

Critical of meeting 'crashers'

STOUFFVILLE — Elaine Fritz, Valley Road, R.R. 2, Stouffville, was one of about fifty people to attend a Culture and Recreation public meeting at the Ballantrae Community Centre, March 19. She came away totally disgusted with what she saw and heard.

In a letter to Council received April 10, Mrs. Fritz said she was buoyed by the fact so many people had turned up for a discussion she felt would deal with problems related to the Ballantrae Musselman's Lake communities.

"To my dismay, I discovered, after an hour of patiently waiting, that the meeting had been 'crashed' by an overwhelming majority of non-residents. These people, she said, should have attended the discussions held at Lemonville or Vandorf, due to the fact those communities provide their recreation services.

Their "rantings and ravings", she stated, dealt with issues far removed from the recreation concerns of the area where the meeting was held.

Mrs. Fritz said the gathering marked the first time in many years, the culture and recreation needs of the district were to be discussed. Because 'outsiders' took control, a valuable opportunity "was permitted to slip through our fingers," she said.

The writer pointed to the fact her community totals close to 1,000 people, yet there are few if any public parks where children can play. She expressed dismay at a report that the community hall on Hillsdale Drive had been 'turned over' to private ownership for a price of \$18,000. She suggested the Town look into the possibility of blocking the sale.

"How can we put right the shortcomings of this community if there's nowhere to get together as a community?" Mrs. Fritz said the Ballantrae meeting would have provided an excellent forum for an exchange of information. "I feel cheated," she said in that other issues were raised while local problems went unattended. She's asking for another opportunity to make these concerns known to Council without interruption from outside factions.

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Reject site chosen for Day Care

STOUFFVILLE — An application to re-establish the Chick-a-Dee Day Care Centre in a residential area on Sunset Boulevard, one of the most controversial issues to come before Town Planning Committee in months, has been turned down.

The request prompted so many contradictory opinions, it split the committee three in favor and three opposed. Mayor Eldred King broke the tie against it. At a public meeting, April 9, that taxed the accommodation of the Council chambers' solicitor Gordon

Ness urged compromise in dealing with the situation. He said residential areas are best for uses such as day care. "The neighborhood's fears may be unfounded," he suggested.

Nursery school operator Heather Preece of Uxbridge placed the current enrollment at thirty with an ever lengthening waiting list. She described the urgent need for additional day care facilities, not only in Whitchurch-Stouffville but all of York Region. "We're receiving two and three phone calls a day," she said.

Mrs. Preece discounted alleged parking problems, saying members of staff would utilize space now available at the nearby Anglican Church.

Her appeal was accorded strong support from several mothers. All praised the school's operation (now at the Anglican Church), and said Stouffville would be "losing out" should the school be removed.

Objections, however, were equally strong. Traffic, parking, noise, dust and infringement on residential privacy were all cited as reasons for refusal. "I didn't buy a home to accommodate a major parking lot in front," said one speaker. "We're residential, let's keep it this way," stated another.



Judy Barrett, Whitchurch-Stouffville's first full-time Animal Control Officer, is calling it quits. She cites internal friction as the main reason for her resignation. Her work over the past four years has been praised by residents in all areas of the town. She's agreed to stay on until a successor is named. — Jim Thomas

Animal officer calls it quits

STOUFFVILLE — Whitchurch-Stouffville's losing the services of its first full-time Animal Control Officer.

Judy Barrett has submitted her resignation but has agreed to carry on until a replacement is found. The 26-year-old Town employee, recognized for her artistic talents, plans to use these skills in sign-painting, working out of an office at Richmond Hill.

It will be four years in May that Judy, then employed by the Twp. of Georgina, applied for the position here, a move she doesn't regret.

"The people have been great," she said. Her mother, the Animal Control Officer in Uxbridge and Scugog, has kept a scrapbook of complimentary correspondence received by her daughter from appreciative pet-owners.

While depressed by inter-office friction, Judy says the fact she's been able to save many animals and later see them adopted, has been very satisfying. Often, when good places weren't available, she took them home. She jokingly describes her house as "a zoo."

Because some officers have no 'feeling' for animals, the image of the 'dog-catcher' has become tarnished over the years, she says.

Judy predicts major advancements in animal control including micro-chip implants that will identify a dog's owner regardless of where the pet is found.

She also envisions increased numbers of animal shelters, where strays can be accommodated and properly cared for. She feels Whitchurch-Stouffville requires such a facility.

