

## GOLF CLUB SCANDAL 'CAN'T HAPPEN HERE'

Richmond Hill Councillor Carmine Perrelli was recently outed for expensing \$1,181.29 in golf gear to the municipality.

That won't happen in Whitchurch-Stouffville, according to town treasurer Marc Pourvahidi.

"When there's a credit card available for use, generally the usage is at the discretion ... of the user," he said.

Whitchurch-Stouffville councillors do not have corporate credit cards, only the mayor has one, according to Mr. Pourvahidi.

In terms of expenses, councillors receive \$2 per household in their respective wards for communications, conferences and seminars.

Councillors report their expenses in two ways, according to Mr. Pourvahidi.

They can pay out-of-pocket, provide an expense report and be reimbursed. The other option is to have an invoice submitted to the town with the vendor being paid directly. In either case, the expenses are vetted by Mr. Pourvahidi, he said.

In Richmond Hill, Mr. Perrelli's apology to the community for expensing golf equipment has been made, but his attempt to cover their cost through a donation to the town has been refused.

Claiming he purchased the equipment "to save taxpayers money" so as not to incur rental fees when representing the town at golf tournaments, Mr. Perrelli released a statement apologizing for the purchase he said was made in the town's best interests.

"I now understand that good business decisions and good community decisions can be two different things," he read. "With good intentions, I made an error in judgment. This has been a learning experience ... I'm committed to serving my ward and my town honestly and honourably. I hope that you'll give me another chance to prove it."

Another byproduct of the golf clubs purchase is that Mr. Perrelli earned a hole-in-one with his expensed clubs this summer at an Alzheimer Society of York Region charity golf event, winning a two-year car lease from Toronto dealership Lexus on the Park.

Mr. Perrelli said he is seeking a cash payout rather than the vehicle lease and now plans to donate "every penny to a worthy cause in Richmond Hill".

The prize has yet to arrive and the councillor said he is becoming frustrated with the slow delivery.

- Sandra Bolan and Adam Mc Lean

# Give mayor raise: councillors

From page 1.

treasurer Marc Pourvahidi.

Councillors, who are part-time in those two municipalities, earn \$44,616 and \$38,700 respectively, according to the report.

Councillors Clyde Smith and Richard Bartley were particularly adamant about increasing the mayor's salary.

"The mayor's role is absolutely critical. It's a 24/7 job," Mr. Smith said during the council meeting, adding it was up there in importance with that of the town's CAO.

