

Editor's Mail

Councillors must do job public demands of them

Dear Editor,

When I read the full-page report in the Jan. 16 *Weekender*, containing the response from top officials for Whitchurch-Stouffville regarding an SOS group advertisement, I was left shaking my head, trying to figure out what they were trying to say with all that side-stepping.

The only stand these officials seem to be taking is to defend the purchase of a new fire truck.

Maybe we do need a new truck and maybe this particular vehicle is the most practical one to purchase. But is it really necessary to purchase it in these tough, economic conditions with a weak tax base?

Leasing is out of the question and a used vehicle of this caliber is non-existent for the simple reason that a municipality will never out-grow it and will only discard it when it is old and worn out like the one we want to replace.

By postponing it a year or so, hopefully many more of us will be back to work and the vacant retail and commercial spaces will be filled to form the strength we need to support these types of expenditures.

The old practice of spending the entire budget simply because of the fear of not getting it that high next time, has got to stop.

This appears to be the case

with the so-called toboggan hill in the park. I personally think it is an eyesore and a safety hazard that lacks sensible planning.

Public input would probably have prevented this, but it would have delayed the project and ensured that we got the best value. It was rushed. Why?

Yes, that's right, Mr. Ancheril, as long as you are in public office you will be told how to do the job by, we, the people.

No, we are not bullying you at council. We are simply demanding that you do the job you promised to do.

You know, way back, beyond your memory recall, when you and the other candidates made all those promises to the voting public.

I am truly confused. Our elected officials want us (the public,) but they don't want us.

They want us to believe their every word, but they don't want us to criticize their actions, or lack of same.

They want our tax dollars, but they don't want to be held accountable for the expenditure of those same funds.

It seems to be a "pass the buck" society we are living in these days. Council blames the mayor, the mayor blames the region, the region blames the province and the province blames Ottawa.

My problem is, I don't have any "bucks" to pass them to

meet their demands.

In closing, I urge the public to be more demanding and more vocal about the action, or lack of action, of our elected and public officials.

The days of the passive Canadian public must come to an end.

We must criticize those who need it and praise those who deserve praise, for we all know the harder we work to do the job that is expected of us, the more resistance we will get from those who would rather take credit for someone else's efforts.

So, to everyone who deserves praise, thank you, I appreciate your every effort more than I could possibly say.

To those who sit on the other end of the scale, get used to the criticism or vacate that public life.

Steve Pickard,
Stouffville

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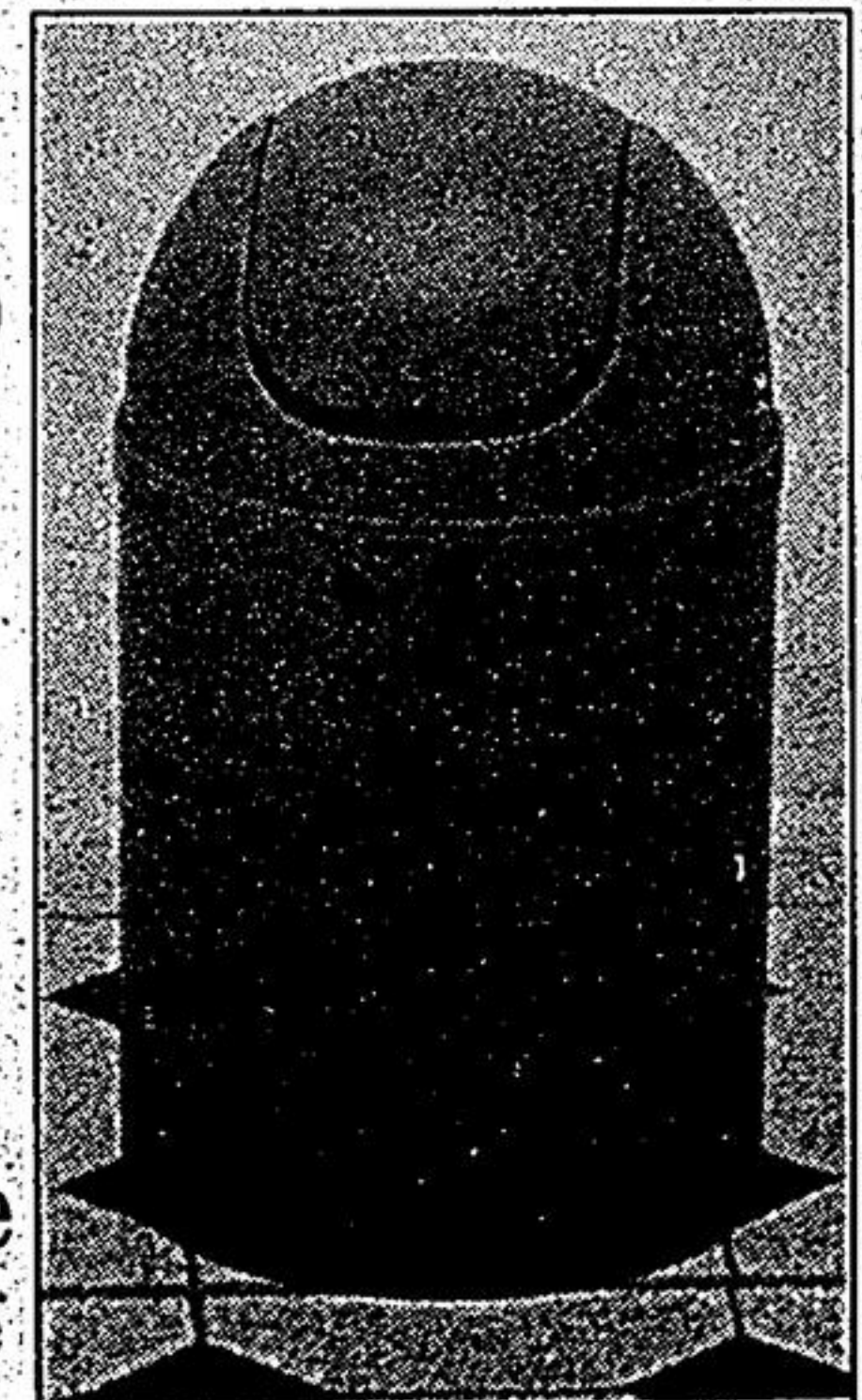
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