

Concerning judicial inquiry

POWR group wants some action

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council. Three years ago when the Mayor and members of council were informed about the Environmental Hearings related to York Sanitation's Landfill Site No. 4 in Whitchurch-Stouffville, the council members individually approached certain interested, dedicated type citizens and enlisted their help to aid the town in showing the EHB that this site location was unsafe and detrimental to our total water supply system. We, the citizens did not come to you looking for trouble, or wanting to form groups to fight York Sanitation Co. The P.C. party politics and the system for setting up hearings in our province is not our doing. We just abided by "their" rules. Tom Wood agreed to be the Chairman of POWR at the original meeting. Many people donated time, talent, patience and money to try to prove the adverse effect this operation will eventually have on our artesian water supply. A great deal of money was spent by the town to this very end. Stopping the fight now is just exactly what Mr. Goodhead, Mr. Chusid, and Waste Management Incorporated are counting on. TIME is their ally and the enemy of a small town. They know we will eventually run out of patience, money, dedicated people and the will to fight on! John Swaigen worked long and hard for very little financial reward. He is still working on!

rejected at last Tuesday's council meeting. Regarding money to file papers for Mr. Swaigen to appear before Justice Hughes as per attached letter, is for the good of all the citizens of Stouffville. Mr. Mingay could speak with John and on Paul's recommendation he could represent our town as a solicitor. It would be under \$200 and money well spent just to ensure that all the facts at the Judicial Inquiry are being presented accurately. When our water supply is destroyed, members of council at that time and the residents will need all the evidence they can get to have the province build us a totally new water system. I realize some members of council do not believe this will ever happen, but that is because it is politically expedient for you to stay away from any issue that might adversely affect your own political aspirations. I truly believe that big party politics have no place in municipal government. Some of you have had and continue to have tunnel vision regarding this issue. For example: If someone dumped 800 tons of chlorine a day into your drinking water, no matter how harmless in the right quantities, too much of a good thing can be bad. It would eventually destroy your water. The same applies to that dump, I know you produce some of the garbage and NEED sites, but how much worse must be 800 tons of un-

classified and toxic waste materials going into that earth daily, and being forced downward to the aquifer? This too will eventually destroy our water system. Just ignoring the problem does not make it go away. We must continue to help one another. If we stop following up this very controversial issue now, all the time, effort and money has been wasted. The dedicated citizens of Stouffville who fought so hard for a very worthwhile cause cannot continue to hold bake sales, yard sales and coffee parties forever, to raise money for 5500 others who also benefit from this water supply system. We should not be forced by the government system, for conducting hearings, to continually have to do this sort of thing. We are taxpayers and problems of this type, which only occur occasionally must be dealt with by our elected municipal representatives and paid for by all the taxpayers who will in the end benefit from having and using pure water. How much can a mere handful of people continue to do? We are not your average community group, "Lions", "CB's", "Horticulture Society", etc. This application by York Sanitation Co. was foisted upon us and we tried our very best to show the EHB that public acceptability of the site was non-existent. To belabour the fact that these hearings are a farce is a waste of time. The council must now

assess perhaps at a special meeting why they became involved in the hearings? What if anything was accomplished by the hearings? How far you plan to go with this issue? What about the early warning wells we were promised? What about the quarterly test results we are not getting? What should the members of Preserve Our Water Resources tell John Swaigen with Can. Env. Law Assoc.? Should we tell him the Town has no more money for this issue? That we do not desire any further assistance from him? That we need and do appreciate his interest and help? That we have decided to let nature take its course and throw our Town to the mercy of the Ministry of the Environment and the Province of Ontario for a new water supply system? Are we going to let the guilty parties just walk away quietly and destroy the way of life in another unsuspecting small town with weak by-laws and no money for court cases? Perhaps we could even fight on and try to set a precedent so that this type of problem and the very system which created it will be erased forever from this province. This eventually has to happen. Perhaps the Ombudsman or Justice Hughes will get to the real truth regarding this whole sham. I was naive enough to think we in Stouffville might help in some small

way to bring the necessary changes about and eventually rid us of another one of the ills of our society. I cannot continue to fight this issue alone, I cannot expect the same mere handful of good citizens to continue either. I am very concerned that the only way to win this issue, is to lose the water supply system we now enjoy! We in the POWR group are not attention seekers, we are not rabble-rousers, we do not personally seek money from council. President Kennedy once said "Ask not what your country can do for you?" but "What you can do for your country?". I guess that's the reason we all got involved in this issue in the first place. I have never quit anything I ever started that I truly believed in or believed could be accomplished, until now! We in the POWR group need your continued help and support. We are truly weary, from this arduous and frustrating, three year experience with the political powers that be. DO WE QUIT NOW? PLEASE ADVISE US! We chose the name POWR with no "E" for a reason. Our only aim was, is and always has been to PRESERVE OUR WATER RESOURCES! Perhaps a letter from Council would answer our questions. We need an answer for Mr. Swaigen before September 12th, 1977. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,
(MRS.) FRANCES SAINSBURY
Chairman of POWR.

Retirement

The fourth quarter

By LESLIE HOLBROOK "An old timer is someone who remembers when we had more whittlers than chisellers." That's not my quote. It's credited to a fellow who, writing in "The Sentinel", calls himself "The old Philosopher". The Sentinel is the sparkling publication of the Guelph Senior Citizens Council. It is among the best I have seen to date. "The Fourth Quarter" started only last February. Its immediate success and heavy flow of mail from readers has been a pleasant experience but it has left me too little time to visit seniors' clubs. I've even had to turn down invitations—but try again. It would be difficult for me to subscribe to the many seniors' papers and magazines which have sprung into life in the wake of organized seniors' groups across the country — local, provincial and national.

are doing. I'll try to pass along such information. "Cast thy bread upon the waters", the Good Book urges. The Guelph Senior Citizens Council, working with and through the numerous seniors' clubs in the area, is doing fine work. They have a representative on the local Housing Authority which is making progress in providing additional housing for seniors. They assist seniors with problems involving such things as pensions, income supplements and income tax returns. Submissions have been made to responsible authorities for bus shelters and better parking facilities for seniors' residences. They are working on a project to provide assistance so that elderly people can remain in their own homes and continue to enjoy the familiar neighbourhood environment. By bringing together seniors who need the

services and youngsters capable of performing them, the Council is making it easier for oldersters to get help with house cleaning, household repairs, lawn cutting, snow shovelling, etc. Council members will attend the upcoming convention of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario and present the following: "Be it resolved that the education tax presently assessed against property at the municipal level be rescinded for any person over the age of 65 owning or renting a home and that the Government of the Province of Ontario enact legislation exempting senior citizens from paying this tax." This resolution if carried will be presented to Premier Davis. Does your town have such successful seniors' co-ordinated activities? If not, get organized. It pays off.

Thought for the week: Hans Selye writing about the activities of famous women and men in their later years (in his book "Stress and Distress") says "Despite their many years of intense activity, they lived a life of constant leisure by always doing what they liked to do". Readers' questions and comments should be sent to Stouffville Tribune c/o P.O. Box 1506, Guelph, Ont. N1H 6N9. (Copyright 1977 H-R Press Syndicate)

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