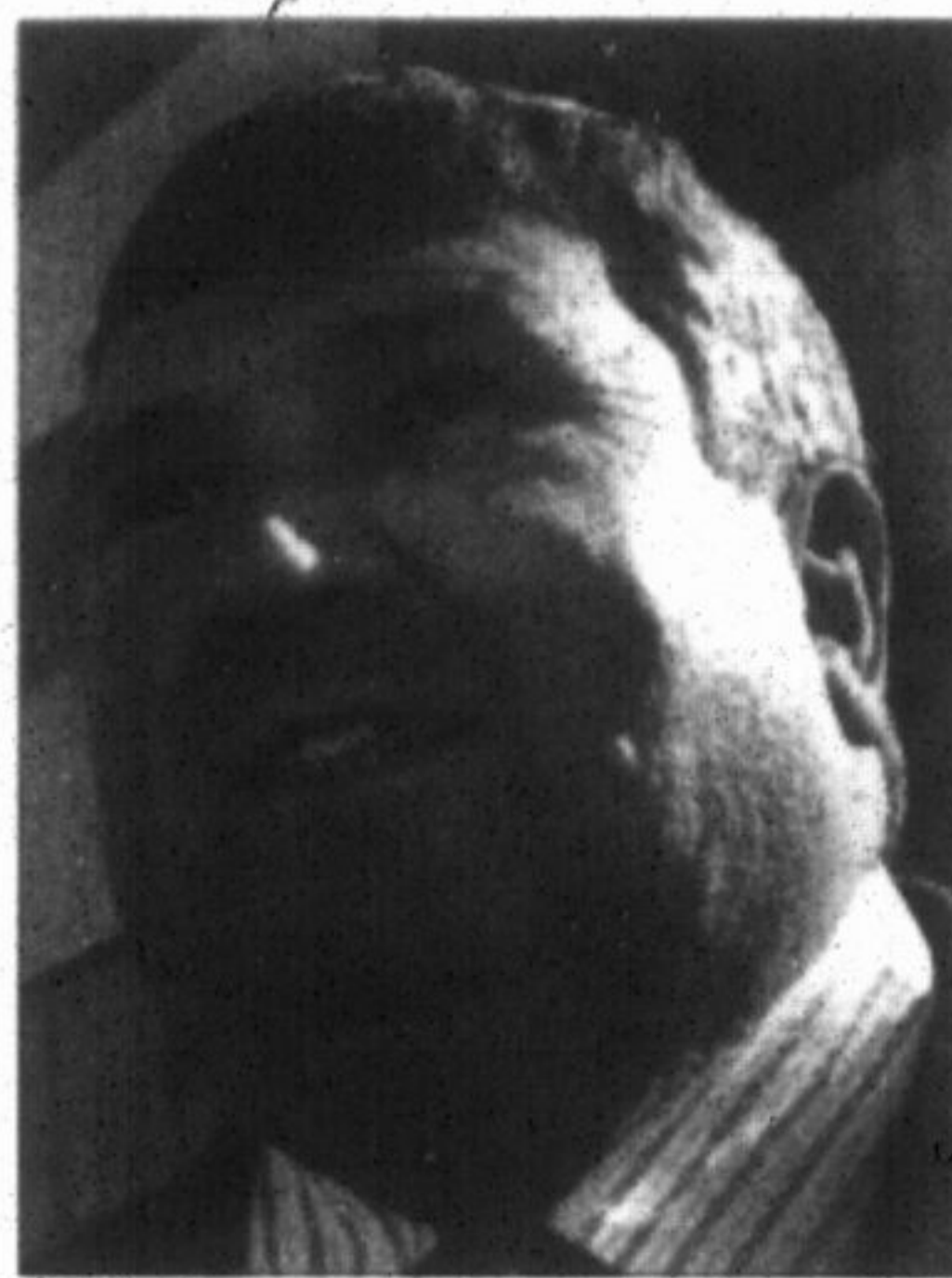
"The job you do for this municipality, you're underpaid for a long, long time," Mr. Bartley told Mr. Emmerson, to which the mayor replied: "It's the best job in the world. I couldn't ask for a better job."

He also reiterated, however, this will be his last term.

The roles of mayor and councillor have evolved over the years.

*'The job you do for this municipality, you're underpaid for a long, long time.'*

Mr. Hargrave said they are now dealing with 200-page council meeting agendas and a \$60-million annual budget, along with countless committee and public hearing meetings.



**WAYNE EMMERSON:** Mayor paid \$42,148 by town compared to \$86,396 Newmarket pays its mayor.

"This is a full-time job," he told The Sun-Tribune. "It's not a nine-to-five job, five days a week."

Mr. Emmerson, during the council meeting, also noted: "People are demanding we respond to them within hours, not days. You can't do that if you don't check your computer or laptop two to three times a day."

Mr. Emmerson has a corporate BlackBerry. Councillors do not, nor do they currently have an allowance for one, according to the Nov. 1 report.

The notice of motion will be dealt with at the Nov. 15 council meeting, which starts at 3 p.m.

## Correction Notice

An incorrect ad was printed on Thursday, November 3rd for Barthau Jewellers.

The advertised Scratch and Save promotion ended October 29th.

This week's promotion for Pandora runs from November 3rd to 5th.

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Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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Chris Ridabock is a Black Belt in Taekwondo and an instructor at STK.  
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Joseph A. Joseph



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