

Newsmakers 1993

Marion Wells



Lemonville resident Marion Wells plowed headstrong into the council chambers during the budget process, which started in 1992, and continued her fight to keep taxes down again in 1993.

As one of the founding members of Stouffville's strongest citizen coalitions - Save Our Stouffville (SOS) - Wells has delivered a number of well-written speeches as the group's voice, and has the support and respect of a good many followers and neighbors.

Wells started her crusade after hearing the town's decision to purchase a new fire truck in 1992 - a move she said the council didn't think through, and a luxury she said the taxpayers couldn't afford.

Wells grew more and more vocal as the year unfolded, taking her same need for tax-hiking justification to the education board.

Wells' main focus, she has always maintained, was - and still is - to keep taxes down and to ask for more accountability from local politicians and their decisions.

Wells' group hit the ceiling when council waived its tender process to hire Miller Waste for a \$2 million garbage collection contract - a move which prompted SOS to ask for the resignations for all politicians who voted in favor of the waiver.

Calling the waiver a "sidestep of the political process" Wells said waiving the tender was irresponsible.

While she has been fairly quiet over the past few months, Wells will likely come out to share her views during 1994's budget process.



Dave Probert

Lemonville community activist Dave Probert was a thorn in the side of both council and the region in 1993. Probert took on the role of watchdog, taking the town to task on various issues as a member of the group Save Our Stouffville (SOS), and on his own.

Probert's plea for unity among the towns of the region in the fight against the provincial government's mega-dump backfired at a Feb. 25 meeting of regional council. The former chair of the Environment Not Economics ratepayers group caused one councillor to suggest that perhaps funding should be cancelled to all anti-dump groups in the region. Probert had accused the regional politicians of not keeping up on dump fighting efforts of the various towns in the region on Feb. 25. He was particularly critical of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and that town's dump task force.

Probert pushed Mayor Fran Sainsbury too far in September when he asked the mayor if, in return for her vote to hand Miller Waste Disposal Systems a five year, \$2 million garbage collection contract, would she get her driveway paved by Miller. Sainsbury demanded a public apology. When Probert refused, the mayor told the Lemonville resident she would pursue the matter privately.

Jag Bhaduria

Jag Bhaduria hit the jackpot in his second try as a Liberal candidate in the riding of Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville, ousting Tory incumbent Bill Attewell in the Oct. 25 federal election.

Bhaduria, who owns his own management consulting business, received almost double the votes garnered by Attewell, with Reform candidate Joe Sherren a close third.

Bhaduria's victory was welcomed by the large ethnic population in

Markham, with Bhaduria jubilantly referring to the riding as the "new Canada." He promised to ensure the riding would be given special attention in Ottawa.



Bhaduria, a father of three who resides in Unionville, campaigned on the platform of stimulating the local economy and creating jobs by providing incentives to small and medium sized business in Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville. The heavy tax burden currently being born by residents in his riding is another concern he acknowledged. He also pledged to work towards amending the Criminal Code so that racial, religious, ethnic, and sexual insensitivity and intolerance would be dealt with harshly.

Young people would be given every opportunity to compete at home and on a global scale under a Liberal government, he said.

Upon being elected, Bhaduria said he was looking to become a hard working MP who would sit on as many parliamentary committees as possible. He said his connections with such important Liberals as Keith Davey would help his influence be felt in Ottawa. Bhaduria said one of his first priorities would be to learn French so he could help in the fight against the Bloc Quebecois' separatist agenda. He is also looking to broaden his national perspective by travelling across the country when the House is not in session.

Norm Craven

Giant vegetable grower Norm Craven finally gained the international recognition he's been striving for in 1993.

The Stouffville area real estate broker, who grows monster veggies on his 100 acre Bloomington Rd./Hwy. 48 hobby farm, harvested an 832 pound pumpkin this past fall. The mammoth Jack-O-Lantern earned him a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records, a new truck, and an appearance on the Regis and Kathie Lee TV show in New York.

The pumpkin, which exceeded the old world mark by five pounds, was eventually rendered second biggest in the world. Both Craven's pumpkin-



and the new record holder were grown from seeds which came out of the previous champion in Washington.

Craven entered his beauty at the world weigh off station at Port Elgin Oct. 3. It held centre stage until news of an even larger pumpkin came in on a

global conference call. The previous record for a pumpkin in this province was 704 pounds. Before this year, Craven's biggest effort had been a 461 pounder.

Prior to the weigh in date, Craven spent several days in bed after hurting his back trying to move a 400 pound pumpkin. Craven's 10 minute stint on US national TV Oct. 27 gave him the chance to show off his enormous pumpkin, along with a 14" corn cob, a nine foot zucchini, and a 53 pound turnip grown by Udora's Phil Lillie.

Craven drove his prize vegetables to New York in the truck awarded him for growing his large pumpkin.

Margaret Britton

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Citizen of the Year, Margaret Britton, has never been one to let the grass grow under her feet.

Taking a no-nonsense approach to every cause she tackles, Britton has achieved major advances for Mobility Transit in the area and has worked tirelessly for the local chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

As chairman of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit committee, Britton was instrumental in persuading the town to approve a one-year pilot project for the service, beginning in February, 1994. "We strive to provide quality transit for our riders on a hassle-free system and this gives our disabled citizens an alternative to staying home and depending on care givers," Britton said. A founding member of the York East chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, she opens her home every year for a fund-raising barbecue and is actively involved in the charity's annual carnation campaign.

Britton organizes golf tournaments and car rallies to raise funds for the cause and also finds time to volunteer as a palliative care worker at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

She is a member of York Region's Transportation Advocacy Committee and visits schools as a guest speaker for the MS Society. When Britton is not busy working on special projects, she drives a bus for residents from Parkview Home and Green Gables Manor, and invites seniors and disabled people to visit her at her beautiful Lemonville home. Her involvement as a member of the congregation of Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville has given her particular joy. As *The Tribune's* Citizen of the Year, she will be a tough act to follow.

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