

Viewpoint

Raise pay -eyebrows

By Jim Irving

It doesn't really matter whether it's snowing out, or whether the sun's shining and the daffydills' blooming, or if it's smoggy and you can't see your toes in front of your face, it's that time again: the time when members of municipal councils everywhere get together to see whether they should give themselves more money to persist in the role that only a few short months ago, they begged all and sodden to appoint them to for life.

Your wish was their remand, as it were.

The subject of money for themselves never entered into it; it was presumed that, if the person was willing to run, he or she had reached that point where the financial aspects of the game were the least of their considerations. The thing they stressed at all times, was the community. Whether they wanted it to go forward, remain the same, or proceed at a pace guaranteed not to result in any speeding tickets, was not the big issue. The big thing was to offer their services, because all felt they had something to offer and were only too eager to put it up for grabs.

This is a highly cynical age, however, and such a philosophy may be considered both naive and impractical.

That may very well be, but it only appears that way, because that's exactly the way the politicians, or would-be politicians, want it to appear. Their goal, they would like all to believe, is altruism first, a seat on council, second; one, of course, denoting the other.

At the moment, Uxbridge Township Council, with four of last year's members - including Mayor Gary Herrema - no longer with it, is considering a proposed pay hike.

And the man who made the proposal? None other than Acting Mayor Maustyn McKnight. At least, he was acting mayor, until he took off for Florida last week.

McKnight, who is also a Durham Regional Councillor - they just got a seven per cent pay raise, courtesy last year's council, to \$13,890 - has suggested a \$500 pay raise for Uxbridge councillors. This, despite the fact he won't even stick around long enough to discuss the matter, which would give him and other councillors, \$6,000.

After former Mayor Herrema took over as Durham chairman, I asked McKnight if he planned to contest the vacant spot. His answer was no, one of the reasons being he couldn't spare the time away from his crop insurance business.

It is interesting to note, too, that McKnight, although a very nice man, is probably the least effective of any of the Uxbridge councillors.

"Can we justify a \$500 salary increase a few weeks after inauguration?" asked Councillor Sandy Ewen when the matter was first proposed.

The answer is unequivocally "No." Not only can't they - or any other council justify an increase, they can't even justify the term, "salary."

For many years the stipend received by those volunteering their services to the community, was known as an honorarium. In Whitchurch-Stouffville, at present, according to administrator Harold Caldwell, the new term is "remuneration."

Whatever it's called, it has but one function, and that is to say thank you to those who would donate their time and energy to the welfare of their communities. It is not meant to provide for their livelihood.

Last year, Caldwell prepared a guide, which showed the remuneration for Whitchurch-Stouffville Council - \$6,000 for councillors and \$10,000 for the mayor - to be comparable with other such communities. It made no recommendations for more.

Council plans to discuss the matter of a raise this week, despite the fact most of the new members can hardly find their seats by themselves, they will no doubt seek to add to their packet.

They have no more right to do so than members of Uxbridge Council, parliament, or the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Last week at a meeting of Uxbridge planning board, Councillor Ewen told John Ewen of the library board, he couldn't endorse his request for money for an addition.

"We don't have people knocking down our doors to say we need an addition to our library," Ewen said.

What a coincidence. I don't recall anyone breaking down the doors of the present council members in both Uxbridge and Whitchurch-Stouffville, begging them to run, either.

Let's just hope they all remember that when they're tempted to give themselves more take home pay.

Artist praised

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Apart from looking for the cat and mouse, I appreciate the ability of your paper's cartoonist, Pat Wheeler. Her work, each week, is in itself, worth the price of the subscription.

The drawing in the Dec. 31st issue (related to the Main Street fire), was the best I've yet seen; and this is saying something because all are excellent.

Through The Tribune, I wish to convey my congratulations. It was worth 3,000 words and then some.

Sincerely,
Kathy Mueller,
R.R.2, Stouffville



Harry Brillinger, well-known "man about town".

Harry Brillinger

He seldom misses daily walk downtown

STOUFFVILLE — The paintings on the wall are somewhat reminiscent of Lawren Harris, clear-cut, yet remote. They're in every room, as are the point-point pieces and other flowered works. The picture of the artist, the late Erla (Baker) Brillinger, is also prominently displayed, and Harry Brillinger, her husband, points to both with equal pride.

"I've had wonderful health," says Harry (admitting his age to being "somewhere

between 85 and 90, but who could pass for 65 or 70). "I don't know of anyone who's had a better life".

Harry resides in a comfortable two-bedroom apartment on Albert Street South. The location couldn't be better. He enjoys a daily stroll down to the Post Office to pick up his mail and talk to his many friends.

"I like people," he says.

Harry's walk is sprightly and his eyes are bright. He still reads without glasses.

Born the son of William Henry Brillinger, he had nine brothers and sisters. His father operated a sizeable expanse of greenhouses that he sold in 1913.

Harry and brother Walter took over the gardening end of the business and, under the name of Brillinger Bros., supplied northern municipalities with produce for many years. All was shipped by rail. Later, they became suppliers for Loblaws.

Following his retirement in 1942, Harry operated a grocery store for close friend, Donald "Dinty" Hodgins. Dinty was in the armed forces at the time. "I was sure glad when the war ended and he came home," he recalls.

How does he see Stouffville today?

"I'd like to see more manufacturing firms come in—I'd like to see the town grow," he replied. However, inflation and unemployment being what

they are, he's not anticipating any 'boom'.

As for himself, he still plans an occasional trip. He enjoys reading newspapers and magazines and visiting with his friends. He admits, though, that many have passed away. "My Christmas card list is down from 100 to 35," he says. But, from the looks and manner of Harry Brillinger, it's a certainty that he'll be sending out his own Christmas cards (and receiving them too), for many years to come.

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SPECIAL PRICES IN EFFECT WEDNESDAY JAN. 14 UNTIL CLOSING TUESDAY JAN. 20

Locust Hill man Charged with theft

LOCUST HILL — A 29 year old Locust Hill area man faces charges on three counts of theft over \$200; three counts of possession; and one count each of possession over \$200 and possession over \$200 and possession over \$200.

Michael Joseph Nitche was arrested Friday at his residence by York Regional Police and later turned over to the Durham Police.

According to investigating officers, a stolen driver's licence was used as identification to rent \$30,000 worth of mechanical and auto body equipment from firms in Oshawa and Lindsay.

The licence and one chain saw were recovered during a search of the suspect's home.

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