Judy's critical of using proceeds from dog license sales to subsidize department costs, "any more than police issuing parking tags to reduce their expenses." She readily admits some

Speakers advance

STOUFFVILLE — Two area young people, both students of the Stouffville Christian School, have advanced to the District Finals in the Lions-sponsored Effective Speaking Program.

Tim Pugh, 16, of R.R. 4, Stouffville and Sherry Yeates, 15, of Goodwood placed first in their respective divisions at the Regionals in Aurora, April 3. They will represent Region A-16 at Windsor, May 4, 5 and 6. The Lion District Convention is being held there. Tim and Sherry will speak before a large assembly of Lion delegates.

Internal friction

STOUFFVILLE — Judy's disillusioned. The 26-year-old animal control officer is giving up this position with feelings of deep regret. "I just can't fake it any more," she said.

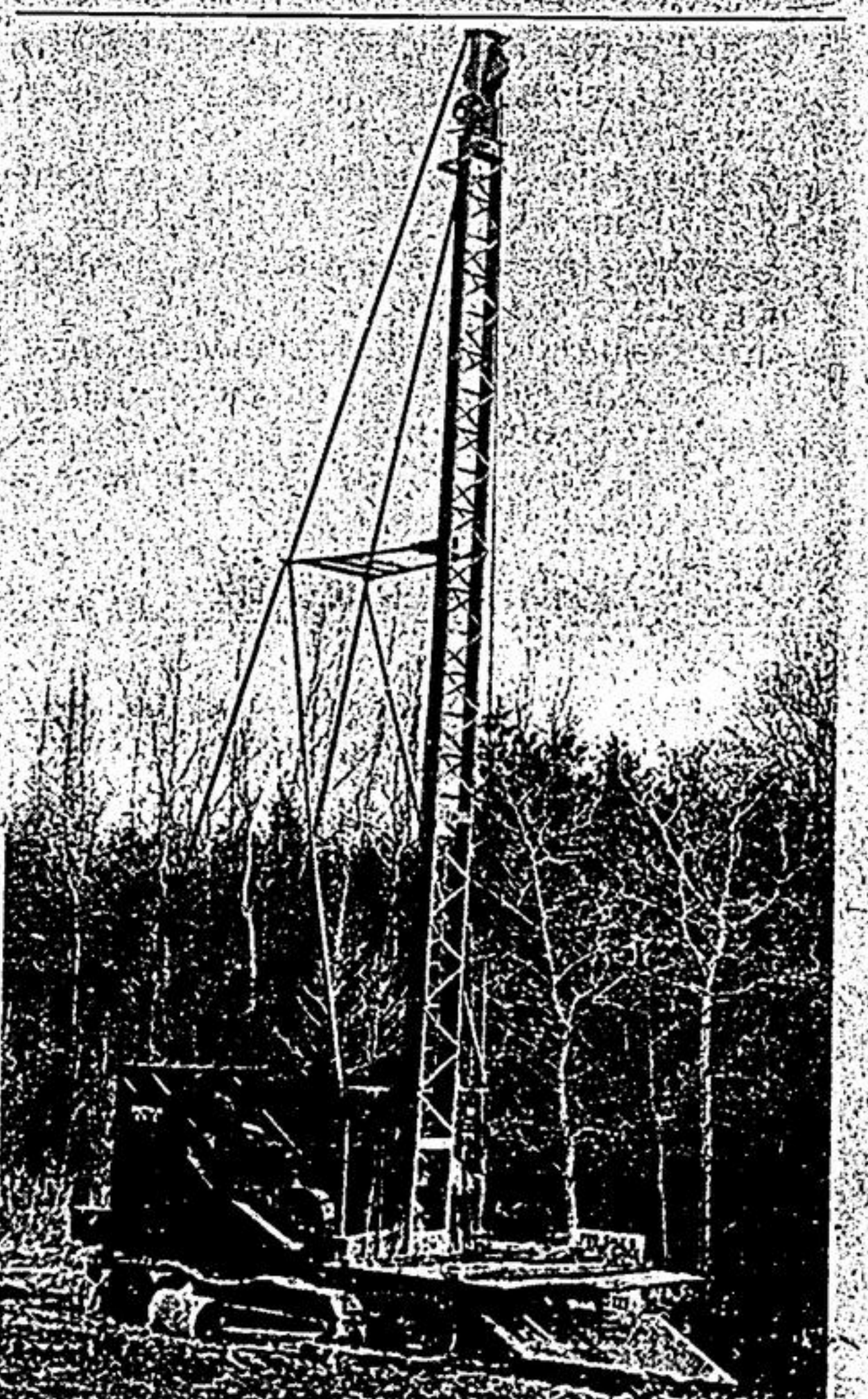
She attributes inter-office problems to a breakdown in communications. "It's time if all came out," she stated. She said that in nearly four years, she'd never been consulted on anything and had been asked to attend only one meeting.

