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Shake-up in Recreation Dept. leave of absence for manager

STOUFFVILLE — A surprise shake-up has occurred within the Parks and Recreation Department, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

George Schlukbier, the Department Manager, has asked for and received a leave of absence, (without pay), from his contract to "approximately" Oct. 15, 1986.

In the meantime, Council will "continue to investigate where his talents may be used on behalf of the Town".

The sudden turn of events was revealed at a meeting of Council,

April 1, but the wording of the recommendation was not made public until Friday. It was at this time that The Tribune contacted the Town's Chief Administrative Officer, Ed Lundman to find out what exactly had transpired.

Mr. Schlukbier, it was learned, had relinquished his position of Parks and Recreation Manager, (until Oct. 15), but would carry on as the Town's Chief Librarian and Manager of the Museum.

In the meantime, Marlane McKee-Wetheral has been elevated to the post of Chief Adminis-

trative Officer for all Recreation Services and Programs.

Don (Joe) Lewis will be directly responsible for Arena Operations and establishing Parks and Facilities Services. These are basically the same positions they held before.

According to a memorandum from Mr. Lundman, Mr. Schlukbier is to turn over all files to Mrs. McKee-Wetheral and Joe Lewis, plus other information and working papers in his possession "as soon as possible".

Said Mr. Lundman: "I am sure

we can count on all department heads and staff to assist in an orderly transition."

Mr. Schlukbier, noticeably shaken, declined comment when initially questioned on the matter. Later, when pressed for an explanation, he said he wished only to apologize for any events "that won't be happening, (at the Rec. Centre), this summer."

"I can't fit into the Town's bureaucratic system," Mr. Schlukbier said, "the Library, the Gallery and the Museum weren't built up this way." He charged he was continually being "buried under paper work", leaving him little time for organization.

"Whitchurch-Stouffville is still small town," he stated. "We should never lose sight of this fact." He said he'd gladly return to his former position but under the present arrangement, "it's a no-win situation."

"The strength of this Town is its people," he continued.

Mr. Schlukbier said he had some excellent programs planned for the new Rec. Centre this summer including "teen dances, roller-skating, shinny-ball hockey, concerts, antique shows and wrest-

ling.

He denied any thought of leaving the community.

Although holding down three positions, Mr. Schlukbier said it was the frustration and not the pressure of the Recreation Manager's post that prompted his decision. "I never really knew what the Council or the Chief Administrative Officer wanted me to do."

"How could I deliver to the community when I didn't have the support of my committee?" he asked.

He said he concluded it best to "walk away and let the Town develop its own system."

Mr. Lundman said Mr. Schlukbier had not been asked to give up the Recreation Manager's post. "It was his request," he said. He denied any problems had been created that couldn't be resolved.

