

Weekender

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Pigeon racing club cries foul

Object to Stouffville's prohibitive zoning bylaw

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

Karl Winterstein wants to make sure the Stouffville Racing Pigeon Club doesn't run afoul of the law.

The club vice-president and long-time pigeon-racing enthusiast appeared before Whitchurch-Stouffville's planning advisory committee Tuesday to request an amendment of a prohibitive zoning bylaw relating to pigeons.

His 18-strong group, affiliated with the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union, wants exemption from the existing bylaw because it claims to be a bona fide organization predicated on pigeon control.

"There is no problem yet but we can see it in the offing," Mr. Winterstein said of the existing anti-pigeon bylaw, noting that the club was acting in advance of possible future complaints.

The 66-year-old Claremont-area man referred to pigeon racing as a "world-class sport" and was quick to distinguish between these birds and the more common, wild pigeons that often create problems.

"The uniformed difference between the wild street pigeons and our thoroughbred racing pigeons is usually at the root of past problems. With an understanding of this difference, councils have little difficulty understanding our position," he stated in an accompanying letter to the Town. "We are but a small part of a world-class sport, which is practiced by more than 2 million fanciers in urban areas of the western world... Our racing pigeons are both veterans and heroes in past patriotism and conflict. We are still at this moment a reserve communication force, ready if needed. We received a federal charter in

1929 in recognition of our service."

Mr. Winterstein also claimed the Stouffville club is willing to help the municipality control its unwanted wild pigeons, especially those that have over-run the roof of the Town's municipal building.

"We are committed to assist the Town in the control of the nuisance of wild pigeons or any pigeon-related problem," he said. "I would be willing to work with the Bylaw Enforcement Officer (Bruce Arrowsmith) relating to any pigeon problem."

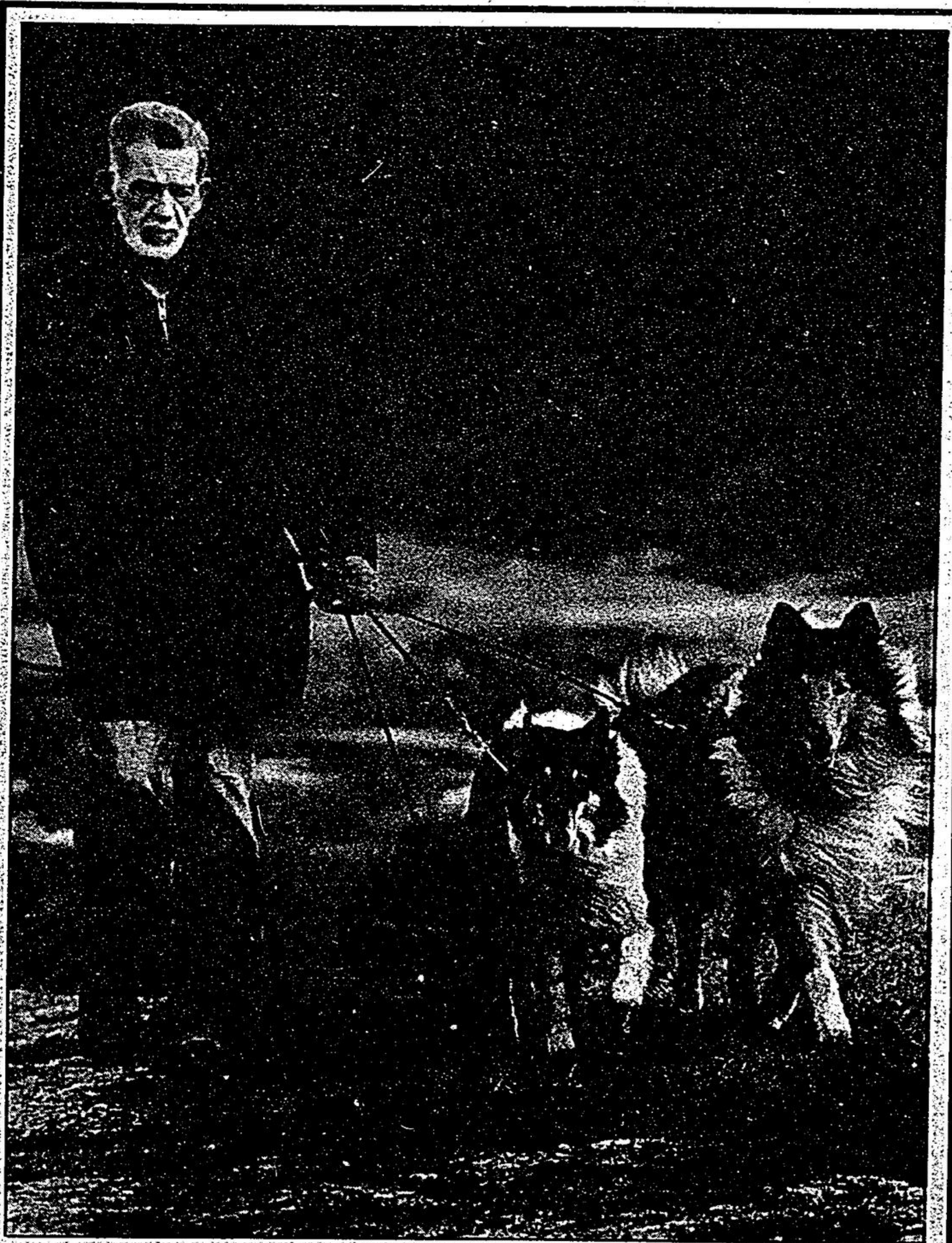
Although he wouldn't specify what method would be used, the pigeon-racer later told The Weekender it would involve catching the birds and removing them from the Civic Ave. office site.

An average racing-pigeon loft in the Stouffville area contains 30 old birds and about 35 young ones, Mr. Winterstein noted.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's planning committee referred the matter to Mr. Arrowsmith for a report.



KARL WINTERSTEIN Promotes pigeons



On the dog walk

Commuters along Hwy. 7 can now put names to the faces they see en route to the office. David Prebble diligently walks dogs, (from the left) Ebony, a poodle, and collies Dutchess and

Prince, come rain or shine, winter, spring, summer or fall.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

WHAT'S INSIDE



Sgt. Rod Sine in Community service/12



Martin Smith plays priest in Rashomon/18

