

Council 'didn't blow it' not releasing memo to SOS

Whitchurch-Stouffville politicians did not "blow it" when they refused to share a government document with a local ratepayers' group two weeks ago, said one local official last week.

Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld said he was unaware local politicians weren't co-operating with executive members of the Save Our Stouffville (SOS) group until he read *The Tribune Weekender* and saw Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice's comments.

Prentice had stressed he was "puzzled" by council's reaction at a Feb. 2 meeting when his bid to send SOS a Town of Markham resolution was turned down.

Prentice said the document, which criticizes Ottawa's plan to give grants in lieu of paying municipal taxes on federally-owned buildings, would show SOS the types of economic pressure the town faces from higher levels of government.

Prentice also said sending the document to a citizens' group would strengthen the town's voice against the issue. But Dunkeld said the memo had nothing to do with SOS's mandate to keep municipal and educational taxes at the same level as last year. "SOS is looking into local pro-

jects and this Markham government grants resolution, showing a federal grant of \$14,000, shouldn't change what SOS wants to do," Dunkeld said.

Dunkeld also said the town has made every effort to meet with the group at their convenience. "That shows an effort - let's get this town back to what it is supposed to be - the Friendliest Town in Ontario," Dunkeld said.

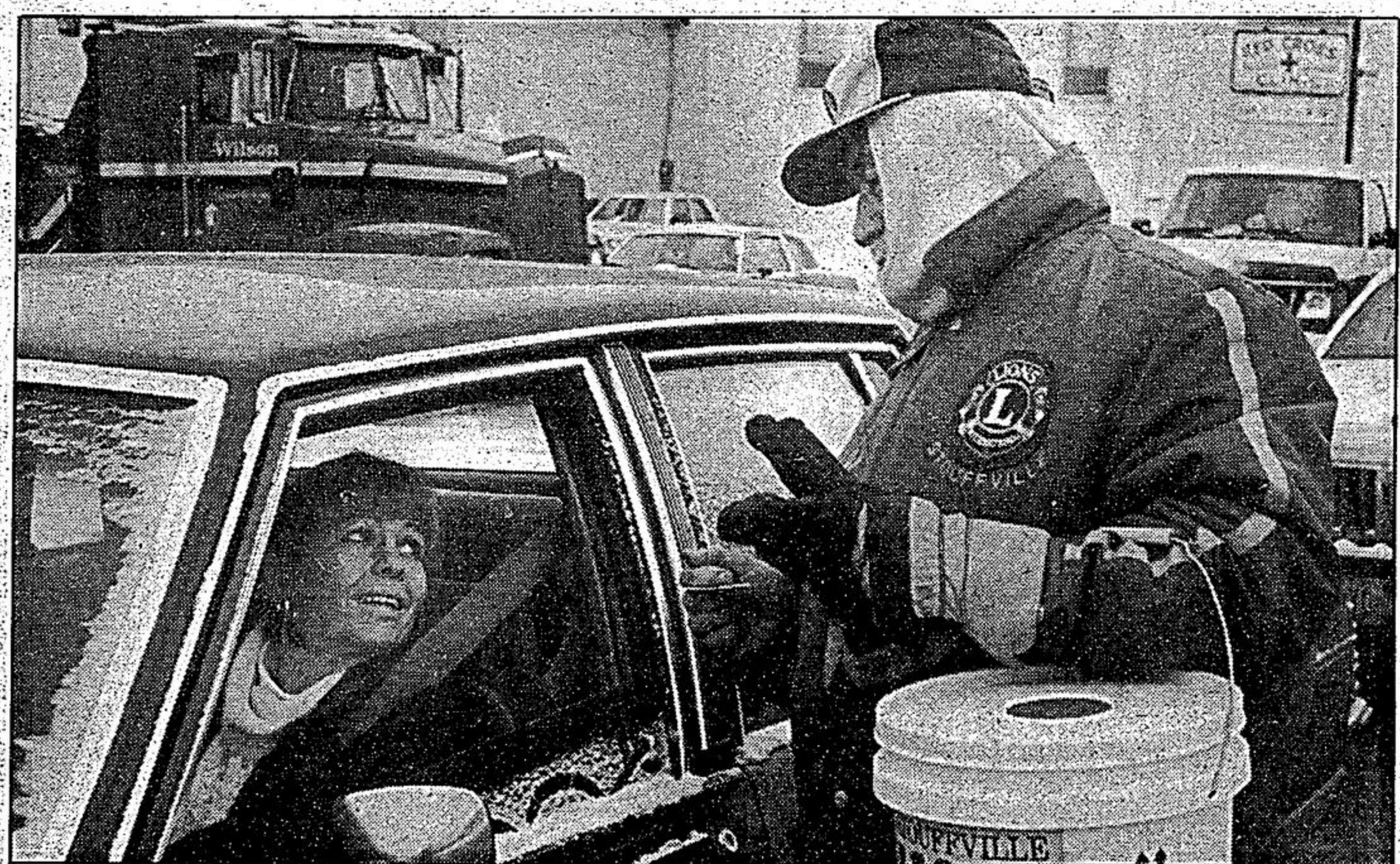
And Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby echoed Dunkeld's comments, stating the SOS group is more concerned with local "big ticket" items such as the proposal of a fire truck expenditure.

