

Stouffville Says

By Hannelore Volpe

Do you know who you are voting for in the Nov. 13 election?

— Asked at Sobey's

Maria LISCIO



No. We discuss it as a family after seeing the lawn signs and reading the local newspaper.

John WALKER



I'm not sure yet because I just moved into a new area. I do read my local newspaper and consider information from candidates knocking on my door or leaving pamphlets.

Kelly CELESTINI



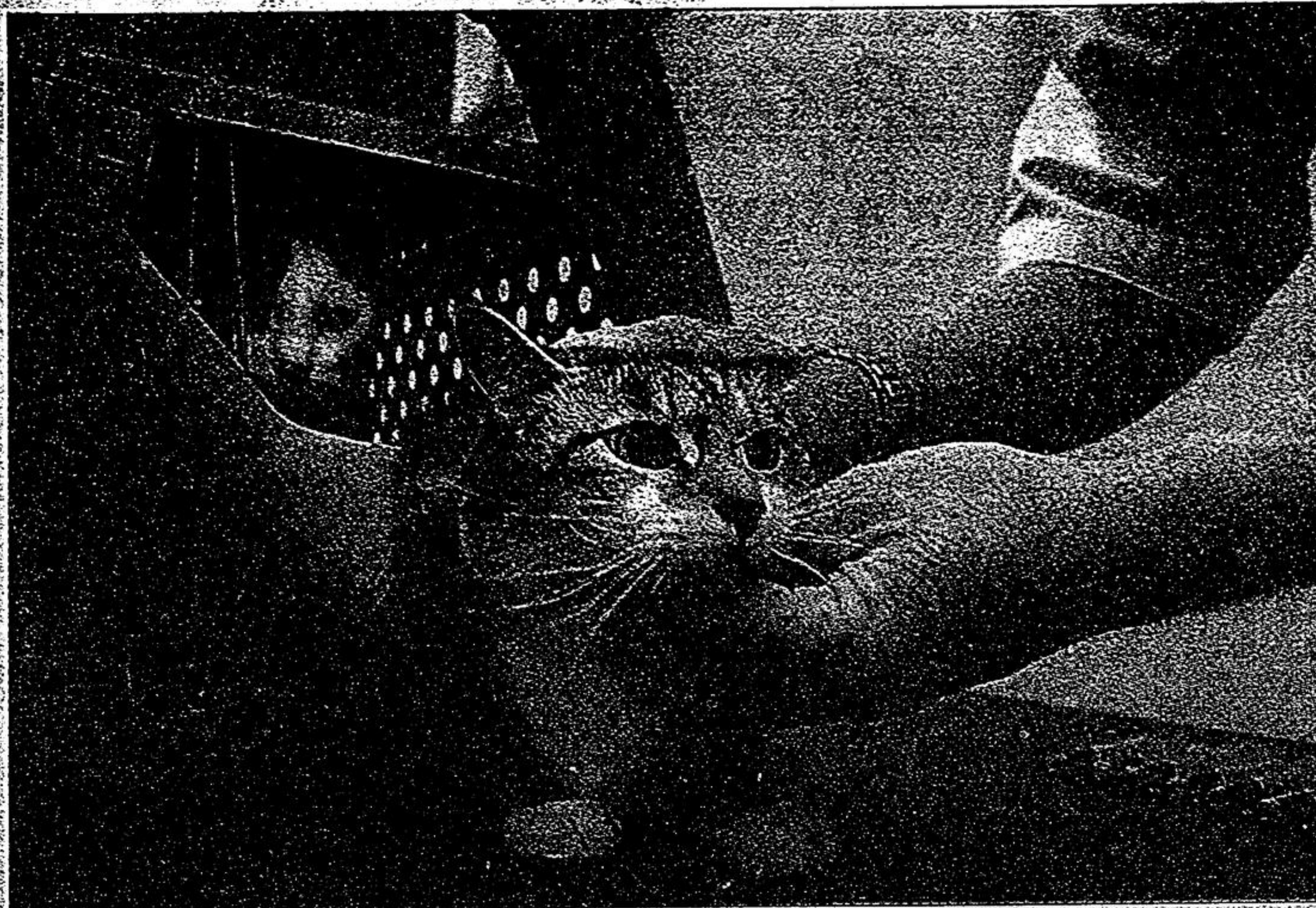
No. I don't pay nearly as much attention to the municipal election as the federal one. In the local election, you see candidates signs everywhere, but you don't hear enough about them.

