

Markham Council in brief

Town seeks \$3 million for roads and bridges

Markham council voted Tuesday to seek more than \$3 million in interim payment from the province for roads and bridge construction done this year.

The town is eligible for the payment under the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act for work done between January and September.

According to figures calculated by the town, it spent \$490,000 on roads construction and \$2.4 million on maintenance. Almost \$200,000 was spent on bridge construction and maintenance.

Library given extra money

A successful plea by Markham Chief Librarian Judy Hare Tuesday

resulted in an additional \$575,000 being awarded for the Thornhill Library expansion project.

Council voted to provide the relief funding for renovations and a building addition at the library after little discussion.

"It's very clear to us that there are a good number of problems in the building that won't go away unless renovated," she told council.

The project includes a 9,400 sq. ft. expansion and extensive renovations for the existing building.

Resignation is submitted

A member of Markham's En-

vironmental Awards committee resigned officially Tuesday from his post.

William Mathison, Chief Executive Officer of Toronto's Harrisons and Crosfield, had his resignation approved by council with regrets at the meeting.

The committee awards local businesses for attractive building designs and upkeep in the community.

Mr. Mathison would have held his post until April, 1988.

Dance school back in swing

Dance teacher Sylvia Heavener was officially allowed back into her Bullock Dr. dance studio Tuesday by Markham council.

Council passed two motions to allow her legal occupancy after she was evicted by owner Dominic Reali last month for infraction of a zoning bylaw.

One vote issued a "letter of tolerance," which allows her back in for 120 days while the other put into motion the bylaw amendment process needed to allow her permanent occupancy.

She is expected to be in permanently early next year.

Customs at local airport

Markham council Tuesday endorsed a request from Buttonville Airport operator Toronto Airways for on-site customs and bonded warehouse privileges.

The request, from Toronto Airways Chief Executive Officer Richard Rohmer, came on the heels of a similar request to National Revenue Minister Elmer MacKay.

"This certainly is going to be something very badly needed for the business and local community," said Councillor Gord London.

24-hour ambulance is still in the works

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville is continuing to investigate the possibility of extending its ambulance service around-the-clock.

The town's protection to persons and property committee recently received correspondence from Byran Clarke of the Ministry of Health's ambulance services branch.

The letter, responding to an earlier Town inquiry as to whether the local ambulance service would come up for tender, stated that it will remain under private operation until "a new method for contracting of ambulance services" is evaluated.

The combined Stouffville-Uxbridge unit is funded by the health ministry but is presently run by Whitby Ambulance Service.

Committee chairman Ron Robb said at a meeting Tuesday that he favors a call-back (or standby) system that would see Stouffville's present 16-hour service extended to cover the period between midnight and 8 a.m.

When Stouffville ambulance workers go off duty at midnight, local emergency calls are co-

vered by other area services until 8 a.m.

But Mr. Robb said he'd like to see the town's own ambulance personnel man the station through the night or at least be available on-call.

"I just believe that Stouffville is growing at such a rate that we have to seriously look at it," explained councillor Robb, who is

employed as a full-time firefighter. "It seems to me the really serious calls are between midnight and 8 a.m."

Chief Brown explained that if a Markham-based ambulance isn't available to respond to an early morning call here, an emergency vehicle may have to travel all the way in from Metro.

Provincial shoe doesn't fit: Town

Provincial equal pay for work of equal value legislation won't work in Ontario municipalities, says the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

And in response to its position, Markham Council Tuesday joined other Ontario towns in petitioning the provincial government for separate pay equity legislation in municipalities.

According to the AMO, the proposed legislation is designed with provincial public service employees in mind and is off base in including municipalities.

Regional Councillor Bud Bonner agrees and says he "doesn't think it's a concern," because Markham already meets proposed provincial guidelines under union agreements with its employees.

Most Town of Markham employees are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and are already bound to specific wage brackets under its collective agreement, Councillor Bonner said.

He added that wages are paid for specific jobs in the town despite the gender of the employee.

"Our position is already stated in the fact that we signed



Bud Bonner, Markham Councillor (union) agreements," said Councillor Bonner Wednesday. Under the proposed legislation, municipalities, school boards, hospitals, universities and colleges would be included.

