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Photo: RICK MADONIK

Pie in the eye

Stouffville District Secondary School students a chance to display their dramatic and comedic talents. Here, Jim Collins mashes a pie into the face of Dave Jones during a skit entitled "Evolution of a..."

F.A.I.R. warning

Stouffville asked to fight no-fault insurance plan

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Proposed no-fault insurance legislation will treat drunk drivers the same as innocent victims, said a spokesman for Fair Action in Insurance Reform (F.A.I.R.) at last Tuesday's council meeting.

Warren Skinner, a lawyer and member of F.A.I.R., urged Whitchurch-Stouffville council to back his group's opposition to new legislation, he said will "take away the rights of the innocent victim" and will leave those hurt "at the insurance companies' mercy."

York-Durham MPP Bill Ballinger's column in the Feb. 28 edition of The Tribune, which said the no-fault system will "promise relief," is not true, Mr. Skinner said, maintaining the no-fault legislation would mean people could only sue if they met certain criteria.

"One hundred stitches to the face (from a car accident) is not considered pain and suffering in the no-fault legislation," he stressed and said victims would be forced to sue others if they can't sue the liable driver.

"Victims will look to hosts to sue. They will look to defective roads as the cause. The municipality issues permits for various public functions. If someone drinks and gets into an accident they could sue the Town who issued the permit," he warned.

Mr. Skinner urged Council to "please send a motion to MPP Bill Ballinger and Ontario Premier David Peterson to show opposition to the no-fault insurance plan."

Mr. Skinner said other groups like Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD) and the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) groups also oppose the legislation.

"Do you make your living through (automobile litigation) cases?," asked Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles.

"Yes I do, but I could also make my living in family or criminal law. A bed-ridden car accident victim can't make another living," Mr. Skinner said.

"You're frightening me a little bit. Is it the lawyer in you talking?" asked Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall.

"I can't believe there are people out there who would look to sue someone else (if they can't sue the driver under the no-fault plan)," she said.

"This whole suing thing has gotten out of hand. We're getting just as bad as the States with everybody suing everybody just for looking at them," she added.

"What frightens me, if what you say is true, is the fact that \$15 million of taxpayers' money is being spent on government studies which are being ignored (by the government)," noted Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

The government says under the no-fault system, students and seniors can obtain quick benefits if injured, unlike the present system - and advocate major injuries can still be taken to court.

But Mr. Skinner said to claim injury, a victim must meet all five criteria: serious, permanent, continuing, physical and serious permanent disability of an important bodily function.

"If the injury comes and goes, it would not be considered continuing and no compensation would be paid (under no-fault)," he said.

In a report he submitted to council, one section stated: "In every jurisdiction in the States where they have no-fault insurance, in the year that it was introduced, accident, injury and fatality rates increased."

Council voted to hear Bill Ballinger's side to the proposed legislation and Mr. Skinner's request to be present at such an upcoming meeting.

9th Line paving 'no priority'

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Providing a smoother ride for motorists and emergency crews along the 9th Line South, in spite of the new Markham-Stouffville-Hospital opening, is "not a high priority with the Region," Whitchurch-

Stouffville Mayor told Council last Tuesday.

"But (the Region) will do maintenance and keep down the dust."

"The expense to improve the road would take a great deal of

money right now especially at the bridge section," she said.

The mayor told councillors that the depletion of transfer payments from the federal government to the provinces "is going to make it even harder" to come up with money to pave the bumpy access route to the new hospital.

When some Councillors asked if Markham could pick up the tab, Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson said, "how can we ask Markham to fix the road when Uxbridge wants us to fix the Town Line (joining Uxbridge and Stouffville) and we won't."

Mayor Sainsbury, also Stouffville's regional representative, told the local politicians that "priority dollars" will be used on parts of McCowan Road "in order to move heavy traffic."

"We'll have to fix our own section of the roads," she said.

Tribune enters world of desktop publishing

Welcome to the world of desktop publishing!
This is our first edition of the Tribune using an Apple Macintosh computer system and, though we are still novices by our instructor's standards, we think you'll like it.
You may notice that our headlines look slightly different, as do the printed words in our stories.
Both are easier to read, and allow us to better serve our readers.
It's the latest technology available in the newspaper industry and allows more imaginative design for our news stories, features and advertisements.
"This is another step in our ongoing schedule to bring the best to our readers and advertising clients," says Stouffville and Uxbridge Tribune Publisher Patricia Pappas. "We think the desktop publishing system will allow us to reach our goal for excellence."
We hope you like the newer look of the Tribune. After, all committed to our communities The Tribune - by the best, for the best!

EVENTS



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