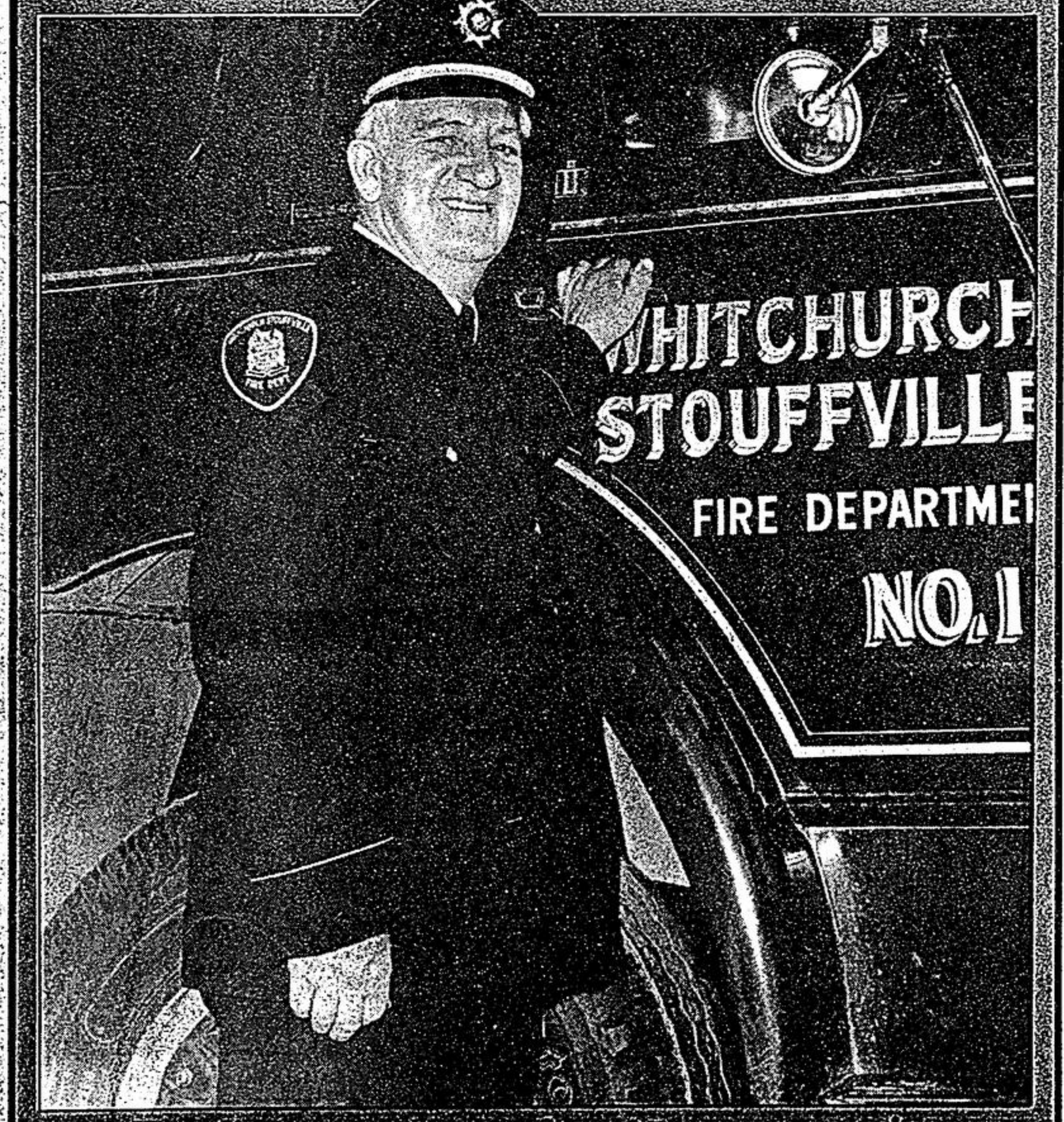
One member of Council told The Tribune confusion had occurred at the April 1 meeting when a motion was put through but the content of the motion was never read. It said simply: "Resolved that Items 1 and 2 of the Fourth Personnel Committee Report be adopted." Missing, the councillor said, were the following points:

(1) That George Schlukbier be granted a leave of absence without pay from his contract to approximately Oct. 15, 1986, and that the Town continue to investigate where his talents may be used on behalf of the Town.

(2) That George Schlukbier be paid on the basis of the contract from Dec. 1, 1985 to April 15, 1986. "If that can slip through, it makes one wonder how many other things can slip through in the same way," the councillor concluded.



GEO. SCHLUKBIER



Firefighter retires after 25 years service

The arrival of a new fire truck marks the end of a 25-year career for Gordon Ratcliff, a firefighter with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department. Although he will continue to work as a volunteer, Ratcliff will continue his membership in the association.

—Jim Thomas

Town places limit on adult attractions

STOUFFVILLE — Town Council can't stop an adult entertainment parlor from opening in Whitchurch-Stouffville, but it can limit their numbers and make the required licence seem unattractive to would-be proprietors.

Reacting to the on-going legal battle in Markham, where the Town there is trying to close down Studio 134, (a strip club), Council here has asked Chief Building Official Bruce Arrowsmith to review the bylaw regulating such establishments.

In a report to the Protection to Persons and Property Committee, at its last meeting, April 1, Mr. Arrowsmith said the 1979 Adult Entertainment Parlor Licensing Bylaw is sufficient to deter the establishment of any place offering services that appeal to erotic or sexual appetites or inclinations.

In a subsequent interview, Mr. Arrowsmith told The Tribune, "This bylaw is designed to regulate this type of business." "It can't be prohibitive so the Town, (with Eldred King as mayor), passed a regulative bylaw."

