

Auction raises \$10,000

More than \$10,000 was raised for the Community Awareness Bureau at The Great Rotary Auction Friday night.

"I figured we'd get \$4,000 to \$5,000," an ecstatic Susan Myers told The Tribune Sunday night. "I can't believe how well we did." The top bid was for a three-day, three-night stay at a Collingwood chalet, donated by Card's Hardware, which netted \$475. A total of 132 items were donated, including \$100 worth of advertising in The Tribune, bought by Bob Ancheril, and the chance to be mayor for a day, claimed by Judith Gaunt.

Auctioneer Terri Ness remained unruffled throughout the proceedings, despite initial problems with the sound system. Three Rotary exchange students, Stouffville's Jada Myers, Catherine



Photo: CELIA BRONKHORST

Gord and Terri Ness auction off some diapers at Friday's Rotary Auction.

Hannofett from Belgium and Simone Post from Holland, served refreshments to the large crowd.

Susan Myers said that the support received from the local

community was incredible. "We started by calling people and asking for donations, but towards the end we had people calling us. We'll definitely be doing this again next year."

Local Lions staging Las Vegas-style casino night

Las Vegas comes to town next Saturday night (Feb. 15), from 7:30 p.m. to midnight, when The Stouffville Lions Club presents

its second annual Giant Casino at Stouffville Place Mall. A \$10 admission ticket entitles you to \$10,000 worth of fun money, to

be used for guilt-free gambling, as well as for bidding on a host of great prizes in the hourly auctions.

Fun money will be used for all transactions throughout the evening, including the purchase of refreshments. "It's our second annual event in co-operation with Stouffville Place Mall, and

all the proceeds are for the Stouffville track project," said organizer Cap Cowan. The Stouffville Lionesses, along with the Goodwood and Ballantrae Lions, are assisting with the event, and Stouffville District Secondary School is helping with ticket sales.

"We'll have blackjack tables,

wheel games, video horse racing, Dean Myers' blind putting hall, and several other surprises," advised Cowan. "Last year we had maybe 400 or 500 people in through the evening and they really liked it. We hope to do even better this year."

Call Cowan at 642-2422, David Barthau at 640-4646 for tickets.

Freeze taxes: Hakonson

(From page 1)

parks are "ghost towns" and the town is having trouble collecting taxes, Hakonson said.

"However, with all of this happening each and every day, I understand that you people are recommending a 3 per cent tax increase for this year, with more emphasis on business and corporate realty tax," he said. Many businesses, including his own, have experienced a 30 per cent loss in business and have had to freeze salaries and "cut the frills", and he expects council to do the same, Hakonson said.

Hakonson presented three resolutions for council's consideration. He said he wants written responses "for publication" on the three points.

Hakonson wants to know if council increased the salary of the chief administration officer, Bob Panizza, department heads and/or staff in the past two months. If so, Hakonson has asked for the increase and salaries to be made public. His second resolution deals with the portable flooring for the recreation center recently approved by council. "Was there an attempt made by the recreation director to re-evaluate the necessity to maintain extended ice time based on the enrollment status of the figure skating club?" Hakonson asked. Finally, Hakonson wants to know if council has "the will to hold taxes at last year's level and cut spending to accommodate this goal?"

In an interview, Hakonson said he's prepared to take his concerns one step further if necessary.

"(His presentation) was not a one-shot deal. I didn't go (to council) to grandstand. I would like some action. If action is warranted, there are some stages to bring on next," said Hakonson.

Hakonson's presentation received mixed reviews from council members. Mayor Fran Sainsbury urged Hakonson to make a similar presentation to the Region of York, which will pay out \$14-million in welfare payments this year. "They're in a difficult spot," she said.

Sainsbury pointed out the town acts much like "a (tax collection) agency for the school board" as well as the region. One-third of local taxes go to the municipality, with the remaining two-thirds going to the school board and regional government.

Town treasurer Ed Blackburn echoed the mayor's comments, saying the town has no legislative authority over the school board's budget process. Ward 3 councillor Nick Tatone and Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice had words of praise for Hakonson's presentation. "That was an excellent presentation. I urge you to keep going. I would like to meet with you separately (to discuss resolutions). (Council) is on the right track for budget and salaries," Tatone said.

Prentice echoed Tatone's comments, adding "we're going through budget deliberations. We'll keep those points in mind and see how it comes out in the end," he said.

Sainsbury added staff salary increases have been on the decline since 1985, dropping from 9.5 per cent to "3 per cent or nothing depending on the final budget."

"We are 14 per cent behind other municipalities (in staff salaries)," she said.

