

AMO complaints fall on 'deaf ears'

Local officials voted last week against joining a group which represents municipal concerns across Ontario.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) asked the town to pay more than \$2,500 in membership fees this year to help fight issues on behalf of local government.

Council's decision marks the second year the town has opted out of the group. Mayor Fran Sainsbury complained AMO's concerns "fall on deaf ears," at the provincial level, and added membership fees would be wasted. "The NDP are not listening anyway - I'd rather put the money toward sidewalks," the mayor balked.

However, Ward 1 councillor Stephen Bellerby said local politicians often complain about Stouffville's "small voice," and said joining AMO could strengthen its force. "It would be \$2,500 incredibly well spent," Bellerby insisted.

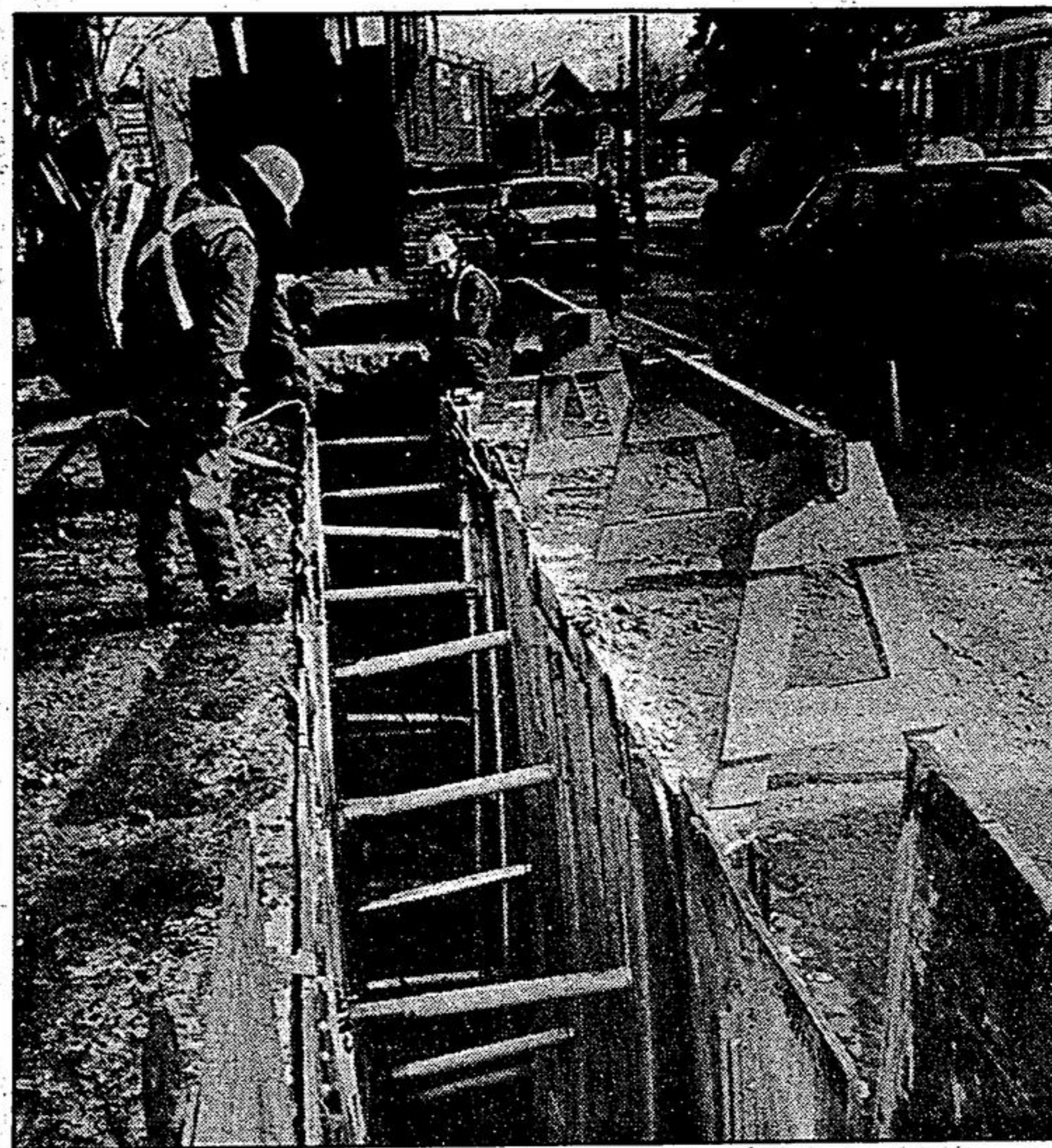
"We have a voice, and we're choosing not to use it," he said.

Bellerby added that being a member to a large group gives Stouffville the opportunity to "rub shoulders" with other municipalities experiencing similar problems and concerns.

But Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril said spending \$2,500 to join a group is "not on our top list of priorities," and chastised AMO for showing no "salesmanship."

"The price is not right," Ancheril said. Sainsbury said the town could re-assess its position "when there is a provincial government (elected) that is more responsive," to municipal concerns. AMO, in a bid to convince Stouffville of membership benefits, promised to revise its membership fee schedule next year.

The group promised to spend more than \$2 billion in 1993 tackling issues such as police budgets, and the province's waste management act.



Holed up on Main St.

