



**ECONO
AIRPORT
SERVICE
640-5466**

The Tribune

Stouffville

**ECONO
TAXI
640-5466**

Vol. 105 No. 45 A Metroland Community Newspaper Wednesday, November 10, 1993 20 Pages 50 cents

Exclusive

Battling batching plants may cost \$1M

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville taxpayers have dished out nearly \$500,000 in studies and consultant fees in support of the town's decision to ban ready-mix plants on aggregate pit sites, *The Tribune* has learned.

And the costs to restrict the use of batching plants could swell to more than \$1 million if angered aggregate miners continue to challenge the interim control bylaw which restricts the use.

Last week was likely the start of more legal wrangling to come, after the town lost a court decision and a four-year scuffle with an existing ready mix operation in the community's outskirts.

It is estimated the town owes its solicitors, Borden & Elliot about \$30,000 for the case alone. The town may decide to appeal the decision through a higher court, but officials have not discussed the matter yet.

Charges dismissed

Last week, Judge J. R. MacKinnon of the Ontario Court of Justice general division in Newmarket ruled the town's attempts to stop a St. Mary's Cement operation on Bloomington Sideroad be dismissed on grounds the plant was a legal use when it began in 1990, and

MP vows to be frugal in his new post

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville MP-elect Jag Bhaduria is determined to play down the pomp and ceremony associated with his new position.

"I'm not interested in being known as the Honorable Jag Bhaduria - just call me Jag," the rookie Liberal member told *The Tribune* Friday after returning home from his third trip to Ottawa since defeating Tory incumbent Bill Attewell in the Oct. 25 federal election.

"I'm here to serve my riding, and I want to be accessible. My number is in the book, and I want people to feel free to call me anytime."

Bhaduria hopes to prove his sincerity to his constituents and his fellow government members by way of his person-

(Please see page 3)

that the owners did not require a building permit to begin the operation.

Judge MacKinnon's Nov. 2 ruling also ordered the town pay all legal costs to St. Mary's and its affiliates — which are expected to run as high as \$50,000, sources say.

The town has spent in excess of \$400,000 on consultant fees and about \$75,000 in legal costs and

staff time, documents show.

Pending appeals

Sources say the town could also be looking at an additional \$200,000 to \$300,000 to defend its batching plant ban and subsequent interim control bylaw at pending Ontario Municipal Board appeals from angered local aggregate miners.

The town's experts say batching plants are harmful to surround-

ing environment and could affect water quality and quantity, but miners say that's not true.

The St. Mary's group say the town has grossly over-estimated the amount of water its plant uses, and insists the town's water problems are due to its own inadequate, outdated wells.

The group's experts also say a ready-mix plant uses far less water than both nearby fish-

related, water-pumping businesses that currently draw from the aquifer.

The town's battle began in June 1989 when a local group of investors (Richard Sandiford, Ken Sandiford, Don Anderson and Harold Scott) bought a \$2-million property for the purpose of constructing a business office — a permitted use at the time of

(Please see page 3)



Post Office

Postal saviors hope Liberals will listen

A band of citizens fighting to keep full services at the downtown post office have moved quickly to correspond with Canada's new Liberal government.

Friends of the Lemon - Stouffville Citizens' Committee for Saving our Community Post Office sent a letter last week to Minister Responsible for the Post Office, David Dingwall, at the House of Commons in Ottawa, expressing their concerns and anger over Canada Post's decision to end

retail service at the Main Street office.

"The community of Stouffville is now threatened with the elimination of retail service and probable loss of its busy community post office," the letter, signed by the eight-member group.

The letter also slammed the Post Office for wasting money in "frivolous ways" such as its \$90-million headquarters, and more than half a million dollars on sports "box seats for staff instead of offering better ser-

vice to the public. "It is completely inappropriate to misuse or even squander successful service facilities, like our downtown post office," the letter states. The group has a letter from then opposition leader Jean Chretien supporting Rural Dignity efforts to keep post offices open. "The Liberal Party believes Canada Post should remain a Crown corporation and should not be privatized. Canada Post should focus on restoring what has been lost."