

COLUMN

Hey candidates, freeze taxes, salaries, strip malls

They were hung out to dry. Like a Monday morning wash. However, for four returning incumbents there was no dirty linen on the line.

Neither were there denunciations or condemnations during the all-candidates meeting at Stouffville District Secondary School last Thursday night.

The assembly of municipal politicians was hosted jointly by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and the Stouffville Sun-Tribune with editor Jim Mason capably serving as moderator.

Our casual head count placed attendance at less than 300, far short of the 28,580 eligible voters spanning six wards.

A shameful exhibition of civic pride to say the least.

Those who did pry themselves loose from Wheel of Fortune, demonstrated a civility unparalleled in the 60 years we've attended these events, providing polite and balanced applause to each of the 27 speakers.

On only one occasion did an insignificant sign of hostility



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

show its face. That was when Councillor Phil Bannon, one of five mayors-to-be, praised the term achievements of the current council, recognition we deemed deserved.

But where were they — mayor Wayne Emmerson and councillors Susanne Hilton and Clyde Smith? Each should have been introduced and accorded standing ovations. But that's politics — here today, gone tomorrow. Who cares?

Who also cares about education? Only one trustee or trustee hopeful bothered to appear despite the

fact this institute of higher learning consumes a sizeable share of the consummate tax bill. Let's get our priorities straight!

What bothered us most was an obvious lack of constructive foundations in most candidates' house of cards.

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The past is just that — history. What lies ahead is or should be most important.

We're waiting.

Examples of recommendations we wanted to hear included: Abolition of the self-serving ward system; a zero tax increase during the next four years; a \$100,000 cap on all municipal employee salaries; a \$5,000 increase in the mayor's wage and a \$2,000 decrease in councillor stipends — a four-year saving of \$28,000; a halt to strip mall build-up and greater emphasis on downtown fill-up; creation of a more user-friendly Duffin Creek flood control watershed and making the Millard Street/

Glad Park Avenue intersection a four-way stop.

That's a start.

A classic show

Stouffville MotorFest, Saturday, on the grounds of Teva Canada Ltd., was another classic. Close to 800 cars from auto industry's golden age were on display before an audience estimated at over 2,000.

While threatening early-morning weather delayed the arrival of some owners and spectators, numbers rapidly increased during the afternoon.

Although not a judge, a task no self-respecting connoisseur of fine cars would accept, we did extend our authority beyond the role of an admirer and selected these personal favourites: a 1937 Cord owned by Al and Joan Webster of Gormley; a 1955 Cadillac convertible owned by John and Lori McCarthy of Uxbridge; a 1947 Hudson Commodore owned by Albert and Meryl Hudson of Bancroft; a 1951 Lincoln owned by Paul Denter of Toronto; a 1959 Corvette owned by Tim Schell of Queensville; a 1910 Model T Ford owned by Rick

Foreman of Stouffville and a 1931 Model A Ford owned by Ken Shaw of Blackwater.

Our town, fast becoming the classic car capital of Ontario, had many dazzling entries on display including: two Plymouths, a 1967 and a 1971 owned by Erle and Helen Hoover; Keith McMinn, a 1930 Model A Ford; Ken Wideman, a 1968 Mercury; Roger Roberts, a 1947 Dodge; Robt. Beck, a 1989 Lincoln; David Robinson, a 1973 Chev pick-up; Rod and Karen Wolfrain, a 1949 Fargo; Mel and Mary Sadler, a 1955 Buick; Bill Brown, a 1960 Thunderbird; Vito Laconte, a 1980 Corvette; Mario Vella, a 1947 Mercury pick-up; Rob Vitale, a 1978 Camaro; Len Powell, a 1986 Chev pick-up; Hugo Kroon, a 1967 Dodge; Mark Morgan, a 1951 Ford; Dave McMullen, a 1965 Mustang; Bruce Sinclair, a 1966 Dodge; Joe Demelo, a 1955 Chev and Jim Hord, a 1956 Ford pickup.

All MotorFest donations will go to support the GTA branch of Teen Challenge located in Aurora.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

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