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## Ratepayer disputes former councillor's 'pork barrel' remark

To the Editor:  
On the matter of Political Porkbarrelling.

Dear Sir:  
In the Feb. 12 issue of the Uxbridge Times Journal a letter was printed accusing Councillor (Cal) Avery of "porkbarrelling." This was mildly amusing until his spurious mention of my name and intimation of irregularities in the appointment of myself to the Township Committee of Adjustment and signed by one Sandy Ewen, "retired councillor."

Mr. Ewen makes mention of my lack of political ambition in the past and infers that my appointment to the above mentioned committee was of a tainted nature coupled with my association with Councillor Avery.

I am surprised that as a bank employee, he did not research his subject before putting pen to paper.

About 12 years ago, soon after moving to Goodwood, I ran against the then Deputy Reeve, Councillor (Don) Jackson, for his position on the township council. Shortly after that I was appointed President and Chairman of a large North American organization and because of the great demand on my time, my political aspirations had to be curtailed.

I retired in June 1985 and looked forward to pursuing my many horticultural interests which also had been put on the back burner for the same reasons.

Some time in September of 1985, I was approached by Mr. Avery, who at that time was a total stranger, to solicit my family's vote in the upcoming election. His presentation impressed both my wife and myself, not only for his obviously genuine enthusiasm, but that his political plank was so similar to mine years ago. I invited him to display one of his signs on my property, as I did for Councillor Jackson.

Incidentally, Messrs. Avery and Jackson were the only two candidates in Ward 1 to take time to visit my house and solicit my vote. I would be conceited to even think that I was Mr. Avery's number two supporter, let alone number one; so inferred by Mr. Ewen, as by the time he visited me, he had already organized two campaign managers and their respective committees. Never once was I approached to join their team.

My friendship with Mr. Avery

started the first day we met, when he, like all good politicians remarked on the obvious abundance of first-class vegetables I had growing in my garden. This gave me opportunity to boast of my mammoth pumpkin and to my surprise, he too was growing a similar pumpkin. The result of that mutual interest is now history as it received ample coverage in both the papers and on the radio.

My name was placed in nomination for the committee in the manner stipulated in the Township notice displayed in the local newspapers for about two weeks. I felt my 25 years experience in the construction industry could well be put to good use on the only committee which dealt largely with the location of buildings on properties.

I did not accompany Mr. Avery on election night to the council chambers to watch the results come in as stated by Mr. Ewen. My appearance was purely coincidental as I had been at night school from 7 to 9 p.m. that evening. Out of curiosity I decided to go over to the Council office and see how the Ward 1 candidates were faring. After the results had come in I was invited by both the successful Ward 1 candidates to attend their victory celebrations, which I did briefly before going home.

Because of Mr. Ewen's letter, I have been to the township office and have obtained copies of the relevant council meetings pertaining to the appointments to the subject committee. I found that on Jan. 9, 1986, council met to consider applicants for the then five-man committee and noted that the five-man committee was duly proposed and voted on. My name was among the successful five applicants.

Then, contrary to any rules of order governing official meetings, the Mayor (Gerri Lynn O'Connor) entertained an amendment to a motion by Councillor Jackson which had already been passed. This "unparliamentary motion" to appoint Mr. Ewen to the committee was unnecessarily voted on and turned down.

I have a copy of the "Special Meeting" called by the Mayor, dated Jan. 13, 1986 where under item 3 - "Additional appointments to boards and committees," Messrs. (Barry) Bushell and (Harry) Worsley moved and

seconded a motion that Mr. Ewen and Mr. (Grant) Hill (who was already on the Property Standards Committee) both be appointed to the Committee of Adjustment despite the fact that Mr. Ewen had already been TURNED DOWN at the Jan. 9 meeting; at which, I don't believe, he had tendered the required written application for the position.

It appears to me that this motion was just as invalid as the ridiculous "amendment" proposed at the Jan. 9 council meeting by Councillor Jackson. This motion passed with a six to one majority.

It would also appear to me that this motion was also out of order as it seems that in order to cover their mistake again, another meeting was convened on Jan. 23, 1986 to cover up the most recent and equally stupid blunder.

At that meeting it was moved by Councillor Bushell and seconded by Councillor Austin. "That leave be granted to introduce a by-law to appoint township officials for the year 1988 and until their successors are appointed." What ever that disjointed conglomeration of words are supposed to mean.

