

Fate of Webb school remains with Board

DURHAM REGION — The fate of Webb School will be determined April 28.

That's when the Durham Board of Education will decide the future of the building that many parents are fighting to keep open.

The School Accommodation Committee, formed to study the matter, will present its recommendations in the form of a motion, March 26.

The motion reads: that "Webb School be closed effective June 30, 1980." The vote was 4-3 in favor of the resolution. Uxbridge/Scott trustee Ed Van Nieuwenhove, in support of the decision, will present the motion and arguments for closure to the Board.

A minority report, being prepared by Bruce Small, community-citizen representative, will give those who voted against the motion one last chance to make their views known.

At the last public meeting, April 10, a group of irate parents verbally attacked trustee representatives on the accommodation committee.

Frank Hendy, RR 1, Claremont, lashed out at trustee Van Nieuwenhove, saying the

representative "was elected to serve the people, and should look out for their best interests."

"People aren't stupid. These enrolment figures can be manipulated to say anything the Board wants. I'm unhappy, to say the least, with our school trustee, and I certainly won't be voting for him this year if he runs."

At one point the meeting turned into a "clash of personalities", until chairman Pat Grist restored order.

Uxbridge mayor Gary Herrema attending on behalf of Council, asked Van Nieuwenhove to detail his reasons for supporting closure.

"I see tonight that many parents are damned mad about this decision, and they have a right to be. This school has a great deal of history attached to it, and I can appreciate their concerns. I attended a small

rural school myself. I still haven't heard anything this evening to convince me Webb should be locked up."

Van Nieuwenhove repeated the five reasons for his stand, which he outlined at the beginning of the meeting.

"First of all, the enrolment figures I have here do not justify keeping Webb open. Second, I have not been given any solid evidence that there will be any substantial development within the next five years. Third, if it remains in operation, the pupil-teacher ratio will be way out of line with other schools in the Region, and the classes will have to be split-grades, which I don't find suitable. And last, as a trustee, I must look at the cost saving factor, which I understand will be about \$43,000."

Parents agreed they were strongly opposed to sending their children to Goodwood

because of already overcrowded buses. If Webb is closed, one of the routes will be eliminated altogether.

Wayne Humphrey, 4th Conc. of Uxbridge, said he heard that one of the classrooms at Goodwood had only one exit and no windows, accommodating over 30 children. He said it should be deemed a fire hazard, and questioned if trustee Van Nieuwenhove and principal Richard Hannah were pleased with the situation.

Van Nieuwenhove said all classroom space had to be approved by the Ministry, and if found acceptable, the principal must utilize it.

The Board meets at 555 Rossland Ave., West Oshawa, and will hear public delegations at 7 p.m. The 1980 budget will be brought forward at this meeting, along with the Webb school vote.

Oppose closure

Parents retaliate

DURHAM REGION — Parents wanting Webb School to remain open aren't going down without a fight — even if the Board votes in favor of closure, April 28.

Chairman of the School Accommodation Committee, Pat Grist, told The Tribune that "we don't know how far we can push the Board — but we're going to find out."

A minority report, prepared by Grist, Bruce Small, and Vicky Walder, the committee members who opposed the motion for closure, will be presented to trustees.

Recommendations call for a "full provincial inquiry into the question of Ministry and Board policies for closing small rural schools throughout Durham and Ontario."

The document said "it appears to be the policy to close smaller schools everywhere to 'consolidate both program and space'."

It went on: "We in the Goodwood-Webb community would like to teach our children the positive things of life — an approach that makes one fight for his or her rights. The policy of the trustees and local school officials has been negative."

"The dissenting committee

members and the public feel very much that they are seeing a small tip of what really is a broader provincial issue."

"The absence of written evidence of overall Board policies either reflects that there are none or they are inaccessible to users of the educational system."

"There is also some documentation that the forecasts do not allow for all planned development in the area served by the twin schools."

"Many of the citizens of the community do not share the over-riding confidence of the

trustees when it comes to such projections."

