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# Weekender

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# No dump here

**TRACY KIBBLE**  
Staff Reporter

Whew!  
It's over.

Whitchurch-Stouffville escaped the province's wrath yesterday after a short list of six sites was released at a press conference in North York.

"Sometimes God does smile on small towns in hard times," said an ecstatic Mayor Fran Sainsbury after hearing the good news.

Joking that she "passed out" when learning Whitchurch-Stouffville was spared, the mayor said she is confident York Region will pick up the town's \$30,000 dump-fight tab.

The Interim Waste Authority (IWA) will now focus its studies on the Rouge Valley site in Markham, three sites in Vaughan/King City and two sites in Sutton.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's unfortunate neighbors will be fighting full-fledged dump battles for the next four months when the IWA will nail the short list down to a final site.

That sole 600-acre site will house North America's biggest dump - housing 40 millions tonnes of waste from York and Metro Toronto for the next two decades.

Curiosity begs the question, why?

Why were the two sites in Whitchurch-Stouffville eliminated?

According to IWA's chief engineer Jacinta O'Brien, the 'W' sites were taken off the list because of infor-

mation received from both the town's consultant findings and facts gathered by the public.

O'Brien said the Pine Orchard site was eliminated largely because there are more residents living in the area than the IWA's original documents showed.



Here are the sites set out in York.

O'Brien said the town's Aug. 11 presentation specifically pointed to a block of 15 buildings within 500 metres of each other located in and around the Pine Orchard community.

These buildings were missed in the IWA's research data, O'Brien explained.

She added that the change in the number of buildings and residents living near the Pine Orchard site meant the IWA

had to include an additional buffer surrounding the site, which decreased its size.

"With the additional buffer, the site no longer met the minimum size requirement" of 600 acres, O'Brien said.

The Spring Lakes site was eliminated for much the same reason.

The crown corporation could not ignore the high number of residents living in this area after studying more current data, Jacinta confirmed.

It was found the Spring Lakes site contained "too many high-level impacts," which meant it had to be scrapped from the process, O'Brien said.

Durham/York MPP Larry O'Connor said the town and the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville should be congratulated on the hard work put forth to prove their case against a dump in the community.

"This has shown that a fair and open process really does work - the hard work by the community has paid off," O'Connor said.

Progressive Conservative environment critic Don Cousens, however, is demanding the IWA "rethink its process."

"The IWA does not know the meaning of fair, just or logical," Cousens said.

"The IWA process refuses to consider alternatives, tramples fundamental rights, and inflicts undue stress on people living near one of the (short list) sites - this must stop," Cousens said after hearing the short list announcement.

"I can't believe it's over - together we did it," Sainsbury said.

## Economy

# SOS lays demands on table for council

**TRACY KIBBLE**  
Staff Reporter

The days of the quiet, submissive and obedient taxpayer are clearly over in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The days of arm-chair politics and coffee-table tax-bashing have also ended, it seems, after a group of citizens this week decided it was time to stand up and be counted.

During a lengthy meeting Tuesday night, which reduced Mayor Fran Sainsbury to tears, more than 100 homeowners laid it on the line with local politicians and their staff.

A newly-formed ratepayers' group - Save Our Stouffville (SOS) - told officials in no

uncertain terms to stop spending public money "just because it's there."

SOS spokesman Marion Wells, during a dramatic 15-minute speech, threatened a tax revolt next year if a hike looms on the budget horizon.

"We will not be paying an increase on our taxes in 1993 because we can't... we just can't," she said.

"We are real people. We have names and faces and serious financial difficulties. We are not statistics from a government study. This all happened through no fault of our own."

Wells said local politicians have under-estimated a "hurting world," and warned that spending money must come to a halt.

"Taxpayers are tired of struggling, saving and skimping, only to have our taxes raised again and again and

Read my lips  
- we can't afford it.

- Marion Wells

again," she said.

Through the prying light of a CFTO video camera, Wells told a national audience that Stouffville politicians have two years to "turn things around."

SOS is objecting to town pro-

jects slated for next year totalling nearly \$1 million.

The group wants plans to buy a \$478,000 custom-built aerial fire truck cancelled. "Read my lips - we can't afford it," Wells said.

Wells suggested the town's fire chief "step aside" if he can't operate his department without going into debt.

This statement drew balks and glares from officials, and howls of approval from the crowd.

SOS said they don't oppose new equipment, but object to the purchase of an expensive state-of-the-art "horror story" like the one proposed.

The group also wants town employees to take a cut in salary to 1991 levels and sug-

gested if they don't like the cuts, they can "find employment elsewhere."

"Nowhere is it written in stone that an employee is compelled to stay, if not satisfied," Wells said.

SOS is questioning the town's recent hire for a parks superintendent - an interim position to temporarily replace the town's recreation director.

The group also chastised the town's plan to build a \$108,000 toboggan hill, and the creation of an outdoor rink.

Resident Ken Sandford said taxpayers are tired of being "hoodwinked and deceived by this zero-based baloney."

Council received the delega-

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