

Taxpayers can't have what they can't afford, including a new red firetruck

Dear Editor:
A half a million dollar, "state of the art" firetruck for Whitchurch-Stouffville sounds wonderful, but I was raised on the premise, "you can't have what you can't afford." I have no doubt the fire department may need some updated equipment.

Editor's Mail

Regardless of what we need, or want, or like, we can't afford this model. This investment alone will

cost taxpayers over \$1,000 a week to buy, house and operate.

Mr. Prentice was criticized for not doing his homework, what homework?

If the taxpayers can't afford a Cadillac then they will have to settle for a chevrolet, or in my case a second-hand vehicle.

It's a matter of dollars and sense.

I stand to be corrected, but I can only see this beautiful, new, shiny red firetruck becoming a big, fat, white elephant.

Marion Wells
Lemonville

Red arrow draws taxpayers' respect

Dear Editor:
I wish to publicly express my personal feelings of appreciation and respect for Whitchurch-Stouffville councillors Ancheril, Bellerby, Bradley and Dunkeld for their support of the proposal for the red arrow.

It is very unfortunate that this issue has received such bad press recently. Although I have no wish to duel it out, pen in hand, with other residents who have previously written to express a negative context, I believe the time has come to offer some positive comments... I like it!

The concept is dynamic, progressive and exciting. The design will certainly fulfil the purpose for which it is intended - to provide direction and focus attention on our library and gallery.

The artist, Ron Baird, is recog-

nized internationally for his important work in the field of contemporary art.

The cost of \$17,000 may seem prohibitive to some, but it should be pointed out that the cost of the landmark itself is just \$7,000, and the remaining expense of \$10,000 will be spent for installation fees and landscaping, thus benefiting local businesses.

The art committee, composed largely of volunteers from the community, has worked diligently and tirelessly on this proposal since 1988.

Despite numerous set backs and complications in dealing with various levels of bureaucracy - ranging from the Metro Toronto Region Conservation Authority, director of Public Works, director of building, individual contractors, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public

Library board, to the council itself - the art committee has been persistent in its goal. It has been a very long process, but satisfaction was derived when council supported the recommendation made by its sub-committee(s). Without this support, volunteers would become totally frustrated and would cease to exist.

Art will always be controversial. So will politics and the spending of taxpayers' dollars. It is vital that our local politicians be informed well enough to be able to recognize both sides of an issue, and for their strength of leadership.

Mrs. Deen Glover,
Stouffville

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