

# Councillor says survey 'a waste of time'

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

The Town of Whichurch-Stouffville wasted \$12,000 on an additional affordable housing survey, charges Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall.

Director of Planning Michael Saunders updated Council last Tuesday on the Starr Group questionnaire/survey to determine housing needs in the community.

But Councillor Marshall voiced strong objections, claiming the additional survey geared to the younger population is "a waste of time."

"I have no idea why this Council supported the extra \$12,000. We have no facilities to build any houses let alone affordable houses," she claims.

"I already fought that," agreed Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

The province will not finance additional information a municipality requires for individual housing needs, but will allot funding for a portion of the original survey, geared to seniors.

But Councillor Marshall was absent when the majority vote to support an extra survey, as recommended by Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb.

Councillor Robb insists the information derived from the Starr Group's interviews and questionnaires will be worthwhile in assisting town planners in future.

"I believe this will be a great tool to work with. We can use it to pressure the province for sewage by telling them how much affordable housing we need."

"I suggest half the people in Whichurch-Stouffville are juniors between the ages of 18-23. The point remaining is, these surveys will give us a tool to say to the province, we need sewage."

Councillor Robb maintains Mayor Sainsbury noted there are already 502 Whichurch-Stouffville area seniors currently on waiting lists for housing with various organizations.

But Councillor Marshall rebuked

the statements.

"All these things have been said over and over, and why the Town of Whichurch-Stouffville would spend \$12,000 to hear it all over again, I don't know," she says.

But Councillor Robb says the information will prove to be "a very good bargaining tool for the future," that will pay for itself in the long run.

Council voted to spend an extra \$12,000 for the additional survey

last month.

Concerns about the younger population being "missed out" in the original survey, the new one will determine how many teenagers and other informal renters need affordable housing.

All municipalities are to report similar information to the province in order to help accommodate the needy and combat a housing crisis currently being experienced in Ontario.

## Stouffville approves budget estimates totalling \$12.5 million

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Whichurch-Stouffville Council approved 1990 budget estimates last Tuesday totalling nearly \$12.5 million (a seven per cent increase from 1989) and local politicians agreed the budget "is a good one."

Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson added the figures are "realistic for this day and age."

Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb noted "I'll bet Whichurch-Stouffville will still come in with the lowest increase (to taxpayers), than other municipalities in York Region."

However, local mill rate increases to property owners can't be established until the Town reviews the regional and two school board budgets.

But Town department heads can now prepare for capital projects.

This year's \$12,489,731 figure is slightly higher than the 1989 figure of \$11,304,178. The 1990 total consists of operating and capital expenses (\$10,724,991), sewer costs (\$947,156), water costs (\$757,306) and cemetery costs (\$60,278).

The Town earned revenues of \$4.96 million in operating and capital, \$254,936 in sewers, \$670,575 in water and \$60,278 in cemeteries.

In 1988, the municipality increased taxes by 5.5 percent, and imposed a 5.9 per cent increase in 1989.

The 5.9 per cent increase in 1989 hiked property assessments by \$21.76 at \$20,000 plus an extra \$10.16 for those properties utilizing the Town sewers and assessed at \$20,000, all of which do not reflect regional and school board increases.

Last year, Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the 1990 budget would reflect special emphasis on roads, while placing emphasis on three areas: traffic lights for safety, unexpected mandatory Provincial programs and the completion of the Museum

Historic House.

The 1990 figures show the largest increases in sewer and water and the smallest increase on

operating and capital estimates.

Council adopted a resolution to approve the 1990 \$12.5 million budget estimates.

## Province gives \$3.2 million for Ballantrae water supply system

Whichurch-Stouffville has been given \$3.2 million from the provincial government to develop a communal water supply system in the Ballantrae and Musselman Lake communities.

The grant, part of a \$4.45 million grant given to York Region under the province's Direct Grant Program, was announced last week by York-Durham MPP Bill Ballinger.

"We're taking concrete steps to improve water supplies and distribution systems in Ontario. I am pleased that the province is able to assist the Regional Municipality of York and Whichurch-Stouffville with these important projects," Mr. Ballinger said in a release.

