

Politicians encounter an angry crowd

By Marilyn McDonald

THORNHILL — John Zupancic, director of education of York region separate school board, released a statement Tuesday saying he has been authorized to itemize the reasons leading up to the request for the resignation of Bill Foran, principal of St. Patrick's School in Schomberg.

They had a few questions. They wanted to know why they are still renting the condominium townhouses they thought they had bought from Sullivan Homes. They wanted to know when they're going to get a school, when their roads

will be finished and why there's an empty lot where the swimming pool and playground are supposed to be.

The meeting had been outed as one of the most comprehensive collections of political talent ever brought together in York region.

It was the brainchild of York Centre MPP Alf Stong.

Irate taxpayer

Stong said an irate ratepayer had told him "just once I'd like to face personally those who are elected to spend our money."

So Stong was there. Region of York chairman Garfield Wright and mayors Dave Schiller from Richmond Hill and Garnet Williams from Vaughan were there.

Filling in on the panel for Markham mayor Tony Roman was Ward 2 councillor Stan Daurio, chairman of the Town of Markham's finance committee.

Boards of education were represented by York Region Separate School Board chairman Jack McDermott and York County School Board chairman Douglas Allen.

Minister of State for Urban Affairs, MP Barney Danson was absent, grounded in Ottawa by the air traffic dispute.

Thornhill lawyer Gary Kay, former Markham councillor, was moderator. The subject under discussion — taxation.

Restless

About 120 citizens, many accompanied by children, listened restlessly as each member of the panel explained taxation as it pertained to his level of government.

Then the meeting was opened to questions from the floor.

"Can anyone up there tell me when the people of Johnsville Village will get their homes registered," asked a woman in the front row.

The panel looked puzzled. "Does this question concern taxation?" asked moderator Kay.

The woman replied she wasn't there to discuss taxation; she and most of the audience were there to find out what was happening to their homes.

As one resident later remarked: "If it hadn't been for the Johnsville people, they'd have been talking to themselves."

Kay attempted to explain the meeting was planned to discuss taxation.

"At least 80 per cent of us are here about Johnsville," someone shouted. Cries of "where's our playground," "what about our pool," "the roads aren't finished," came from the crowd.

Wave paper

When Kay again asked they stick to the topic, he was greeted by a wave of

hands holding a sheet of paper.

"No one came for a taxation meeting," several shouted.

They'd come because of the paper.

It was a letter bearing the Ontario coat-of-arms and signed by MPP Stong.

It stated Stong had received several phone calls "with respect your difficulty in obtaining title to the condominium home which you have purchased from Sullivan Homes."

It explained Stong had contacted Sullivan Homes in an effort to expedite the matter and invited concerned residents to attend last Thursday's meeting.

The letter said although the meeting was called "to discuss the spending of your tax dollar," time could be allotted "in accounting to you with respect the difficulties in which you now find yourselves."

In the letter Stong urged residents to organize an association.

Taxation first

When he learned about the Johnsville problem about two weeks ago, Stong said in explaining the letter, he felt the meeting would be a good forum for airing the situation.

Both Stong and Kay asked that questions concerning taxation be answered first.

At 10:15, after a few questions about taxation — as it related to Johnsville — and after several people started to walk out, Kay said, "Let's get down to Johnsville."

Interestingly, Kay has experienced condominium problems in his capacity as lawyer for Anglo-York Investments.

Asked why the developer posted bonds and why the bonds couldn't be used to pay for the work required, Stan Daurio said although Markham held bonds and letters of credit from Sullivan Homes, "the amount of work that has to be done, the variety of work that has to be done is just beyond the municipality to take on at this stage."

"We're running out of money that's available for us to do this work," said Daurio. "We have to rely on the developer to complete the work."

No guarantee

About the playground and road problem, Daurio said, "Once we allow registration or recommend registration of this development, we can't guarantee any of these things will be provided."

However, he added that "funds have been approved," and "we now have the school site resolved."

Doug Allen said although school construction is the responsibility of the local board, the Ontario ministry of education requires 80 per cent of the school population be in the area and ready to use the school before they will allow construction to proceed.

Allen says he thinks this is unfortunate.

Perhaps because the meeting was set up as a panel discussion, the barrage of questions was passed from one member of the panel to the other according to their experience in dealing with various problems.

While it may have seemed a good idea from the panel's point of view, a member of the audience commented, "it looks like buck-passing".

The people from Johnsville Village began to drift away.

Some congregated in groups around the exits as Kay advised they select an interim board to meet and make concrete proposals.

Stong urged the tenants to meet with him again when they are organized.

A woman asked that Stong be given a vote of thanks for trying to help.

The applause was not overwhelming.

Separate school board report lists reasons for resignation

RICHMOND HILL — John Zupancic, director of education of York region separate school board, released a statement Tuesday saying he has been authorized to itemize the reasons leading up to the request for the resignation of Bill Foran, principal of St. Patrick's School in Schomberg.

However, neither Zupancic nor Foran is willing to reveal the reasons.

Zupancic said Foran sent a three-page letter to board administration and copies to local trustees on March 22, outlining a defence to criticisms levelled at him by supervisory officers

on March 15. "He acknowledged the reasons through his letter and subsequently chose to resign on April 6, then waited approximately seven weeks to attempt on May 25 to rescind his resignation," Zupancic said.

The report itemizing the reasons was presented and discussed Monday night in a closed meeting attended by members of the ministry of education, five trustees, the parent group whose children attend St. Patrick's, and Foran himself.

According to Zupancic, the board's position remains the same as adopted

at a meeting June 15, when trustees upheld their previous decision to accept the resignation of Foran, and that the board still feels it improper to meet with anyone to debate personnel matters.



