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Our clerk is head of class

By JIM THOMAS
Editor

STOUFFVILLE — Pat Oakes, Whitchurch-Stouffville's efficient clerk-coordinator has upstaged even Queen's Park on interpreting a section of the Municipal Elections Act.

The Province established Oct. 17 as the final date for revisions. Mrs. Oakes suggested this was in error. She argued in favor of Oct. 15 and proceeded to work towards this deadline. Her decision was supported by Town solicitor Michael Bigioni, also the clerk of Markham, Gary Roseblade.

Concerned over the likelihood of challenge, the City of North York took the province to Court. The hearing in Osgoode Hall, Toronto, was placed before Justice Hughes, Sept. 12. The decision in favor of Oct. 15 was handed down four days later.

"I was sitting on pins and needles," Mrs. Oakes admitted later. The ramifications, had the date been challenged, were immense. It could have cost Metro Toronto up to \$3 million and Whitchurch-Stouffville \$34,000, the Town clerk said.

Even worse, it could have invalidated the entire election, Mrs. Oakes stated.

Regarding the Elections Act as her bible, Mrs. Oakes claimed Section 120 stipulates the final revision date as a Saturday rather than a Monday even though Oct. 15 is not regarded as "normal office hours".

On the basis of Justice Hughes' decision, the Clerk's Department will be open on the Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Oakes said she felt so strongly about the issue, she travelled to Toronto and sat in on the proceedings. Arguments lasted two hours.

"Clerks aren't lawyers," Mrs. Oakes conceded. "I felt really good the Judge interpreted the Act the same way I did."



Personal Premier delights Parkview Seniors

Ontario Premier Bob Rae visited Stouffville on Tuesday, Sept. 27, to meet with seniors at Parkview. Rae, who was in Stouffville for a day, was accompanied by his wife, Joan, and a number of cabinet ministers. Rae was accompanied by his wife, Joan, and a number of cabinet ministers. Rae was accompanied by his wife, Joan, and a number of cabinet ministers.

Fire damages Lake home

MUSSELMAN'S LAKE — Damage has been estimated at \$50,000 in a fire, Friday, that partially destroyed a remodelled cottage residence on Churchill Drive, Musselman's Lake.

throughout, Chief Bill Brown said. "Heavy smoke and flames were coming out the back when we arrived," he stated.

Steven Legare was the only one home at the time. He had left the residence only a short time when the blaze was observed. The family dog was trapped in the structure and died.

This fire plus another at Ballantrae four hours later added up to "a terrible night" for Station I and II volunteers, Chief Brown said.

Time of the blaze on Churchill Drive was 6:43 p.m., and at Ballantrae, 11:40 p.m.

Dog saves its master

BALLANTRAE — A small dog has been credited with saving his master's life and possibly his home.

Fire Chief Bill Brown said Philip Gordon, a Ballantrae farm house tenant, had fallen asleep in the kitchen. Friday night, unaware of the blaze. He was awakened by the pet's incessant barking, in time to escape the structure and turn in the alarm.

At first, it was feared the dog had died. However, a brigade volunteer discovered him unconscious under a bed. Ambulance officials revived him with oxygen.

"He was running around good as new," Chief Brown said.

"He saved his master and we saved him."

Damage has been estimated at \$10,000.

Appeal likely

STOUFFVILLE — Pigeon fancier Adolfo Bianchi, Stouffer Street North, has been found guilty of maintaining an aviary in a residential area.

The decision in the Town's favor was handed down in Newmarket Court, Friday.

Said JP Chandhoke: "It's quite clear that an aviary, whether for commercial use or for hobby purposes, is not allowed in a residential area according to the bylaw."

He discounted the argument put forth by defence counsel Gordon Ness that the bylaw is discriminatory.

"It's not the same as keeping dogs or other pets," Chandhoke said.

Bruce Arrowsmith, Whitchurch-Stouffville's Chief Building Official called for the minimum fine.

The amount levied was \$100. The maximum possible is \$20,000.

Mr. Bianchi admitted disappointment. "It's a dead-end road," he said. "I intend to appeal."

Town plowman Ontario Title

STOUFFVILLE — Despite the fact Stouffville's Ken Ferguson has twice competed in Canadian and World plowing competitions, this year marks the first time he's won the Provincial Title.

He did it at the International Match near Stratford, Sept. 20-23. The judges' decision was revealed at the awards banquet Friday.

The Reserve Champion was Darryl Hostrawser of Belwood.

"It was a really tight class. The result was hard to guess. I just kept hoping," Ken told The Tribune later.

He used his own International 441 tractor and a 2-furrow Kvernland plow.

Other prominent award-winners from this area were — Jan King, R.R. 4, Stouffville; Herb Jarvis, Agincourt and Barry DeGeer, R.R. 3, Mt. Albert.

