

# Reader claims Council after tax grab

Dear Editor,  
I wish to take this opportunity to state in the strongest possible language my opposition to the proposed municipal water supply for the Ballantrae and Musselman lake area, as presented in the meeting held at Musselman lake Sept. 20.

From the discussions and points presented, it became blatantly obvious that the main attraction for this proposal was not the water issue, but the \$2.5-million annual tax catch by Stouffville Council.

This money is to be obtained from the huge 900-plus home development proposed for the Ballantrae area.

A water problem has been recognized and the causes of the problem identified. Alternate and more cost-effective methods of

overcoming the problems do exist, but have not been evaluated properly, probably because of this huge carrot being dangled in front of what appears to be a greedy Stouffville Council.

It is obvious that Stouffville Council intends to steamroll this proposal through without the alternative methods even being evaluated at all.

But even worse is Stouffville Council's intention to turn this beautiful area into a northern Scarborough look-alike. Wasteland, with all its associated problems, and this on the pretence that the development is required to pay for the water project that is probably not even necessary.

Reports have established that the Ballantrae water problem is limited to only 13 dwellings with shallow wells. The contamination has been identified as road salt and nitrates in water runoff.

It has also been established that newer homes in the area with deeper wells of 100 feet or more have no contamination problems.

Very importantly, it has been established that the cost of redrilling these wells into the acceptable aquifer would be covered by government agencies with no cost or, at worst, very little cost to the property owner.

All this could have taken place three years ago, and these people could have had good water for those three years at no cost — if Stouffville wanted it as an example of community spirit exhibited by Stouffville Council.

Musselman Lake has a different problem. For whatever reasons, the lake has been allowed to evolve from a summer residence area without adequate human waste disposal systems into a high-density, permanent residence area, without the planning controls necessary for proper human waste management.

As a consequence of this uncontrolled evolution, the overloaded and badly-managed waste disposal systems are contaminating some of the shallow wells in the area. Put crudely, Musselman Lake is choking on its own vomit.

As in Ballantrae, the newer developments in this area with deeper wells and proper waste management do not have contaminated wells.

To redrill the contaminated wells at \$5,000-\$10,000 each would cost considerably less than \$1 million, even if there were no grants. This project may be likened cost-wise to the library and cosmetic improvements in Stouffville.

This more cost-effective ap-

proach to the water problems would not improve the existing sewage problem, but neither would a municipal water supply.

This approach would also forego the need to intensively develop Ballantrae, but Stouffville Council wouldn't get its \$2.5 million in annual taxes either.

But let that be the cost of not raping Ballantrae — a village Stouffville Council claims to be part of the Stouffville community.

I feel no community spirit towards Stouffville and the council definitely does not encourage this. I live in Ballantrae because I like the area and want to make it my long-term home — not as a short-term investment, or to pander to get-rich developers.

I say hold this proposal until all the other alternatives have been

evaluated and don't let the chance of short-term dollar windfalls cause an area that, once despoiled, can never be reclaimed.

Look at Scarborough, Markham and Unionville — spoiled for all time.

Bernard Tong



## Future bride lauds show

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the Welcome Wagon, and in particular Dianne Darling and Nancy Davidson for hosting the Welcome Wagon Bridal Party at the Maples of Ballantrae.

It gave me, as a future bride, a chance to see what local merchants have to offer.

It was a one-stop shop for wedding necessities. There was even a fashion show with beautiful wedding gowns provided by the Wedding Room.

Local merchants gave great door prizes and every bride received a gift bag full of gift from the merchants there with displays.

Thanks also goes out to the local merchants who gave their time to have a display at the event.

Ann Carter

## Food drive a success

Dear Editor,

The York Region Food Network wishes to thank the Stouffville Tribune for its coverage and support during our recent Thanksgiving Food Drive.

A special thank you to our fire departments for their co-operation in collecting food.

Thank you also to the people of York Region who once again generously supported those people in our region who need food aid.

Yours truly,  
Ann Ostler,

Public Relations Representative  
York Region Food Network

## Unicef starts drive Nov. 1

Dear Editor,

The Unicef campaign in Stouffville will begin Nov. 1 at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

We are in need of more volunteers to man the table at the library between Nov. 1 and Nov. 16. If there are any people interested in giving four hours of their time to sell gift items and cards during the campaign, please call 640-1194.

There will be an orientation session for all volunteers as well.

Yours truly,  
Bonnie Heidema  
Unicef Volunteer Consignee



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**OFFICIAL NOTICE  
1989 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Mon., Nov. 6th, 1989 at Parkview Village Auditorium**

**DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.  
MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.**


**THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO:**

1. Receive the Annual Report and Reports of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee.
2. Appoint Auditor for fiscal year ending July 31st, 1989 as required.
3. Election of Board of Directors and Committee Officers.
4. Address other matters relating to the on going operation of your Credit Union.

Once again, dinner tickets are only \$10.00 each and should be purchased at the Credit Union.

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