

# Curling rink needed says Mayor

## Complex not 'dead'

What has happened to the proposed Recreation Complex in Whitchurch-Stouffville? Is the project 'dead'? Does the Town plan to acquire the site for this or some other purpose?

The project is not 'dead', Mayor Gordon Ratcliff told The Tribune

this week, despite a decision by the Library Development Committee to locate their building on a separate site. Mayor Ratcliff feels there's a real need for a Curling Rink in Town, a venture that, in his opinion, deserves assistance through the municipality.

He said an agreement would be worked out with developers of the Thickwood Subdivision (Booth Farm), to provide about three acres of land to the Town. The Mayor feels the property should be acquired, if not for some type of building, then as an addition to the Park.

Question: Is there is no shortage of water at the reservoir site, why is the use restricted during the summer months?

Answer: The restriction is in force, not to conserve water, but to maintain pressure, particularly in Stouffville's East End. If everyone in town had their lawn hose turned on at the same time, it would result in a major pressure drop. I feel that lawn-watering, on a basis of three days a week, creates no hardship on anyone. We have had excellent co-operation from residents.

Question: Is farming, as a way of life, on the way out in the rural area of Whitchurch-Stouffville? What can be done to preserve the agricultural productivity of farm lands?

Answer: Farming is not on the way out in Whitchurch-Stouffville; in fact, it never looked better. I feel the Province of Ontario and the Region of York should designate certain lands for agricultural purposes and stick by it. This would halt speculative buying of farm properties. We have 17,000 acres of choice farm land here, and I feel it will continue to be farmed for many years. Our main problem is with 25 acre lots. They're too small to farm and too large to maintain. It's something we'll have to deal with.

Question: Who is responsible for the cutting of weeds along the C.N.R. line in Town?

Answer: Canadian National Railways are responsible, and I've contacted them about it, with no success. I've had several complaints from residents on Burkholder Street, whose properties back onto the C.N. line. If there is no action, the Town will have to move in and do the job. The cost should be on a charge-back arrangement, but since the Railroad pays no taxes, we can't work it in this way.

## Hydro 'yes' towers 'no'

CLAREMONT — Everyone wants the hydro service, but no one wants the service line — a series of steel transmission towers, extending from Middleport on the west to Pickering on the east.

One of the alternate routes is parallel to the Bloomington Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville, with a jog to the north, then east into Uxbridge and Pickering. This proposal was the main subject of discussion at a public meeting in Claremont Public School, July 12.

Whitchurch-Stouffville councillor Merlyn Baker pointed out that consideration had been given the Niagara escarpment yet the 'ridges', also an important land formation, had not been looked on as favorably.

Consultant Bruce Howlett of the Solandt Commission said the Newmarket to Oshawa route had been envisioned because of the proposed Airport project in Pickering.

Mayor Gordon Ratcliff of Whitchurch-Stouffville, maintained his desire to place the line along the Parkway Belt. He noted, however, that he was concerned over any proposal that would place the route east of Hwy. 404 through Vandorf.

F. B. Munroe, R.R. 1, Gormley, charged that residents in the Vandorf area had been completely ignored by Hydro. He urged that the line go west of Hwy. 404 rather than east. "A 650 foot wide swath of high voltage lines running along the east side of Hwy. 404 is exactly the kind of condition that should be avoided," he said.

## Brougham family moves on

BROUGHAM — The pending Airport project in the Twp. of Pickering could remove the hamlet of Brougham from the map.

But as far as Don Gibbings is concerned, Brougham, as a community, is 'already gone'.

Mr. Gibbings, his wife Thelma, his daughter Barbara, two cats and a dog, have already pulled up stakes and moved to Powassan, 18 miles north of North Bay.

He's not happy at leaving, but feels he had little alternative. Besides, he says, the Brougham of 1965, the year he arrived from Toronto.

"There was a time when all the neighbors were the best of friends," he said, "but it was like somebody dropped a knife blade between the houses when they

announced the Airport. Some were for it and some against it, and even though they would sit next to each other in church, they wouldn't talk to each other. It just broke up the whole community spirit."

Mr. Gibbings still isn't convinced the Airport will be a reality — at least not in Pickering. He feels the Government plans to 'stockpile' the property for a land bank. He argues authorities have had their eye on the area for some time.

In addition to leaving, Mr. Gibbings isn't happy with the price he's been offered. It has been valued at \$28,700, but he's "fighting for more". The house was built in 1869 and is located on a half-acre of land.

"It's heartbreaking," concurs Mrs. Gibbings, "they're not giving us today's price for the house and property, but you can only take this kind of upset so long"




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