

Town taxes take drop

STOUFFVILLE - There is good news this week, for the majority of Whitchurch-Stouffville taxpayers.

Budget figures, approved by council, Tuesday, show that a public school supporter, owning a house assessed at \$20,000 will pay \$323.20 in municipal taxes this year.

This represents a decrease of \$31.10 on an average home in the former Twp. of Whitchurch; a decrease of \$15.14 in the former Village of Stouffville, but an increase of \$19.02 in the annexed portion of the old Twp. of Markham.

Of the \$1.8 million budget figure, \$985,000 goes to the cost of education and \$316,000 to Regional Government, Mayor Ken Laushway explained.

Mystery blaze levels barn

UXBRIDGE TWP. A descending meteorite? A plane on fire?

These and other suggestions were offered firemen by eyewitnesses at the scene of a blaze, Saturday, that levelled a large barn on the farm of Eva Helmka, conc. 2, Uxbridge Township.

They told of seeing a ball of flame streak across the sky, then plummet to earth, seconds before the frame building became a raging inferno.

The oddity was viewed by residents as far away as Uxbridge and Zephyr.

Fire Chief Walter Smith of Stouffville said the exact cause was still a mystery. Wilbert Kelly of Toronto, a nephew of Miss Helmka and now looking after the property since the death of her brother in March, was the first to see the fire.

A cow, eight pigs and a quantity of hay and straw were destroyed. Two smaller buildings were saved and the farm house suffered no damage.

Miss Helmka, a resident on the property for the past 63 years, injured her face, when she fell while trying to reach the phone. She was found on the kitchen floor.

School sale policy sharply criticized by lady councillor

STOUFFVILLE - A policy, adopted by the York County Board, to sell unwanted rural schools by sealed tender, has been sharply criticized by Whitchurch-Stouffville councillor Betty vanNostrand.

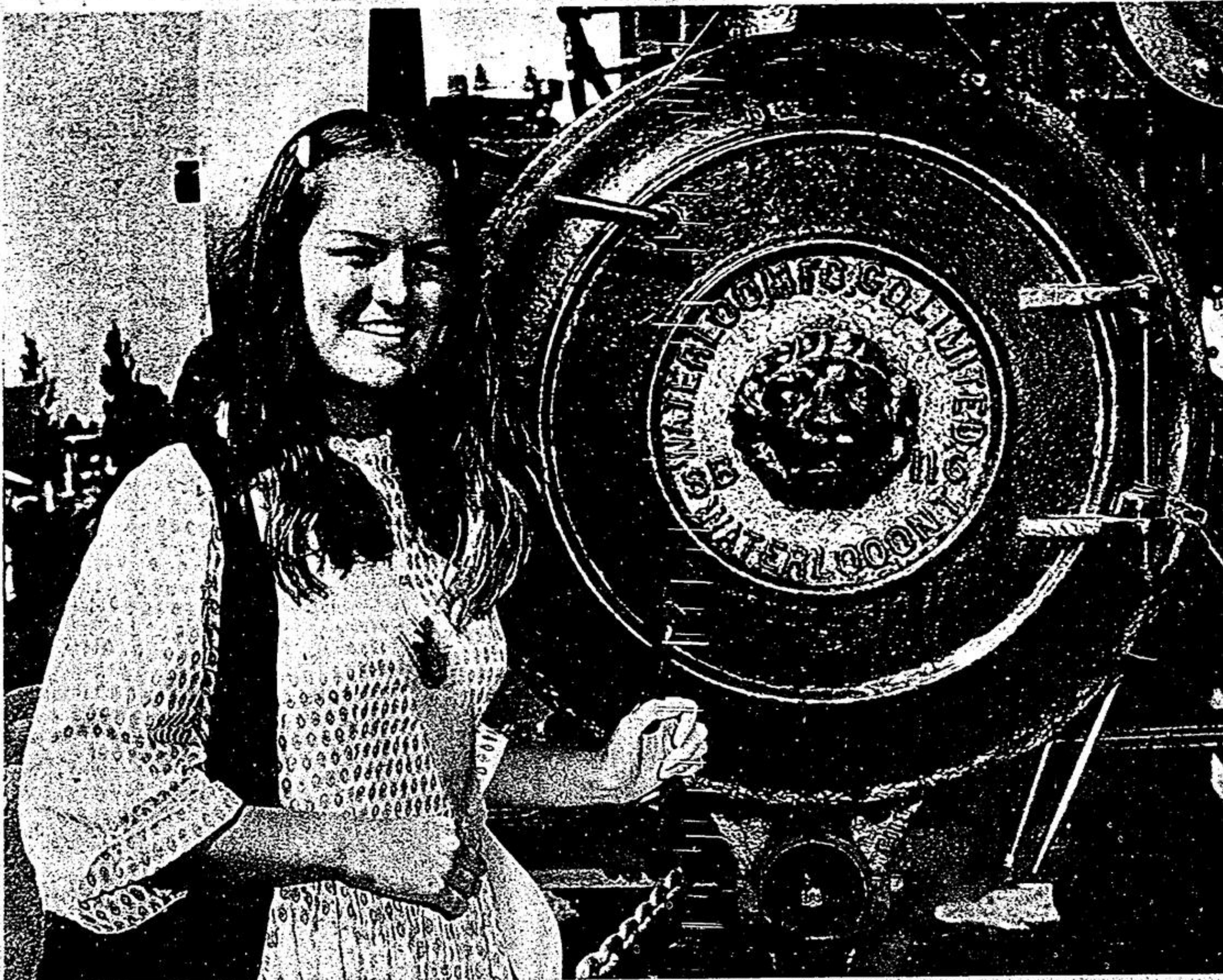
With particular reference to the now-vacant school at Lemonville, that could possibly be utilized as a community centre, Mrs. vanNostrand recommended the price be restricted to a nominal sum and that council approach the members with this thought in mind. "The taxpayers have already paid for this building", she said.