"The trustees predicate their argument on the premise that if a school reaches 60 per cent capacity, it must automatically be considered a 'dead duck,' and closed. Any slack in the Goodwood-Webb system brings them to the same conclusion — that capacity must be cut, and it must be done at Webb."

The bottom line in the report stated, "If the Board is no willing to widen its viewpoints, then we have no choice but to demand that this and other similar situations be reviewed."

Residents against rates

DURHAM REGION — More than 1,700 Durham Region residents have signed a petition, protesting what they describe as "astronomical" interest rates now facing Canadians.

The group, calling itself The

Durham Interest Rate Crisis Organization, collected the signatures in only one week. They will be forwarded to Ottawa.

Spokesperson Betty Stodart described the response as "just tremendous."



Stouffville skaters perform at Unionville

The Unionville Skating Carnival is coming up and there are at least five Stouffville girls who will perform. They are, pictured above, left to right - Ruth Thorne, Wendy Kerfoot, Karen Smith, Laurie Thorne and Linda Butler. The show runs from April 18-20.

Jim Holt

Uxbridge tightens belt

Park budget cut

UXBRIDGE — Because the municipality is "tightening its belt" for the upcoming financially-tough year, boards and associations funded by the Town are facing severe budget cuts. Most recently, was the paring of \$1,200 from the Goodwood Community Park and Centre Association grant request.

Representatives for the Association, Treasurer Brian Plewes; Vice-chairman Harold Bell; Dave Hathaway, and Doug Graham appeared as a delegation before Finance Committee, April 8.

Plewes explained that the major source of revenue is the hall, which is expected to bring in \$7,000 from rentals, and \$1,000 from special events. Projected expenditures include operating costs at \$9,800 for the hall, parks maintenance at \$1,600, and equipment purchases at \$1,550.

Included in equipment costs was \$1,200 for bleachers, "an expense which met strong opposition from Mayor Gary Herrema."

"The requests for a vacuum cleaner at \$150, and paint for the interior at \$750, I can see as legitimate. But perhaps the bleachers can be constructed next year," he said.

Included in the budget were funds to improve and expand present kitchen facilities. Because of frequent use of the hall, the renovations are necessary, Plewes said.

"The building is booked solid every Saturday until August. In fact, we already have reservations for next year."

For the Community Park, \$500 was requested for maintenance; \$100 for snow removal, and \$440 for waste disposal.

The largest expense at the Conservation Park was the parking lot and entrance, totalling \$2,500.

The total requested from the Town is \$6,890.

Historian finances book

UXBRIDGE TWP. — Eleanor Todd's "History of Uxbridge Township" will become a reality, even though she'll receive no financial assistance from the municipality.

She plans to "go it alone." The cost of printing 2,500 copies will be around \$15,000, "quite a gamble," she told The Tribune. To "break even," she'll have to sell close to two thousand.

The book will contain about 336 pages.

The author had applied to the Township Council for a grant, but was "turned down." There was no indication, she said, that they'd subsidize even a portion of cost.

Eleanor hopes to have the history on the market by the end of August, just in time for the weekend Steam Show at the Quaker Hill Museum. "That's the target date I've set for myself," she said, "and I think I can do it."

Eleven officers honored

YORK REGION — Eleven veteran officers with the York Regional Police Department were honored, last week, through the presentation of long-service medals.

They attended a meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners in Newmarket.

The awards were made by Judge Donald Couture to: Staff Inspector William Smyth (20 years); Inspector Edward McBrien (25 years); Inspector Bill Hay (20 years); Staff Sgt. Leonard Donner (30 years); Staff Sgt. Calvin Mayo (20 years); Sgt. Douglas Tribbling (20 years); Sgt. Carl Stevenson (20 years); Sgt. Charles Adams (25 years); Sgt. Alvin Pollock (25 years); and Detective Peter Foulds (20 years).

"Words are inadequate to express the appreciation felt by this Board and the community for the sacrifices you have made," said Judge Couture, the Commission Chairman.