Rita NYE



No. I will vote for anyone who will slow down development until we catch up with the services and also do something about the traffic on Main Street.

NEXT?



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Six-year-old Tigger gets set for a shot while Alfie, 4, waits his turn at a rabies clinic at Ballantrae Community Centre Saturday. The cats are owned by Lorri Pearce. The clinic was hosted by the Ballantrae and District Lions Club and veterinarian Brian Laing of Town and Country Animal Hospital.

Town refutes charges of large deficits

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Allegations the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has been operating with large deficits in recent years have been refuted.

The town is in good financial shape with one of the highest reserves among York Region municipalities, town treasurer Marc Pourvahidi says.

In an interview with the Stouffville Sun-Tribune, he responded to questions about the town's finances posed by resident Margaret L. May, in a letter sent to all council and mayoral candidates.

Ms May has kept an eye on the town's finances for many years, often putting her findings into letters to the editor and ads in local newspapers.

Ms May charges that after spending millions on the second ice pad, the Ballantrae Fire Hall, the library/pool complex and other buildings, the town ran into a deficit beginning in 1999.

"By 2002, 2003 and 2004, these had reached significant amounts," she wrote.

Calling allegations of deficits "misinformation", Mr. Pourvahidi

said the town's audited financial statements show a surplus every year since 1999 to 2005. "We have had a surplus all the way through," he said.

To check for yourself, you can log on to the town's website, at www.townofws.com and look over page 6 of the audited financial statements since 2001.

The town's reserves have been in the range of \$10 million to \$11 million with the exception of 2002 when they went down to around \$8 million because of the building of the Lebovic Leisure Centre, Mr. Pourvahidi said.

Ms May also wanted to know just how much money the town has in reserves.

That amount has grown, Mr. Pourvahidi said. In 2000, the town had about \$20 million to run its operations with income coming from property taxes, long-term investments, reserves and accounts payable.

Today, that sum stands at around \$40 million to run an increasingly larger town.

And when it comes to who is in charge of town spending, the buck stops with the treasurer,

who works at the direction of town council.

Ms May also put the question as to whether the town's purchasing bylaw is as effective as it should be.

When the town expanded its municipal offices on the fourth floor on the Imperial Centre last year, council approved \$150,000 for renovations.

But when the time came around for the 2006 budget talks, "council was informed that the town staff had committed another \$100,000 for the town office project in order to have matching furniture and workstations", Ms May wrote.

That's because there wasn't complete information yet at the November budget as to how much it would really take to complete the renovations, Mr. Pourvahidi said.

That budget was pushed forward to the spring by councillors Rob Hargrave and Phil Bannon, who wanted firm figures before approving a budget.

The new amount for renovations was then approved in the budget brought to council in April.

Briefly

Wal-Mart set to open superstore Wednesday

The long-anticipated, and delayed, opening of Stouffville's first Wal-Mart will take place Wednesday.

The 160,000-square-foot store, on Hwy. 48 south of Stouffville Road, is one of three supercentres, a new concept in Canada, being opened this month. The other two stores are being remodelled while the Stouffville store was built from the ground up.

The store includes a full-sized grocery store, complete with fresh food, plus an oil change centre, drug store and photo lab.

The store will be one of the first Wal-Marts in Canada with LCD TVs suspended from the ceilings and showing commercials.

Media reps and special guests will get a sneak peak at the store Tuesday.

The store was scheduled to open last month.

Streaking Spirit takes on unbeaten Aurora Tigers

Something has to give at the Stouffville Arena tonight.

