

Public forums a 'sham'

Task force has mandate to ban smoking, chairperson says

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

A week after the president of the Markham Board of Trade complained public forums into York Region's proposed smoking ban are a sham, at least two members of the task force agreed the process is biased.

"Staged is probably an understatement. I've never seen such a poorly run meeting," said Richmond Hill Councillor Janet Mabley, referring to the meeting in her town Feb. 17.

One member of the audience was dressed as Batman, acting as a crusader for people's health.

"It was nothing short of a dog and pony show. It was undemocratic. It was a total sham, as far as I was concerned. I am very disappointed."

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Mabley said some business leaders were so upset with the format, they will complain formally at next week's regional council meeting.

Mabley, who opposes a total ban on smoking in public places, said the meeting was slanted so those who support the prohibition were given the upper hand.

"The public does not have faith in this committee. It's a zealous point of view."

Mabley also complained Vaughan Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, chairperson of the task force, has indicated the ban is a personal crusade because she has suffered from cancer.

"You're supposed to be neutral," Mabley said. "I think your view is very jaundiced."

But Frustaglio rejected claims the meetings have shut out residents and business owners who oppose the ban.

She also pointed out the purpose of the task force is to adopt a smoking ban, so nobody should be surprised that she and the committee are advocating the prohibition.

"I don't think we're neutral. Our mission statement is to bring forward a uniform smoke-free bylaw for the Region of York," Frustaglio said.

"I have received more calls saying 'You guys are doing a great job. Thank you for moving forward on this. Don't let the minority force you to stop.'"

Mabley and Frustaglio have been publicly butting heads over the smoking ban for several months.

And Georgina Councillor John Hastings, a member of the task force, is sick of it.

"Come on kids, come on children," he said.

"I just can't believe this. There's obviously a conflict between you two ladies. First of all, I wish you would settle it in another room and get back to the issue at hand."

But Mabley isn't the only task force member concerned about the committee or its meetings.

Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce executive director Barb Scollick, who was appointed to the task force last fall after businesses complained they had no representation, is also upset.

"You guys have made up your minds. It's a done deal," she said. "It (the Richmond Hill meeting) was a dog and pony show. I was mortally embarrassed to be sitting at the front of the room (at the committee table)."

Stouffville bar owners contemplate smoke-ban suit

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville could be dragged into court if bar and restaurant owners are forced to make their customers butt out.

An umbrella type no-smoking law will be in place in York Region by 2004 if a task force is successful in getting all nine municipalities to adopt an across-the-board smoking ban.

Graham Hoad, owner of The Lion of Stouffville, has a message for the regional task force: "Keep your nose out of private business."

Hoad said he'd like to see task force members "put their money where their mouths are and open a non-smoking bar."

Hoad, along with Kathy and Grant Fullerton of Fullerton's Place on Main Street, promises to continue to fight the proposed 100-per-cent smoking ban.

Stouffville restaurant and bar owners are looking to form a group and take the municipality to court if a strict smoking ban becomes law. "It would be a tough go to do it alone, but we could form a consortium. I can see that happening," Hoad said.

A lawsuit could very well become a reality, Grant Fullerton said. "I can see it happening. Absolutely. I'd sue. We're getting pushed around."

In the long run, restaurant and bar owners will lose the fight, Fullerton said. "Sooner or later, the government is going to ram this down our throats. These people don't care about others. They don't give a damn. We no longer live in a democracy. If they want to be serious about the smoking issue, then ban tobacco. The federal government won't do



WAYNE EMMERSON: Mayor seeks compromise to butt-out ban.

that because of the lovely tax. This is a joke."

Kathy Fullerton wants government officials to take a compromise position instead of bringing in hard-hitting legislation, insisting that a smoking ban will spell financial hardship for bar and restaurant owners.

She suggests the town look at air filtration systems for local establishments.

A citizens group, including bar owners in western Ontario, recently launched a lawsuit against Kitchener-Waterloo, claiming a new smoke-free bylaw is causing financial hardship. The owner of a Waterloo bar said he's lost \$36,000 in the past two months due to the fact that his patrons can no longer smoke.

The proposed smoking bylaw is on a bumpy road, at least in Whitchurch-Stouffville, said Mayor Wayne Emmerson. But, he said, he's hopeful that a "workable compromise" can be reached.

Come To Church on Sunday

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line
(South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)
Pastor - Dr. John Howarth
Sunday, March 5th, 2000
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Communion Service
"Fasting that is a Farce"
Matthew 6:16-18
6:30 p.m. - Evening Service
Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Fellowship Church
6273 Main Street
Pastor - Gordon M. MacCormack 905-640-2911
Sunday, March 5th, 2000
Toronto Baptist Seminary Day
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School, Worship & Music
All under the leadership of T.B.S.
Join us for Prayer - Wed 7:30 p.m.
Nothing can be accomplished until we
take the first step.
- God Bless - WE CARE

VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
473-3543
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.
Pastor Robert Okum
Holding forth the doctrines of grace
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service
Everyone is Welcome

Parkview Village
12184 Ninth Line South
Stouffville
Sunday, March 5th, 2000
Pastor Ken Wellington
Wideman Mennonite Church
7 p.m. Auditorium

Springvale Baptist Church
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
887-5651
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
Associate Pastor: Brian G. Simcoe
Student Ministries: Heather Thornton
Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
March 5th, 2000
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class
9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Message Series
"I Peter - God's Survival Manual"
Pastor - Bob Flemming
6:00 p.m. - Home Fellowship Groups
For more info call Church Office

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
640-1461
The Rev. Robert A. Shields
The Rev. Phil Cooper
Celebrating 121 years of ministry 1879-2000

Sunday, March 5th, 2000
Last Sunday after Epiphany
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
with Church School and Nursery provided.
Tuesday, March 7th
Pancake Supper 5-7 p.m.
Everyone Welcome!

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
6853 Main St., Stouffville 640-5696
SUNDAY, MARCH 5th, 2000
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. - Renewal Service with Gord Grive

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 640-1163
Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
Education Minister: Nancy Montelth
7:30 pm Friday March 3rd - World Day of Prayer Service
Sunday, March 5th - 10:30 am Worship
Pancake Lunch Following
Babyfold, Children's Worship & Youth Pack
Everyone Welcome

WIDEMAN MENNONITE CHURCH
10530 Hwy. 48 - North of Major Mackenzie
Phone: 640-6219
Sunday, March 5
9:45 a.m. - Worship Service
10:45 a.m. - Worship Service
Ken Wellington
Everyone Welcome

DURHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH
invites you to come out and worship with us
SUNDAY 10:30 a.m.
Enjoy a warm welcome, fun & fellowship
At Altona - 5460 Sideline 30
640-4356

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6500 Main St., Stouffville
Phone 640-3911 • Email: smc.ca@home.com
SUNDAY SERVICES
Discovery Service: 9:30 am
Christian Education for all ages
Celebration Service: 11:00 am
Watch our sign for special events and opportunities
"Bringing the Hope of Jesus Christ in a Changing World"

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All Faiths Welcome