Bill Foran . . . board upholds decision

Road costs decrease

NEWMARKET — More than \$1 million has been saved by York region this year thanks to road construction tenders that were considerably lower than expected.

Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe of Richmond Hill, chairman of the

region's engineering committee, said tenders for nine projects have come in \$1,119,000 under projected costs in the budget.

Contractors are "hungry for work" and engaged in "fierce competition," Rowe said.



(Photo by Hogg)

Aircraft destroyed

Two men were injured Friday when an aircraft in which they were travelling crashed into a tree and landed upside down 1/2 mile west of Don Mills Road north of 16th Avenue. James Butler, 63, of Bayview Avenue, Willowdale, pilot of the Bellanca Viking aircraft is in satisfactory condition at York Central Hospital. James Stephen Homeniuk, 29, of Lan-

sdown Drive, Oshawa, was treated for multiple cuts and bruises. The plane left Buttonville Airport on a local test flight but according to York Regional Police, developed a loss of power shortly after take-off. The \$63,000 plane was destroyed. The ministry of transportation is investigating the crash.

Taxpayers face increased levy

NEWMARKET — Individual taxpayers in York region will have an approximate increase of 6.6 per cent in their tax levy this year, it was revealed in estimates passed by York regional council last week.

The estimates showed the net regional levy on area municipalities in York would be \$10,105,746, reduced from the total levy of \$14,932,100 by \$4,826,354 in unconditional grants. Largest regional cost is for police,

whose budget totals \$7,465,900. Engineering is next with \$3,759,700.

Council members' salaries total \$174,500, with another \$20,400 in fringe benefits and car expenses.

General government and administration totals \$1,429,900, with health and social services \$1,553,400; grants to public hospitals \$1,177,200; planning, conservation and reforestation \$991,300; land division \$131,000.

Richmond Hill's net levy is \$1,392,260. Other municipalities and their levies: Vaughan, \$2,078,987; Markham, \$3,450,732; King, \$606,198; Aurora, \$431,799; Whitchurch-Stouffville, \$459,145; Newmarket, \$826,951; Georgina, \$572,327; East Gwillimbury, \$287,347.

Major crimes down in region

NEWMARKET — While crime on the whole is up 19.7 per cent in York region, some of the major crimes are down, Chief Bruce Crawford told a meeting of York regional council last week.

For example, there were two murders in the region last year and one so far this year.

Rape was down to seven from nine, and indecent assault cases down from 11 to seven.

Assaults, robberies and break and enter were all up. Figures for the first showed 142 last year and 179 this year;

robberies were up from 11 to 17; and break and enters totalled 420, compared with 396 last year.

Other increases: car theft — 194 to 217; theft over \$200, 258-413; theft under \$200, 791-933; possession of dangerous weapons, 29-37.

There was one case of prostitution reported this year, the first such case. Drug offences were down 194 to 158.

Other criminal code offences were up 529 to 752.

Juvenile delinquency was also up, although no figures were given.

Show horse hit by cars

VANDORF — A show horse had to be destroyed by a veterinarian Sunday after it was hit twice by cars on Highway 48 near Vandorf.

A second show horse was injured when hit by one of the cars on Highway 48. This animal was treated for severe cuts and bruises.

Both horses, owned by York Regional Police Sgt. Glen Phillips of Newmarket, were performing in a show south of Newmarket.

The horses broke loose and ran out onto the highway shortly after midnight, Oak Ridges OPP said.

One terrified horse ran head-on into the first car, then was thrown into a ditch. It got up and ran into another car.

It was knocked under the hood of the first car, and put its leg through the windshield of a vehicle driven by Margaret Pearen, 30, of Cannington.

The horse was destroyed by a Stouffville veterinarian.

Both horses have appeared in horse shows and parades in York region and Metro.

Accident victim

DOWNSVIEW — A 20-year-old man involved in a motor accident June 18 on Dufferin Street south of the King-Vaughan Line, died Thursday.

Dead is Earl William Hennigar of Keele Street.

Cause of death is believed to be severe head injuries, according to York Regional Police.

Brain clot fatal

THORNHILL — A 40-year-old man, found June 20 lying on the floor of his office at his Thornhill home, was transported to Branson Hospital on Finch Avenue, in Toronto where he was pronounced dead.

Dead is Ullrich Spee of Glencameron Road.

Postmortem examination revealed the cause of death to be a blood clot on his brain, according to York Regional Police.

Armed robbery

MARKHAM — A man brandished a knife and then removed an unknown

police blotter

amount of money from the cash register at a Shop-N-Bag store at 23 Wooten Way Sunday night.

The suspect, who entered the store around closing time, 11 p.m., waited for all customers to leave the store before approaching the cash register and producing a knife.

The suspect fled after removing money from the register, York Regional Police said.

He was last seen heading west from the shopping plaza.

Bank theft

MARKHAM — An armed man, who after speaking with the assistant manager about a loan at the Toronto Dominion Bank, 7085 Woodbine Ave.

emptied three teller's cages of more than \$8,000 then fled the bank.

York Regional Police said the suspect entered the bank before 3 p.m. Tuesday of last week, spoke with the assistant manager until the bank closed, then pulled out a handgun and forced all of the employees to lay on the floor.

The suspect then produced a green garbage bag, emptied the cash from the three cages into the bag, and was last seen proceeding north on Woodbine Avenue.

Woman, 63, dies

THORNHILL — A 63-year-old Thornhill woman died June 22 at her home.

Dead is Elza M. Knipple, of Crestwood Road, who was found in the residence by her husband.

The deceased had a long history of illness.

It is believed she died of a heart attack, according to York Regional Police.

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