The Stouffville Spirit (9-6-1-1), unbeaten in seven games, takes on the unbeaten Aurora Tigers (16-0-0-1) in Provincial Jr. A Hockey League action. Game time is 7:30.

Aurora is in first place in the North Conference and the Spirit in third. The Spirit won the conference in a six-game series with the Tigers last spring.

For more on the Spirit, see story and photograph on page 18 and go to stouffvillespirit.com.

You can listen to tonight's game live at whistleradio.com.

CORRECTION

Hilton's view of park

A story in Saturday's Sun-Tribune incorrectly stated Councillor Susan Hilton's views on a corridor through Memorial Park.

She is in favour of a road that would allow residents from the subdivisions to the south of the Lebovic Centre to have access to Burkholder Street and from there to roads leading to Main Street. As one possibility, she suggested having a road beside the current laneway leading to the leisure centre. The Sun-Tribune regrets the error.

Contacting Us

Have a news tip? Please:

- phone us at 905-640-2612
- e-mail us at jmason@yrng.com
- visit our offices at 6290 Main St. in downtown Stouffville

Click here for opinions

I demand an apology!

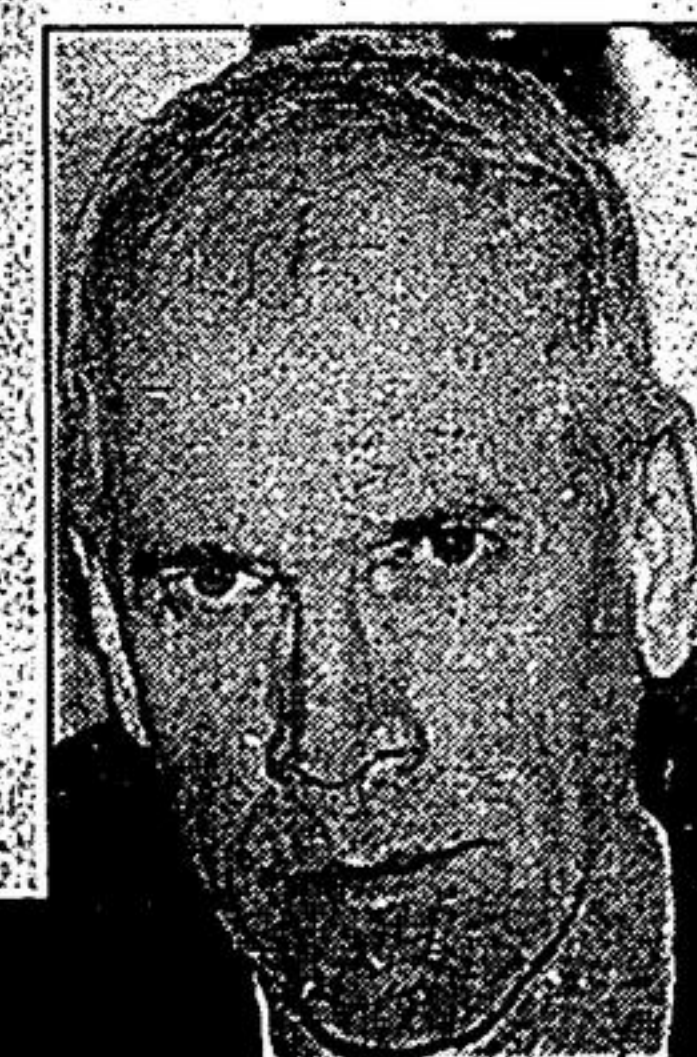
It has come to my attention that the following groups are seeking redress in the form of an apology and cash from our government for various heinous acts...

...Well I want my apology too. And a little

yorkregion.com
it clicks home

cash would go a long way to making me feel better. You see, when my family first moved to Canada about 50 years or so ago from Holland I was teased about my inability to speak English, my funny clothes and strange sandwiches. These dreadful wrongs were committed by Canadians, so pay up Mr. Harper or I'll come to Ottawa and stomp all over you with my wooden shoes...

For the rest of the story, visit "BLOGS" on yorkregion.com



Read John Slykhuis: "In the Right" in our BLOGS section