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Urban sprawl can be avoided

NEWMARKET — In 20 years, will Whitchurch-Stouffville resemble Scarborough? Not necessarily, says York Regional planning commissioner Murray Pound.

The "urban sprawl" situation "can be avoided by a municipality adopting an official plan, which they intend to stay with," he said.

"In practical terms," he added, "it's unlikely that sewer and water could be extended into Whitchurch - Stouffville like Scarborough."

A major difficulty that councils encounter, Mr. Pound said, is that "now, everyone who owns a farm thinks they have some development potential." Councils grant requests for minor deviations from zoning regulations, and eventually the whole character of an area changes, he said.

"In order to achieve a meaningful long-term plan in York Region," Mr. Pound said, "it really requires a long-term committment to an official plan, understanding it will interfere in some people's rights."

Municipalities are also under pressure to approve developments with a high tax assessment, he said. Low-cost housing, for example, usually costs more to a municipality than it returns in taxes.

Speaking of the role of the York Area Services Branch Mr. Pound said, "The policy direction comes from council, the technical advice comes from staff. The responsibility for the type of municipality has to rest on the elected representatives."

If they wanted to, the municipalities could increase the budget, level of service, and number of staff in the Area Services Branch. "As the urban pressures come, there could very well be a development of this nature," Mr. Pound remarked.

Other countries where the urban pressures have increased have somewhat different planning procedures, Mr. Pound said. In Britain, for example, local municipalities work closely with developers on an official plan-type designation and give preliminary approval to land-use only.

Here, developers sink great sums of money into having the official plan changed; occasionally, even municipalities have to spend money for the same reason, he said.

Other places also have produced more original residential plans, Mr. Pound said. Those plans include modular pre-fabricated units, more houses on an acre of land but each a separate unit, with more commonly-held open area. Such a plan "does take a pretty flexible attitude on the part of council," he said.

Mr. Pound also favorably cited those "new-town" developments in both the U.S. and Britian in which cars are restricted to the periphery of the neighborhoods.

Murray Pound, York Region's Planning Commissioner, feels that urban sprawl is not inevitable. Even with to-day's accelerated pace of development, he says, there's not much danger that Stouffville will turn into another Scarborough.

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Local teams attend rally

By Mrs. E. Milsted

GORMLEY — More than twenty young people from the Missionary Church attended a baseball tournament and youth rally at Kitchener on Sunday. Gormley's junior team placed second in baseball, and our senior team placed third.

The Pioneer Festival at Pioneer Village on Saturday was very successful. Gormley ladies worked in the coffee booth, and local auctioneer Alvin Farmer did the honours at an auction sale which netted a great deal of money for the needy in Bangladesh.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas MacDonald, married last Saturday in the Anglican church, Richmond Hill. Doug MacDonald grew up in Gormley.

The Gideons took charge of the Sunday night service at Heise Hill church, and Mr. Murray Bennett was guest speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Campey spend the weekend in Montreal with their son John.

This is your invitation to attend a miscellaneous shower Thursday evening in the Fellowship Hall of the Missionary Church, in honour of Mr. Bill Baker and Miss Darlene Hoskin.

Mr. Elmer Reaman, of Fort Erie, was a weekend guest of his sisters, Misses Mary and Adeline Reaman.

The Doner family honoured their mother, Mrs. Clarence Doner, on Sunday at a family dinner on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Guest from Gormley were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Doner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Doner, Mr. and Mrs. John Doner and Mark, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wideman, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bennett, and Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Schlicter and famiiy.

Reverend and Mrs. Andrew McNiven are enjoying a few days' holiday.

Celebrate anniversaries

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Nelson, R.R. 2, Stouffville, who celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on Sept. 19, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Archie Reid, R.R. 4, Stouffville, on their 42nd anniversary, Sept. 24.

Inland pressman wins Edward Nicholson Award

Robert Robbins, a pressman with Inland Publishing Co. Limited, Mississauga, has become the first person ever to receive the Edward J. Nicholson Memorial Award for outstanding knowledge of lithography.

The award is "presented annually to a student of the Canadian Lithographic Institute exhibiting the broadest scope of knowledge and understanding of lithography and the graphic arts".

The Edward J. Nicholson Memorial Award was presented by the Canadian Lithographic Institute. Mr. Robbins is the first person to win the award which will be presented annually.

Mr. Robbins, who lives in Orangeville, took the course which lasted over 18 months. He attended classes when he wasn't working on the presses at Inland Publishing Co. Limited.

"It's a tough course. You have to know everything about printing, not just your own job.

"But it's valuable. Now, if something does go wrong, I have a knowledge of all other departments and I can correlate the facts and come up with solutions much quicker.

"I'm also happy that an Inland employee is the first to win this award," he said.

Inland Publishing Co. Limited publishes 10 community newspapers including Oshawa This Week, The Ajax/Pickering/Whitby News Advertiser, The Markham Economist and Sun, The Stouffeville Tribune, The Newmarket Era, The Mississauga News, The Burlington Post, The Oakville Beaver, The Brampton Guardian, and The Etobicoke Gazette.

In the past five years, the chain has won 45 major awards for outstanding achievement.

"We're just as proud here in the pressroom of our newspapers as the editors.

"We feel we are just as responsible for putting out a clean product," Mr. Robbins said.

Pressman, Robert Robbins, standing beside part of Inland Publishing Co. Limited's giant Crabtree Crusader press, is the first person ever to receive the Edward J. Nicholson Memorial Award for outstanding knowledge of lithography.

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