"This memo is not part of their agenda," Bellerby said. But Prentice insisted council turned down a chance to "inform SOS."

"I'll quote (former) chief administrative officer, Bob Panizza when he said an informed taxpayer is a wise taxpayer. This memo showed the financial pressures we face - it would make (SOS) more informed," Prentice said.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the members are adults who should learn about various economic issues on their own.

"It's not up to us to inform them," she said.



Photo/CELIA BRONKHORST

Road tolls for thee

Lion John Moffat thanks a motorist for her contribution during the voluntary road toll set up by the Lions Club of Stouffville on Saturday. The money raised goes to help local Lion causes.

Business

RoboSoft comes to Stouffville

A revolutionary new software distribution system has arrived in Stouffville.

RoboSoft is a computer program vending machine, which allows consumers to purchase a vast selection of software applications easily and inexpensively.

Thousands of programs, covering everything from computer games, recipes and home office management to word processing and spreadsheet applications, are available from the machine, which is located at Speedy Photo Image in Stouffville's A & P Plaza.

You can use your own IBM compatible diskettes or purchase them at the store. The cost of copying a program can be as low as \$2, with the average cost around \$5.

The most expensive programs are \$6.

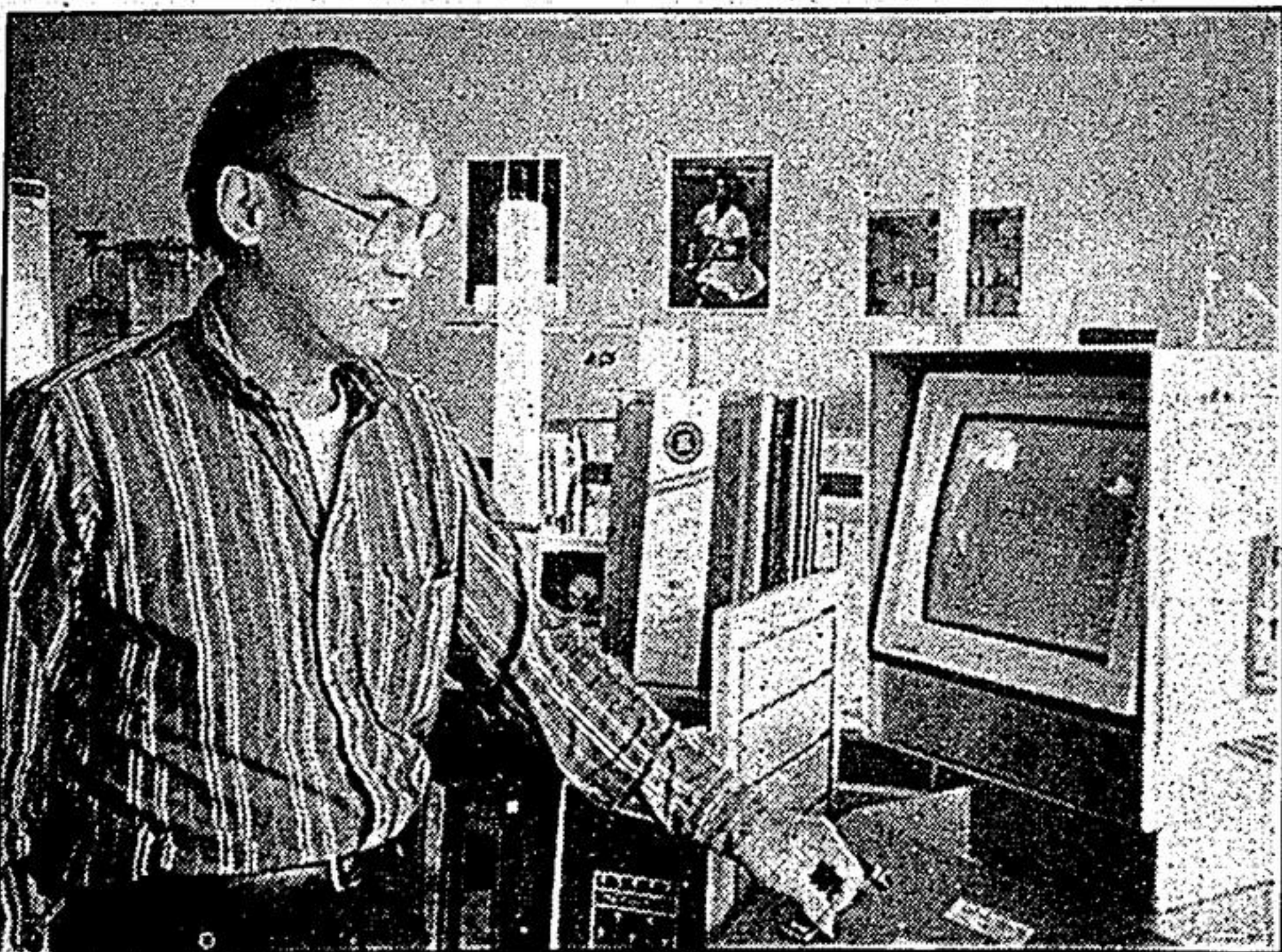
"Most will go onto one disk, but a few will require two," said store owner Tom Tsuji, who is happy to assist customers interested in expanding their software library.

Operating the machine is simple. The customer selects a program from the list, inserts the diskette, puts in the appropriate amount of money and the software is automatically transferred to the diskette for home use.