The issue was raised after Mayor Ken Laushway revealed that several residents in the Lemonville area had indicated a desire to retain the school for community use. He said Henry Nauta was spearheading the drive and the two of them had been successful in delaying its sale for two weeks.

Mr. Nauta, in a supporting letter to council, explained that at present, the church was the only location where events and activities could take place.

Mrs. vanNostrand pointed out that for some functions, a church was not suitable. "I feel these surplus schools should be sold for a nominal fee", she repeated.

Mayor Laushway said the Board seemed to feel it unfair to give a school to one municipality and not another. "Right or wrong, that's their policy", he observed.



Closing the generation gap

The generation gap was narrowed, Saturday, when the young and pretty, old and ugly, joined forces for 'History in Action Day' on the grounds of the Brougham Museum. The touch of beauty came in the

form of 25 entries in Pickering's 'Miss United Appeal' contest for 1971, including 18 year old Debi Fisher of Greenwood. The Waterloo steamer was driven by Mac Middleton of Claremont. —J. Thomas

New community hall is approved for Park

STOUFFVILLE - Whitchurch-Stouffville Council held a special meeting, Tuesday, in the Stouffville Park.

At it, they gave unanimous approval to the construction of a new community hall, on a site, north-east of the grandstand.

The project won't cost the Town a single cent. The donor is Arthur Latcham, Rupert Avenue.

The structure, measuring 90' by 40', will accommodate 270 persons. In addition to the auditorium, it will feature a 40' by 16' stage, change rooms and kitchen facilities.

The contractor is Robert Bruce Building Contractors,

Stouffville, R.R.3. Work at the site has already been started. The exterior, Mr. Latcham said, will be brick, with a part plaster, part wood interior. The floor will be polished cement. (The hall will be heated electrically.)

Mr. Latcham said the stage would be so arranged as to accommodate a projection screen. He declined to stipulate a price on the project.

Mayor, Ken Laushway, in recommending council move quickly on the proposal, termed the gift as 'marvellous'.

The entrance to the hall will be from Park Road on the east. Mayor Laushway said a walkway could also be constructed from Church Street on the west.

Hydro employees honored

MARKHAM - Two Markham men, long-time employees of Ontario Hydro, were honored Sept. 17 at a banquet held at the Firefighter's Club, Don Mills Road.

John Bayes, George Street and Archie Percy, Robinson St., received the congratulations and best wishes of 150 fellow workmen and friends.

Mr. Percy has been 44 years with Hydro. He retires this month. Mr. Bayes has 43 years to his credit and retires in October.

Each was presented with a transistor radio and a cash award. Their wives received trillium pins.

Among those in attendance were C. A. Richardson, Area Manager; Dick Shaw, Area Sales and Service Supervisor; J. W. Kerr, Station Maintenance Supervisor and former Area Manager.

On Oct. 23, Mr. Percy and Mr. Bayes will be further honored, along with several other retiring employees within the Central Region, at a ceremony arranged by Hydro officials.



Plowing pointers from a pro

Stouffville's Fred Timbers has forgotten more about match plowmanship than Jim Bogers, Bethesda Road, Stouffville, R.R.4, may ever

know. But he parted with some of that knowledge at a junior competition, Saturday. The site was the farm of Carl Timbers, conc. 6, Whitchurch.

