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Stouffville Tribune

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

COUNCIL: Staff report cites recent dog attacks for decision to hike fines

Dog owners subject to \$105 fine for violations

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 STAFF WRITER

The cost of letting a dog run at large in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is about to turn serious.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council is expected to back a staff recommendation tonight calling for a fine increase from \$55 to \$105, including court costs.

The town's bylaw provides for the licensing and regulation of dogs and covers a number of violations regarding canines living in homes across the municipality.

■ Editorial, page 6.

Municipal officials across Canada took note when eight-year-old Courtney Trempe of Stouffville was killed by a dog April 30 while playing with friends in her babysitter's neighbourhood.

The incident gained national attention and led to severe criticism for dog owners who allow their animals to roam free in parks, on streets and even in unfenced backyards.

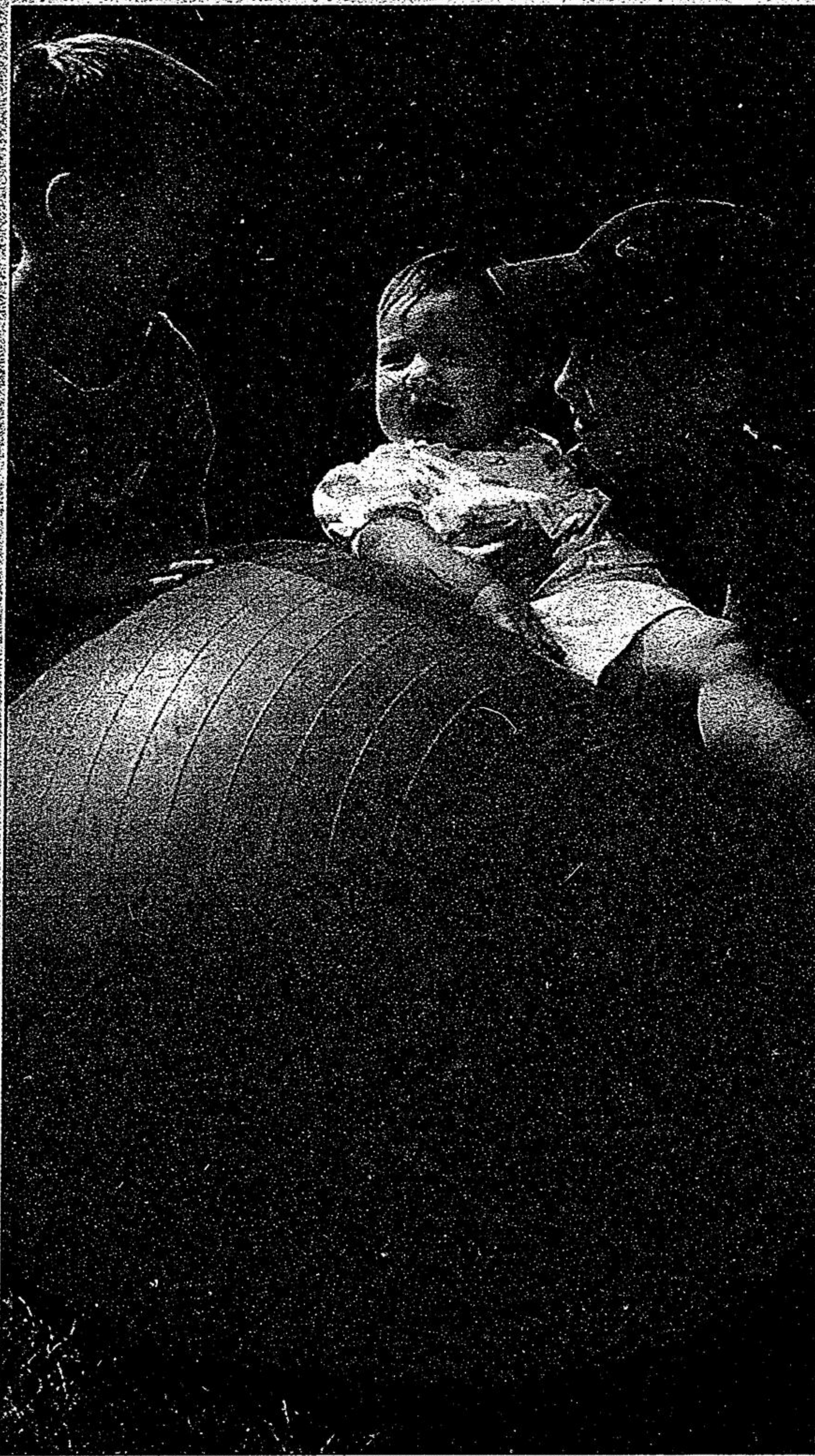
Many are questioning laws as they relate to dogs.

"With the recent incidents of dog attacks on people, a fine of \$55 for allowing a dog to run at large is now inappropriate and the town should increase the set fines to be in line with other municipalities," a staff report states.

The towns of Georgina, Aurora and Bradford have already raised their fines to \$105 an incident, the report shows.

Other municipalities will likely follow suit, the staff report stresses.

DON'T BURST THEIR BUBBLE



PHOTO/LORI EMERSON

Joseph Deveny (left) and Justin Lawrence amuse little Samantha Jewer on a big ball outside their home Saturday.

Resident wants halt to growth

Stop development, citizen tells town

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 STAFF WRITER

A freeze on development in Stouffville is long overdue, claims one new resident.

Jim Priebe, 36, moved to Stouffville a short eight months ago from Mississauga to escape what he calls over-development and poor planning.

Shortly after he unpacked and got settled in, however, he noticed the makeup of the community, especially the new development, and its impact on traffic in and around Stouffville.

Priebe didn't like what he saw.

It bothered him so much that he's leaving the quiet comfort of the silent majority to speak out. Priebe is hosting a public meeting at Kinsmen Park in 10 days for any resident who thinks the same way he does.

He is unhappy that Stouffville will become part of York Region's coveted Big Pipe sewer connection — a boon for developers and a red carpet for more and more homes.

And Priebe obviously isn't alone. He wrote a letter to The Tribune a month ago publicly urging Mayor Wayne Emmerson to slow down in his bid to bring development to town. Priebe received a number of responses agreeing with his stand that enough is enough.

As well, he wrote to Ontario Premier Mike Harris and to Emmerson and expressed his concerns. Harris wrote back. Emmerson says he didn't receive a letter from Priebe.

Priebe says the town is making a big mistake in its bid to try and be like the more southern municipalities in the region and should accept itself for what it is — small, quaint and country.

"When it comes to planning matters, local council is not allowing for any long-term thinking," said Priebe. "There's a lack of plain old green space in Stouffville," he added.

See RESIDENT, page 3.

Rees Dixon
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