

# Councillors explain duties for local government week

By KATE GILDERDALE  
Senior students at Stouffville District Secondary School had an opportunity to learn about how their municipality works last Wednesday when members of council visited the school during Local Government Week.

Present from council were Mayor Fran Sainsbury, Councillors Ron Robb, Jim Rae, Wilf Morley and Wayne Emmerson and Town Clerk Pat Oakes. Mrs. Sainsbury introduced council members to the students and asked them to give a brief outline of the duties involved in their jobs.

All the councillors pointed out that their jobs went beyond weekly meetings. "You deal with things like dogs running loose, school bus parking in residential areas and water problems," noted Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb. "There is a lot more to do than people think."

Ward 3 Councillor Jim Rae told the audience he had enjoyed his seven years on council. "I hope some day some of you will run for a seat," he said.

Councillor Wayne Emmerson, Ward 4, noted, "we are trying to do another phase on the Recreation Centre in the near future." He told the students that he and other members of council serve on va-

rious boards and committees in town in addition to their roles as councillors.

As well as being the Councillor for Ward 5, Wilf Morley is chairman of the planning committee. "We all sit on the committee," he said, "we plan the future of the town and how we want to use the land."

He explained the process of public meetings and appeals for zoning changes. "We don't go through what provincial and federal governments do, where they get up and shout at one another," he said, "we have to work as a team for the best interests of Stouffville."

Mayor Fran Sainsbury explained that her role goes beyond chairing council meetings.

"I work in public relations, make speeches and keep my secretary very busy," she said, pointing out that people from all wards call her for help, information and advice.

Mrs. Sainsbury pointed out that the democratic process, with various committees and bylaws, can result in long delays.

The mayor explained that municipal government is the least powerful level yet often ends up dealing with hot political topics such as Sunday shopping laws

passed down from federal and provincial levels.

Town Clerk Pat Oakes described her duties in council, and explained her role as returning officer in municipal elections. She emphasized the importance of every vote in the democratic process, "if you qualify, make your mark," she told the students.

After some encouragement from teachers Mr. Jones and Mr. Kettleworth, two students had questions for their visitors. Jason Stronach asked what the land at the old arena would be used for.

"It will not be sold," responded Mrs. Sainsbury. "Council hasn't decided how it will be used. We need more parking in that area."

Darren Stevens asked if council had any plans for re-routing Main Street traffic. Mrs. Oakes told him that a route by-passing Stouffville was planned, but that many other improvements have to be undertaken first.

In the meantime, a flashing green light is being installed at the 9th line and traffic lights are planned at the A & P plaza. It is also likely the lights at the IGA would be moved to a more suitable location to ease traffic and pedestrian problems.



## Music Mania

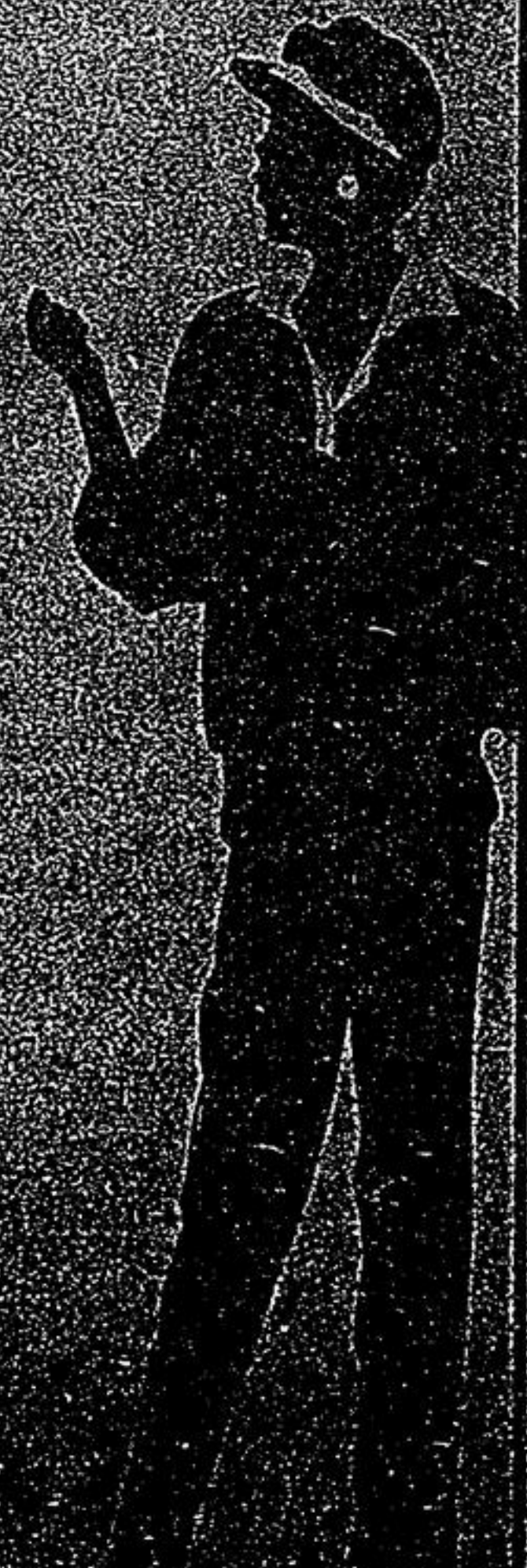
Music Mania, Stouffville's annual variety show sponsored by the United Church Couples Club, is entering its final week of rehearsals prior to performances April 28, 29 and 30 at Stouffville District Secondary School. Warm-

