

Steady Progress Being Made on Bowmanville Recreation Complex



The new Bowmanville Arena is proceeding on schedule. This photo depicts the ice surface just before the permanent concrete pad was poured early this week. Good results have been reported from the fund-raising

efforts of "Skate 88." If all goes as planned, the Bowmanville Recreation Complex will be operating by mid-October and fund-raising will be completed in mid-November.

Royalty Arrives on Tuesday

by Carolyn Hepburn
Bowmanville will be rolling out the red carpet for the first-ever visit by a member of Britain's royal family on Tuesday, July 12.

The occasion is the official re-opening of the Newcastle Town Hall and Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, will arrive at 2:30 p.m. for a 30-minute visit to the restored and expanded administration facility on Temperance Street.

The visit will be the Princess' last stop of a five-day trip to Ontario. The primary purpose for her trip to the province is to attend the 129th running of the Queen's Plate at Woodbine Racetrack on Sunday, July 10. But a number of other engagements are scheduled during her stay.

Deputy Mayor Ann Cowman is the woman behind the historic visit. Along with various members of the town staff, Councillor Cowman has spent months in preparation for the Town Hall opening.

The official word from Buckingham Palace that Princess Margaret

would indeed be altering her schedule to attend the opening was received only a few weeks ago.

Since that time, the well-organized group has been busy ordering invitations, finalizing the program to fit as much as possible into the short stop, and praying that the Town Hall will be at least presentable to Princess Margaret.

In the midst of her preparations, Mrs. Cowman stopped last week long enough for a few words about what the visit means to the Town of Newcastle. "It is an honor for the town," she said.

"I'm pleased that we're putting

Bowmanville on the map," she enthusiastically added.

According to Mrs. Cowman, the Princess wouldn't even consider making the side trip from her itinerary if not for the fact that the new Town Hall is partly a restoration of the original building.

"The Royal Family is committed to the preservation of history," said Mrs. Cowman.

"They are simply recognizing that we've restored the old building," she added.

Overall, Mrs. Cowman explained that the entire restoration and expansion project will be the new administration building.

Letter Writer Shows Concern Over Loss of Our Buildings See Front Page Section Two

Town Hall Ready for Royal Visit by Princess See Pages 9, 10, and 11

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Housing Developments Meet Opposition

by Carolyn Hepburn

Residents of Concession Street East and area came out fighting against two proposed housing developments earlier this week.

The general purpose and administration meeting held in Courtroom 2 on Monday, July 4, was packed as more than two dozen citizens attended to voice concerns over a Durham Non-Profit Housing development and a 112-home subdivision planned for the northeast and northwest corners of Mearns Ave. and Concession St.

The issue was further complicated when four of the seven councillors (including Diane Hamre, Marie Hubbard, Mayor John Winters and Ann Cowman) declared conflicts on the non-profit housing part of the discussions as a result of their regional council seats. Planning Commis-

sioner Mofeed Michael assured the foursome that he would investigate immediately the conflict of interest rules and report back to the members, hopefully in time for their input into discussions at next week's council meeting.

However, discussions on both developments still continued.

Although a few residents claimed they weren't opposed to the developments themselves, several concerns were raised. These included the way the lots were divided and the setbacks illustrated in the plans. There were also worries about the maintenance and clientele of the rental housing project.

Still, not everyone was pleased with the future plans for the already busy area, as many more residents spoke against both plans.

"I don't think we're prepared for another development in that area," said Karen Geboers, a Mearns Avenue homeowner.

Echoing her thoughts on the subdivision (which is to include 87 single homes and 25 townhouses) was Concession Street resident, Jack Elston.

He claimed that the development on the northwest corner of Mearns Avenue would have an adverse effect on the surrounding area. Mr. Elston further questioned the social and economic impacts that the homes would have on the neighbourhood's way of life up until now.

Developer Kevin Tunney assured the meeting that he was more than willing to participate in a public meeting to resolve the concerns, as well as redesign the subdivision if necessary.

The citizens' thoughts on the non-profit housing were also loud and clear.

"Durham Region Non-Profit Housing may be necessary, but it shouldn't be put so close to the downtown area," stated Mr. Elston.

Regional Planning Commissioner Dr. Mofeed Michael, who was attending Monday's meeting on behalf of the non-profit housing department, assured the residents that the 60 townhouses proposed for the five-acre property on the northeast corner of Mearns Avenue would answer a need for affordable housing for residents in Bowmanville and the entire Town of Newcastle.

He explained that the housing

would be for those people who can't afford to pay the full value for a residence, and also for those people who have the money yet are having trouble finding a place to stay.

"We're prepared to work with the citizens," stated Dr. Michael.

