedley, is three months late in providing promised well testing results. Mrs. Wedley said the ministry had promised to provide quarterly analyses of water samples taken from wells around the perimeter of the dump.

Questioned by students

Candidates defensive

KING CITY — York North candidates were on the defensive Monday as King City Secondary School students

Top country performers are coming

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville Lions are bringing some of the top Canadian Country and Western performers to the arena for two shows July 9.

Tickets for the show, which features Ronnie Prophet, Carroll Baker and Maurice Dolyer, can be purchased now from local Lions.

According to concert committee chairman Neil Patrick the tickets are available at Aiken's Pharmacy, Card's and Crest hardware stores, Bank of Nova Scotia, Bank of Commerce, Neil Patrick Motors and at a booth to be set up at the sales barn.

clearly well-prepared for the confrontation — put them through their paces.

Principally under fire was Progressive Conservative incumbent Bill Hodgson, who had to refute charges that the June 9 election is unnecessary and to defend his government's policies on job creation, farmland development and education.

Criticism of the election call was made both by the 200 senior students at the meeting, and by Liberal candidate Jim Wilson and New Democratic Party hopeful Ian Scott.

Students charged that the estimated \$15-25 million spent on the election could be better spent on job creation programs. The candidates argued that Premier William Davis engineered the non-confidence motion over rent controls as an excuse for calling the election. They added that he was cashing in on recent opinion polls that showed the Conservatives well ahead of both the Liberals and NDP.

Mr. Hodgson answered the (See Candidates, page 9)

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Playground program dropped

STOUFFVILLE — Despite citizen's demands the recreation committee has reluctantly decided not to have a playground program in the Stouffville Park this year.

For the past two years playground programs have been run at Vandorf and Ballantrae, and the committee had received requests for a similar operation in town, but budget cuts have caused this plan to be dropped.

Recreation committee chairman Cliff Dunkeld said that council had cut the recreation budget down to an 8 per cent increase over last year. This left no money in the budget

for new programs and caused some cuts in established ones.

Minor hockey will receive \$3,000 less than requested, and the new minor soccer association budget was cut by \$500.

The sports program slated to run in the arena during the summer was also cancelled.

Mr. Dunkeld said the committee decided to scrap the playground program in town while retaining the ones at Vandorf and Ballantrae because there were more facilities in Stouffville. He cited the swimming pool, and parks and also remarked that no organized group had ever come forward

and approached the committee about a playground program.

He also said that if such a group were to form in the fall and request financial assistance, that Stouffville Park

may well have a program next year. Mr. Dunkeld explained that it was not the function of the recreation committee to organize programs, but merely to supervise and support them.

Hard to make day care centre go

STOUFFVILLE — When Sylvia Loftus started her Chick-a-dee day care centre a little more than a year ago she had high hopes of a thriving, modestly profitable operation.

A York Region survey showed that there was a demand for day care services for Stouffville, although not enough to warrant a municipal operation, and many people signed a petition demanding day care in Stouffville.

However, Mrs. Loftus has found it very difficult to get a viable operation going.

Enrolment of children has been disappointingly slow, and Mrs. Loftus's profit has been non-existent. It is only the love of children and her conviction that she is providing a valuable service that has kept her going, she says.

"We're all devoted to it, otherwise we wouldn't be doing it," said Mrs. Loftus. She ex-

plained that her staff works for a minimum salary, and that she herself has never received a penny in remuneration. All fees are used to buy equipment and supplies for the children and pay rent and maintenance expenses.

Chick-a-dee charges \$37 a week per child, and Mrs. Loftus doesn't feel that a bigger enrolment will help, too much, since that merely means hiring more staff to keep the child-teacher ratio low.

Mrs. Loftus feels that raising the fees would mean that some children would probably drop out — she says that some parents already find it hard to meet the fees.

Day care costs in Toronto are much higher, between \$50 per child and operators there say it costs them between \$45 and \$70 to provide care, but Mrs. Loftus is very reluctant to go ahead with even a \$2 increase because of the added burden on the parents.

"It worries me that we now charge \$37 a week," she said. Mrs. Loftus says that a lot of working parents leave their child with a neighbour in order to save on day care costs. This, she feels is a mistake. "The child is not properly stimulated, I don't think the child gets as much out of being in a neighbour's house, watching T.V. all day."

Mrs. Loftus explained that her centre is much more than a baby sitting service. "The children learn to get along with others and they learn to do a lot of new things. We do arts and crafts and go on outings in the community," she said.

Mrs. Loftus gets a lot of satisfaction out of seeing the children blossoming under her care. "It means more to me than a salary," she says, but doesn't know how much longer she can keep operating in view of mounting costs and dwindling numbers of children.

"To be honest, I don't know how long I can keep up," she sighed. "At Christmas we said we'd go till March, and in March we said we'd go till June to see if things improve. I guess it's just wishful thinking," she shrugged with a smile, "but inside I'm fighting. I don't want to close the school."

Mrs. Loftus thinks that if she had children on a steady basis, that she might just be able to keep her head above water, but prospects are not too bright. "It's really depressing," she said. "Last Monday we only had seven children."



Everybody wants to sit on Sylvia Loftus' lap at once, and Casey Pritchard (left), Julie O'Connor, Anneliese Lauterback and Jennifer Kennedy, manage to secure a perch on the day

care directors lap. Mrs. Loftus is finding it hard to keep her head above water, but says that love of the children prevents her from closing her operation.

— Annegret Lamure



Mounted rake brigade

Over 300 volunteers turned out Saturday morning to help clean up refuse and litter from the stream, streets, and parks of Stouffville. These three guides, from left: Debbie Heard, Wendy

Creasey and Jill Dobson, were among 93 brownies and guides who turned out. For more pictures and story see page 11.

— John Montgomery

Fair to auction celebrity items from Premier Davis, Crombie

Mayor David Crombie has donated his pen for the celebrity auction at the Centennial Country Fair, May 28. This pen is the one that Crombie used when signing into office. To the highest bidder for the pen will also go a framed letter from Crombie.

Premier William Davis has contributed a leather bound

book that has been in his family for a number of years. The auctioneers are awaiting contributions from Mayor Ratcliff, Gordon Sinclair and Pierre Berton, among many others.

There will also be a baseball game from 7 to 9 p.m. with the Chum Super Stars, disc jockeys.

There will be 42 craft booths which will display many dif-

ferent hand made items. So far there are nine entries for the beer race, which starts at 11:30 a.m. There is a \$2 registration fee for the race and there are rules and regulations for the size of bed.

For the kiddies there will be a moonwalk, movies and games. A permit has been issued for the beer garden, but it must be held indoors. It will be held in Latham Hall with a dance to follow.

All donations and contributions towards the fair are intended for the new Whitchurch-Stouffville Library. For further information call 640-3716.

Donkey ball

The popular Donkey baseball is back again this year at the Goodwood Community Centre Park this Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children, those under eight years old get in free.

Silver Jubilee Club now open to seniors

STOUFFVILLE — The senior citizen's Silver Jubilee Club opened for business yesterday afternoon.

Although the official opening won't be held until June 1 at 2 p.m. the senior citizen's drop in centre is now open every day, Tuesday to Saturday, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Membership applications are available at the club located in the old post office building on Main Street and membership is open to all seniors, whether they are Whitchurch-Stouffville residents or not.

One member of the club executive expressed some concern that local seniors wouldn't make use of the facility.