Police service not adequate Chief is told

Soon tear the place down

STOUFFVILLE - Police protection within the former Village of Stouffville, is not adequate, York Regional Chief, Bruce Crawford was told at a Businessmen's Association meeting, Tuesday, reaching such a point, according to one speaker, "they'll soon tear the place down".

It was president Cliff Aiken who listed the major grievances, ranging from open consumption of alcohol on the street to drag-racing and vandalism.

Chief Crawford revealed statistics that showed fewer calls to the Vandroff Office from Stouffville as compared to the old system when the office was on Main Street. He noted too, that speeding charges had increased.

Merchant, Bill Paul argued however, that a deterrent to crime was needed rather than arrests after an offense had been committed. He said this could be accomplished by constant patrol.

The Chief noted that one man and a cruiser was assigned to Stouffville on a 24-hour basis, except when required for emergencies elsewhere. He said that just because the officer is not in full view does not mean he's not in the area.

"I'll admit, the service isn't perfect, but it's far better than you had last year", he continued.

This point was rejected by many.

"You live here for a week and see if the cruiser is in town 24 hours a day", suggested Gordon Minton, "I say it's not here 4 hours a day".

Ken Wagg said that under the old arrangement the program was one of prevention rather than catching culprits.

"We need help", demanded businessman, Graham Hudson. He said that if statistics were a sole basis for comparison, Stouffville people could quadruple the number of calls.

Chief Crawford noted that to increase the size of the force would mean an increased budget, something that would have to wait until 1972. He said he would make an effort to have more officers assigned to the Main Street on weekends, but couldn't guarantee it.

With reference to a Tribune editorial of Sept. 2, that pointed to a deterioration of police service in Stouffville, Chief Crawford termed the editor as 'misinformed' and the editorial as 'garbage'.

Lemonville School

Future is undecided

LEMONVILLE - What does the future hold for the former Lemonville public school?

Will it be sold by tender like several others in the Region or be retained for use as a Community Centre?

On the advice of York Board Chairman, Arthur Starr, action has been reserved for two weeks. The same holds true for the former Temperanceville school. It may be acquired as a centre for retarded children.

A policy, as spelled out by the Board, calls for the school bells to remain with the buildings unless an association or local museum wishes to purchase one.

The schools will be sold four at a time, with inspections permitted in advance. Tenders must be received on the first group by Oct. 12. Mr. Pleasant, Haggerman, Vandroff and Pottageville; group two by Oct. 18. Udonia, Melville, Bloomington and Shrubmount and group three by Nov. 4. Pefferlaw, Pine Orchard and Ringwood.

A standard tender form will be sent to anyone expressing an interest in the properties.

Vance ambulance service is sold

MARKHAM - Vance Ambulance Service, an efficient operation throughout the south-east area of York for the past six years, has been sold to the Province.

The Dept. of Health, currently subsidizing the operation, will take it over, Oct. 1. The location of the base station is not yet certain, although Richmond Hill, Agincourt and Uxbridge have been suggested as contact points.

It was back in June, 1965 that Vance Bros., established the service, utilizing a 1958 Chevrolet as a lone ambulance. This was later replaced by a more modern unit, a 1959 Oldsmobile. A new 1967 Pontiac was added with a van-type vehicle provided later by the Department.

During its period of operation under the Vance name, the firm distinguished itself, not only with the efficiency of its response to emergency calls, but with the drivers' attitude towards patients in their care.

Crowded Ballantrae School

York School Board to the rescue

BALLANTRAE - The Board of Education has moved to relieve the situation at Ballantrae School.

The school is presently under a strain, with enrolment up more than 40 percent over last year. Principal Harry Hunt cited two factors accounting for this: closing of the school at Vivian and Shrubmount; and the new V.L.A. Subdivision west of Hwy. 48.

So far, the problem has been handled through the use of portables. The school presently uses four of these, but this is regarded as only a temporary solution.

At a recent meeting, the Board authorized renovation of the school's old section and the addition of new classrooms, a general purpose room, library, guidance and health rooms. An

architect has been engaged, and has already submitted sketch plans.

The renovations will affect 5 of the 11 classrooms. Mr. Hunt predicts that completion of the project will relieve many problems, including the use of the basement for a kindergarten room.

In spite of such difficulties, said Mr. Hunt, the school program is operating smoothly. An efficient student-teacher ratio has been maintained, he said, and there have been no problems with children transferred from Vivian and Shrubmount.

When a final set of architect's drawings becomes available, a meeting will be arranged so that parents may see the plans, Mr. Hunt concluded.