

Gormley proposal

STOUFFVILLE — "Notwithstanding the (federal) budget, we think we could do a very good job," a spokesman for a proposed residential development in Gormley, told a recent meeting of the Planning Board.

Brian Corbett, Gormley Lake Estates, showed the board plans for a 66-unit development in the south-west quadrant of Gormley, west of Woodbine and south of Stouffville Rd.

"It's not the most attractive property," Corbett said. "That's one of the reasons we bought it. We thought the municipality might like to see it developed."

He said they planned to come in off Woodbine Avenue building off the loop in a way that's compatible with the area, and to create something unique.

He said they would put in three ponds and the units would be serviced on individual wells and tile beds. At present the area is zoned rural and would need an amendment to allow the proposed use, he said.

York Region had told them part of the area was designated for development in the old Markham plan, and that they could process it, Corbett said.

Councillor Bill Kamps said "it would be ideal for Toronto people," but wondered what would happen to a mushroom factory (Triple-A Mushrooms) if the plan were approved.

"All buildings would be demolished," he replied.

Councillor Kamps suggested the first 15 lots "be approved in principle."

It was finally decided to ask the Town planning consultant for his comments and to request various "modifications."

Ecuador visitor

By Evelyn Milsted

GORMLEY — Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Harvey on the birth of their second grand-daughter, born to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Koopman.

Mrs. Joseph Heise, who will be 91 years old on March 5, is a patient in Centenary Hospital, Scarborough, undergoing tests. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Nigh and family of Hagersville, visited her there.

More con-

gratulations in order; this time to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Heise on the birth of their grand-daughter, born to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Heise, Ridgeway.

Local postmaster, Peter Koropatwa, and his wife, spent an enjoyable 10-day holiday in British Columbia.

Rev. Keith Elliott, a missionary in Ecuador, South America, will speak at 11 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Missionary Church.

Suntrips

BALLANTRAE — The Ballantrae Lions club still have a number of tickets for sale in their "Trip to the sun" draw.

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Family skate

STOUFFVILLE — A family skate night, sponsored by Stouffville Figure Skating Club, will be held at the Arena, Jan. 16, from 8 to 10.

One-act play

By Jim Holt

STOUFFVILLE — A proposal by the Ministry of Education that all secondary students in the province take courses in "life skills," has created a controversy among educators.

A program to introduce the courses on a trial basis, would start in September in 29 schools, and would require students to spend more time on mathematics, science, history or geography.

Obscure," at the initial meeting of the new year of the Stouffville Players, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m., at Stouffville Library.

The presentation is to show those interested in joining the Players, some of the group in action, and to provide entertainment for the meeting.

Anyone interested in joining the group, in any capacity, whatever, is both invited to and welcome to attend.

That's when students Jennifer Hary, Lynn and Roger van Maris, and Marlene and Paul Cooney, present a one-act play, "Camera

Life skills program will earn credits

Educationalists disagree

The purpose is to raise the status of life skills to the level of credit courses.

The program involves 12 areas of study including: Esthetics; to develop students' confidence in responding with sensitivity to nature and the arts; Human relations; to enhance understanding of people through such activities as learning to distinguish between emotional and reasoned responses and developing skills to make sure their perceptions are right. There's a wallpaper hanging course too.

According to ministry program coordinator, Dorothy McPhedran, the students will be taught skills "for directing their lives in accordance with personal values and goals, in the context of the common good."

That statement would seem to underscore the ministry's penchant for introducing courses that cover every one of society's ailments, from family life, and sex education to drug abuse. Their latest foible reflects how out of touch they are with the realities of educational requirements in the '80's.

Counterpoint to this avant-garde thinking, is the fact that graduating students, even those entering university, have been accused of being less than literate.

The proposals represent a continued watering down of our educational system; a dilution that has been apparent since the advent of the "Wells" era in the early '70s, when the ministry nabobs in their infinite wisdom waived English as a prerequisite for university entrance.

At a time when doctors, nurses, technicians, engineers, artisans and a whole range of skilled workers are in short supply, the ministry's nebulous thinking is concentrated at the wrong end of the educational ladder.

The province, and indeed the whole country, would benefit more if these faceless administrators were to apply themselves to the introduction of more Polytechnics, (there is only one in Ontario at present), whereby the industry of this country would be better served instead of relying on imported, skilled labor.

As one critic of the proposed program so succinctly put it, "You can't read and assess a 'How-to' book if you have trouble reading and assessing".

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