RoboSoft shareware programs will run on all IBM or IBM compatible personal computers, and they have all been scanned for viruses, using the latest technology available.

The system is designed and manufactured in Canada.

- Kate Gilderdale



Photo/KATE GILDERDALE

Tom Tsuji demonstrates the RoboSoft Computer at Speedy Photo Image.



Photo/CELIA BRONKHORST

50th anniversary

Thomas and Eleanor Johnston celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Stouffville Legion Sunday, surrounded by friends and family.

Fines could be raised for illegal burning: Town

People who illegally burn materials in Whitchurch-Stouffville could get slapped with a \$5,000 fine, a report to council states this week.

Officials are expected to repeal a 12-year-old burning bylaw under the provincial Fire Marshal's Act and replace it with a revised bylaw that would see fines hiked from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

The town's fire chief had stressed concern that while the Ontario law proved effective through fines issued by the Justice of the Peace, all monies generated through convictions went to the province.

The chief said the municipality performs all the leg work, provides all the man hours and dishes out the court costs, but receives no remuneration from the convictions.

The building director has drafted a new bylaw which will allow for equal enforcement as well as revenues which will remain in the municipality to offset costs.

The new bylaw, which specifically includes descriptions of material such as tires, plastics, construction material and other prohibited burning materials not generated on a site, answers all his safety concerns.

Council was expected to discuss and adopt the new bylaw last night.

- Tracy Kibble

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