

To host art show

John G. Roberts, art instructor on the staff of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, will host an exhibition of watercolors and drawings March 12 to 25 at Gallery Gabor Ltd., 602 Markham Street, Toronto.

Mr. Roberts will attend the opening, March 12 from 7 to 10 p.m. Other hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

At Stouffville High

Staff changes

STOUFFVILLE — There will be two major changes in the head positions at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School with the start of the fall term in September.

Principal Mervyn Witherow is being transferred to Huron Heights Secondary School, Newmarket. He was the principal there before coming to Stouffville in 1977, in fact, it was at Huron Heights that he began

his teaching career back in 1962. Before that, he served as an officer in the Canadian Army.

Ron Mercer, vice-principal at S.D.S.S., will retire at the conclusion of the term in June. His period of service dates back through three generations, including several years before the present school was built.

Mr. Mercer's successor will be Clyde Fawcett, the current vice-principal at Dr. G. W.

Williams Secondary School, Aurora. Mr. Fawcett joined the Williams' staff in 1969 and has served as technical director, branch director and vice-principal all at the same location. Before that, he taught in Hastings County following a period of employment with the International Nickle Company of Canada.

A successor for Mr. Witherow will be named March 10.

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BECKY WEDLEY

Youth rally

A special Youth Rally will be held Friday evening at eight o'clock in St. James Presbyterian Church, Stouffville.

Program participants will include The Brady Family of Newmarket, the Stouffville High School Choir and representatives from several denominations in the area. Refreshments will follow.

It's the first service of its kind to be held at St. James. Adults as well as young people are invited.

Seven office employees

Salary hikes are criticized

STOUFFVILLE — Ward 1 Councillor Becky Wedley has criticized fellow members who, last week, approved salary increases for seven office employees ranging from 15 to 39 per cent.

Councillor Wedley called for a recorded vote on the motion following an in-camera discussion, Feb. 26, but no explanation accompanied the request. This prompted The Tribune to enquire further into the matter.

Mrs. Wedley, in a written reply, said she couldn't support the resolution in its entirety because the same staff personnel had received wage hikes in '79 of from 15.8 to 30.6 per cent.

Taking both years into consideration, these salaries

(mentioned above), have been raised by from 32.4 to 63.5 per cent, she said.

The councillor for Ward 1 says last year's increases had been justified to members by the Administrator as being necessary "to bring them into line with other municipalities". However, she notes that one employee, hired three years ago without any experience, has been accorded a \$6,250 increase over a two-year period (\$3,750 in 1979 and \$2,500 in 1980) or 46.2 per cent.

It concerns me, she says, that these increases have been approved after our old administrator left and just two weeks before our new administrator is due to arrive.

It is councillor Wedley's contention that an eight per cent

wage hike should have been approved 'across the board', with an added increase for two staff members receiving promotions.

"I DO support the eight per cent given to the remainder of the staff; the 8.6 per cent to our Works Department and the increase to our Works Foreman, to bring them \$1,000 per year above the workers; but I could NOT support the resolutions completely.

"How can we justify slashing the recreation budget to a bare minimum of approximately \$3.40 per capita when other municipalities spend up to \$6.00, then turn around and increase salaries by a whopping 15.8 to 30.6 per cent. It just doesn't make good business sense," she concluded.

Student drug reports unfounded says Supt.

STOUFFVILLE — A drug problem at Stouffville High? No, at least no worse than at any other secondary school in York County.

This is the opinion of Area 4 superintendent Bill McVicar, responding to a letter in the Feb. 28 issue of The Tribune signed "A Concerned Staff". He said he had spoken to principal Mervyn Witherow about it, but only briefly. He added, however, that he had read the paper's story following an interview with the principal (Feb. 14), and agreed wholeheartedly with his move towards drug education.

He described the drug scene as "a new phenomenon in our

society". Stouffville, he said, is no longer the sleepy little village it once was adding that drugs are likely available in the arena, at the library and on Main Street.

The superintendent recalled how, back in the '60's, drug use became evident at Thornhill High. "We suffered the same problems there that were being experienced in the city — before it began its march across the province". "The teachers were caught off-guard," he said, "they had to re-educate themselves". At one time, he explained, the situation was so distressing, many staff members were ready to

quit the profession. "We've come a long way since then," he said, pointing out that most teachers will now report any suspicious behavioral traits in students.

Mr. McVicar took exception to the fact all young people tend to get lumped together as part of a drug-oriented society. "It's an unfair attack on a whole generation. Most people don't know; they just assume. Kids get labelled unfairly and every school's supposed to be the worst".

The superintendent also

took a swing at persons who write letters to newspapers about drugs. They're usually the ones who know the least, he said, and some have no children in the school they're talking about.

He repeated his support of Mr. Witherow's proposal to inform and educate parents on drug and drug-related abuses. At the same time, he expressed opposition to the decriminalizing of marijuana, an issue the federal government's been toying with for several years.

Drug study is proposed

STOUFFVILLE — Should marijuana use be removed from the criminal code?

Town trustee Harry Bowes can't say because, like many, he's not sure if experimentation with one, leads to involvement with another. Other Board

members, it seems, feel the same.

