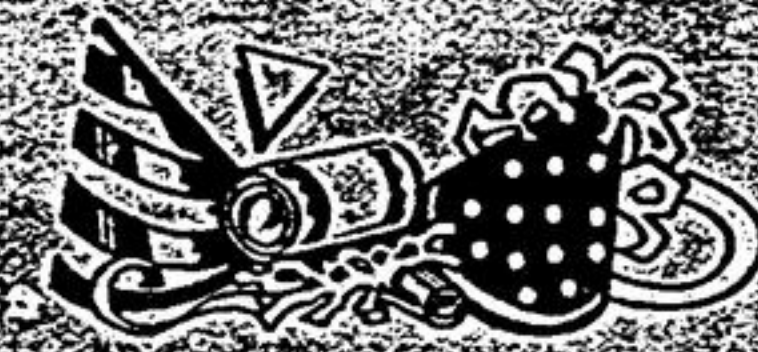




HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE TRIBUNE STAFF



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Step aside 1992

Local politicians send new year message

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Canada's 125th birthday, constitutional wrangling and the everlasting recession.

Dim reminders and happy highlights of 1992. A mixed year that challenged many taxpayers as they struggled to make ends meet in a country plagued with government change, job losses and tax grabs.

Many will gladly say farewell to 1992 and welcome in 1993 with open and hopeful arms.

As a brand new year approaches, local politicians are already thinking of ways to make 1993 a better year for Whitchurch-Stouffville residents.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury has a simple message for local taxpayers as she contemplates the political challenge ahead.

The mayor knows taxpayers will be waiting to see how officials spend scarce public money in the year ahead. Sainsbury's philosophy for a better 1993 is "more positive thinking."

"We need to stop all this negative energy we've been expending in 1992. We all have to stop talking doom and gloom," Mayor Sainsbury said.

She predicts many people are not as financially deprived as it seems, but are saving their hard-earned cash for an uncertain

future. "People have money in their purse, they're just tightening the strings," she said.

Meanwhile, Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice said taxpayers have to realize government won't always have the solutions to community problems.

"First we have to recognize that we are operating in different times - nothing can be taken for granted. Government does not have all the answers. Second, and more specifically for Whitchurch-Stouffville: by being more vigilant in demanding value for public expenditures and by moving forward with plans for establishing a viable commercial/industrial tax base, we can promote a more bal-

anced tax base and jobs," Prentice said.

And Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril said making 1993 a better year for local taxpayers will mean "attacking problems and issues" through team work.

Ancheril predicts the worst of the tough economic times are behind us - all Canadians.

"What we have gone through is not just a problem in Whitchurch-Stouffville - it's a Canadian and global recession. We must fundamentally and strongly believe that 1993 will be a better year. We need a positive attitude and a positive spirit and with that we can change things and see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Meanwhile, Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley believes people need to shop in York Region in order to make life better for all residents.

"If we spent more money here it would help enhance our opportunities to grow economically. There is still a lot of hardship out there and we need to look past ourselves and make decisions with our heads and our hearts. We need to be more understanding to people who have not," Bradley said.

Canadians are hoping for a better 1993 - and local taxpayers are hoping a continued healthy quality of life will not mean continued tax hikes. We'll see.

Hakonson sports innovative plans

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

The idea of creating a motor sport restaurant at the former Deer Park Inn was inspired by similar facilities in the U.S., said Ed Hakonson, president of the local project and owner of Choko Design.

"We had seen this type of restaurant in the States, but never combined with a clothing business. Ours has a racing theme, but you can also buy almost anything you want, including T-shirts, hats, jackets and mini-race cars, right in the restaurant."

The merchandise will be on sale in the foyer area, where customers will be able to browse before and after dinner. "Another unique thing is that you are going to be able to buy your knives, forks and plates, which will be motor sport oriented, featuring names like Goodyear."

Menu items will include broasted chicken, ribs and a vegetarian plate - strongly geared towards family dining. Choko Design's head office, currently located on Sandiford Drive, will operate out of the

complex. Hakonson's partners are George Bruce, who is responsible for construction and George Wilson, who will be involved primarily in administration. Although Hakonson is investing heavily in the new project, he has not altered his view of local politicians, whom he feels do little to encourage the business community.

Frustrated by the political process, Hakonson said that he is taking a new approach. "I just gave up trying to change anything. What we want to do with this project is to lead by example."

"I am still not impressed with the politicians, but the bureaucrats are starting to understand that they can't do things the way they used to, and they have been most co-operative."

Choko Design has sold its existing commercial property in the area "and we are putting every dime that we've made into this," Hakonson stated. He plans to move the clothing business to the new location in March and the restaurant is slated to open next summer.

Thieves crash truck through wall in break-in

A truck was used as a battering ram to crash through the wall of a Stouffville shop Christmas Eve.

Between 4 and 6 a.m. Dec. 24, more than \$3,000 worth of western wear was stolen from Western Coral Bootwear on Woodbine

Ave. The culprits entered the store after driving a truck into a wall. Damage is set at \$5,000.

Snowmobiles swiped

Two snowmobiles were reported stolen from a Stouffville home last week.

Police were called to a Ninth Line address Dec. 24 after two Polaris snow mobiles, one a black 1989 model and a blue 1992 model were stolen along with a silver trailer. The machines are valued at \$14,000.



Photo: STEVE SOMERVILLE

Snow tunes

Diana Wideman, 6, thought this stick in Stouffville Memorial Park made a pretty good flute during a winter walk on Monday.

Ho, Ho, Ho
GIVE LIKE A PRO
SOURCE
Christmas Sale

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON
FROM ALL OF US
AT THE SOURCE**

"Go with the Pros!"
-AL THE SOURCE!

Al The Source

**BOYD'S SOURCE
FOR SPORTS**

Farmer Jack Plaza in Stouffville

