

# SOS relays concerns during regional budget process

Dear Editor,

It was Mayor Fran Sainsbury's own suggestion that if there were any inquiries, questions or comments about the Save Our Stouffville (SOS) group it would NOT be communicated through the media.

But last Wednesday, March 24, we were back on the front page of the *Stouffville Tribune*. (Re: story entitled 'SOS disappointed mayor' where the mayor stressed disappointment the SOS group failed to show up at a regional meeting to speak to council about its concerns.)

An update is in order with SOS's participation in the region's budget process. We were in touch with York Region chairman Eldred King to voice the same concerns about the hurting taxpayers' inability to handle any further financial stress, which Mr. King acknowledged as a region-wide concern - not at all peculiar to Whitchurch-Stouffville.

## EDITOR'S MAIL

Our second encounter with King was after the draft budget showing a potential 7.4 per cent increase and again we stressed this was totally unacceptable.

When the regional budget was finalized, but not yet passed, Chairman King personally delivered us a copy and explained the increase would be 4.9 per cent with nearly four per cent of this increase being necessary to address the police budget. Every taxpayer benefits from our police protection and service so it was the decision of the SOS executive to spend our volunteer time to put more pressure on the York Region Public School Board.

We may have 'disappointed' the mayor, but the taxpayers, whom

we represent, knew we were working very hard behind the scenes on their behalf. We know they appreciate our efforts because they have been very vocal in their encouragement.

(Please see page 6)



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