To learn more, a study is underway with a full discussion planned at an open committee meeting, likely in April.

Several speakers will attend, Mr. Bowes said, including York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford and a representative of the Drug Addiction Research Foundation.

The decriminalization of marijuana would not make it legal, the local trustee explained, but a conviction would not leave the accused with a criminal record. "Much like getting a traffic ticket," he said.

As it stands now, judges are "on the spot," he said, they tend to be lenient.

While the matter has been discussed, Harry Bowes claims that, up to now, abuse of alcohol rather than drugs has been the Board's greatest concern.



"Lift the dashed lid you guys, my finger's caught!"

York North M.P.P. Bill Hodgson (second left) was a guest at a meeting of the Ballantrae and Dist. Lions Club, Thursday evening and made the draw for the "Win-A-Dream Vacation". From the expression on his face, it would appear he didn't 'draw' his hand out quickly enough and became caught up in the drum. He recovered quickly,

however, to announce the winner of a holiday in Orlando, Florida plus \$200 spending money as Kathleen Austin of Richmond Hill. Shown with Mr. Hodgson are - Tom Wood, past-president; Tinny Vanden Thillart, 2nd vice-president and Vern Davies, president.

—Jim Holt.



George Pegg, Blake Street, Stouffville, has had no formal training in music, yet he can play two instruments, the bass horn and the saxophone and performs in both the Stouffville

Citizens' Band and the Silver Jubilee Club Kitchen Band. He doesn't consider it work, just fun.

—Jim Thomas.

George Pegg

Senior musician

STOUFFVILLE — George Pegg's greatest love in life is music.

Although he's had no formal training, he can play the saxophone, the bass horn and before that, the slide trombone.

This interest was born at the early age of five when, as a little lad, he would listen to his mother play hymns on the organ as the family gathered round for a time of singing. However, it wasn't until about 1920 that he himself began to play. His first instrument was the bass horn. Two years later, he joined the Claremont Citizens' Band and played the saxophone. With encouragement

from wife, Sara, whose grandfather was a bandmaster, George has made music come alive to the enjoyment of many individuals and organizations.

At 77, he's active in both the Stouffville Concert Band and the Silver Jubilee Club Kitchen Band.

When he's not blowing his horn, George can likely be found enjoying the beauties of nature — the birds and the flowers. He's a member of the Pickering Naturalist Club.

He also likes gardening and writing poetry.

If it's true that musical talent is inherited, then the Pegg family is a case history.

George and Sara's two daughters, Nola (Mrs. Harold Harper) of Claremont and Gladys (Mrs. Walter Brickwood) of Bradford were active in Markham's marching band while Phyllis (Mrs. Clark Major) of Brooklin plays the piano and electric organ.

The Silver Jubilee Club's Kitchen Band has proved a tremendous success. George has as much fun playing in it as audiences have listening to it. The Stouffville Concert Band holds rehearsals every Monday evening at the High School.

Is it work? Not when it's fun and George enjoys it to the full.

Increased revenue

Arena cost - \$698

STOUFFVILLE — The operation and maintenance of the Stouffville Arena in 1979 cost the Town only \$698, Mayor Eldred King informed The Tribune this week.

This rather trivial amount was the result of increased

revenue that far exceeded what had been anticipated. The board had budgeted for expenditures of \$5,396.00.

The annual \$14,000 debenture payment (principle and interest), was covered by receipts from lot fees.

This year, the budget is set at \$16,600 plus the \$14,000 debenture payment. It still must be scrutinized by council.

Anticipated costs include painting of the exterior (\$5,000); repairs to the brine pipes (\$5,000) and purchase of an automatic floor-scrubber (\$600).

Rink manager, Don Lewis said he includes \$5,000 in the budget for pipe repairs, just in case something major should occur. "The money's there if we need it," he said.

Breaking the cost total down, Mayor King placed the expense at fifty cents per person per year.

As for operating the facility twelve full months instead of seven, the mayor said it was the board's feeling that all

programs presented there should be profitable rather than fill-in attractions that operate at a loss. He said the building can be rented by any organization at any time during the off-season.

New rink?

STOUFFVILLE — There's a move afoot to establish a new community arena in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Mayor Eldred King said board members are wondering what the future holds for the present facility.

"We all know the ice plant won't last forever," he noted too that the ice surface is one of the smallest in the area.

Mayor King hinted that a 'sinking' fund might be established in preparation for the building's eventual replacement. He said structural plans could also be considered.

Plan luxury car wash

STOUFFVILLE — A ninety foot automatic drive-in car wash will be added to the manual facility on Winona Drive, north of Main Street.

An application for a minor variance was placed before Planning Board, last week, by John Baird of Markham. The

proposal includes a six foot screen to the east of the existing bays and a row of trees to the north.

Approval is still required from the Committee of Adjustment, but no problem is anticipated.

The property is zoned high-way commercial.

'Open House'

A combined 'open house' involving day and night school classes at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, will be held on Thurs., March 13 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Projects completed over the past five months will be on display. Teachers will be in attendance to discuss plans for 1980-81. The public is invited.