ing up for the big show are Jack Watson, (left), and the husband-wife team of Gord and Liz Lightfoot. Tickets are available at Card's Hardware and Stouffville Printing, Stouffville. —Jim Thomas

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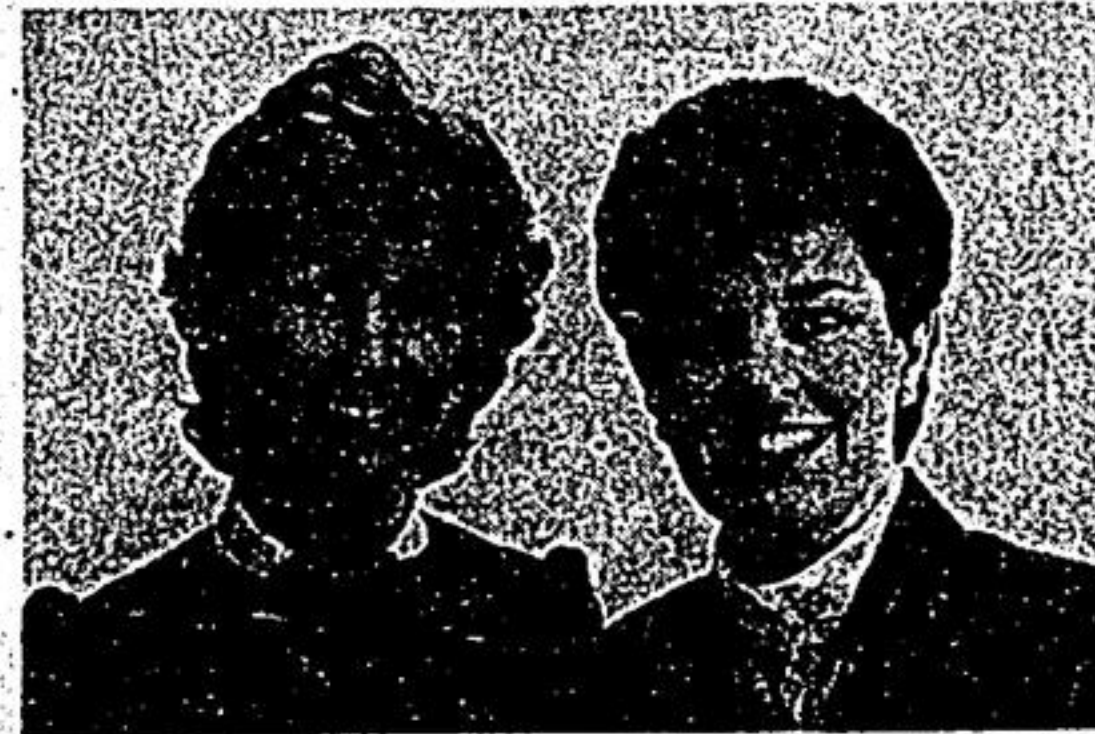
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