

Weekender

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Mail box mess upsets Council

Canada Post Corporation has been criticized for allegedly creating a muddy eyesore in Stouffville's urban area.

At Tuesday's Council meeting, Jim Sanders of Ward 6 voiced his concern about the piles of earth surrounding new Community Mail Boxes installed this winter.

And he's anxious for postal officials to begin cleaning up the various sites.

"I can't understand why Canada Post doesn't get on it and do a little bit of decent public relations," Councillor Sanders said.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury has been informed the corporation's clean-up is scheduled to begin April 14 in conjunction with the works department's spring street-cleaning effort. Removal of the earth is expected to be completed within four days.

But Mr. Sanders said the corporation's overall track record leads him to doubt if and when the mounds of dirt will be cleared.

He claimed corporate management is to blame in this instance, not the local postal workers.

Several councillors noted they've received letters from ratepayers concerned about the mess.

CHARGE

Councillor Sanders wanted to send a letter to Canada Post officials placing a time limit on the work. He suggested that it's not complete by April 18, the Town should finish the job and charge Canada Post "for the mess they made."

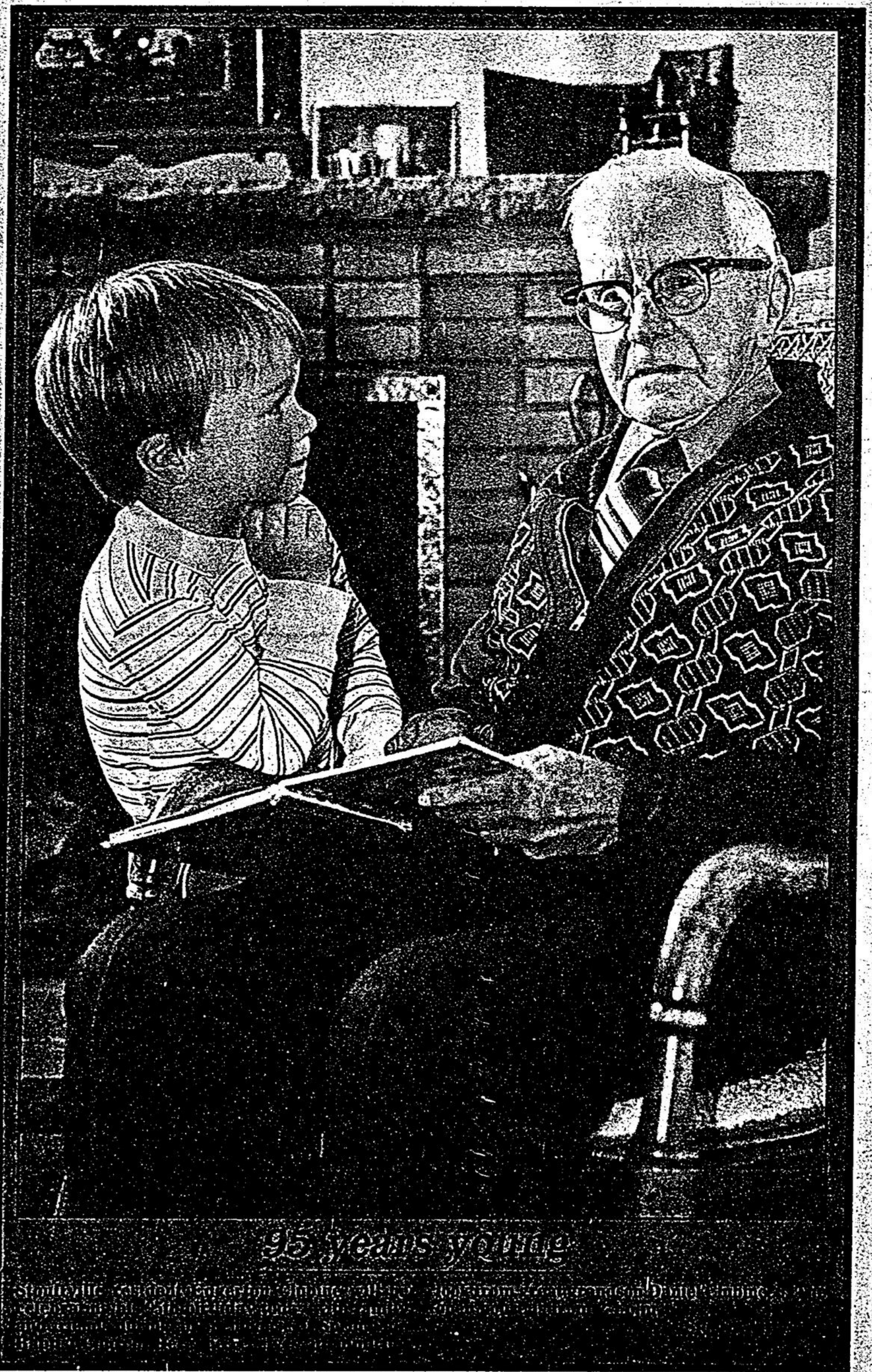
His motion to that effect was later voted down by Council.

Mayor Sainsbury jokingly suggested such a letter should be sent by courier to avoid any mailing delays.

Ward 5's Wilf Morley said he couldn't support Mr. Sanders's motion because inclement weather could still interfere with a definite completion deadline.

Ward 1 representative Margot Marshall questioned the planning sense of the installation schedule. And she claimed the funds allocated for the steel and aluminum units would've been better spent for research on how to increase efficiency within the postal service.

Council members finally decided to forward a list of ratepayer complaints to Canada Post authorities.



95 years young

Stouffville resident, Carleton Place, Ont., will be 95 years old on Monday, April 14. He is the oldest person in the town. He is a former mayor of Carleton Place and has lived in Stouffville for 15 years.

Regional tax increase \$5.72

The average Whitchurch-Stouffville ratepayer will pay an extra \$5.72 following approval of York Region's 1986 budget. Thursday. This figure is based on a home assessed at \$23,000.

A 14 per cent levy increase over 1985 has been cushioned by an assessment increase of 9.3 per cent (on new homes and businesses). This leaves 4.7 per cent to be raised by Regional taxation, close to the current rate of inflation.

The Regional tax hike precedes an anticipated municipal increase to be announced by Town Council in May. Still also to come are the public and separate school board budgets that make up over 70 per cent of the total tax bill.

Key expenditures in the 1986 Regional budget are \$24.6 million for the York Regional Police Department and \$9.8 million for the Regional Engineering Department.

York Regional Police Chief Donald Hillock said the Commission approved the hiring of an additional 30 constables this year.

"We need an acceptable level of police/population ratio," the Chief said. "Ideally, we require one police constable per 700 people."

The current ratio is one policeman/police woman for every 810 residents, based on an August 1985 census.

Other provisions Treasurer John Hlynski has included in the 1986 budget are funds for two additional Regional Council members this year; five per cent salary increases for Council members; and \$100,000 for an emergency 911 consultant.

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