

New members form majority in 1973-4 Town Council



Gordon Ratcliff
Mayor



Arthur Starr
Ward 1



Jim Wong
Ward 2



Merlyn Baker
Ward 3



Cathy Joice
Ward 4



June Button
Ward 5



Eldred King
Ward 6

CLAREMONT
CHRISTMAS SHOW
SATURDAY, DEC. 9

The Tribune

CHRISTMAS EUCHRE
LATCHAM HALL
TUESDAY, DEC. 19

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The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville made its presentation at the Airport Hearings in Toronto, Nov. 30. Representing the municipality were (left to right) councillor Merlyn Baker, Mayor-elect Gordon Ratcliff and solicitor Paul W.J. Mingay. — J. Thomas

Area land 'freeze' creating hardships Town Mayor-elect tells Airport Hearing

STOUFFVILLE — With two-thirds of Whitchurch-Stouffville rendered sterile by a government-imposed land 'freeze', a serious hardship has been inflicted on many property owners, Mayor-elect Gordon Ratcliff told J. W. Swackhamer, at the Airport Hearing in Toronto, Nov. 30.

He said the Town's problems had been increased without approval of a new comprehensive Zoning Bylaw. "We can't offer advice to people wishing to build. We don't know which way we're going."

Mr. Ratcliff, under questioning by solicitor Paul Mingay, criticized federal authorities for failure to provide sufficient information on the proposed project. "It's all been very meagre," he said, "mostly

speculation". He said things like noise, pollution, and potential industrial development were of great concern to members of Council as well as the residents.

Mr. Ratcliff explained the over-all make-up of the municipality, concentrating first on the former village of Stouffville and later the former township of Whitchurch.

He said that through controlled growth, in both urban, hamlet and rural areas, taxpayers had not been burdened by high service costs.

Mr. Ratcliff explained that many people had moved out from Metro to take advantage of Whitchurch-Stouffville's semi-rural atmosphere, and it was his personal desire to see these benefits maintained. "With an Airport, however, the whole

character of the area could change," he said.

The Mayor-elect pointed to the excellence of Stouffville's business community, with particular reference to the Livestock Sales Barn, patronised, he said, by thousands every Saturday. He said he feared an Airport of such magnitude would cut off some roads leading into town, and thus lose Stouffville this patronage.

Mr. Ratcliff said that in spite of repeated requests for more factual information, the lower levels of government had so far been ignored. "We should have been consulted, so our interests could be protected," he said. "It

is only right that we should have a say in the future of our area."

Mr. Ratcliff said that in voicing these opinions, he was expressing the feeling of the entire Council.

Town finances in good shape

STOUFFVILLE — Town Administrator, Ralph Corner, submitted his final Report to the present Council, Nov. 28.

In it, the financial summary discloses a total expenditure of \$348,358 for a ten month period, against the 1972 budget figure of \$502,000.

There was no deficit shown in any department.

The Report comments favorably on the re-organization of work forces; the consolidation of the Works Department, with little disturbance to employees and ratepayers; the continuity in planning information being established through the Planning Board Secretary and an updated resume of development proposals.

Mr. Corner concluded with an expression of thanks to the Mayor and members of Council for their understanding and co-operation during the two-year organizational period.

Reduced speed limit denied in school zone

STOUFFVILLE — A reduction of the speed limit on Bloomington Road, in the area of Whitchurch-Highlands School, is not warranted.

This is the conclusion of Regional Engineering Committee, after a survey, made at the request of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council, of traffic and visual conditions on this section of the road.

The survey states that sight distances for vehicles entering, leaving or approaching the school entrance provide ample space for safe manoeuvring, if proper signals and caution are used by drivers.

A traffic count (Mon. to Wed. inclusive) shows an average of 595 vehicles per day pass the school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. An estimated 119 pass between 8

and 9 a.m.; 90 between 3 and 4 p.m.

Twice as many trucks were tallied than cars.

The Committee believes this confirms Bloomington Road is successfully performing its function as a 'truck route' and that a reduction of the 50 m.p.h. limit - in force 24 hours a day, to accommodate school traffic, active mainly for an hour in the morning and afternoon - is impractical, when visual conditions at this point are considered good.

