

Library project in doubt after 'low' town offer

STOUFFVILLE — Library Board are in a quandary about how to build the proposed new library.

The board estimated a 12,000 square foot library would cost, excluding land, \$518,800. Board Chairman Jim Sanders told The Tribune that that is the floor area they feel is needed but because of the present economic situation, the board revised their plans and calculated for a 10,000 square foot building.

This reduced the cost to \$455,000 and the board figured they could raise \$70,000 of this through rental and sale of the old library and through public donations as the library is the town's official centennial project.

The board met with members of council before Christmas and asked for \$385,000, but this request was countered with an apparently final offer of \$250,000.

Mr. Sanders described the board members as "disheartened" but added that "we are taking a look at our alternatives to see what can be done."

"We figured out what was needed, made our presentation, and didn't get what was asked," he said, adding, "We don't know

yet whether we will have to cancel the whole project."

With the money offered by council the board would be unable to build a finished library significantly larger than the present rented accommodation.

The building now housing the library has about 5,000 usable square feet and the size permitted by the town's funding would only be in the neighborhood of 6,000 square feet.

According to Mr. Sanders there are other alternatives. The building could be designed so that an addition could be built on at a later date or they could build just a shell which could be finished off over a period of years.

The board met Monday night and decided to go back to the architect for revised estimates and these will be dealt with at the next board meeting.

"We are asking him to take another look at his figures," explained Mr. Sanders, "and see what alternatives we can come up with, given the figures."

There is some fear that if the board rejects the town's offer, then council will not purchase the three and a half acre site known as the Schell property.

Council has taken an option to buy the land for \$105,000 but some members of the board are worried that if they don't agree to build a library now then the deal will be allowed to fall through.

This would put the board right back to where they were 14 years ago when council was first approached about building a new library, in 1962. A formal presentation asking for that site was made in July of 1973.

Board members also have a certain amount of pressure on

them as the lease for the building they are in will expire in August of 1977 and it is not known at this time if the lease can be renegotiated.

Mr. Sanders said they "certainly can't have the program we were hoping to have" and he added that they are trying to "avoid the possibility" that it won't be worth building with the funding that has been offered.

Building costs are expected to be between \$35 and \$40 per square foot.

Council offer means more donations

STOUFFVILLE — Councillor Becky Wedley, in a telephone interview, told The Tribune that although council is unanimously in favor of building a new library "there is no way we could afford to build what they were asking."

Mrs. Wedley said it was council's opinion that an 8,000 square foot building was all that could be afforded.

She said that council felt that by economizing and by raising more money through public donations the board should be able to put up that size building with the \$250,000 they have been offered.

Council, she said, felt they couldn't afford to pay any more than the total \$355,000, which includes \$105,000 for the land.

Mrs. Wedley felt the old library could probably be sold for \$50,000 and the same amount could be raised by the local service clubs.

"You get complaints from some taxpayers," she said, "who don't want you to spend anything" for a new library.

She explained that council is

hoping the building will be built in such a way that it could be added to later. She estimated that in about five years or so there is a good possibility the town will be able to charge developers in the village for soft services and some of this money could be earmarked for an addition.

Dulverton are supposed to pay for hard services, including an extension to the sewage treatment plant, but some of the sewage capacity will be left over for other development.

Those developers would be expected to contribute toward library expansion.

Mrs. Wedley also pointed out that maintenance costs for a new building will be considerably higher as well.

"We can't go further than we have," she explained, "in all fairness to those who have to pay. You can't afford champagne if you have ginger ale money."

She said council is hoping the community will support the building as it is a centennial project.



Bouncy New Year's baby

Kathy Brillinger is not only a proud mother but she can be doubly proud to be holding the first baby of the New Year from the Stouffville area. Matthew Walter, weighing in at 8 lbs., 1½ oz., was born at 4:45 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4 at York Central Hospital.

Richmond Hill. Father is Mike Brillinger. They presently live in Ringwood. It is also first grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brillinger and Mr. and Mrs. Don Roper. Little Matthew was due Dec. 29 but held off to become a New Year's baby.

—Don Bernard

Push for addition

Delegation to meet board

STOUFFVILLE — The parent-teacher group from Summitview School still plans to push for the addition of a general purpose room and library, despite new provincial guidelines to the contrary.

The group is to present its views Monday night to the York County Board of Education in Aurora.

In a preliminary meeting Jan. 5, a plea was made for "two or three hundred people" to visit the board for the presentation. "We have to have people behind us," group president Janet Arends said.

She expressed hope that the provincial education ministry will be pushed into "a new position" by school boards across Ontario. Under recently announced building guidelines, the kind of addition requested for Summitview would not even be considered by the province.

Even renovations suggested by the Ontario Fire Marshall for

fire safety at Summitview would have a fifth priority rating under the ministry guidelines.

Expressing "surprise" at the guidelines, Summitview principal Lorne Boardway told the group that he still did not believe the school is "hazardous." "We have a very efficient and effective means of clearing the school," he said.

School board trustee Harry Bowes urged those present to contact MPP Bill Hodgson in order to push for having the fire renovations completed.

Mr. Bowes also emphasized that the "general purpose room" needed for the school is "not just a gymnasium." The group's brief to the board next week specifies the room would supply "adequate space" for plays, assemblies, recreation and sports.

"We're asking for what every other child has," the brief states.

Spokesman for the group

next Monday is to be Ron Arends of Manitoba Street. The board meeting commences at 8 p.m., with the group scheduled to present its views at 9 p.m.