She says some others in the Office are just as disillusioned as she. She feels animal control should be a department on its own.

Had the situation been corrected, she would have stayed, she said. "But not now—I want to get out."

Although unaware of individual complaints, Mayor Eldred King said the onus of responsibility lies with each Department Head. "I can't control people's personalities," he said.

With respect to on-job results, he said: "As far as I'm concerned, the work gets done in reasonably fine fashion."



With Ministry of Transport approval, a well-drilling operation is underway east of Hwy. 48 that, if successful, will provide much-needed water for Don Bird's Trout Pond, several hundred feet to the south. Mr. Bird says he needs the water if his business is to survive. — Jim Thomas

Save house

VIVIAN — Whitchurch-Stouffville \$112,000, pump-tanker purchased for the Fire Department in 1982, has helped save yet another house in the town's rural area.

The 3,000 gallon capacity vehicle, was dispatched to the scene of a blaze, early Tuesday morning, on Cherry Street near Vivian. While the district comes under the jurisdiction of the Mount Albert Fire Department, Chief George Green saw a need for additional water when he arrived at the site.

"The big truck was just what we needed," he told The Tribune.

The recently renovated home, owned by Robert Zappacosta, suffered an estimated \$30,000 damage. There was no one at the residence when the fire started. The owner has a second house in Toronto.

Very lucky lady

ISLAND LAKE — A Musselman's Lake mother of three describes herself as "very fortunate" following a narrow escape from her partially submerged car after it veered off the townline road and plummeted through the ice on Island Lake.

Mrs. Paquin still has no idea what caused the car to swing in that direction. She wasn't speeding, she said, and a tire didn't blow.

The auto snapped off three guide posts and went either under or over the wires, she's not sure.

Fortunately, one window was down slightly and this made the opening of the door much easier. She has no recollection of the cold,

Krista Paquin, Balsam Road, R.R. 2, Stouffville, was able to open the driver's door and swim to safety.

Even though the lake's surface was still covered with ice.

"Like a woman, all I thought about was hanging on to my purse," she laughed later in recounting the experience. The car, she said, sank quickly.

Eighteen-year-old John Paterson, an Island Lake resident, saw the accident and ran quickly to Mrs. Paquin's aid. He grabbed her hand, helped to the road, and accompanied her to his parents' home where dry clothing was made available. Mrs. Paquin described her helper as "absolutely wonderful."

She was thankful, she said, none of her three children was in the vehicle.

mission from the Ministry of Transport and Communications to drill a well north of his property and pipe the water to the site. The cost, if successful, is estimated at \$20,000; five thousand dollars if it isn't.

Since drilling operations started, complaints have occurred. Several neighbors fear their wells may be adversely affected. One complainant said the drill boom was too close to the hydro line and this cost \$750 to rectify. (The boom was moved six inches).

Mr. Bird says he's aware of residents' concerns and is

doing everything possible to protect their interests. He's even called in officials of the Ministry of the Environment to check on well water levels in the area.

"People here," he said, "get very upset every time they see a well-drilling rig."

Don Bird said he wants to stay in business and perhaps some day establish a hatchery on his property. To do this, an additional water supply is essential. However, he has no intentions of jeopardizing others' water services; in meeting his own requirements, he concluded,

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— Jim Thomas

Guarded water

WHITCHURCH — Don Bird's trout ponds, east side of Hwy. 48, north of Ringwood, provide outdoor recreation for hundreds of rod and reel artists every spring, summer and fall.

The business cannot survive, however, without cold, fresh water—about 300 gallons a minute. Unless replenished, the ponds warm up and the fish won't bite. Catches, once close to 30,000 a year, are now down to 15,000 because of this problem. Many visitors have received their money back.

To correct this, Mr. Bird applied to and received per-

Auctioneer in action
Terri's House of Auctions, operated by Terri Surman, opened officially April 5 with a large crowd in attendance. The location is the rear of The Steerburger Restaurant, 394 Main Street West, Stouffville. The next sale is Wednesday, (tonight) at 6:30 p.m. — Jim Thomas