A recommendation was made to have Regional Police investigate excessive speed in Whitchurch-Highlands area and have 'school' road signs augmented with advanced warning signs of bus turning movements.

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

'New look' Council for 1973-74 shatters ranks of old guard

Only 33% vote recorded

STOUFFVILLE — The 'old guard' within the ranks of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council has been shattered.

Pre-arranged retirements and unscheduled defeats will bring a 'new look' to the Town's political scene in 1973-74.

Beaten in bids for re-election, Monday, were Herb Simpson (Ward 2) and Tom Lonergan (Ward 6). In Ward 4, ex-councillor R.F. 'Tommy' Farr, also suffered a setback.

Only councillor June Button successfully defended her post, winning handily in Ward 5.

A total of 2,902 ballots were cast or 33 percent of the number eligible.

The breakdown of results follow: Mayor - Gordon Ratcliff (acc.); Ward 1 - Arthur Starr (acc.); Ward 2 - Jim Wong, 275; Herb Peach, 222; Herb Simpson, 207; Jack Wylie, 70. Ward 3 - Merlyn Baker (acc.); Ward 4 - Cathy Joice, 575; Tommy Farr,

184. Ward 5 - June Button, 463; Clara Harman, 208. Ward 6 - Eldred King, 464; Tom Lonergan, 234. Board of Education (Public) - John McMurray, 1,882; Michael Durnan, 1,200; (Separate) - John McDermott, (acc.).

Much interest was centred on Ward 2, where incumbent, Herb Simpson, faced a field of three, Jim Wong, Herb Peach and Jack Wylie. Mr. Wong grabbed an early lead and never looked back, although the gap was narrowed at the end.

In Ward 6, the pro and anti-airport stands of Messrs. King and Lonergan, gave the electorate something to 'chew on'. While many felt the issue might cost Mr. King votes, this wasn't indicated in the final return.

In Ward 4, Cathy Joice waged an enthusiastic campaign, outdistancing her rival by 3 to 1. In Ward 5, councillor June Button's

Town wetter

STOUFFVILLE — Whitchurch went wet Monday, and Stouffville went 'wetter', with approval, by a vote of over 60 percent, on the question of serving liquor with meals in licenced premises.

In the former Twp. of Whitchurch, the affirmative reply was 72.8 percent. In the former Village of Stouffville, it was 66.3 percent.

A breakdown follows: Whitchurch Yes - 939; No - 351. Stouffville Yes - 1,218; No - 598.

experience assured her of victory.

After several unsuccessful tries, John McMurray has attained a 'Board of Education' post. Michael Durnan, comparatively new to Town, did exceptionally well, however, gaining an even 1,200 votes to 1,882 for Mr. McMurray.

Councillors Simpson and Lonergan, while obviously disappointed, were not bitter. Mr. Simpson admitted earlier he had absorbed considerable criticism over alleged associations with a V.L.A. development at Ballantrae. Problems related to the operation of the Ballantrae Community Centre Board were also thought to have cost him support.

No interest

PICKERING TWP. — Despite the fact that over 50 percent of the taxpayers' dollar is channelled towards education, only 10 percent of the eligible voters turned out in Pickering Township's Ward 1, Monday, to select a trustee.

With 500 ballots cast out of a possible 5,123, Ross Deakin, the incumbent, defeated his lone opponent, Kenneth Brown, 256 to 244.

The disinterest in Ward 1 was representative of the entire municipality, an official said later. The over-all turnout across the township was 10.6 percent.



Birkett Trophy to baking champion

Mrs. Murray Clarkson (right), Stouffer Street, Stouffville, was the 1972 champion in the Domestic Science Division of Markham Fair. On Dec. 1, she was presented with the Thos. Birkett and Son

Trophy by Mrs. Mary Wilson, Secretary of the Ladies' Section, Ontario Agricultural Societies, at an Awards Banquet in the Markham Arena auditorium. — Jim Thomas.

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