



Town of Whitchurch - Stouffville

'The way I see it'
by
Mayor Ken Laushway

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE - Each week, through The Tribune, Ken Laushway, Mayor, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville answers questions on issues of local interest. They are posed by The Tribune or from ratepayers through The Tribune.

Question: Has the former Village of Stouffville a priority over the former Twp. of Whitchurch when it comes to street-sanding and snow plowing? This appears to be the way under the current maintenance program.

Answer: As far as council is concerned, there are no priorities. One truck is stationed in Stouffville for sanding and snow plowing work and the same type of equipment is stationed at Vandorf. The use of these vehicles comes under the jurisdiction of Works Superintendents Ernest Davis (Whitchurch) and Ron Gibson (Stouffville). Since Stouffville's Main Street is a connecting link between two Provincial Highways, we are obliged to keep it in safe-driving condition at all times.

Question: Do you predict a tax increase in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for 1971?

Answer: There is no possible way to avoid a considerable increase in taxes in 1971. Although no pre-budget meetings have been held locally, discussions are taking place at the regional level. Each year, employees receive salary increases - it's a trend of the times - they expect it and they get it. This year will be no exception. Sooner or later, someone must take a stand. Not that all these programs aren't beneficial - they are, but we simply cannot afford them. It's up to us - we the elected officials to work collectively to curb cost increases. For one municipality to try it alone won't work. Mayor Laushway rejected any suggestion that the change to regional-type government should be blamed. He said many departments such as welfare, health, Children's Aid and York Manor were in operation under the County system. He suggested that regional police personnel would undoubtedly be seeking increases and education costs, despite government-imposed guidelines, would also be up. Some of these increases may not amount to much when compared to the total budget, but put them all together and it's considerable, he said.

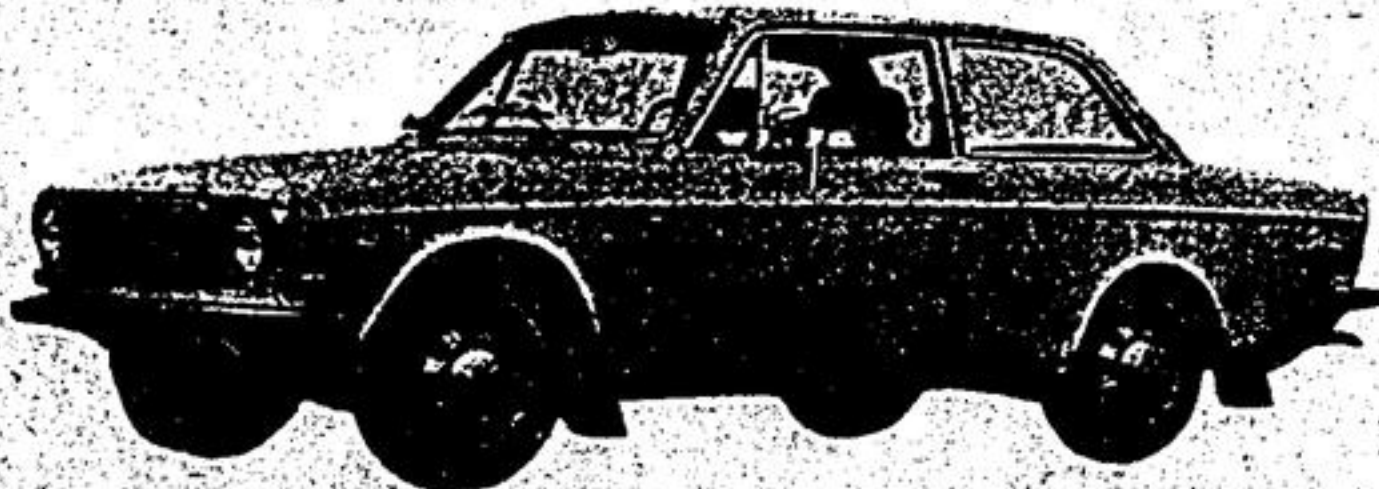
Question: It is rumored that the directors of the Stouffville Arena Company are seriously interested in turning this operation over to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. Would you personally favor such a move?

Answer: The matter has been mentioned to me personally, but never brought before Council. I feel the Arena has served the municipality well and I don't believe it could be operated any better and certainly no cheaper by the Town. In my opinion, as long as rental charges are reasonable and ice time is made available to local organizations and individuals, it should remain a private company.

Question: Is the hiring of a recreational director contemplated for 1971 in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville?

Answer: No discussion on the hiring of a recreational director will take place until after a proposed budget is presented to Council by the recreation committee. To date, this matter has not been discussed, either at the council or recreational level.

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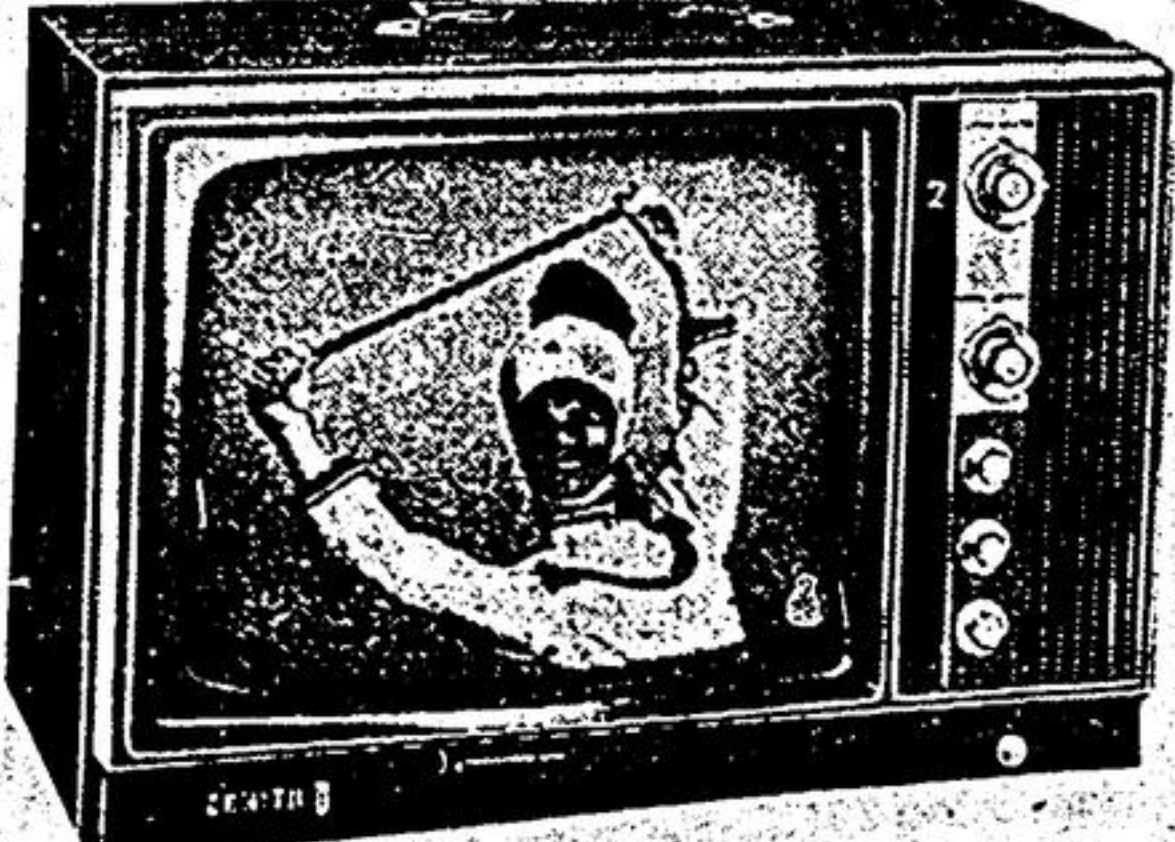
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Ten year old is 'Snow Princess' at Claremont carnival

Although the snow gave way to rain, Saturday and 'washed out' Claremont's Winter Carnival, it didn't halt the selection of 10 year old Shelley Ward as the program's 'pretty princess'. With all outside events cancelled, Shelley had time to get in some extra practice on the piano. She's the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ward, Claremont. —Jas. Thomas.

Regional committee study

Dental care plan too costly - mayor

STOUFFVILLE - A proposed dental plan currently being studied in committee by Regional Government, has provoked little enthusiasm from the members of the new Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The plan, if accepted by the nine municipalities would provide free dental care to children of low income families.

The program was prepared by Dr. E.T. Shaunessy, Director of Dental Services after a study revealed that only 50 percent of the children in York Region have adequate dental care.

"There is a hard core of people who cannot afford to have their children see a dentist", he said.

The proposals call for the purchase of a mobile dental van to visit schools in each of the municipalities. The van would be in operation 180 school days and spend approximately 20 days in each area.

It is expected the service could treat 20 patients a day and would be equipped to do extractions, fillings, X-rays and cleaning.

The staff of the van would include a dentist, nurse and dental assistant. The cost of the entire project is estimated to be approximately fifty thousand dollars.

Those applying for the service would be required to fill out a confidential report stating total family

Noisy muffler

STOUFFVILLE - A Stouffville area man was acquitted in Richmond Hill Court February 12, after he was charged with driving without a muffler on Main Street.

Police Constable David Hadden testified he had stopped the accused on an earlier occasion and told him to get his muffler fixed before charges were laid.

Albert Evans of R.R. 2, Stouffville told Judge Russell G. Pearce that he had fixed the muffler but that it bounced off again on the ruts in his laneway as he was going out for milk.

In dismissing the case, Judge Pearce told Evans that conviction for such an offense could bring a fine of up to \$100.00.

ROXY MARKHAM 294-3355

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Councillor Jean McPherson Loses sewer payment battle

PICKERING TWP. - Pickering Township Councillor Mrs. Jean McPherson did her utmost at a council meeting Feb. 15, to persuade her fellow councillors that 40 per cent of the \$575,000 addition to the Bay Road Sewage Plant charged over the whole township was unfair.

Sixty per cent of the cost is to be charged to the sewer area, which is south-west of the Rouge River and south of the MacDonald Cartier Freeway between the Rouge River and Ajax.

By the passing of an amendment which added to the sewer area clause "as expanded from time to time" Councillor Vic Rudik swung his vote in favor of the by-law, which took the vote to the 75 per cent of council members which was required. Rudik had previously voted against the 60-40 ratio.

Reeve John Williams said that as the residential assessment increases in the existing sewer area, then the cost to the rest of the municipality becomes

less. The 40 per cent reduces on a property basis.

"Let's not kid ourselves," said Councillor McPherson, "you know where development is going to take place because in the north part of this municipality they have to build 2,000 square feet homes and the average person can't afford it and doesn't want it. So there is no development there.

Development has ceased. As far as industrial development in the township, there is nothing in sight. You might as well be honest with the public. We are buying industrial land and head over heels with cost. I am not going to agree to charge this sewer expansion over the township, where people will never benefit because it will never be large enough to service the people. I feel it very unjust to ask them to pay this amount. If we asked eight or ten per cent I would be inclined to accept it."

Mrs. McPherson spoke of the cost of houses in Bay Ridges when they were first purchased, and said

that they got water, sewers, streets, lights, etc.

"I think they got a darn good deal," she said, "people in the rural area don't even have roads. I get uptight about people being charged when they get no benefit."

The reeve reminded Mrs. McPherson that she was on council when Bay Ridges came into being.

"I voted against it every step of the way," she retorted, and asked Councillor J. Sherman Scott, who was then reeve of the township, to verify it - which he did.

Adult skate
This Saturday is the regular Adult Skating Night in the Stouffville Arena.

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