She said the town has also been successful in setting money aside for capital projects. But Hakonson said when council gives its staff members "6 to 9 per cent increases, you give a message you don't give a damn about what's happening in society."

Council is expected to release a first draft of its budget on March 24, and a second draft on April 7. Closed-door preliminary budget deliberations began on Jan. 28 and 29 and are ongoing.

Crime

Armed robbers hit Mac's store

SAL BOMMARITO
Staff Reporter

York Region Police are searching for three suspects who robbed a convenience store in Ballantrae early last Friday morning.

Police say three masked men entered Mac's Convenience Store on Fletcher Boulevard about 3:35 a.m.

The men, one of them wielding a 20-inch long steel bar, then forced a 40-year-old male store clerk into the back room.

Stolen were the man's wallet, which contained \$50, another \$50 in cash and three baskets containing lottery tickets and an unknown quantity of cigarettes.

Police say the men then jumped into a vehicle and headed north on Highway 48 before turning east onto a rural road.

Police have released descriptions of the three suspects.

The first suspect is 20 years old, five foot eight inches, 140 pounds and was wearing dark pants and jacket and a dark hood. The second suspect is 24 years old, five foot six inches, 170 pounds and was wearing a cream-colored jacket with a black cloth over his face.

The armed suspect is 20 years old, five foot eight inches, 160 pounds and was wearing dark blue pants and a black jacket.

Bylaws

The Villager loses store sign

SAL BOMMARITO
Staff Reporter

A sign bylaw is the subject of controversy between the town's building department and a Main Street retailer.

The controversy came to a head this week when the town's bylaw enforcement officer confiscated an A-frame sign belonging to Tom Thompson, owner of The Villager.

Thompson had been warned by the officer that his sign contravened the town's downtown sign bylaw which prohibits signs being displayed on town property.

But Thompson, who experienced a loss in business after removing the sign from the sidewalk in front of his store, decided to replace the sign. That's when he was a paid a visit by the town's bylaw enforcement officer.

"I don't have anything against the bylaw, but sales being the way they are, I need the sign," said Thompson.

He said the sign, which he paid \$100 for, advertised specialty foods and coffees sold at the store, which also sells men's and ladies' fashions.

Thompson, who moved his business to the Main Street location in October, said he relied on the sign to draw passersby into the store. But sales, already poor because of the economy, took a plunge after the sign was removed, he added.

"Visibility is everything. If you don't have it, you suffer," said Thompson.

Thompson believes the town should change the bylaw to help businesses struggling in tough economic times.

"They're not doing everything

they can to keep businesses here," he said.

The town's chief building officer, Bob Bennett, said the sign was confiscated after the town attempted to negotiate solutions to Thompson's problem. Thompson was not fined and is welcome to pick up his sign at any time, Bennett said.



THOMPSON

Bennett said the sign bylaw as it pertains to the downtown portion of Stouffville is designed to keep Main Street from being cluttered with a

large number of signs.

Like other bylaws, the sign bylaw "is for the good of the whole, not for the individual.

"If he can do it, than everybody can. Then it's not going to look good," said Bennett. The bylaw has been in place since 1985, he added.

Bennett said the town hasn't had a need to review the sign bylaw in the past, but in light of the tough economic times, he favors revising the bylaw "to be positive and sure it's fair."

The bylaw is also designed to protect the town from any liability resulting from people tripping over signs displayed on town property and signs which blow onto the road and into vehicles, the CBO said.

Thompson should be working closely with the Stouffville BIA (Business Improvement Area) and the Chamber of Commerce if his intention is to have the bylaw changed, said Bennett.

**KIDS
EARN
EXTRA
MONEY
BECOME A
CARRIER
TODAY**

Call:

640-2100

(Stouffville)

852-9741

(Uxbridge)

or

294-8244

(Markham)

Attention Flyer Advertisers

We can deliver your flyers for as little as 4¢ a piece. So far this year we have delivered 3,236,768 flyers door-to-door in Markham, Unionville, Milliken, Stouffville, Uxbridge, Clarendon, Dickson Hill, Locust Hill, Gormley, Goodwood, Victoria Square, Brougham, Whitevale, RR's Markham & Unionville.

We can deliver your flyers on the day you want to the area you want - any quantity from 5,000 to 46,000.

Call: Advertising at 640-2100, 640-2874,

852-9741 or 294-2200,

Distribution at 640-2100, 852-9741 or 294-8244

INSERTS FOR WED. FEB. 12/92

Hy & Zel's	Super Wheels
Bargain Harold's	Sears
Shoppers Drug Mart	Phoenix Plus
Uncle Robert's Pizza	Home Expressions
Big V Pharmacy	Aiken's Pharmacy

* Selected Areas Only