



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Hot off the barbie

From left, Len Tweedie, campaign co-chair for United Way, JT Walters, campaign representative, Mayor Fran Sainsbury, Pam Gouldbourne, chair of Stouffville United Way, and Wilf Wright, the vice-chair, enjoy some of the fare sponsored by local merchants at the mayor's annual barbecue at town hall last week.

# Female to male ratio on police not equitable to safety: Buck

JULIE CASPERSEN  
Staff Reporter

Employment equity legislation has raised the number of female police officers in York Region to the 10 per cent level, but what is the price to safety?

At this week's police services board meeting, board member Evelyn Buck raised the concern that a police force with a 50-50 male female ratio could endanger the public.

As more women are recruited, more officers will be assigned desk duty or be absent due to pregnancy, she said.

"If you're hiring young women is it of any concern to the police department to have to hire manpower to cover the situation?" asked Buck, signed on to the board in June.

Police Chief Donald Hillock said the current number of female officers on leave does not warrant hiring additional officers, "but its something to look at down the road when employment equity is fully in place."

York Regional Police are now developing a plan to meet the 50 per cent female goal, a figure that represents the actual ratio of females in the regional population. There are now 70 female officers, including cadets in the force of 710.

"On paper it sounds nice, but 85 to 90 per cent of the people we arrest are men," police spokesperson Sgt. Norn Miles said.

Under provincial legislation, police forces are required to increase the number of female and visible minority officers on staff.

"Equal opportunity is out there. The government believes in it and we have to offer it," said police board member Raymond Twinney.

"By virtue of the law, we are required to develop an employment equity plan. No other profession is required to do this," said Inspector Dan Robson, one of three employment equity officers in the department.

"There is a financial impact of the organization," Robson said, explaining that there is no pool of temporary staff to replace officers on maternity leave, therefore leaving either too few officers working or hiring an overload of full-timers to compensate.

The force is currently fine-tuning its employment equity plan and hopes to have the final draft prepared by the first week of October.

Working toward the goals could take years with the current hiring freeze in place and the lack of retirees in the youthful force.

## Prentice told to 'eat cake'

Local officials are urging Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice to "eat cake."

Prentice was telling officials what a wonderful time he had last weekend at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum volunteer appreciation barbecue, and added that the food was delicious.

Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley, who baked a cake for the event, spoke up and asked Prentice if he enjoyed the cake.

"Oh yes, it sweetened me up considerably," councillor Bradley, Prentice replied.

Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby joked that perhaps Prentice should "eat cake before every council meeting." The comment provided much-needed comic relief to the otherwise long meeting.

It must be noted that Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld and his wife made the potato salad for the event.

# The Dumps IWA money offer raises controversy

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

Ontario's dump search team could have alternative motives for offering 'participant funding' to the public, it was alleged this week.

Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley accused the Interim Waste Authority (IWA) of offering funds to the public in order to "look good" at environmental board hearings.

The IWA will issue participant funding to qualifying groups. The taxpayers' money will be used to audit future technical work of the IWA.

"We see it as a benefit to both the public and the IWA. It will give the public an independent perspective on the search process and it will give us a second, expert opinion on the data we gather," said IWA general manager Erv McIntyre last month.

But Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley said the \$350,000 available to a chosen 'technical committee' is being offered to escape raised eyebrows from an impartial hearing board during the environmental assessment stage of the process.

Town engineering co-ordinator Tom Parry agreed the province's financial offer to the public "will have an impact on the board."

"The IWA could be (offering participant funding) for that reason," Parry told officials. Bradley also expressed concern that York Region has no business vying for funds, that she said, should go to concerned citizen groups. "It sounds to me as if York Region is getting the money, and I have a problem with that. York should be protecting its citizens whether it gets the (participant) funding or not," Bradley said. And town finance director Ed Blackburn said York officials "sat on their butts a year ago and are now going after the money after the fact."

However, Mayor Fran Sainsbury said private groups are "not elected to handle the public purse. (York Region) could stand to get as much as \$1 million. I'm not prepared to hand that over to private citizens."

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- Mayor Sainsbury

But Dave Probert of the Environment Not Economics group, said the mayor's remarks are unfounded. "Citizen groups have put so much work into this process for the last 16 weeks and are possibly better informed and have more up-to-date information," than most political groups, Probert said.

Groups invited by the IWA to apply for the funding, which include ENE members, have met several times with York Region to plan strategy on how to use the funds. York Region's environment solicitor Ian Blue is acting as chairman of the groups. The groups have agreed to accept the funding on their own terms.

Blue told *The Tribune* that accepting funds on the IWA's terms would make it appear they agree with the provincial process.

"If we are going to be asked to participate and to implement the IWA actions, we are very concerned that it would appear we are supporting them. We want to be selective and careful on how we use the money," Blue said. He added that the IWA wants the money to be used to examine its processes. The groups, however, don't want to be told how to distribute the public money. "We should be able to pick and choose what to use the money for, and we should be able to decide who gets that money. We want not only to examine the IWA process, but to examine other ways to dispose of waste," Blue added.

Despite Sainsbury's statement that all the groups have agreed to let York take charge of the funds, many citizen groups, including Pine Orchard site opponents and ENE, say that's not true.

ENE wants to ensure if the group's proposal is turned down by the IWA, they will still be able to apply for the funds separately.

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- Dave Probert



## 50 years together

Betty and Jim Lummiss were the guests of honor at an open house in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary this summer. Held at the Sandford Community Hall the reception was given by their family. Guests attended from various parts of Ontario. The happy couple have resided in the area for many years and have four sons, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

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