



Photo/CELIA BRONKHORST

Sharp eye

Claremont's Ken 'Zappy' Zampaloni takes aim during the Claremont Grudge Dart Match Saturday against Uxbridge.

Dog owners may be hit by 1993 tag fee increases

Whitchurch-Stouffville dog owners can expect an increase in the 1993 dog tag fees, if council approves the hike next week.

Staff is recommending the town hike its \$15 a year dog tag fee from \$15 to \$20.

The rate for two or more dogs would remain the same at \$30 each.

The rate charged for dog tags has not increased since 1986 and a change in the Munic-

ipal Act last year permits the town to readjust its fees.

Deputy clerk Michele Skinner urges dog owners to "come in now and get a reduced rate," before the March 1 hike.

Kennel operators will also see a hike in yearly fees from \$25 to \$50 for people who breed, board, treat or keep dogs for sale, effective immediately if council approves the increase next week.

Politics

MP objects to Taiwan stories

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The Godfather. That's what Bill Attewell thinks he's been made out to be in an article in the Jan. 11 issue of Maclean's magazine, and a subsequent Toronto Star editorial.

The Maclean's story targeted the Markham/Whitchurch-Stouffville MP as the person who decides which MPs get to take advantage of offers of free trips to Taiwan.

As chair of the Canada-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group, "Attewell is effectively in charge of a small patronage machine: determining which politicians receive invitations to visit Taiwan at that country's expense," said the story.

Attewell told *The Tribune* the

Maclean's article contained several inaccuracies, and that it "makes me look like a Godfather." "It's all disclosed in Parliament," he said of the trips.

"Our objective all along has been to improve relations between the two countries." Attewell, who has taken three trips to Taiwan, said Canada currently sits at a two to one disadvantage in an annual three billion dollar trade relationship between the two nations.

He said Taiwan is planning to spend \$300 billion over the next five years on its infrastructure, and that visits by senior dignitaries such as Michael Wilson last year "can open doors for Canadian businesses."

Attewell also responded to the claims of NDP MP Phil Edmonston in the Maclean's article that the trips are meant to affect

the judgment of a member of Parliament. "They are effectively trying to buy their support," said Edmonston.

"If some MPs have a problem with accepting a trip paid for by a foreign government, I respect that," said Attewell. "But when other MPs insinuate that the ones who are doing it are being bought, this is what I object to."

Attewell said the relationship between Taiwan and Canada is a two way street, and that Canadian MPs are not reluctant to present grievances such as Taiwan's high tariff rate on Canadian beef. "We're not being patsies," he said.

He added that the Maclean's report that gifts of up to \$3,000 are sometimes given the visiting MPs, along with the offer of sexual favors, were also off base. Small gifts were exchanged between he and his hosts when he visited Taiwan, he said, adding he had never been aware of offers of sexual favors.

As for personal abuses, Attewell acknowledged the potential was there, and that he had heard of some cases of visitors who had drunk excessively. "You could abuse it, and some people may have." The Star, in its Jan. 6 editorial, said the practice of MPs taking free trips from foreign governments should be outlawed.

"Accepting similar gifts in Canada would violate most conflict of interest guidelines, if not the Criminal Code," said the Star.

Attewell called the Star editorial "a vicious attack. If it was something where you knew you had your hand in the cookie jar, that's one thing," said Attewell. "But when you have a chance to enhance the economy of Canada, that's another thing." Attewell said he had requested time on the Classicom Cable TV network to present his objections to the Maclean's and Star articles.

Crime

Man charged in New Year's Eve sex assault

York Regional Police charged a man in connection with a New Year's Eve sex assault at the Stouffville Inn.

A Scarborough woman, 30, complained to police Jan. 8 that a man sexually assaulted her in a room at the Ringwood Dr. motel Dec. 31. Police said the victim knew her attacker.

A Scarborough man, 36, of Goskin St., is charged with sexual assault and anal assault.

Arrest made

Police have made an arrest in connection with the break-in at the Stouffville Co-operative Association.

The theft of a large number of tools was reported to police Jan. 2. The missing loot includes electric screwdrivers, drills, saws and flashlights.

One man was charged with break and enter Monday and another suspect is under investigation.

These are the same men charged with the Jan. 3 break in at a Ringwood Dr. building where \$5,000 in office equipment was stolen.

Police responded to an intrusion alarm at the Main St. IGA which they believe was deliberately set off to divert officers from the Ringwood Dr. break-in where two men, one from Markham and one from Toronto, were arrested loading loot into a pick-up truck.

Stonehouse to manage Halifax golf club

One of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Citizens of the Year is leaving the community to pursue new ventures.

Ged Stonehouse, known largely for his contributions in helping the high school track become a reality and other community projects, has already left for Halifax

where he will take on the full-time post as general manager of a golf club.

"I feel bad that I'm leaving, but I'm also excited about this new project," Stonehouse said.

His family moved to Stouffville in 1974, and calls the town "a major part of my



STONEHOUSE

family's life. This community was the growing-up years for our kids and Whitchurch-Stouffville will always have a spe-

cial place in our hearts," Stonehouse said.

Stonehouse was selected to receive *The Tribune's* Citizen of the Year award in 1991.

He moved Saturday after receiving recognition from the area Reform Party earlier in the week.



Under the Covers

Under the Covers, an up and coming rock band uses the Goodwood Lions Hall to practice for a tour of area bars. On Sunday, the band was breaking in a new keyboard player. From left, are Paul Sellers, Wolf Endlicher, and Jeff Fisher.

Photo/CELIA BRONKHORST

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