Barry received a \$2,500 scholarship.

Both Ken and Darryl will now advance to the Canadian at Dundas, Prince Edward Island in 1989. If successful there, they'll go on to the World Match in Holland.

In four days of competition, Ken scored one 1st, one 2nd, one 3rd, and a 4th, earning \$250.

Gravel company has big plans

UXBRIDGE — A worked-out gravel pit can be reactivated in place.

An 80-foot escarpment provides a natural buffer with additional plantings proposed, Whitchurch-Stouffville Council was informed last week.

The facility will have 'state of the art technology' minimizing noise, pollution and smoke, the information read.

While the operation will be located in Uxbridge, Town Council has been asked to comment on what impact, if any, it will have on adjacent properties in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Standard Aggregates Ltd., Durham Road 30, north of Lincolnville, hopes to put this theory into practice.

The firm plans to construct a pre-cast concrete plant, a ready-mix concrete plant and an asphalt plant at the base of an excavation east of the Uxbridge — Whitchurch-Stouffville townline.

Access to the operation will be available via a tunnel under the road.

A permit to draw water from an existing well is already in place.

Town streetscape project still travelling rough road

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville's inflated downtown streetscape project was approved at a general B.I.A. membership meeting Wednesday. But the road was rough.

Critics were not so concerned with the increase of \$25,000 but rather changes to the 'improvement' plan.

Some claimed they hadn't been informed.

All-brick sidewalks as opposed to interlocking brick and concrete prompted sometimes terse debate.

Al Dickson of The Snowbird said two seniors had complained the brick would be slippery to which chairperson Sandra Stronach replied: "We wouldn't be doing this if we thought it was going to be dangerous."

Maintenance will be easier, she said.

"It's going to look too slick," argued Dickson. "We're going to lose our village look which is the advantage we enjoy in this area."

On the question of funding, John Lord claimed the total cost to be way out of line.

"I doubt we'll see any improvement in sales because of the changes. It's just going to make us look like Unionville."

Mrs. Stronach said the board was acting on the advice of a landscape architect "who is very highly respected."

She promised no further price hikes.

"I feel I'm paying for something I haven't seen," responded Dickson.

Lawyer Gord Ness disagreed: "They, (the executive), didn't have to come to us for approval, but they did. I'd like to commend them on their decision."

The additional \$25,000 commitment was approved, raising the total expenditure to just over \$831,000.

Critical

GOODWOOD — Anthony (Tony) Mezenberg, seriously injured in a two-vehicle crash Sept. 18, remains in critical condition, a spokesperson at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital told The Tribune, Tuesday.

The 19-year-old Goodwood area man's car was in collision with an O.P.P. cruiser on Hwy. 47 near Wagg's Road. The police constable was also badly injured.

No theatre

STOUFFVILLE — Plans for a much-publicized movie theatre on the site of Stouffville's Deer Park Inn, have been scrapped.

Lack of water and sewerage services has been blamed.

Julie Ground, a spokesperson for Deer Park, informed Council Sept. 20, that a new proposal is being prepared that will include a 30-unit motel plus a three-bedroom residence for the manager.

A proposed septic system, to serve as a miniature sewage treatment plant, will accommodate a motel and residence but not a theatre, Ms. Ground said.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury expressed disappointment the theatre would not be built as originally planned.



Lucky escape

STOUFFVILLE — An 18-year-old Stouffville man is described by police as being "very lucky" following a collision on the Stouffville Road near McCowan, Sept. 20.

John Blommesteyn, Millard Street, escaped from his overturned 1988 Chevy Sprint after the car was rear-ended and landed in a nearby ditch.

The second vehicle, a 1987 Buick Regal, was driven by Mark Veenstra, 24, of Richmond Hill. Both were eastbound.

The Stouffville auto was hit with such force, the rear bumper was driven through to the front seat, York Regional Constable Keith Bird told The Tribune.

The driver escaped out a side window.

The Sprint is a write-off, the officer said with damage estimated at \$15,000.

Markham Fair opens Thursday

Markham Fair opens Thursday, (to-morrow), at 9 a.m. and continues through four fun-filled days.

The theme of the 1988 show is 'Yours To Share', and this has been President Dave Morrison's goal — to get more people involved.

A host of events are scheduled. These were listed on Page 33 of The Tribune's Saturday Weekender and are carried on Page C-12 of this week's Community Focus.

Markham Mayor Carol Bell will open the Fair Thursday evening at 6 p.m. She'll be joined on stage by Mayor Fran Sainsbury of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Regional Chairman Eldred King and members of the Fair's 1988 Board of Directors.

All past-presidents and committee volunteers are invited. The ceremony will be held in the Entertainment Tent.

People person
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