\$3½ million project

Golf course the 'ultimate'

BUTTONVILLE — On Thursday (to-day), Bert Turcotte unveils plans for the ultimate in modern-day golf course facilities — a 3½ million dollar project that, when completed, will make it one of the finest country clubs in the district.

The main property, located on the west side of Woodbine Avenue in Buttonville, has been expanded to take in the former Ray McTavish farm, north of 16th Avenue. The additional 150 acres, allows for an extra nine holes. Access eventually, will be by means of an underpass beneath the road, Mr. Turcotte said. Ground work at the site is still in progress and should be completed some time this year.

Besides the additional nine holes, the Club offers a large practice fairway, three tennis courts and a pool.

The beautiful dining area can now accommodate 135 people. When the weather is favorable, an additional sixty persons can be seated on a patio outside.

The facilities have proved so popular, the banquet room is already booked to mid-1981.

The initial purchase dates back to 1967. The property had been owned by the late Douglas (Pat) Hood.

Mr. Turcotte has acquired tracts of land for several golf

courses in the last twenty years. The first was Sleepy Hollow in Stouffville in 1960; then the Liftlock Country Club near Peterborough in 1963; followed by Buttonville in 1967; The International at Niagara in 1975

and Glen Lawrence near Kingston in March of this year. In 1976, he was instrumental in providing the Canadian Professional Golfers Association with a new course near Cape Canaveral, Florida.

It's called The Royal Oak. Cost to the association at the time was one dollar. The course is now the official home of the C.P.G.A.; and is visited by hundreds of Canadian golfers each year.



Entrepreneur Bert Turcotte, owner of six golf clubs, including Sleepy Hollow in Stouffville, unveils plans for the development of property west of Woodbine Avenue, north of 16th Avenue. Into a huge ultra-modern golf course, Turcotte says that ground work on the site should be completed some time this year. Jim Holt

Man fined for cruelty

ZEPHYR — A Zephyr resident was fined \$300 or three months in jail following conviction on a charge of cruelty to animals.

Thirty-two year old Allan Porter entered a plea of guilty, when he appeared before Judge F.D. White in Newmarket Court.

According to evidence, inspectors for the Ontario Humane Society visited the Porter premises and found several pigs in the barn without

food or water. A number were already dead.

The accused said the livestock were owned by his father and were in poor shape when purchased. He admitted to being unfamiliar with the way such animals should be cared for.

Judge White strongly criticized the man for his lack of concern. "The public would like the courts to take people like you and string 'em up for such behavior," he said.

Driver beaten

STOUFFVILLE — A 32 year old Whitchurch-Stouffville man was beaten about the face and head, Sunday afternoon, during an altercation on the 7th Concession of Markham near 18th Avenue.

Bruce Godard, McCowan Road, told police that he was being continually harassed by another motorist while south-bound towards Hwy. 7. He said

he stopped his car near the entrance to the fairgrounds and was subsequently attacked. Injuries included a broken nose plus lacerations and bruises. He was taken to Scarborough Centenary Hospital by ambulance.

The victim described his assailant as 27 to 28 years old, about 6'2" tall, weighing 185 pounds with dark shoulder-length hair.

Farm Fair 1980

UXBRIDGE — Have you ever seen a live embryo transfer? Do you even know what it is?

Well, if you don't and would like to come to the Farm Fair at Lloyd Wilson's Sale Arena, April 25. Dr. Gerald Green, a veterinarian from Canington, will perform the operation beginning at 7 p.m.

The fair begins April 24 and will cater to school groups during the day. In the evening, the public can view exhibits by the Junior Farmers and the 4-H Club — just to mention a couple.

A contest for Best Dressed Calf for students 15 years and younger will be judged by Mayor Gary Herrema, Ivan Bell, Agriculture representative for Ontario County, and Uxbridge Fair Queen Andrea Tuck. Deadlines for contest entries is April 22, and children can call 852-3524.