A brief submitted to council by the AMO states that "bill 105 was tailored to fit the needs and structure of the provincial public service and not other groups."

No conflict, here!

Whitchurch-Stouffville's recent discussion about conflict-of-interest insurance coverage wasn't all serious business.

When the matter came up at a Council meeting Tuesday, Ward 5's Wilf Morley jokingly said he just assumed he'd receive a financial helping hand if he were to encounter problems over an alleged conflict.

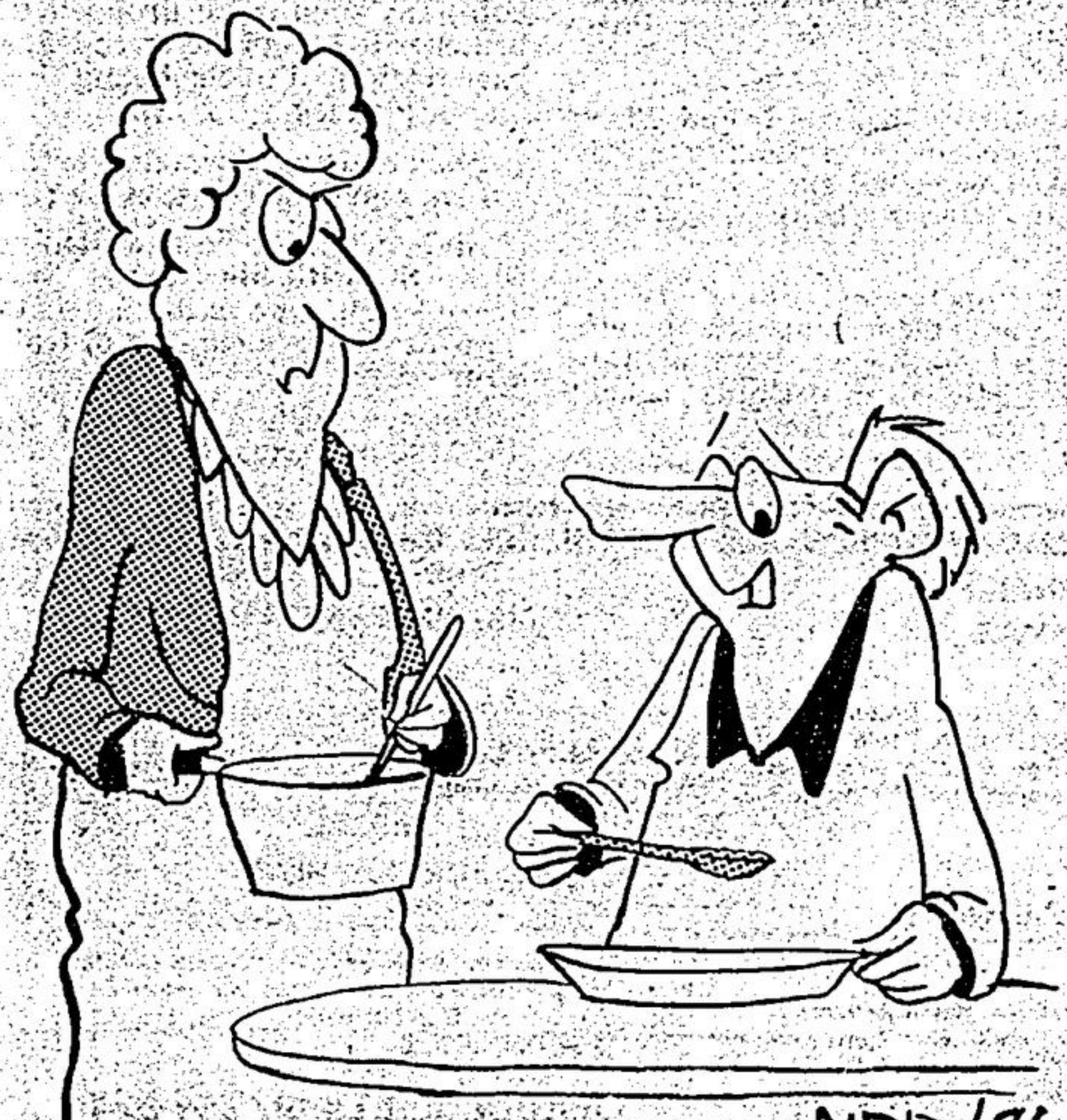
"That seems to be apropos, today," he chuckled in obvious reference to the legal aid offered

former industry minister Sinclair Stevens.

