



30 years with Music Mania. See P.2

The Tribune *Stouffville*

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Budget

Town officials 'covering backsides'

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Vital financial information is being withheld from council members by some long-time town "players" to "cover their backside," accused one local politician this week.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice, who vehemently

attacked the town budget process at its special council meeting last Tuesday night, said basic information about the goings-on in the town's vault are being held back through technical paperwork.

"I'm really fed up with some players in this place getting resolutions to cover their

backside and using that same resolution to justify holding back information from council members," Prentice said during an interview yesterday.

Prentice is referring to a recent resolution passed by a majority of council which states any official wanting specific information must get

approval from other councillors - by way of a resolution - to obtain it.

He said that process may be a logical solution for requests to obtain expensive legal advice at taxpayers' expense - but it shouldn't apply to obtaining in-house financial information.

requires council's vote on the matter.

"I justify my need then they dangle this resolution in front of me," Prentice said.

"These resolutions are being used as both a shield and a sword by players who have been around this place a long time, and who know the ropes very well. I don't think it's right," Prentice said.

He insisted he "can't do a proper job" on the budget if he is denied crucial background financial information on which to base his decisions.

Prentice added Mayor Fran Sainsbury was asked by several councillors to cancel last Tuesday's special council meeting, in which a three per cent tax hike was approved, but she refused, he said.

"She knew I was going to oppose things at that meeting. It could have been avoided - there were other options," Prentice said.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury is on vacation this week and unavailable for comment.



PRENTICE

Prentice said it is difficult to make decisions about this year's budget when he is denied permission to see a full "three year trend" and "actual figures" of the town's complete revenue and expenditures from 1989 to 1992.

"This denial was confirmed."

Prentice added when he gets past the "staff roadblock" of asking him to justify his requests, he is then faced with a resolution which

Cuts step backward Ballantrae parents charge board of ed.

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The cutting of three teachers from small Whitchurch-Stouffville school is a "giant step backwards," according to parents.

The teaching staff at Ballantrae Public School will be three less in September from the current roster of 25.

This will double the number of split grades, eliminate the primary learning disabled program and revive disciplinary problems at the 344-student school.

"These impacts amount to a giant step backwards," Ballantrae Community and School Association President April Hoeller told the York Region Board of Education.

A group of 50 concerned parents waited nearly 90 minutes to address trustees who did not convene an 8 p.m. public budget committee meeting until 9:20 p.m. last Wednesday.

At a school where 13 per cent of students are learning disabled, the loss of a full time library staff and a full time

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Markham man killed in Friday accident

A Markham man was killed early Friday morning in a single car accident in Stouffville.

At about 3 a.m., a 1990 Pontiac was travelling south on Warden north of Bloomington Sideroad when it went into the ditch on

the west side of the road.

The car struck an embankment and was thrown 50 metres through the air.

Two men were thrown through the front window and both were taken to York County Hospital. Andrew Croft, 32, of Markham

was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital while Mark Middlestadt, 32, of Toronto suffered head injuries and is listed in fair condition.

Neither man was wearing his seatbelt.

- Judy Phillips

New director appointed by York board

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

A Richmond Hill man won the position of school board CEO in York Region.

Bill Hogarth, superintendent of school operations with the North York Board of Education, has 25 years experience in the school system, starting as a teacher before climbing the administrative ladder.



HOGARTH

nally stated.

Last year, current director Bob Cressman said he intended to retire as of July 1994, but the board announced Thursday Cressman would be stepping down this June 30 and Hogarth would take the reins a year earlier than originally stated.

Hogarth, 48, will take over in time for the controversial destreaming plan, that he prefers to call a "transition," starts this fall, the onset of mandatory Junior Kindergarten in 1994 and the growing unrest among parents who want quality education for taxes that are increasing yearly.

Hogarth is the third director the board has hired since its creation in

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