

Bureaucracy threatens future of track project

The ubiquitous specter of bureaucracy is starting to rear its wasteful head over the Stouffville Community Track project. This unfortunate turn of events, coupled with the recent caterwauling of a few residents of questionable intent, would appear to have scuttled prospects for beginning, let alone completing, the much needed athletic facility this month or next.

In fact, it may well have to be put off until next year, with the inevitable increase in price that would go with such a delay.

As one who has pushed for this thing for a couple of years, watching my initial frustrations slowly replaced by some gratifying victories over "the system", I feel entitled to level a few rounds now that the little foxes are beginning to ruin the vines, to use a biblical parallel.

First of all, in defence of some of the detractors, I too had a bit of difficulty with the somewhat grandiose athletic facility favored by some.

The initial need was for a running track so that our young people could have a proper place to develop their track and field skills. It would also serve all those adult joggers who constantly risk shin splints and accidents running along our concrete sidewalks.

With the York Region Board of Education, the town, and the citizens all experiencing a severe economic crunch, I felt a basic track would suffice for now.

But it turned out the town had budgeted for lights for the soccer field. And Dave Connell, the head of the physical education department at Stouffville District Secondary School, insisted tennis courts were needed for the



sport notes

bruce
stapley

school's phys. ed. program. So why not go for it?

But what's really getting me down is the stuff I'm starting to hear about expensive requirements being made by the school board regarding the construction of the project.

Of course, this shouldn't surprise me, as it took the board a full six months before they even responded to the calls of SDSS principal Peter Bright when he first started inquiring about the track's feasibility two years back.

The board, I believe, is simply not capable of seeing a sizeable project through without wasting time and money on studies, consultants, and outside "experts" — some of whom, I suspect, derive their living from presiding over the building of tracks and the like.

Sure, we've all got to make our daily bread. But I'm beginning to suspect that our track project has become bogged down in the same kind of bureaucratic inefficiency that makes the board the insatiable tax eater that it is.

As for the malcontents on Millard St., well, what can you say about people who would rewrite the rules of a community after they have moved in? If only such folks could sit back and study the facts before barging forth into the spotlight.

If only they could get to know the tireless volunteers like Ged

Stonehouse, Martin Johannessen, and Don Bigioni, so they would understand that these people are giving up hours and hours of their time, with no personal gain to be had whatsoever.

Heck, Ged's kids are attending schools out of Ontario, and if Ged himself was to jog a few laps around the proposed track, he would probably end up bounc-

ing down the Ninth Line on his way to the Markham Stouffville Hospital's cardiac arrest ward!

So come on, gang, we've come too far with this thing to see it sink now!

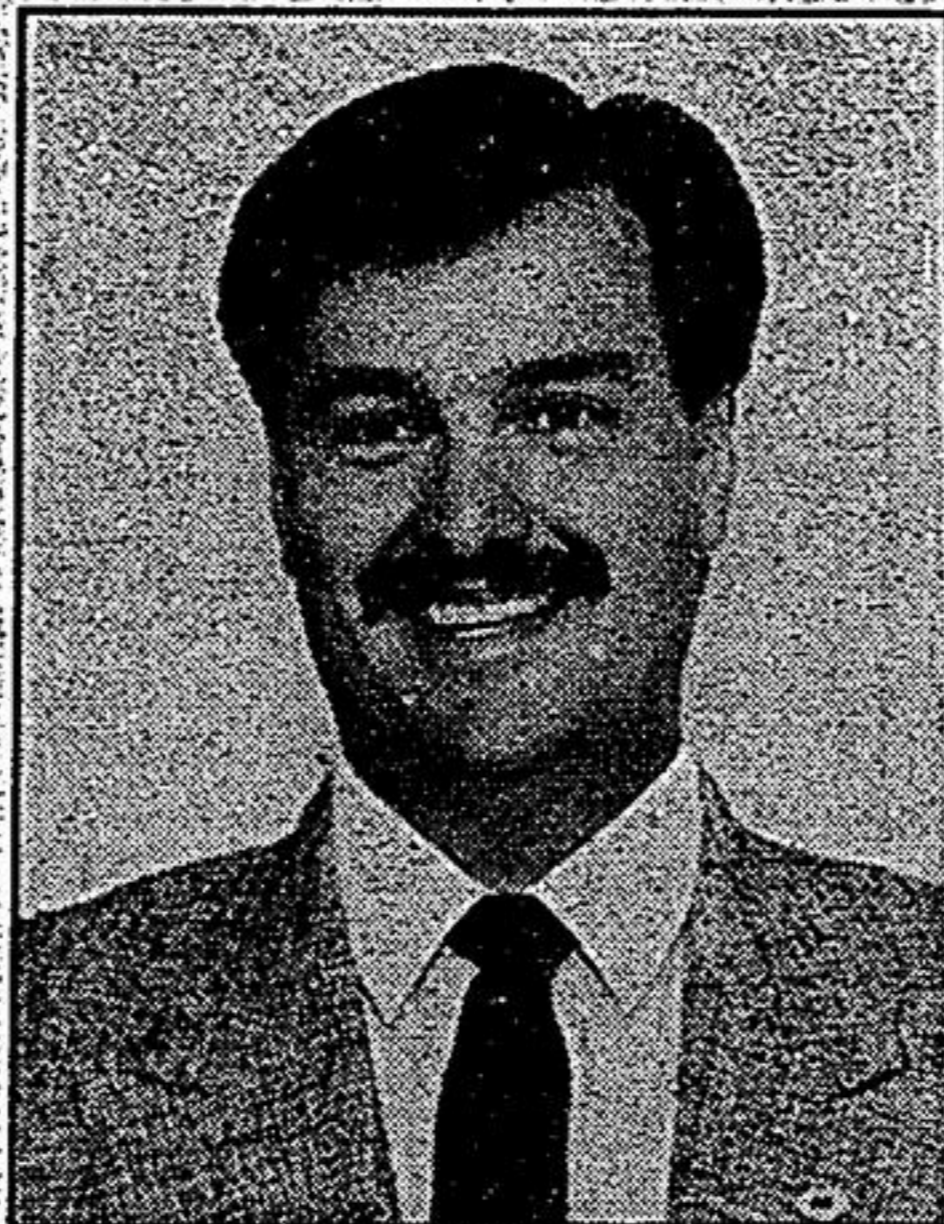
Phone York's director of education Bob Cressman in Aurora and let him know what's happening to the project; he so boldly gave birth to that night in