No, Main St. hasn't become a site for an archaeological dig, it's just a break in the sewer system. Fixing it was a crew from Silvio Construction Company, Ltd. of Maple on Friday morning. The repairs slowed traffic, but caused no major headaches for Stouffville drivers this week.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

NDP show "stupidity" in revised Building Code

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Astronomical fine increases for offences under Ontario's revised Building Code Act show "plain stupidity" in the New Democratic Party administration, one local official charged last week.

Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril said hikes - as high as 9,900 per cent - for continuing offences under the act are far too steep and chase prospective development from the area.

Effective May 1, fines will be boosted from \$2,000 for the first offence to \$25,000 and for a subsequent offence, \$50,000.

Corporate fines will be jacked up to \$50,000 and \$100,000 respectively.

Continuing offences will be increased from \$100 a day to \$10,000 a day - a nearly 10,000 per cent hike, according to the report.

"This is not reasonable nor intelligent - they're driving away developers from the municipality," an angry Ancheril said.

"Why not say the fines will be raised from \$2,000 to \$1 million?" he added.

Ancheril was commenting on a report from building director Bob Bennett, which listed at least 10 major changes to the act, under Bill 112, which received royal assent last November.

The revised Act and its regulations are expected to be implemented sometime this month, and will become mandatory by May 1, Bennett said.

Bennett said the massive hikes would likely "resolve a lot of our problems," with repeat offenders, but added many of the other changes could hinder staff progress.

Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley said the changes could mean more site monitoring, higher administrative costs and increase litigation wranglings with offenders.

Bradley said the changes are one more example of "the province sticking its nose into municipal matters."

Bennett admitted changes

could require the town to seek out more "expertise in certain areas," but said he's not sure to what degree Bill 112 will affect the town.

Some other major changes to the act:

- conditional permits may be issued at any stage of construction even if all applicable laws and conditions have not been met;

- municipalities can enforce the erection and maintenance of fences sur-

This is not reasonable nor intelligent - the province is driving away developers from the municipality
- Bob Ancheril

rounding sites;

- building permits will be required for changes of building use where hazards would be increased; even though no construction is involved;

- emergency powers will be given to inspectors where immediate threat to health and safety are found during building inspections;

- higher standards for maintenance, occupancy and repair of existing buildings will be implemented and probably replace the old Property Standards Act.

Bill 112's new regulation standards have not yet been released, but contain significant changes for basement apartment standards, including height, insulation and

mechanical air handling systems. Industrial and commercial buildings will require highly increased standards in energy management, Bennett said. Council received the report.

Walter Atkinson was founder and builder

(From page 1)

Market.

In 1964, he sold the business and barns to his two employees, Norm Faulkner and Frank Bennett.

By this time he had purchased the rest of the Johnson farm acreage and began yet another new project - the Deer Park Inn.

He designed a park among the beechwood bush for the public to enjoy with live animals and birds, including deer, fox and peacocks.

For several winters, he ran an outdoor skating rink with the famous Valentine Costume Party complete with hot chocolate, sweets and of course, prizes.

It seems so appropriate that another young entrepreneur, Ed Hakonson, has embarked on the ambitious project on this very site at the present time, to be called Motor Complex.

Retired from the sales barn business, but not from the auction ring, Walter continued to conduct auction sales near and far accompanied by his young partner, Lloyd Wilson of Uxbridge.

Walter was a world traveller and an avid photographer. He felt so privileged to be among the first tour group to visit China when they opened their borders to the world in 1973.

His journeys took him to Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, Europe, Israel, Australia and New Zealand.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Stouffville United Church and the National Association of Auctioneers.

The celebration of life service was conducted on Sat., Jan. 2, by Rev. Wayne Reed and E. Redcliffe from the O'Neill chapel.

A well-known and highly respected citizen, he has indeed left his mark on the town he loved so much. We remember and are thankful for all his contributions.

Business

Mall gets new life with Bargain Shop

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Stouffville will once again have a retail bargain centre.

The Bargain Shop, to be located at the former Bargain Harold's site at the Stouffville Place Mall, plans to open its doors early next month.

Store manager Ron Stiles told The Tribune the outlet, which is part of a chain owned by Woolworths, will be similar to Bargain Harold's, but with a few differences.

"There will be mens' and ladie's wear, food and cosmetics, etc. but it will be brighter and cleaner with newer products," Stiles said.

The store will remain open seven days a week, but business hours are yet to be determined, he added.

Stiles said the store would fill the "hole" left when the Bargain Harold's chain went out of business last year.

"I think the people of Stouffville really supported the store, it was holding its own. It was a loss for the people of town when it closed. This store should fill that need. The people I

am talking to in Stouffville are excited that something's going in here."

Stiles was with the Bargain Harold's group of stores for 14 years, and served as Toronto area district manager for four years before moving to The Bargain Shop. He set up the local Bargain Harold's outlet five years ago.

Adding to Stiles' optimism is the presence of Joan Bell as The Bargain Shop's office manager.

"Joan was the Bargain Harold's office manager and she got to know a lot of people here. After all the years Joan and I worked with Bargain Harold's, we're excited about the way these people (The Bargain group) operate."

Bell said hiring is pretty well complete, and will start with a 15-staff team.

"We'll start out with that number and see how it goes," Bell said.

Stiles said the store would emphasize service in a competitive market place.

"You have to give the people what they want. I consider myself a people person. I want to get to know the people who come into the store," Stiles said.

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