

Sanders within rights to counter recount

Dear Mr. Thomas: I have followed your coverage of the aftermath of the Municipal Elections in Ward Six with great interest and some concern. Your paper's opinion—and the opinion of numerous people—seems to be that (a) a recount of the ballots cast in Ward Six was unquestionably called for and (b) that Jim Sanders was somehow in moral error by challenging Ged Stonehouse's request for the recount.

There are several points which I think need to be clarified for both yourself and the people of Stouffville. The regulations by which any municipal

election is conducted are clearly set out in The Municipal Elections Act. That Act clearly states that the final ballot count of any election will be considered just that—final—unless some irregularity or suspicion of misconduct can be established with regard to the casting or counting of the votes. What this means is that a recount cannot be conducted just because the vote was close. Many people believe that a close vote justifies a recount, but the legal regulations specify that a recount will only take place (at considerable expense to both candidates involved and the taxpayers) if a judge can

be persuaded there was error—either deliberate or indeliberate—in the counting of the votes. A supporter of Mr. Stonehouse filed an affidavit charging that mistakes had been made by the District Returning Officers in the counting of the vote. When this affidavit was served on Mr. Sanders, he—not surprisingly—consulted a lawyer who advised him that if he believed the charges were incorrect, he should file an affidavit saying so. By responding to Mr. Stonehouse's request for a recount, Mr. Sanders was simply saying that he believed the charges of irregular

procedures on the night of the election were untrue. Had he not filed such an affidavit and remained silent, he would have been lending tacit agreement to the charges that Mr. Stonehouse had made, and he was not prepared to do that. Many people believe that if any electoral vote results in no more than a five or ten per cent difference between the winner and the loser, a recount should be automatic. If you believe this, then you should believe that the provisions of The Municipal Election Act must be changed to provide for such a recount. However, at present, the law clearly states that the person who wins a majority of the votes—even by a margin of a single vote—is the undisputed winner. Those are the rules of the game as it

is presently laid down in law. In light of all of the above, I think that it is unfair for anyone to charge Mr. Sanders with less than honorable conduct. Mr. Sanders acted in the best interest of all concerned knowing full well that in standing up for the election process he would be attacked by those who did not have a full understanding of the situation. Sincerely, Suzanne Wallis 35 O'Brien Avenue, Stouffville.

Film

The Inter-Christian Fellowship at S.S.D.S., is holding a Film Night this Friday (Dec. 10) to which the public are invited. The movie is entitled "Caged". Admission is \$1.50 adults; \$1.00 students.



