

# Weekender

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## Closer to sewage solution



There's just once chance left to see Stouffville District High School's Variety Show '86, which concludes tonight at the high school. In the foreground, magicians Sharon Moyer (left front) and Jill Keith, make Spanky (Jason Stronach) appear from a box. Watching the proceedings are (front row, left to right) Cathy Davis, Lee Carney and Kathy Goldman; and (back row, left to right), Stephanie Lintner, Simon Gallop, Lisa Fockler, Charmaine Lintner, Stephen Barclay, Annika Hannan, Kary White and Tyler Townend.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council has made a move towards solving its limited sewage capacity problem.

By a 5-1 recorded vote, members indicated 'interest' in hooking up to the York-Durham sewage system, better known as 'The Big Pipe'.

The line extends from Newmarket through to Lake Ontario, serving Aurora, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham.

The deadline for making application was Thursday. Councillor Jim Sanders was the lone dissenting voice.

Because the present sewage plant can accommodate up to 10,400 people, no immediate application is planned. However, Council has served notice on the Region that "in the future planning of Whitchurch-Stouffville, we'll probably need it."

Mayor Fran Sainsbury told The Tribune that, should this occur, "it will sound the death knell of

Stouffville as the kind of community we now know." She was quick to point out, however, that without development comes stagnation and unacceptable tax escalation.

Construction of a pipe, extending from Stouffville to a point midway between Hwy. 7 and 14th Avenue, Markham, could take up to seven years, Mayor Sainsbury said, and cost, (at today's prices), seven million dollars.

A project of such magnitude would have to be heavily subsidized by developers, she explained.

Mayor Sainsbury predicted nothing this major would occur during Council's present three-year term. She said the Council of 1988 to 1991 could, in all likelihood, be called on to make this decision.

With respect to growth projections over the next several years, a two-day study session is scheduled for March 20 and 21 at a location still to be determined.

### Father convicted

The father of two young boys who perished in a 1984 fire near Uxbridge has been convicted of criminal negligence in their deaths.

In his decision Wednesday, Whitby District Court Judge John Hoolihan said John Arthur Begin failed in "his duty as a parent" to try and rescue the children.

Jeffrey Daniel Begin, six, and his three-year-old brother Michael died of smoke inhalation in a blaze at the family's Epsom farmhouse early on the morning of Jan. 29, 1984.

Begin, 45, has been released on \$1,500 bail pending a pre-sentencing report March 21.

He had pleaded not guilty to two charges of criminal negligence causing death.

"This is a case of human tragedy, for the innocent children who died, for the bereaved mother and for the accused man who suffers from the illness or sickness of alcoholism," the judge said in a harshly worded judgment.

Court was earlier told that the accused man had consumed large quantities of alcohol the evening of the fire.

Judge Hoolihan determined that even though Begin had been drinking heavily, he should have made an effort to get his sons out of the burning two-storey structure.

And he said the father "contributed materially" to the boys' death by starting the blaze.

Testimony established that Begin turned a kitchen stove element to its highest setting, then passed out on the floor, leaving the burner unattended.

The Ontario Fire Marshall's Office ruled the kitchen cupboards caught fire after an element was left to overheat.

Instead of attempting to go upstairs and save his sons, court heard evidence that Begin crashed through a window and took refuge in a neighboring house.

Leaving the stove on didn't amount to criminal negligence, according to Judge Hoolihan, but Begin's failure to give the Scugog Volunteer Fire Department the correct address did.

"It was an act of criminal negligence particularly when you're right in your own home; almost inconceivable," he told Begin, who showed no emotion throughout the lengthy judgment.

Firefighters from Scugog and Uxbridge Townships testified during the trial that precious minutes were lost when an incorrect address was provided before the Epsom location was determined.

When they arrived on the scene, Uxbridge firefighters discovered the two boys.

Begin and former wife Darlene Christie were divorced after the fire and he has since moved to Oshawa. The dead boys' mother was in court for the verdict.

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