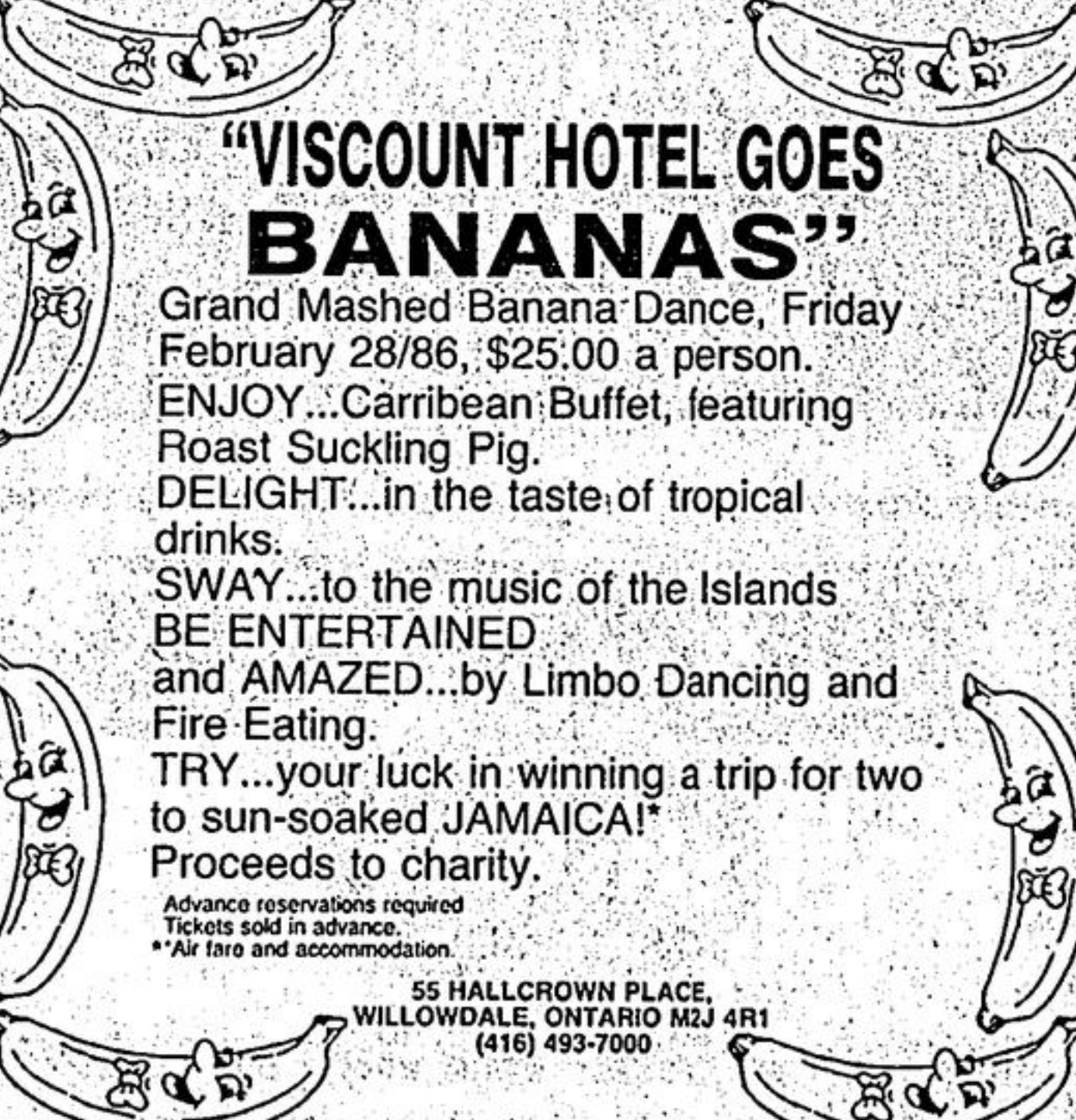
Naturally the motion was approved by the same six to one majority who had prematurely passed a motion to elect Mr. Ewen.

How strange that as soon as the motion was voted on, By-law 86-6 was produced and entertained by the Mayor and a quick first, second and third reading was successfully proposed and passed once more opposed by Councillor Avery.

By-law 86-6 made official the appointment of the various committees necessary to run the township and guess whose name headed the list of the Committee of Adjustment? Why, of course Mr. Ewen!

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I would like to remind Mr. Ewen that people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones and finally I would like to pose to him the question: "Sir, whose pork barrel did you grease in order to finally get your committee appointment?"

Yours truly,  
S. Gilbert Cragg,  
Box 6, Goodwood  
Properly elected  
member of the  
Committee of Adjustment



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