According to the regional official plan, the property is already zoned for the project. Dr. Michael explained that the town's rezoning would only allow what was already provided for in the official plan.

The commissioner also provided assurances that the 60-unit project was the only one of its kind under way in Bowmanville. He explained that the Durham Non-Profit Housing only owns the one piece of property with plans for its development at this time.

Yet, comments were still heard from several citizens.

Larry Paradis, a Concession Street homeowner, brought to light concerns about the added pressure to the school system. Mr. Paradis also questioned the fairness of putting the responsibility of a decision on the rental housing on the three remaining councillors, Arnot Wotten, Frank Stapleton and Hal McKnight.

All three gave their assurances that they represented the entire Town of Newcastle regardless of the ward in which they were elected.

Elsie Elston, also of Concession Street, proposed that a study be done to prove that the rental housing wouldn't have any negative effects on the surrounding area. Mrs. Elston told the meeting that she had lived in her Concession Street home for 36 years and that many neighbouring residences were for retirement purposes.

In order to deal with the many concerns and questions brought forward at Monday's meeting, Dr. Michael agreed to arrange a neighbourhood meeting with interested residents.

Both reports, one on the subdivision and one on the non-profit housing, have been referred back to town staff for further report and review.

Senior Citizens' Centre Considered as Possible Use for Old Arena Site

by Carolyn Hepburn

Somebody wants to create a senior citizens' centre at the site of the old Bowmanville Arena.

Details are sketchy at the moment, but the plans were brought to light by a request to Newcastle councillors at the general purpose and administration meeting on Monday, July 4.

Bowmanville resident Jack Locke asked the councillors on Monday to consider a one-year moratorium on the sale of the site.

Mr. Locke said that a local church and service club were "studying the feasibility of a senior citizens' complex going up there."

He noted that if the project didn't go ahead as planned, then the town would be free to sell the property after one year.

The speaker was reluctant to elaborate about the nature of the groups working behind the scenes, both when asked by councillors during his presentation and afterwards by the media.

However, the town's treasurer John Blanchard assured the meeting that he was counting on the money (estimated at \$175,000) from the sale of the old arena to help offset the costs of the new recreation facility presently under construction at the corner of Highway Two and Martin Road.

The treasurer was asked to report back to councillors on the financial effects of delaying the sale of the old Queen Street arena.

Residents Protest Plans For New Medical Building

A proposed medical building in south Bowmanville will signal the beginning of commercial development for the mainly residential area, according to area neighbours.

The two-phase project, which is to be built at the corner of Liberty Street and Victoria Street, will contain offices for seven doctors and dentists upon completion. It has already been the subject of a public meeting organized by the doctors interested in the project, and was the subject of further discussion at the general purpose and administration meeting on Monday, July 4.

Anita Nickerson, an Albert Street homeowner, clearly told the meeting of her concerns over the 9,000 square foot medical complex.

"This is the beginning of commercial development," stated Mrs. Nickerson.

The speaker reported that the new development would cause a number of

problems. Her list included: increased traffic and congestion for the area; insufficient parking for the medical building; devaluation of local homes and properties; an increased strain on water and sewage services; the demolition of heritage homes; and a general encroachment of commercial activity on the south Bowmanville neighborhood.

She was supported in her statements by several other speakers.

Victoria Street homeowner, Mrs. van Heiningen, reported that she recently counted 115 cars travelling on Liberty Street during a 15 minute time period. She described the medical facility as a "little too much" for the neighborhood.

While the speaker said she was not opposed to change, she stated that the effects of the parking and the increased traffic in the area would be "hazardous."

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Recreation Complex Name Receives Council's Approval

Bowmanville's new arena finally has a name.

Upon recommendation of the Arena Project Team, the new facility will be called the "Bowmanville Recreation Complex."

"The selection of the name ... was felt to allow a degree of latitude for future consideration in naming specific components of the complex," stated a report from the Arena Project Team

Chairperson Marie Hubbard.

The report was presented to Newcastle councillors at the general purpose and administration meeting on Monday, July 4.

The search for a name was conducted by the Skate '88 Fundraising Committee, under the direction of the project team, noted the report. The name must still be given council endorsement next week.

Bits And Pieces

BIG IN GARBAGE - We're still receiving several letters, or copies of letters, that are being forwarded to a long list of political powers about Metro's apparent designs on some area properties for use as garbage dumps. The folks in Clarke Township, especially the Newtonville area have been staging an extensive campaign that is commendable. Possibly, they would like to know they are not alone. The location of proposed garbage dumps is also a major problem in the Town of Amherstburg with Windsor being the culprit trying to find somewhere to get rid of their refuse. Waste disposal obviously is a widespread headache.

