

stouffville comment

SOS has some homework to do to be a success

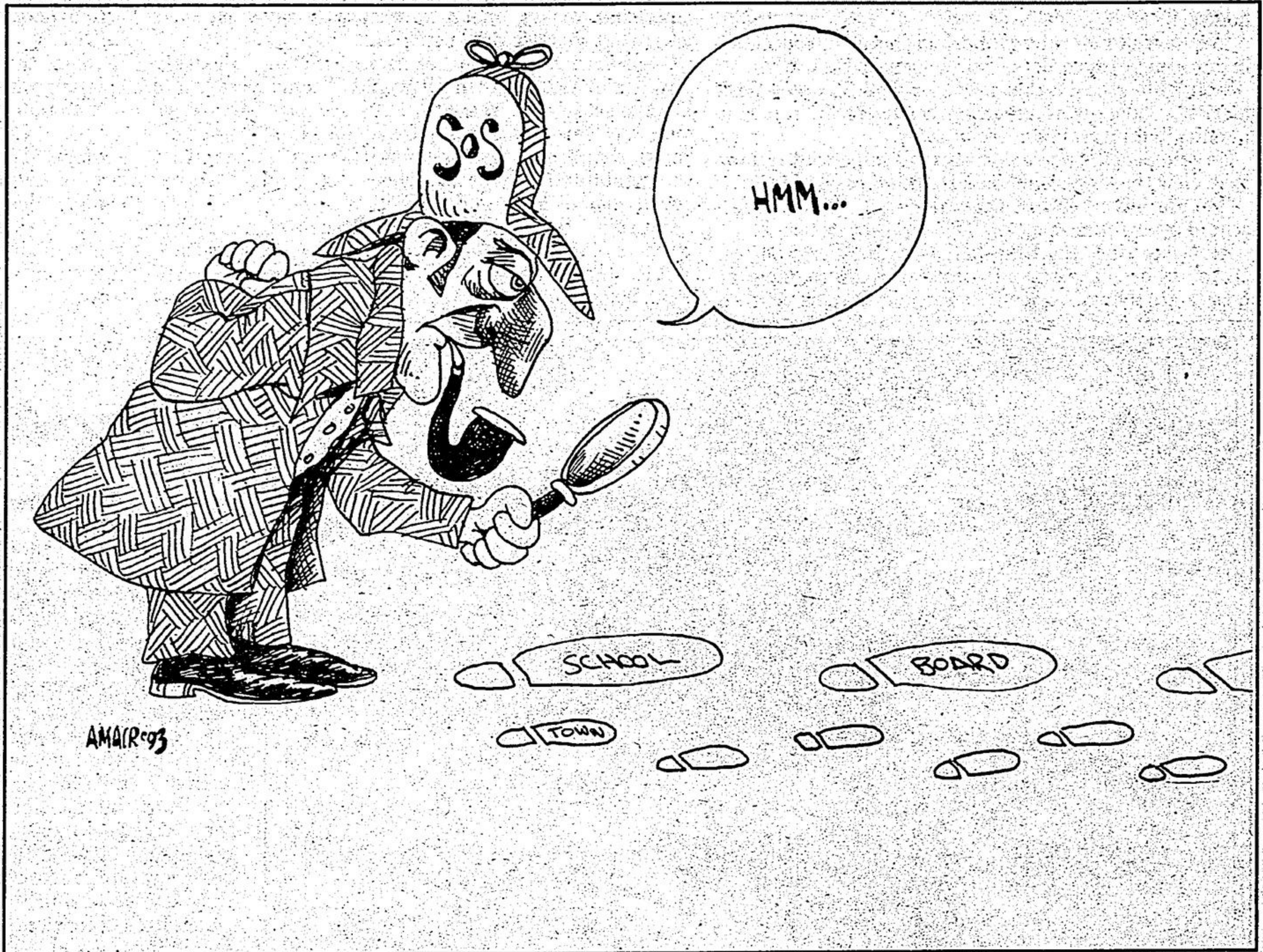
SOS has got some homework to do. Ratepayer advocacy groups have a place in the checks and balances of any government, but it became obvious at last Tuesday's meeting of SOS that before the group can become legitimate, it has to prove its point, just as council has to back up its actions, with facts.

It was apparent at the meeting in Lemonville and at the school board meeting on Wednesday, that general complaints that boards and councils are spending too much money just don't wash with bureaucrats. Barrie Clulow of the Taxpayers Coalition in Uxbridge expressed the same view Tuesday. There is much homework to be done.

