

Hey Kids!

Write to Santa Claus at The Tribune!

Santa gets his Tribune every week, and if you don't want to send your letter all the way to the North Pole, drop them into The Tribune office and we'll try to get your letter in the paper, so Santa can read it. Those we don't get in, we'll send to the jolly elf at the North Pole in time for Christmas. Send your wish list by Dec. 6, 1993 to The Tribune, 6244 Main St., Stouffville, 1A1 1E2, or fax them to 640-5477.



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Education

Get more out of teachers, York board told

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

Get more work out of teachers was the message to the

committee charged with setting the York Region Board of Education budget.

Hiking the pupil-teacher ratio

topped the list of most of the residents and groups having their say at the meeting reserved for public presenta-

tions. Staffing was researched by Thornhill students who claim teachers they polled "agreed that an extra student

or two in most classes would not be an unreasonable burden," said Gabor Koltai.

The Youth Political Action Committee recommended to the budget committee that qualified teachers who have non-teaching duties be placed back in the classroom. The teens estimate that more staff teaching more students would result in a \$5 million savings.

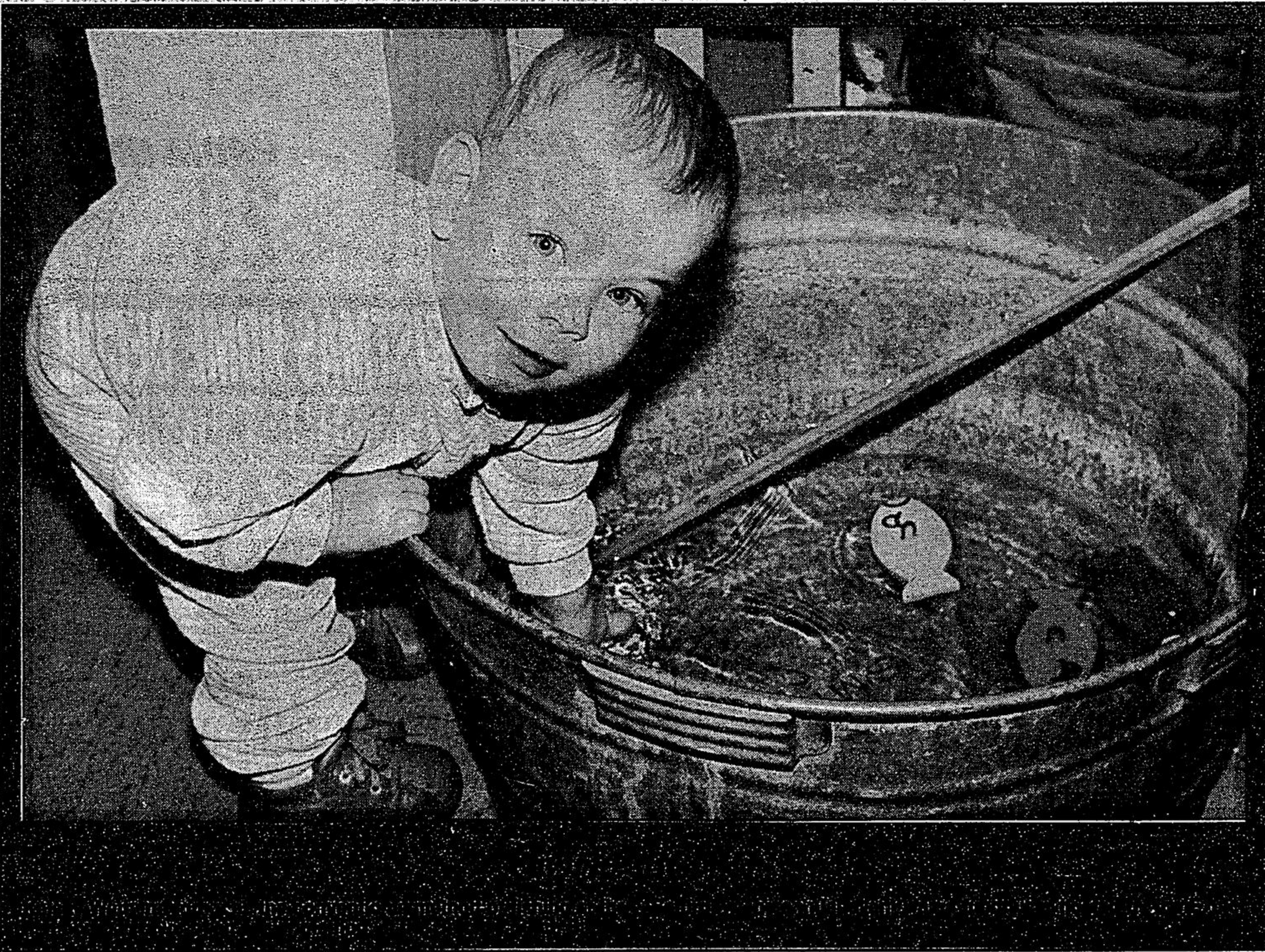
Unionville resident John Paloc told the trustees his ratepayer group has started watchdog duty at the boards, having learned that more than 75 per cent of their municipal taxes pays for education.