Mr. Stevens' former cabinet colleagues have decided to provide up to \$350,000 in tax dollars to assist with expenses accumulated during a lengthy inquiry into conflict-of-interest allegations against the York-Peel MP.

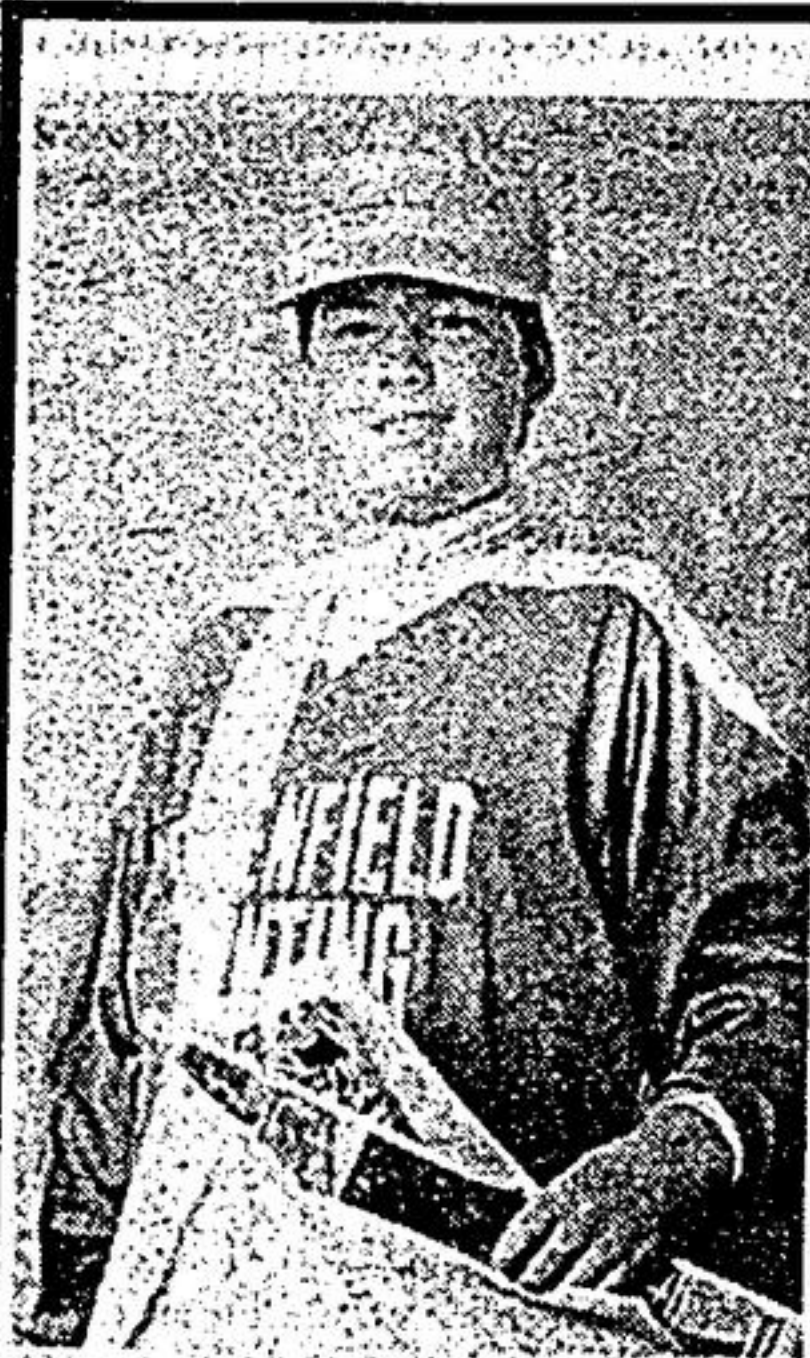
Whitchurch-Stouffville Council okayed a Oct. 28 finance and administration committee report budgeting \$50,000 conflict-of-interest insurance for each councillor.

Ed and Claudette



"Looks great! What I don't finish tonight, I'll use to paint the porch tomorrow."

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