A claim that the proposed fire truck would cost half a million dollars to maintain went unsubstantiated. At the board meeting, SOS demanded a 12-month school year, and strict punishment for truancy. Are these solutions to rising costs in education?

There is a place for SOS in local affairs, but the group must become focussed, with realistic and attainable goals.

To simply rail against the government and school board is fruitless. To rise up under a flag of misinformation and frustration is anarchy. To seek constructive change with hard evidence and social criticism is the recipe for success.



Economic advice limited by dirty 's' word

I have mixed feelings about the necessity of the town's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) considering Stouffville's massive growth restrictions.

The group, which has grown from nine to 14 members, was formed in 1991 to recommend policies and ideas to Whitchurch-Stouffville officials geared to enhance the town's economic stability, growth and future planning initiatives.

So far, EDAC has received approval to spend about \$12,500 to form a database of town businesses, and to print up a tourist attraction town brochure.

What's \$12,500? The town should sell itself, after all —

attract new families, new franchises, tourists and traffic. Every other municipality is doing it - why shouldn't Stouffville do it? Sell, sell, sell.

EDAC wants a higher profile this year and insists council would be wise to pump even more funds into the group's ideas in 1993.

"We would ask council to consider economic development funding as an investment with more potential for a turn on that investment (short and long-term) than possibly some other expenditures which may have less of an impact on all residents," states EDAC's 1992 annual report.

The group is getting in its digs



now, before budget day, in hopes to ensure a slice of the tiny money pie council has to work with. But there's a word that keeps coming to mind when the term "growth" pops up. It's that dirty, six-letter "s" word that Whitchurch-Stouffville can never seem to get

enough of: Sewage. Sewage. Sewage.

Without it, the EDAC group is rather limited in the amount of economic strength it can bestow upon the town.

EDAC can help fill the increasing number of empty stores that dot our business streets, it's true. EDAC can recommend which types of business would best suit residents' and other businesses' needs when developments are in the works. And it can work with the town to enhance Gormley's scaled-down industrial park (OPA88.)

But without the "s" word,

Stouffville won't be strutting any major economic stuff in the near future. York Region and Queen's Park have placed numerous restrictions, guidelines, controls and limits on Stouffville's growth over the past several years.

That fact should be taken into consideration before taxpayers spend too much money on potential "growth" schemes.

Until the town grasps onto the gold-lined Big Pipe that Markham, Richmond Hill and Newmarket so greedily cherish, Stouffville will always suffer from sewage envy.

Fame comes at a princely cost

The orthodontic dream team is in the White House and celebrity mags are alternating the glum visage of poor Prince Charles with Hillary's dazzling dental work.

It must be nice to be able to blow \$25 million just to mark your Ascension to the Oval office with singers, actors and assorted people who are famous for being famous. All this while everyone still loves you and before you execute your first fatal faux pas.

Chas, meanwhile, is at the other end of the celebrity spectrum. For one thing, he doesn't look good on magazine covers, especially since he shows no inclination to get his ears fixed.

For another, the purple prose purported to have been exchanged between himself and Camilla elevates the dialogue of a Harlequin romance to the level of Shakespeare. But then



William Jefferson Clinton chose fame: poor old Charles had it thrust upon him.

Although lots of people find it difficult to feel sorry for a person who earns a gazillion bucks annually for shooting grouse and condemning post-modernist architecture, I wouldn't switch places with the imperiled prince for all the Brits in Victoria.

Image consultants didn't exist when Charles was born, so he came as he was, ears, plummy accent and all. His dad believed cold showers and five mile runs before breakfast were essential to princely character building,

so Charles was sent to horribly rigorous schools where he learned to be manly at an early age. Sometimes you could tell his heart wasn't in it, but it was his duty so naturally he did it. What a sweet, old fashioned notion.

While the prince has been forgiven for his affair with Ms Flowers, Bonnie Prince Charlie will never live down his dalliance with Mrs. Parker Bowles, who, ironically, would have been considered absolutely top-drawer bridal material by the royal family, had Mr. Parker Bowles not pledged his troth first.

The prince, alas, will never be able to compete with the president, who is at least photogenically, if not politically, correct and who will, when he or his country has had enough, be able to turn his back on the slings and arrows of outrageous journalism.

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