



Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

## Rolling out the barrell

Dan Zaroski, a local cooper, gives a quick lesson in barrel making to members of the Whitchurch Stouffville Historical Society at the gathering of the Whitchurch Stouffville

Museum for the annual summer picnic on Saturday. Despite some dismal weather, the picnic saw quite a few history buffs come out for the day's activities.

## Legislation focused on funds

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents have the right to know how campaign funds are being used.

### BIA now called by new name

Stouffville's downtown business association is now a member of Ontario Downtowns.

The new name tag of what was once the Business Improvement Association for towns like Stouffville across Ontario was announced following a meeting earlier this year.

Ontario Downtowns is made up of boards of management for BIA business organizations, municipalities, corporations and other individuals involved in the planning and management of downtowns and other street-oriented business districts.

Stouffville's downtown business core makes up part of the 36,000 businesses across the province who are members.

and new legislation to ensure that is now in force, announced Municipal Affairs Minister John Sweeney last week.

"After the 1988 municipal elections there was criticism about how some candidates used their leftover campaign funds... I believe the amendments I have introduced will help remedy the problem," Mr. Sweeney said.

But Town CAO Bob Panizza said the new legislation is not geared to "the Whitchurch-Stouffville's" of the province, but to the larger municipalities where much high amounts are raised for campaign purposes.

Mr. Panizza added the legislation will help flush out those people who run for office, raise thousands of dollars from contributors, lose the election but keep the monies.

The new legislation ensures municipal and school board election contributions and the use of surplus campaign funds will be monitored, if this happens.

The new legislation has been

passed to make it easier for qualified voters to investigate "financing irregularities" by placing campaign funds in trust with the clerk's office. Mr. Sweeney stated in a recent news release.

The amendments place a limit of \$5,000 on the total amount a contributor can give to all candidates for a single municipality or school board, according to the release.

Under the amended legislation, voters can take legal action if they believe the law has been broken and the municipality and the school board must take action against complaints from a voter.

If either corporation fails to take action, the provincial Commission on Election Finances can intervene, Mr. Sweeney said.

"The election process is at the very heart of our democratic system, and it is therefore extremely important for people to have faith in it," Mr. Sweeney announced.

## Trucking routes needed: Report

York Region should provide fast access trucking routes away from urban municipal roads to enable more jobs and new industrial business, a report from the region's Engineering Committee states.

Last September, Regional Council requested a report to outline the current truck traffic situation and to determine what measures can be taken to lessen the impact of trucks on various communities.

According to the report, the main "trucking flow areas" are associated with aggregate and industrial business, with Markham generating one of the highest levels, showing about 10,000 trucks move through various Markham roads every day.

Truck traffic is also heavy on Bloomington Road between the York Durham Line and Hwy. 404, and on Woodbine Avenue and on Hwy. 7 in the Markham industrial area. But the Engineering Committee says York Region must "be able to serve a wide variety of truck patterns, without adversely affecting local residential areas."

"There is a lack of fast routes through the Region due to the freeway network not being completed. Freeways such as Hwy. 427 and 407 are long overdue," the report says.

But the committee cautions on too many road restrictions because "ease of movement to and from a site is an important consideration when an industry is choosing a location."

And, although 60 per cent of York Region firms surveyed for the report say they would not relocate, "ease of transportation is an important consideration for the location of a firm and one of the primary reasons that firms have been locating in York Region," the report shows.

To alleviate some of the heavy truck traffic through urban streets and to entice business in the region, the committee says the province needs to complete some fast access routes.

"If provided with a new route which by-passes an urban area, trucks will naturally divert to the route with the shorter travel time," the committee finds. But on the other hand, the committee says there are "few, if any opportunities to construct by-passes because of committed or existing land development patterns in the region." Therefore, the study finds road improvements targeted for the near future are the ultimate solution to the heavy truck volumes throughout the region.

## Stouffville may face 13% hydro rate hike

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents could be faced with a nearly 13 per cent hike in electricity rates next year if Ontario Hydro accepts recommendations from the Municipal Electric Association (MEA).

The association, representing 316 municipalities throughout the province, of which Whitchurch-Stouffville is a member, is recommending the hike to help lower the company's \$35 billion debt.

MEA's chief executive officer, Tony Jennings, told the Tribune that Whitchurch-Stouffville hydro customers may pay more than 12.8 per cent or a little less, depending on the charge to the local commission.

Mr. Jennings says the "aggressive management" is necessary to keep our houses hydro-powered in future.

"We are quickly running out of power supply and this (hike) is essential if we're going to keep the lights on," Mr. Jennings adds.

Among other things, the MEA is recommending Ontario Hydro

lower its pay scale, which the organization believes is too high.

The MEA, whose member utilities purchase and distribute about 70 per cent of hydro generated power and serve 2.5 million consumers, "continues to be alarmed" with Hydro's salaries, which are 12 per cent above the average of a comparison group of companies, including IBM, Northern Telecom, the federal government and Bell Canada.

Mr. Jennings says the 12.8 per cent hike is essential to avoid another much larger hike like that of the 22 per cent hike presented in the mid-'70s for a two-year period.

"We're trying to avoid the same thing happening again. We represent the 316 municipalities, including Whitchurch-Stouffville, who say this is the best way."

Other (MEA) recommendations include providing adequate service in the event of a strike, and providing incentives to municipal commissions to implement electricity conservation programs.

Mr. Jennings says the MEA's recommendations still have to be ratified with the hydro board.

## Calls prompt call for new phones

The York Region engineering department is answering more than 100 calls every hour, and the department wants a new \$22,000 telephone system to handle the many complaints and questions, regional officials heard last week.

The department says for the past two years "calls have increased to such an extent that callers have begun to complain about no one being there to answer the phones."

The present system can indicate digitally that as many as 10 calls are waiting but there could be twice that many which do not show up.

In conjunction with Bell Canada the department has suggested a call sequencer, which would answer calls with an appropriate message if the attendant is busy.

Regional officials supported the recommendations to implement the new phone system.

### Life Centre benefits

The Markham/Stouffville Family Life Centre will be allocated \$60,000 to provide counselling to those people who cannot afford but need the service, regional officials heard last week.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services under the General Welfare Assistance Program, has approved a \$270,000 subsidy to serve eight different regional agencies.

## REGIONAL COUNCIL IN BRIEF

### Bigger council?

York Regional council has submitted its request to the province to make its 28-member council into a 32-member council, but Minister of Municipal Affairs John Sweeney, says he still has to review the request and add he will advise the Region on his decision in the near future.

### Solid waste committee

York, Peel, Halton, Durham Regions and the province are joining forces to combat the solid waste crisis in the Greater Toronto Area. A Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee (SWISC) will explore a collaborative and co-ordinated approach to solving the solid waste crisis with a 50 per cent subsidy from the province. York Region will contribute \$80,000 in 1991, as will each of the other participating municipalities. The region has approved the committee's recommendations to retain consultants, staff and other representatives, receive and disburse funds and to present reports to York's engineering committee for comment.

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