

ST: Politicians must start listening to taxpayers

Dear Editor,
Recent correspondence in The Tribune, articles in other papers and public opinion polls have provided clear evidence that the taxpayers are thoroughly fed up with politicians, their failure to restrain spending, and their failure to represent properly the people who elected them.

Locally, presentations by the Save Our Stouffville (SOS) group reflect this frustration, but it appears that requests for restraint in municipal spending and taxation were not greeted with enthusiasm by council. One councillor, referring to SOS, was quoted as saying in The Tribune that "outside forces will not be allowed to control this council."

He forgets that politicians at all levels are elected to do a job for the taxpayers, they are paid by those taxpayers and when requests are made by groups such as SOS, they should be taken seriously.

Politicians generally do not seem to show the same lack of enthusiasm when the requests from special interest "outside forces" are for increased spending for some pet project. Too many are only too anxious to accede to such requests, which may benefit a small segment of the population, while all taxpayers foot the bill.

These and other demands in the past have resulted in many politicians adopting the attitude of "spend whatever is necessary to get what we (the politicians and the lobbyists) want, and we'll worry later about raising the money."

This often means subsequently elected personnel inherit the problem and neither the originator nor the successor is held accountable. Taxes are raised, no one accepts responsibility and politicians are surprised when taxpayers revolt.

They also misrepresent the facts. For example, Mayor Fran Sainsbury was quoted in the Dec. 26 issue of The Tribune as saying, "The town's tax hikes will have gone from 9.5 per cent in 1985 to 4.2 per cent in 1991 to zero per cent in 1992," and that, "an increase was likely inevitable following 1992's zero increase."

I do not know where those figures originated. They are not even close

to my tax increases, which were 8.2 per cent in 1991, 5.6 per cent in 1992, when the rates of inflation were 3.8 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively. She also ignored the three previous years in which the increases were 10.1 per cent, 14.7 per cent and 10.4 per cent while inflation averaged 5.1 per cent.

How does council justify those huge increases from 1988 to 1990, plus more than twice the rate of inflation in 1991 followed by an additional 3.7 times in 1992? Why were those figures considerably higher than the figures quoted by the mayor? Is she not being fully informed?

I would add for council's benefit

that, because of the economy and the unavailability of extra funds, many taxpayers are likely in a similar state to myself and received salary increases of considerably less than the tax increases. My salary from 1991 and 1992 increased by zero per cent, so as a result of the town's excesses, I am now worse off than in 1990.

Mayor Sainsbury also said in The Tribune that, "various ratepayer groups which have recently chastised the town for excessive spending should also turn frustrations to higher government levels and the schools boards," and "then come back and pick on Stouffville."

I couldn't agree more, however,

that should not be used as a political excuse for inaction. Council should take positive action and seriously consider the SOS requests. I think her comments on school boards are appropriate and I ask, why not eliminate them? What function do they perform that cannot be performed directly by the Ontario Education

Ministry? SOS should also approach York Region with requests for restraint similar to those put to Stouffville council. For example, is the Newmarket "palace" at a cost to the taxpayer of more than \$60 million really necessary?

Gordon Oates
Stouffville

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Some Continuous Learning Night School Courses have been revised to start two weeks later than planned - the week of January 25, 1993.
Register now (with Visa or MasterCard) by phoning 852-7848. For a free course calendar or further information call 852-7848. (If you have previously registered, and are now in doubt about your starting date please call us at the above number).

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12 BROCK STREET WEST (Above the I.D.A. Drug Store)
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TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

1993
JANUARY WATER BILLS
ARE DUE AND PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1993

AT
MUNICIPAL OFFICE - 19 CIVIC AVENUE
OR BY MAIL - P.O. BOX 419 - STOUFFVILLE L4A 7Z6
OFFICE HOURS - MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

AFTER HOURS - MAIL SLOT - EAST SIDE OF BUILDING

E.E. BLACKBURN, A.M.C.T.
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPOINTMENT TO WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Clerk's Department is now accepting applications from members of the public who wish to be considered for appointment to the following local committee:

Whitchurch-Stouffville public Library Board (No Remuneration)

One person to be appointed for a term expiring November 30th, 1994.

Terms of reference for the appointment and application forms may be obtained from Clerk's Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Application forms should be delivered in person or by mail by 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 29th, 1993. No applications, whether received by mail or hand delivered, can be accepted after the deadline.

For further information, please contact Michele Skinner or Susan Slack at (416) 640-1900 or (416) 895-2423.

Personal information is collected under the legal authority for the Municipal Act, R.S.O., 1990, c. 45 and will be used to determine eligibility for appointment.

R. Panizza
Chief Administrative Officer

THE UXBRIDGE PLAYERS ARE HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR THEIR SPRING PRODUCTION PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM

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THURS., JAN. 21ST at 7:30 p.m. and SUN., JAN. 24TH at 1:30 p.m.
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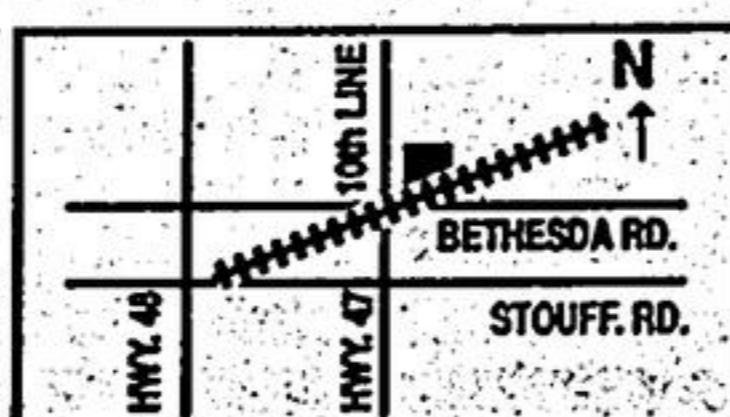
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Thank you Whitchurch-Stouffville for showing that you care. Everyone opened their hearts and gave. There are just too many people to actually list so on behalf of all the volunteers and clients - THANK YOU for making Christmas a very special time. YOU MADE IT HAPPEN.

Thanks to the Tribune and the Progress Club for promoting our Drive and supplying the Food Bags.

Cricket Forfar
Co-ordinator

Hours of Operation

Tues: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Thurs: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

640-4704