Whitchurch-Stouffville can limit the number of strip clubs, body-rub parlors and the like to only one. The document also makes the business non-transferable; establishes allowable times of operation; limits the sign size and wording; outlaws advertising by any means; bans locking devices on doors to cubicles and rooms; and can be revoked at any time if council feels

doing so is in the best public interest. No reason is required.

Mr. Arrowsmith said, regarding this bylaw, "what may be usable today may not be tomorrow." Judgements are coming down daily, concerning the (Federal) Charter of Rights.

With a zoning bylaw, Council

can also restrict these types of places to industrial areas. "The zoning bylaw is in the final draft stage and will hopefully be in place within the year," he said.

So far, no one has applied for an Adult Entertainment Parlor Licence here, Mr. Arrowsmith concluded.

Band to U.S.A.

STOUFFVILLE — For eighty Sr. Band and Choir members of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, May 10 to 13 will be a highlight of their year.

The students, accompanied by Band Director Peter Samuelson and Choir Director Jim Rehill, will travel via two deluxe air-conditioned motor coaches to Florence, Kentucky, (ten miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio where they will be guests of staff and students at Boone County High School, Florence.

The distance, one-way, is just over 500 miles.

The vocal and instrumental groups will leave from Stouffville at 10 p.m., May 10 and travel throughout the night. This will enable the students to attend church services the following Sunday morning, Mr. Samuelson said. They will return Thursday evening, May 13.

The exchange will include a visit by the Boone County High School Band and Choir to Stouffville May 2 to May 4.

The two bands will combine on three pieces, Mr. Samuelson explained, with numbers totalling more than 125 members.

The cost per Stouffville student has been placed at ninety dollars. The band president this year is Geoff Tiller. President of the choir is Heidi Hirsch.

Speedway hits snag

STOUFFVILLE — The developer of a \$7 million motor speedway complex may steer clear of Whitchurch-Stouffville after an initial proposal met heavy opposition.

A group of racing entrepreneurs, calling themselves Stouffville Motor Speedway (SMS Developments), hoped to build the facility in a depleted gravel pit on the south-east corner of Bloomington Road and Hwy. 48.

But members of the Town's planning advisory committee have voiced concerns over potential water and noise pollution and traffic congestion at that site.

At a meeting April 1, Mayor Fran Sainsbury said she feels the Bloomington Road location is not suitable due largely to its close proximity to the town's water supply.

SMS Developments' vice-president operations, Gordon Hooper, later acknowledged the committee's concerns and said the company is seeking a new location somewhere in York Region.

"We want to meet all the requirements of Council," Mr. Hooper told The Tribune. He added it's possible the project

may be moved to another area within Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Mr. Hooper said no application would be submitted for the Roberts Pit property (Part Lot 10, Conc. 8).

An estimated 150 spectators, many ratepayers neighboring the now-shelved speedway site, packed Council Chambers to hear the proposal.

The Thornhill-based group wants to build a half-mile paved oval with seating capacity for 10,000 people. The complex would also include a drag strip and off-road course plus a 90-unit Speedway Industrial Park.

Arrest

STOUFFVILLE — The management of Greenpark Homes Ltd., in Stouffville are undoubtedly breathing a little easier this week with the reported arrest of a 15-year-old youth charged with mischief.

During the past month, damage estimated at several thousand dollars was caused to residences east of Millard Street. Windows and glass door panels were shattered by B.B. pellets.

The lad was arrested last week at his home and will appear in Juvenile Court, April 28.



House burns while owner absent

No one was home Saturday night when fire raced through the farm home of Ernie Mackey, south of St. John's Sideroad and west of the 5th Concession, (Warden Avenue), Whitchurch-Stouffville. Brigade units from Aurora, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville poured over 16,000 gallons of water into the inferno without success. Damage has been estimated at \$65,000.

—Jim Thomas



Gordon Ratcliff, (left), former mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, confronts Gordon Hooper of Markham following Hooper's announced plans to construct a motor speedway at a vacant gravel pit site on the south side of the Bloomington Road, east of Hwy. 48. The project met strong opposition.

—Chris Shanahan

Farmer badly hurt

UXBRIDGE TWP. — A 66-year-old farmer, Zephyrman, was seriously injured in a farm accident Sunday.

The accident occurred while working in the field of a farm.

He was taken to the hospital and is expected to remain there for several days.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation.