

Minister explains delay

UXBRIDGE TWP. - A charge of government inaction, levelled by The Tribune in an editorial, Feb. 4, entitled 'Still Dragging Their Feet', has brought reply from Hon. Charles McNaughton, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics.

The Tribune, in its editorial comment, urged Queen's Park to come up with some decision with respect to lands owned by Century City Developments Limited so that the future of both the project and the mortgage farmers could be more positively assessed.

Mr. McNaughton's reply in part follows: "As you know, we have requested that public and private briefs be submitted so that the people at large have the opportunity for comment before any final policy decisions are taken. Although the deadline for receipt of these briefs was Sept. 30, many are still coming in. We are still in the process of assessing these briefs and it will be necessary to resolve a number of questions before we proceed into ways and means of implementation."

The letter in full is published on Page 3 of this issue.

Mother of six

MARKHAM - Service was held from the Dixon Funeral Home, Markham, Tuesday, for Mrs. Ronald Reesor, the former Marilyn Johnston of Unionville, killed early Sunday morning on Hwy. 27.

Her husband was seriously injured.

The couple were struck down by a car as they walked along the edge of the pavement. Mrs. Reesor was only 36.

Surviving are six children, Wendy, Debbie, Robbie, Pattie, Terry, Lynn and Dannie. A brother, Robert lives near Bethesda.

Interment was made in First Markham Baptist Cemetery, Ninth Line, Markham.

Nabs suspect

YORK REGION - The close regional network of police communication was aptly demonstrated, Tuesday morning when eight divisions plus the O.P.P. arrested one of two suspects, following a high-speed chase that extended over 20 miles.

It was constable David Hadden of Stouffville who nabbed the driver, after the vehicle went out of control and ended up in a field. A companion escaped into dense bush. The chase started at Bayview Avenue and Steeles, moved east to Unionville, back to Steeles, up Don Mills Road and west through Richmond Hill to Bathurst.

More than 20 cruisers were involved, including some used as roadblocks.

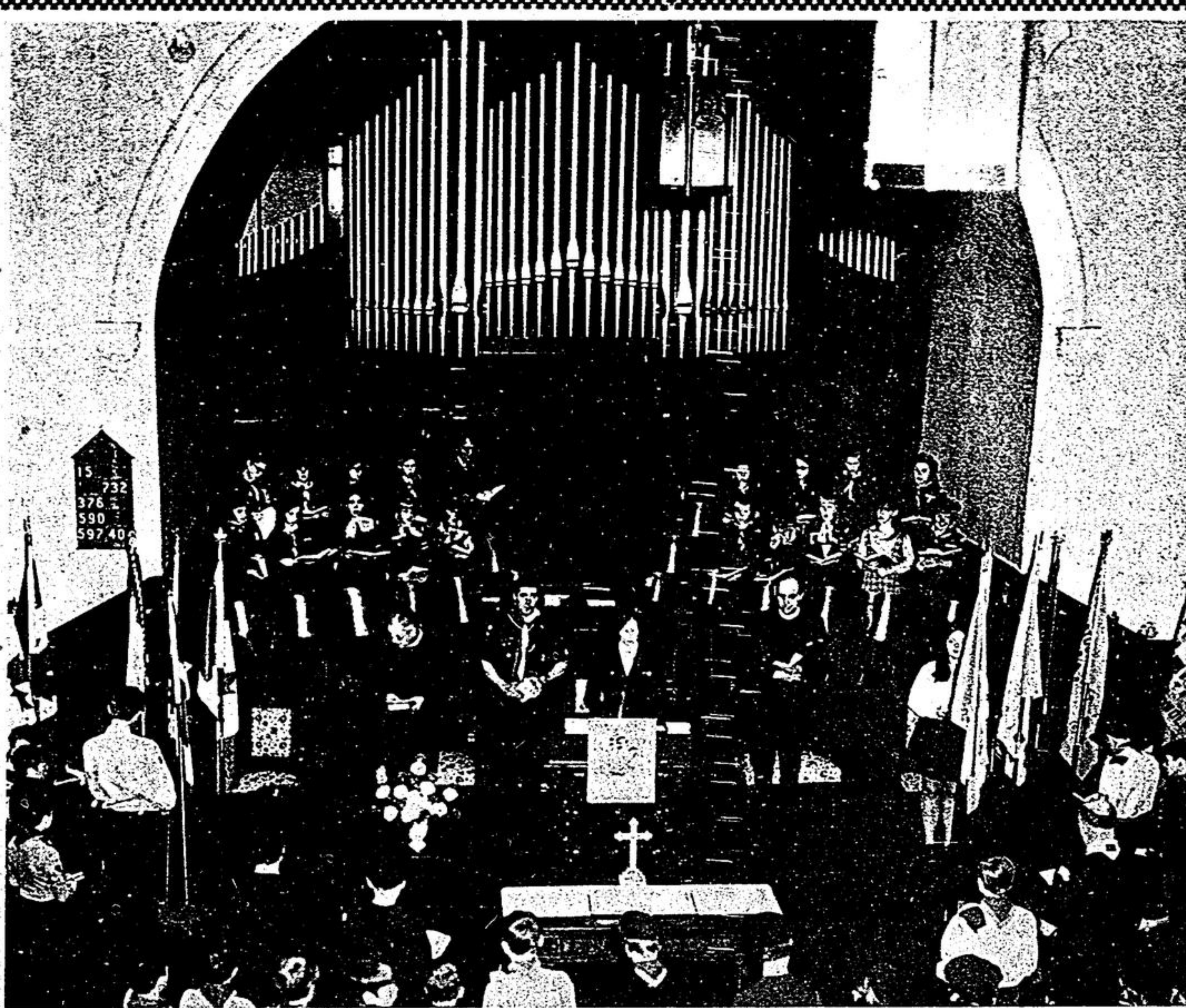
Whitchurch-Stouffville

Ask area be re-assessed

STOUFFVILLE - The council, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, has requested the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Darcy McKeough, to order a complete re-assessment of the Area.

In a surprise resolution, Feb. 24, introduced by councillor Merlyn Baker and supported by councillor Herbert Simpson, members unanimously approved the recommendation and asked that copies be sent to Wm. Hodgson, M.P.P. (York North); Donald Deacon, M.P.P. (York-Centre); York Regional Council and the York Regional Assessment Department.

The wording of the resolution follows: "Whereas the Province of Ontario has assumed the whole responsibility for assessment and whereas the new assessment in the former County of York was intended to be more consistent and predicated on equality, be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville request the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Darcy McKeough to order and expedite a re-assessment of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, to be based on a degree of equality that is consistent with the intent of the Act.



Impressive Baden-Powell service in Stouffville United Church

The leaders and members of the Stouffville Cubs, Brownies, Guides, Scouts and Venturers, participated in an impressive Baden-Powell Service in the Stouffville United Church, Sunday. Shown here, leading the worship with the choir are (left to

right) - Rev. Jas. L. Carder, Cubmaster John McEwan, Guide Captain, Mrs. Marion Blackburn, Rev. Alex Adam and Arlene McFadden, 1st Ranger Company.

—Jas. Thomas.

Department will 'marry us off'

Regional plan opposed by Uxbridge reeve

UXBRIDGE TWP. - The amalgamation of Uxbridge Township, Uxbridge Town and the Twp. of Scott has received the blessing of the three municipal councils concerned but the over-all Oshawa Centred Plan, that splits Ontario County into nine Areas, has its opponents.

One of these is reeve Bob Nesbitt.

"It's sick," he said, with reference to the result of the Oshawa Area Planning and Development Study. He cautioned however, that he was speaking personally on the subject and not for Uxbridge Twp. Council.

The Region would be dominated by the City of Oshawa, reeve Nesbitt said. The power, he noted, would be so

distributed that fourteen out of eighteen votes would come from areas south of Uxbridge - seven of these from Oshawa. "We're not strong as it is," he said, "but I'd hate to be weakened down to that point."

With respect to the Uxbridge-Scott union, the reeve said agreement on this question had been reached in 1970 following a series of four meetings between the three municipalities. "Independently, we could stand up on our little mole hill and yell

and Scott could do the same with the result, we'd both be taken". He said he never favored Uxbridge becoming part of the Whitchurch-Stouffville area in York.

Reeve Nesbitt feels an agreement will never be reached, satisfactory to all municipalities. "Right now, we're not even close," he said. Ultimately, he suggests, the Minister of the Dept. of Municipal Affairs, will step in 'and marry us off'.

Preston Lake

Ban power boats owners urge council

PRESTON LAKE - In an effort to maintain the high quality of water at Preston Lake, residents there have endorsed a move that would ban all power boats from the private resort area.

The recommendation to Whitchurch-Stouffville council, was contained in a letter from the Association President, Mrs. Christa Nimmo and read at a

meeting, Feb. 24.

Mrs. Nimmo informed members that the Ontario Water Resources Commission had conducted a survey in the summer of 1970 and results released in December.

"If this lake is to be preserved," she said, "power boats must be banned. The Association would like to know what action is contemplated by council."

Councillor Gordon Ratcliff said samples taken from the lake showed the water quality as good. He agreed that a ban on power boats should be legislated and enforced. "It's better to stop the problem before it starts," he said.

Question garbage rate increase

STOUFFVILLE - Stouffville home-owners are now paying \$2.00 per month for garbage collection.

This is a monthly rate increase of 25 cents over 1970.

In a letter to Mayor Ken Laushway, a resident on South Street has asked if Whitchurch-Stouffville Council had given any consideration to the municipality assuming this service.

The correspondence was read at a meeting, Feb. 24.

Mayor Laushway replied that in his opinion, the same service, that he described as 'very good', would cost much more if taken over by the Town.



Game rivals

Stars at opposite ends of the ice, Peewee captain Keith Acton (left) of Stouffville and goaltender Paul Minaker of Picton, meet together at the conclusion of their playoff game, Friday. Capt. Acton led his club to a 5-1 victory with two goals. Minaker was a standout, blocking 38 shots.

—Jas. Thomas.

FARMERS DEMAND LAND TAX RELIEF FOR POLICE - FIRE

Not benefit - only equality

STOUFFVILLE - Under the Ontario Police Act, there is a provision for the exemption of farm lands (90 percent of the assessed value) from police expenditures.

Under the Assessment Act, there is provision for the exemption of farm lands, in excess of 11 acres (90 percent of the assessed value) from fire protection costs.

The former Twp. of Markham gave the cut-back scheme its approval several years ago. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Federation of Agriculture feel their Area should receive similar consideration.

The recommendation was placed before Council, Feb. 24. Spokesman for the delegation was Ted Barry, Stouffville, R.R.2.

Mr. Barry, in support of the proposal, said the farmers did not look on the exemption by-law as a benefit, as referred to by Mayor Ken Laushway, but rather a form of equality. Farm buildings do not apply. "Even with the exemption, we would still be paying more than the urban home-owner," he said.

The Federation's hopes suffered a setback however, when members learned the deadline date for passage of the fire exemption by-law was March 1. Mayor Laushway pointed out that with no assessment roll, there was no way of telling what owners could qualify and what owners could not. He estimated that on a property assessment of \$25,000, the individual was talking four or five dollars.

With respect to police, councillor Tom Lonergan said this service was now under the jurisdiction of the Region.

Mayor Laushway suggested that for the Federation of Whitchurch-Stouffville to apply for relief on its own would 'only be a waste of time'. He recommended the appeal be made through the municipality. Going further, he suggested that all nine municipalities within the Region be consulted. The main problem, he said, was related to inequities in assessment. "Something must be done about it," he stated.

Mr. Barry agreed, but said the Federation could act only on legislation available to them. He noted that while the fire cost exemption per farm might seem small, "every dollar counts and the cost keeps going up."

While members were sympathetic to the farmers' cause, councillor Betty vanNostrand was more definite. "This council has not had an opportunity to discuss this. I feel it should not be dropped - that something can be worked out". She recommended the issue be placed on the agenda at the Regional level.

In conclusion, Mayor Laushway said there were many issues and problems pertaining specifically to the rural resident that he would like discussed in committee. He agreed to set a date and invited Mr. Barry and several of his delegation members to attend.

Council urges court decision on assessment

STOUFFVILLE - More than 300 York farmers, including 77 in the former Twp. of Whitchurch, are growing impatient, awaiting a decision on a 1969 assessment appeal, selected as a 'test case' and heard in 1970 in High Court.

A reply had been promised by Feb. 20, Ted Barry of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Federation of Agriculture told council, Feb. 24. Up to that time, he said, he had heard nothing.

On a motion by councillor Merlyn Baker and supported by councillor Betty vanNostrand, the following resolution was passed: "Whereas an appeal against the 1969 assessment was made by a large number of landowners through the Scarborough Farmers' Association and

whereas the appeal decision was appealed to a higher court and whereas the appellant has been waiting over a year for a decision and whereas the council, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, feel it is imperative to know the result for taxation purposes, be it resolved that the Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville requests the appropriate department to use its influence in hastening the proceedings."

Copies of the resolution have been forwarded to the Ontario Dept. of Municipal Affairs, Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, York Region and Whitchurch Federation of Agriculture, Wm. Hodgson, M.P.P. (York-North); Donald Deacon, M.P.P. (York-Centre); the area municipalities, Region of York and the York Regional Council.

Local gov't. salary scale stirs protest

YORK REGION - The natives are restless.

All across the Region, resentment is growing.

The concern relates mainly to salaries. Rate-payers (or many of them), feel the wage scale, at both regional and local levels, has been set too high.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, Mayor Ken Laushway receives \$4,700 in basic pay plus \$2,300 for travelling and other expenses. As the Area's representative on Regional Council, he receives an

additional \$6,000. Whitchurch-Stouffville's six councillors each receive \$2,400 (basic) plus \$1,200 expenses.

On March 9, a delegation plans to attend a meeting of Council in Stouffville to inquire into the reasons for alleged salary increases. A spokesman suggested to The Tribune that no Council should have jurisdiction over establishing members' salaries, but rather, the stipend should be set by a private committee.