May of 1989 when he initiated the motion to allocate \$125,000 for the track.

Tell your negative neighbors to lighten up and get behind the volunteers.

Because whether you realize it or not, it's seeing this kind of project through as a town that makes us a great community. And we are, aren't we?

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE NOTICE OF CHANGING OF STREET NAMES

TAKE NOTICE THAT The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville intends to pass a by-law to change the name of the street known as James Rae Road on Registered Plan 65M-2794 to Raeview Drive and the street known as David Gray Road on Registered Plan 65M-2794 to Gray Gate Lane.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville shall, at the hour of 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 25th, 1990, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Buildings at 19 Civic Avenue, Stouffville, Ontario, hear any person who claims that he/she will be adversely affected by the by-law and applies to be heard.

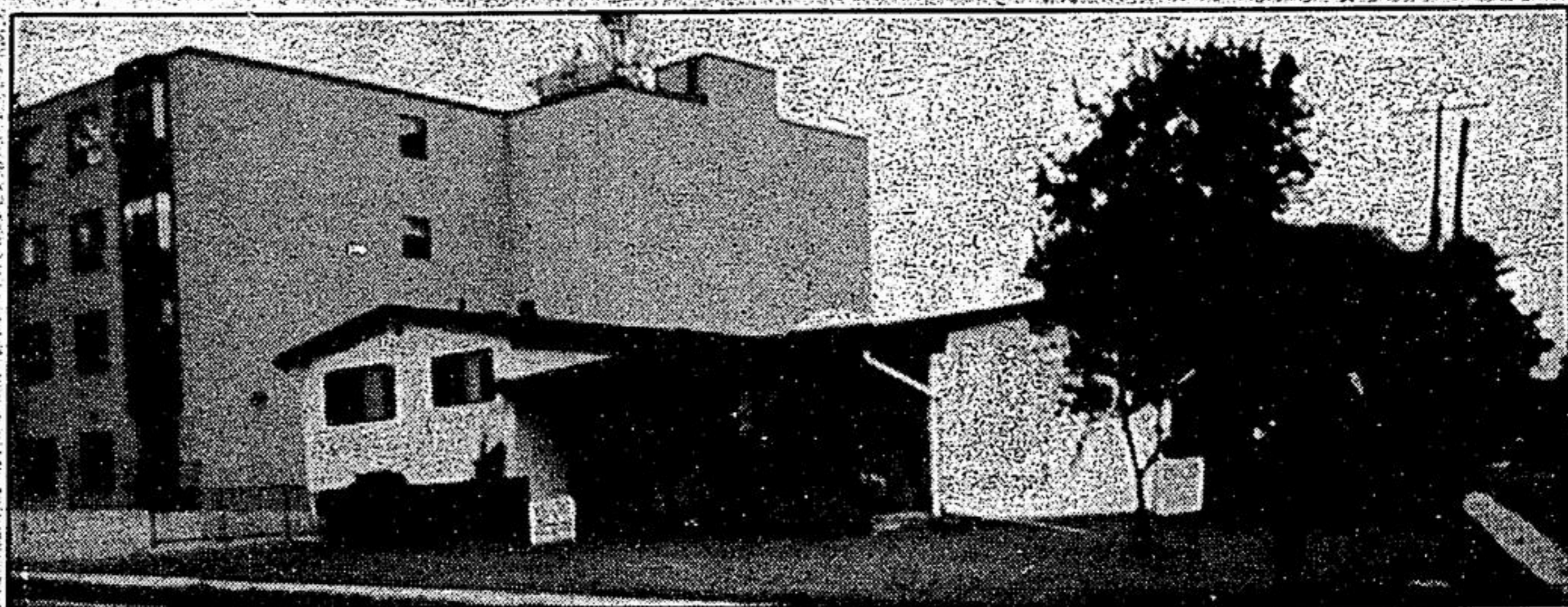
DATED at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville this 21st day of August, 1990.

Michele Skinner, Deputy Clerk
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
19 Civic Avenue
Box 419
Stouffville, Ontario
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