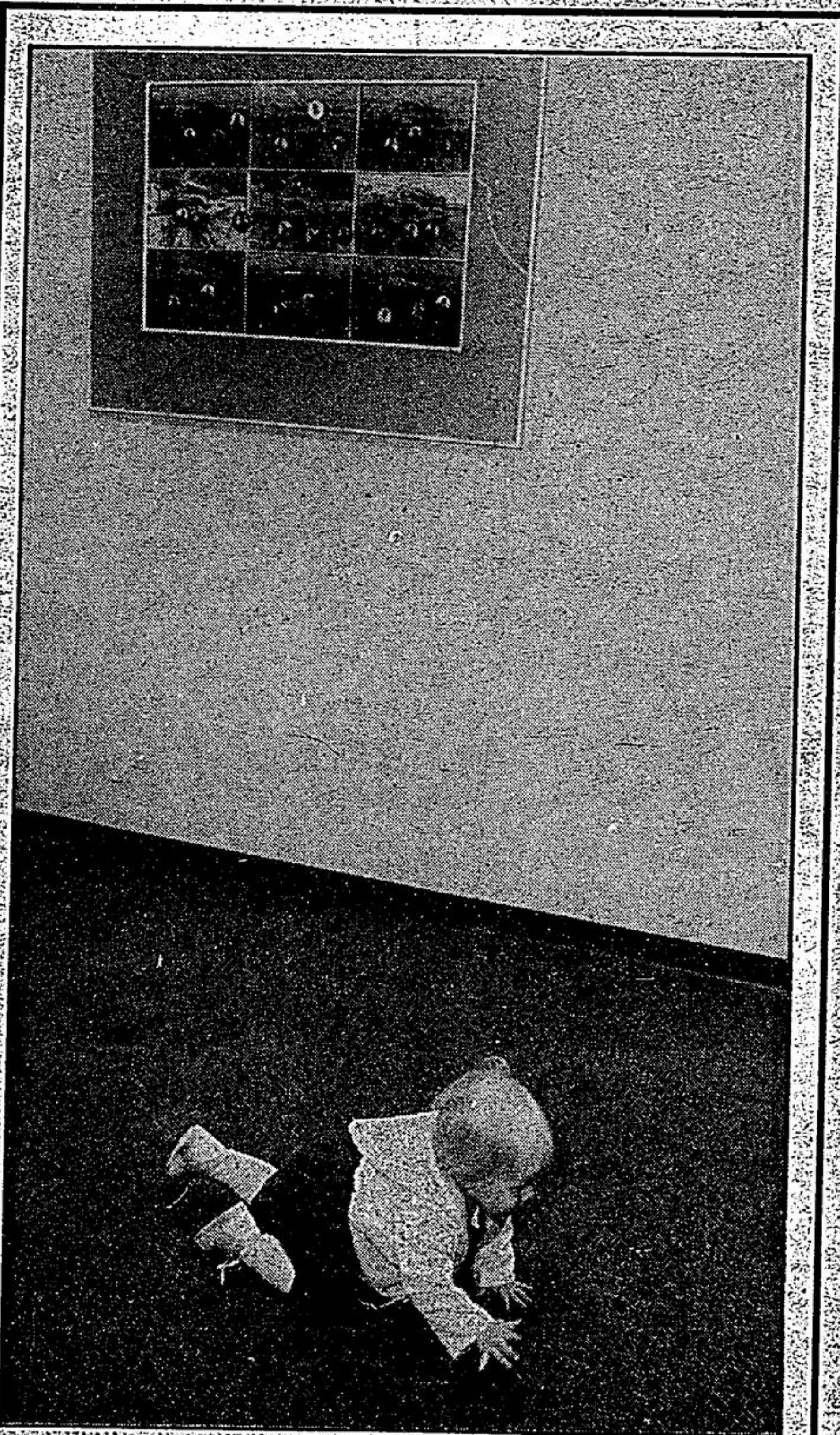
The grant was announced on behalf of Environment Minister Jim Bradley.

## Firefighters battle back-to-back blazes

Back-to-back building blazes kept Whichurch-Stouffville firefighters busy Sunday afternoon.

Fire officials were first called to Glendale Beach in Musselman Lake at 5:30 p.m. where one fire was easily contained.

The second, at about 6:30 p.m., involved an old farm house on 9th Line North that was "just too far gone. Flames were coming out most of the windows," said Fire Chief Bill Brown. Each blaze is under investigation.



photo/RICK MADONIK

## Everyone's a critic

Fifteen-month-old Lauren Hine just wasn't interested in the artwork created by Paul Till at the opening of an exhibition by the artist at Latcham Gallery last week. Mr. Till's creations, made up of color photocopies, are hanging at the gallery until April 22.



photo/RICK MADONIK

## Marital milestone

Friends and family turned out at Vandorf Community Centre on Sunday to wish Woodrow and Ona Wilson a happy 50th wedding anniversary. The couple, who were married March 26, 1940, welcomed 243 guests to the celebration.

## Sewage bid being reviewed

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Staff Reporter

A Stouffville resident's request to sever his property and have a sewage allowance transferred to the vacant lot, prompted Council to review the situation.

David Moyer, 520 Millard Street, requested last week that a hook-up allowance be forfeited from his existing dwelling and be transferred to a 3/4-acre severance.

But Council said a hook-up could only be granted for existing dwellings and not for vacant lots within the boundary allowance.

However, Council requested Director of Planning Michael Saunders to prepare a verbal report to determine how many residents on waiting lists would be affected by Mr. Moyer's request.

There are only a few severance requests that

want water and sewer hook-ups," Mr. Saunders said.

Most of those are along the southern boundaries, he pointed out, including some Main and Millard Street residences.

"Four severances are the only ones affected by the Moyer request. But there could be more people in the community that haven't yet applied," he added.

Altogether there are 47 sewage units left on the Duffin's Creek sewage plant. Council is undecided how these units will be zoned or allocated.

"There's people out there asking and we should discuss this among ourselves and make a decision. We shouldn't sit on this," said Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson.

Council received the report and will discuss how to handle the Moyer request at the next meeting.

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