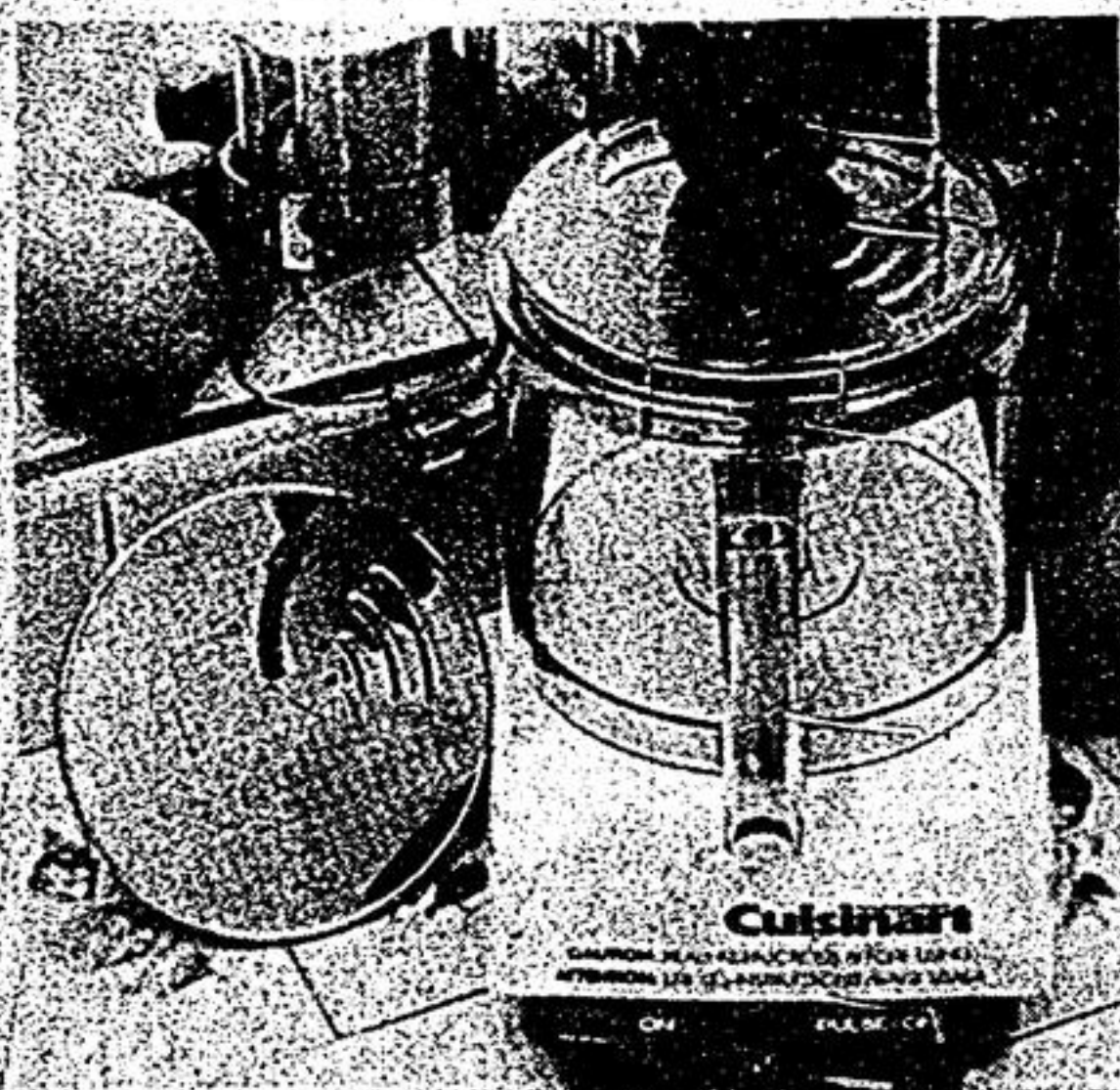
Former councillors honored by Town at Civic Recognition Banquet

Former councillors Bill Kamps (left) and Charles Warden (centre) were honored at a Civic Recognition Night dinner, Saturday, in the Ballantrae Community Centre. They were presented with framed Town crests by Mayor Eldred King. Mayor King praised both men and expressed the hope they might see fit to serve the municipality in other ways during 1983.

—Jim Thomas.

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Your 1982 Assessment Notice

Mailing Of Assessment Notices

A 1982 Assessment Notice for 1983 municipal and school taxes will be mailed on or before December 3rd to every property owner and tenant in the following municipalities:

TOWN OF MARKHAM
TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL
TOWN OF VAUGHAN

Two Information Inserts mailed with your Assessment Notice explain the appeal procedure and provide the timetable of Open Houses in your area.

Open House Sessions Will Answer Questions

Open House sessions have been planned at convenient times and locations in your municipality to afford you the opportunity to review your assessment with staff of the Regional Assessment Office.

Assessment staff will be pleased to explain the basis of your property assessment and are authorized to amend all data (school support, assessment, etc.) on your Notice.

Rolls Available For Review

The Assessment Roll will be available for review at your local municipal office during regular business hours, beginning December 22nd, 1982.

If You Wish To Appeal

If you believe you have been improperly assessed in any way,

you may file a formal complaint with the Assessment Review Board. The final date for filing an appeal is January 11th, 1983.

Information on appeal procedures is provided on the back of your Assessment Notice and in the Information Inserts.

Residential Properties Insulated With Urea Formaldehyde Foam

A residential property which has been insulated with Urea Formaldehyde Foam (U.F.F.) may qualify for a 35 per cent reduction to the residential building portion of the 1982 property assessment.

Those ratepayers whose residential properties are insulated with U.F.F. are urged to attend an Assessment Open House scheduled in their area or to contact the Regional Assessment Office to confirm their eligibility for this assessment reduction.

Ian W. McCung
Assessment Commissioner
York Regional Assessment Office
460 Oak St. - Newmarket, Ont. L3Y 3X6
Telephone 920-2372 (Toronto)
895-8644 (Newmarket)
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