

Council to debate female toplessness issue

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The Ontario Court of Appeal made a mistake when it decided to let women go topless, some members of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council claim.

At a regular council meeting, slated for this Tuesday, local council will be asked to back the City of Chatham in its move asking the federal government to take "appropriate and immediate" action to amend the Criminal Code so as to "prohibit or limit female toplessness" in public places.

The province could also appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, asking that a recent Ontario court ruling allowing toplessness be struck down.

"It's really up to the federal government," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Women are not strutting around half-naked in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Emmerson stressed.

A few weeks ago, local council refused to join about 300 municipalities in allowing beer and liquor stores to be open Sundays in August.

Emmerson suggested that if it's deemed to be not acceptable to buy a bottle of beer on Sunday, uncovered breasts are hardly going to be viewed as okay.

While bare-breasted women have been seen in public places in neighboring Uxbridge, topless women have not been spotted at the beach in Musselman's Lake or at the outdoor pool at Memorial Park,

Emmerson said. "Nobody here is doing that," he said.



BARE FACTS: A model exercises her constitutional right to bare her breasts. Photo by LORI EMMERSON

Ward 1 Councillor Ivanka Bradley said baring the breast in public is clearly "not acceptable" behavior and "our laws should reflect that fact."

"We should support Chatham. They're taking the time and putting the effort in to uphold decency in our society. The least we can do is lend our support."

Ward 5 Councillor Judy Scala said toplessness "is absolutely not" in keeping with the community standards of Stouffville.

Scala, unsure how local council should handle the Chatham request, does acknowledge that the issue brings the matter of "choice" into question.

"It is a matter of choice," said Scala. "This is a difficult one."

Ward 2 Councillor Mike Watson said the issue is "not that important," explaining his view that bare breasts are a provincial issue.

Municipalities have "enough problems of their own without meddling in the affairs of other levels of government."

Some men should be forced to "wear bras" and to cover up, said Ward 4 Councillor Cliff Dunkeld.

"I don't know what to say about the women, but by the look of some men, I wish they'd cover up. We should make the men wear bras," said Dunkeld.

Emmerson suggested that council not involve itself with Chatham's mission.

"We should just receive it," said Emmerson. "There should be no debate."

High school teacher strike could be averted

KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Reporter

A strike by York Region public high school teachers, set to begin Monday morning, may yet be averted.

Provincial mediator Tom Basto will sit down Sunday with both sides in the dispute, said York Region Board of Education vice-chair and chief negotiator Karen Barker.

"We have requested a meeting and the union has been instructed

to attend," Barker said late Friday. "I am extremely hopeful the union will come to the table ready to negotiate."

The Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation offices were closed yesterday and several messages left for union president Lynn Johnson were not returned by press time.

The region's 1,827 high school teachers gave notice to the board Thursday of their strike plans, which will affect 28,000 students in 22 schools.

Registration, scheduling, locker assignments and guidance counselling, usually available during the two weeks prior to classes beginning, are compromised now.

And if there is no settlement before Aug. 27, school will not start Sept. 2.

Barker said the board is struggling to compensate for \$30 million worth of cuts in provincial funding over the last two years. She said the board has already achieved half of what it needs to with last year's cuts.

But the union said that's the problem. By not hiring an additional 72 teachers last year and another 80 this year, class sizes have ballooned and students' quality of education has been threatened.

"The average class size is 27, we

want to increase that by one pupil to 27," Barker said. "I can only focus on the fact our other unions have signed agreements with us recognizing we are facing a different fiscal reality here. And not one person will lose their job in York Region."

Birthday party thrown for spritely senior, 101

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Smith remained single all her life and lived with her brother, Robert and sister, Anne. "Her brother passed away 13 years ago, the same year my husband passed away". In 1990, she lost her sister.

Thanks to Clarkson and local support services, Smith has been able to remain at home. "She loves being here and doesn't want to go into a nursing home. She always looks at the paper, although her eyes are failing, and she enjoys watching television. She also likes to play cards."

Her aunt did not go out to work, said Clarkson, "because there was plenty of work on the farm. She was always canning and baking her own bread, so now I do it for her." When Smith was a girl, she suffered a form of stroke, which left her with a weak right side and a brace on her leg, but that didn't stop her working, Clarkson observed.

She receives assistance from CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors) four times a week and Meals on Wheels are delivered

to her home three times a week. "The homemakers are very good. When they've finished what they're doing, they sit down and have a game of cards with her."

The family had a porch put on the house so that she can go out in her wheelchair on special occasions, said Clarkson. "We take her out to my home and my daughter's home at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas."

On her 101st birthday August 5, "I had a birthday party," said Smith. "I wasn't tired." "No, she was too interested in what was going on," said Clarkson. "About 35 people were here for that."

When she turned 100, the family hosted an open house at the Silver Jubilee Club. Guests included relatives from B.C. and Smith is delighted to show visitors the photograph album of that memorable day. Among her many souvenirs is a personal greeting from the Queen, along with certificates from Ontario Premier Mike Harris and Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor, Henry Jackman.

—Kate Gilderdale

Two angry neighbors want Elvis to leave the building

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In the past, representatives of the Country Market "went door to door" in the neighborhood talking to the residents, said Clements. "The majority of people (there) support us."

Clements said he has responded to the needs of his neighbors, included building an auditorium. "I spent a fortune on the ceiling paying for stuff to cushion noise. We now hold the events indoors. What more do they want?" said Clements.

"I want the town to enforce the bylaws" Guinane told *The Tribune*. "Under permitted uses, concerts are not allowed."

In a letter to Dewing, Guinane writes, "I request that you and your departments enforce the bylaws."

Guinane is also taking issue with the fact that the market is involved in horse-drawn wagon rides which run from the downtown train station to the 10th Line and with a monster truck event held earlier this month. "The trucks were very noisy," said Guinane.

Area (Ward 5) councillor Judy Scala said other than the monster truck event, she hasn't received any complaints of late about the Country Market.

"There's not been any problems except for the monster trucks. The noise from the trucks was unacceptable. I'll be talking to Mr. Clements about that very soon," said Scala.

For the most part, residents of Stouffville support the Country Market and view it as a positive aspect of the community, stresses Clements.

"We've been here about 50 years," he added.

In a letter to the town, Simm outlines his objections to the Country Market events. He writes that his "peace and quiet was spoiled" by the roaring of monster trucks.

Simm charges Emmerson, Scala and other members of council with failing "to represent the interests of the people they represent in favor of a special commercial interest."

Scala takes exception to Simm's comments. "All parties involved have worked diligently with Mr. Simm for the last three years," she said.

While this is an ongoing and complicated issue, Scala insists a solution will be reached. "I'm convinced, through compromise, we'll find a solution. We'll keep trying," said Scala.

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