Lost jewels displayed at Sales Barn

YORK REGION — When Mrs. Verna Robinson of Toronto went to the Stouffville Sales Barn last June 21 she did not expect to see her lost jewelry on display.

Her discovery however led to the arrest of a 54 year old Scarborough man by York Regional Police on charges of possession, and last week Jan Nowotny appeared in Newmarket Provincial Court and pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Judge Ian Munro made a conviction on one of the charges and adjourned the case on a second charge of possession until a later date.

The jewelry was stolen from Mrs. Robinson's home last May 29 and turned up at the barn June 21.

After an intensive investigation by Detective Sgt. Brian Cousineau, Nowotny was charged and brought to court.

Recycling depot

STOUFFVILLE — The Stouffville recycling depot's permanent home is nearing completion.

The facilities, built near the Works Department garage, south of the town park, will be officially opened Saturday, Jan. 17 at 11 a.m.

Warnings only in first month of seat belt law

YORK REGION — New Year's Eve was quiet for York Regional Police except for numerous people calling in for information on the new seat belt regulations introduced Jan. 1.

According to one police spokesman they "went crazy on the phone" trying to answer all the inquiries.

For the first month, local police, as is the case in Metro will be issuing warnings to those people not wearing seat belts. As of Feb. 1, fines will be levied, starting at \$20 and up.

The regulations say that all people must wear the seat belts except those with proven medical problems, or those extremely overweight and people making deliveries who are not exceeding 25 mph.

Region flip-flops on debentures

YORK REGION — In a recorded vote, York Regional Council did a major flip-flop last week and approved \$1,125,000 in debentures for the Town of Markham.

The matter was brought up as a motion. The debenture request was originally turned down early in December when Council overwhelmingly agreed not to issue debenture on behalf of the Town of Markham.

The original request was for \$1,275,000. The final request resulted from deleting \$150,000 for tennis courts. According to Markham Councillor Walter Grieve, the tennis courts will be financed in some other way.

At the Dec. 30 regional council meeting, Markham Mayor Tony Roman said he could not understand why the

region had turned down the original request.

He said that the amount had been included in the town's five-year capital forecast and that had been approved by the region and the Ontario Municipal Board.

The mayor said that the Markham request showed \$1.4 million for hard services (sewers, watermain, etc.) and the rest for soft services (arenas, parks, swimming pools, etc.).

"If region was going to question debenturing soft services, they should have done it earlier," Mayor Roman said.

Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller insisted that regional council had the right to ask questions on debenturing and said that there is need for the

region to have a closer look at forecasts when they come to council from the local municipalities.

Regional Solicitor Ted Oake said that the region had no jurisdiction to question the need for the services, only the "method of financing," because the region issues the debentures.

Newmarket Mayor Bob Forhan said that because the OMB indicated priorities would go to hard services, the debentures were turned down.

He also said that questions asked by the region on the projects involved brought an "arrogant letter" from Markham treasurer Alec Barton, and failed to answer the questions that were asked.

Mayor Roman felt that Markham should not be "singled

out" at the "last minute" when the region of York itself did not comply with OMB requirements when submitting the five-year forecasts for approval.

"At this point in time it is a little late to start complying with a letter dated April 28, 1975 to put hard services over soft services," Mayor Roman said.

Councillor Bob Adams justified debenturing for the projects by referring to Markham's high growth rate.

"With added growth, it has become impossible to supply the services on a pay-as-you-go basis," he said. "You have to supply soft services for the people coming in."

Mayor Roman said that he regretted the bad "publicity" surrounding the matter.

Youth killed as car hits truck on icy road

BALLANTRAE — A West Hill youth was killed Dec. 30 and a teenage girl almost lost her hand, in a grinding car-truck collision on Highway 48, near Vandorf Rd.

Police said that the car, northbound on the highway, swerved out of control on a curve and skidded into the path of a southbound truck loaded with grain.

Steven Devlin, 17, died at York County Hospital, Newmarket, about 30 minutes after being admitted. Deborah Johns, 17, of Scarboro was rushed to Scarboro Centenary Hospital, then to Etobicoke General.

Surgery was performed and a hand, severed in the crash, was sewn back on.

The driver of the car Peter McCaul, 20 of Sault Ste. Marie received minor injuries. The truck, owned by Ken Reesor, was being driven by David Burkholder of Stouffville. Mr. Burkholder was uninjured.

Police said that the road was extremely icy when the mishap occurred about 9:55 a.m. Damage to the McCaul car was \$4,000, while damage to the truck was estimated at \$4,000. No charges are being laid.



One youth died as a result of injuries incurred in a car-truck crash Dec. 30 on Highway 48 near the Vandorf Rd. The car swerved

out of control on a curve into the path of a southbound truck carrying grain.

—Don Bernard

New residents to appeal assessment

BALLANTRAE — A number of people, who have recently moved into the new subdivision in Ballantrae, plan to appeal their assessments on their properties, The Tribune has learned.

Ken Wood said that of 20 people who have moved into the new development, 90 percent are appealing their assessments. The properties are in the second phase of the Felray subdivision.

Mr. Wood said that he owns one of the larger homes in the development on ¾ of an acre. He said that the only service they receive from the town is garbage pick-up.

He estimated his taxes will be \$1,100, according to the assessed value of \$41,000 for the house and land together.

"It would be different if only one or two people are upset about it," he said, but "everybody" objects to the assessment figures.

"It seems high for what we are getting," Mr. Wood told The Tribune.

He said that the assessment must be appealed before Jan. 23 and the notice must be mailed back to the assessment office. The case will eventually go to court.

Mr. Wood felt that being in rural area should mean lower taxes than in an urban area with full municipal services.