CORRECTION - In last week's Statesman there was an article about Newcastle Gardens being developed off Concession St. in Bowmanville by the Schickedanz firm. The story stated that the project included townhouses, which apparently was incorrect as we have been advised there are no townhouses included. All the homes are either detached single family dwellings or detached link homes. Our humble apology for the error, we lay no claim to being experts in that field.

SPECIAL PAGES - We've set aside three pages in this edition to provide details on the construction of our Town Hall and in this newspaper there are other vintage buildings pictured and now long gone. Happily, the town hall in all its renovated glory hasn't gone the way of the others, to be replaced by an ultra modern structure. We've added a modern addition to it and will now have to live with it. But, we're inclined to agree with Museum Curator Dan Hoffman that we have been remiss in the past where our historic buildings were concerned. We should have mounted protests.

RETIREMENTS - We've just been reading this week's Port Perry Star and note that Seugog's Mayor Jerry Taylor has announced his retirement from municipal politics after 17 years, 10 as Mayor of Seugog. Three men may be after his job, Harvey Graham, John Wolters and Howard Hall. Actually, Mr. Graham is the only one who has announced his intentions. In this area (Town of Newcastle) quite a few present councillors appear eager to contest the mayor's seat, but so far, Mayor Winters hasn't let us know what his plans are. There also could be openings for Board of Education posts, now that Bob Willsher is retiring. Reverting to the mayoralty election, that's not a bad job now. The pay is pretty fair and you can be a star on cable tv every other week.

WHAT A CHANGE - Maybe we should do our utmost to arrange more royal visits to our town. This one is certainly sponsoring some frantic cleanups, paintups and restoration efforts to make the place look more attractive for Princess Margaret. Unfortunately, time is running out while there is still much to be done. Next Tuesday is the big day. Let's hope the delightfully warm, dry weather continues until after the opening ceremonies. And congratulations to councillors and town staff in charge of arrangements. They have handled the hectic job with quiet efficiency.

TRACTOR-TRUCK PULL - Once again, Blackstock fairgrounds will be the location for an exciting, noisy tractor-truck pull this Friday and Saturday evenings, starting at 7 o'clock. They used to be held all day Saturday, but we presume it's been changed because local farmers will be using their tractors at home during daylight hours. Anyway, there will be plenty of action and excitement, with Harvey Graham again urging the contestants and spectators on. Don't miss it!

WHO'S RUNNING? - There are many indications that a federal election is expected this fall. But, where are the candidates? So far, the only ones in the field as potential candidates are two Liberals, Ivan Grose and Doug Moffatt. John Reid announced some time ago that he would be after the PC nomination, but somehow his enthusiasm seems to have waned. And there's been no more about Dennis Timbrell running for them here. And where are the NDP hopefuls? Surely, Ed Broadbent's popularity should lure an outstanding candidate into running. The situation is indeed very peculiar. See Ivan Grose's advertisement in this edition. Apparently his campaign is already in high gear and Doug Moffatt tells us he's attending coffee parties several times a week.

ENDANGERED SPECIES - Now and then we like to think back just a few years to those glory years when this county and the adjoining one to the east were being touted as great tobacco growing areas. Many local farmers were involved in growing the weed and those with the quotas made sizable profits. Then, along came the detractors and their anti-tobacco campaigns, with the federal government getting on the bandwagon with Jake Epp's bill, until now tobacco is a dirty word in polite circles. You have to feel sorry for the hard hit growers. It's cost them dearly. It's also cost the government a pile of tax money that will have to be made up somewhere else.

Beach Building Put on Hold

Newcastle councillors have voted to stop building activity in the Bowmanville beach area until certain construction and environmental issues are dealt with.

"There are a myriad of problems (in that area)," said Councillor Marie Hubbard.

The Ward Two Councillor asked the planning department to prepare an "interim by-law" banning unauthorized construction in the area.

"We're not properly addressing water and sewer concerns," stated Councillor Hubbard.

"It is a blight on us with all the building and additions going on

down there," she added.

Although Councillor Hubbard was careful not to mention specific cases, she said there have been situations where additions were added to homes and then application was made for a building permit.

When asked after the meeting why the problems couldn't be solved within the confines of the planning department by-laws, she explained that there are attempts to control the illegal building, but that it is difficult to do.

According to Councillor Hubbard, a report is coming forward very soon which looks at the entire beach area of Bowmanville.



Brownie to Present Flowers to Princess

Katie McCreary will remember July 12 for the same reasons as most people. It is the day that Princess Margaret is scheduled to arrive in Bowmanville to open the Town of Newcastle's recently restored town hall. The lucky young lady will have the best seat in the house. She was picked to present Her Royal Highness with flowers upon her arrival at the hall. Katie has been doing her homework for the visit and is seen above with one of several books she has been studying on Princess Margaret.

See story Page 11.