He urged other residents and ratepayer groups to get involved in how the bulk of their tax dollars are spent, and gave advice from an accountant's point of view to the committee. "Start doing business the way business should be done," he said.

One parent of three children lobbied for no-frills schools, as well as user pay transportation. Jackie Cousins also advocated a hike in the PTR as well as the maximum walking distance and backed the board on its hold-out against Junior Kindergarten.

The 1993 budget of \$485 million was approved with a 6.9 per cent tax increase. The board is aiming for a 1994 tax hike of no more than three per cent and hopes to freeze expenses at this year's level.

The next budget meeting set aside for public comments is Jan. 19.



Town must do more to promote rural commercial potential

In order to create "commercial potential" for the town's surrounding rural hamlets, officials should consider promoting farmers' markets, bed and breakfasts, fishing and a host of other initiatives, said the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) this week. The committee, which was formed in conjunction with the town and which has two council members

on its roster, advises politicians on the best ways to foster economic revival to the town and to its businesses.

EDAC chairman Jury Konga, was expected to discuss the issue of rural promotion at last night's council meeting in which the group recommended a list of initiatives geared to stimulate the rural economy.

Among its lengthy list of suggestions, EDAC is urg-

ing politicians to avidly promote recreation, tourism, agriculture and businesses and to amend its land use planning to accommodate the initiatives.

EDAC suggests the town make a "commitment of resources" in order to implement the ideas.

Council was expected to discuss the matter last night.

Public school gives clothing line B.U.M.'s rush

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

It's an expensive line of denim and casual clothing that emblazons the letters B.U.M. and the accompanying word 'Equipment' across its cotton exterior.

And one local principal has decided the clothing, no matter how expensive, is inappropriate for elementary school children to wear while attending class-

es. In fact, Ballantrae Public School principal Dean Bodkin has told at least one student that the B.U.M. clothing line (which stands for British Union Made) is not to be worn during school hours.

"If you take out the periods you are left with a word I don't think is appropriate," Bodkin said.

Colin Giles, assistant manager at Randy River in the Markville Shopping

Centre, said the line is his number-one selling product.

"It's huge, absolutely huge. I sell B.U.M. sweats and jeans to kids and adults of all ages," Giles said.

He added the clothing runs about \$50 for a pair of jeans, and about \$40 for sweatshirts and carries the "big" baggy look so sought after today.

Bodkin said he didn't realize the B.U.M. line was so expensive, but

admitted he doesn't care about the manufacturing aspect of the matter.

"It was a personal decision I made because I don't believe that word should be in the school," Bodkin said this week.

"Any shirt which has those letters on it should be worn on the weekends," he said.

Bodkin said he asked one student to

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