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A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, May 2, 1984

Handi-Transit meets public opposition

BY AUDREY GREEN
UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge and Scugog Township Councils have supported a Handi-Transit service for handicapped persons, but some concerns have been voiced on the service's need, benefit and coverage area.

"I don't think it's a benefit to our township on a whole," said Ward 4 Councillor, Sandy Ewen.

Ewen, who voted against the resolution, said the concept is viable, but not in a rural area like Uxbridge Township because those using the service would be restricted to certain parts of Durham Region.

"Handi-Transit in a larger municipality is fine," said Councillor Ewen.

According to Handi-Transit General Manager, Doug Manuel, the service could transport users throughout Uxbridge and Scugog Townships as well as Oshawa, Whitby, and Newcastle.

However, "we can't go

into Ajax-Pickering...and I don't know if they'll (the Ministry of Transportation and Communications) let us go out of Durham Region," he stated.

"We just try to work it out the best we can," said Mr. Manuel.

Handi-Transit Inc., which is a non-profit organization, is proposing a van-type service which would operate approximately eight to nine hours per day, Monday to Friday.

Councillor Ewen was also concerned about the actual number of handicapped people who want and would use the service.

During an initial presentation to Council by Uxbridge and Scugog Community Care representatives it was found through research and study that the northern section of Durham Region had between 172 and 345 people who require and would use the service. In the area, 291 people were

"potential users" which 185 would be served by the proposed system.

"The numbers were drastically reduced," said Ewen. "There hasn't been any (actual requests)...and until we get some demands for this type of service, why support it?" he questioned.

According to Uxbridge Community Care Coordinator, Kathy Anderson, the number of potential users currently stands at an estimate of 48 people in Uxbridge and Scugog Townships.

"Those are rough figures and they're changing all the time," said Ms. Anderson. "A lot of what we anticipate...is once the service is established, there will be a number of people requesting the service that we don't know about."

She said the figures are not from personal request, rather, from research. "If it exists...they're going to start using it if it's available," she said. "We're hoping to get the service established in the area."

"It was initiated by the Community Care organization...and their job is to provide community care," said Uxbridge Mayor Bill Ballinger. "We have an obligation to provide the transit."

The resolution passed by Council was in support of one vehicle shared between both Uxbridge and Scugog Townships. The resolution also stated one Council representative would sit on the Handi-Transit Board and all capital costs for the service would be covered by Handi-Transit Inc.

According to Mayor Ballinger, before the matter is finalized there are still many steps to be taken.



Balloon day blast-off

UXBRIDGE — Excitement ran high at Uxbridge Public School, Friday, when students gathered in the back field to release approximately 600 balloons into the wild blue yonder.

The school's first balloon blast-off was held to promote the upcoming Fun Fair which is scheduled for Friday, May 11 from 5 until 9 p.m.

The event, which was organized by the school's parent club, was a fund-raising effort to help buy library and sports equipment.

Balloons were sold to students at 50 cents a piece and each balloon purchased was tagged with the students name. The object of the game is to have the balloon which travels the farthest returned to the school and the owner of the winning balloon will receive two free passes to Canada's Wonderland.

Fun Fair Chairman, Jan Wilson, said many events are planned for the students. These include: pony rides; an obstacle course; video games and movies; puppets; a magician; fish pond; bingo; toad jumping; a haunted house; games; music room; tea room; cake walk; and more.

"We're hoping the Fun Fair will be a substantial fund raiser," she said. Admission to the Fun Fair is free and it will be held at the school, 64 Victoria St.



Up, up and away!

Keeping a tight grip on a bunch of balloons, Uxbridge Public School Grade 5 student, Andrea Farr, 10, (above), prepares for the school's first balloon blast-off. Staff and students gathered in a nearby field to count-down the departure of about 600 balloons. Once released, students said their farewells as the balloons floated to unknown destinations.

—Audrey Green

High winds cause damage

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge Township wasn't left unmarked by high winds which played havoc with southern Ontario Monday.

Although no personal injuries were reported, Durham Regional Police, Uxbridge 26 Division, said there were many reports of wind damage caused to various structures, power lines, and trees.

Police said many trees were knocked down and a number of grass fires were started from falling power lines. Houses, barns, and sheds received different levels of damage. One major problem, which occurred frequently, was the damage caused when the wind tore off or stripped back metal siding on buildings.

At 1:37 p.m. the Town of Uxbridge experienced a power black-out and remained in darkness until 3:14 p.m. said a spokesperson for Uxbridge Hydro Commission. The black out was caused by high winds, but the major problem was located with Newmarket Hydro.

Water concerns group

CLAREMONT — The delay in solving Claremont's water and sewage problems is a priority concern for many residents here. This was indicated at a recent meeting of the Claremont and District Community Association, April 12.

Several speakers requested action on the issue, saying the matter should be resolved within a year.

A figure of \$1,800,000 was mentioned as the cost of a communal water system. The alternative is new wells on individual lots.

Peter Gillespie, the Association's president, said several test wells were being drilled around the area at a cost of \$49,000 apiece. He questioned the expense, suggesting the figure appeared excessive.

A committee of three was established to check more closely into the matter.

Uxbridge Mews concerns voiced

UXBRIDGE — Concerns about water quality, garbage, density, traffic, and location with the proposed Uxbridge Mews, a 34-unit condominium apartment project, were voiced by local residents at a public meeting, Monday night.

The proposed \$2 million development will be located on Brock Street, West, across from the Uxbridge Arena and it's a joint building effort between Seaton

Development Ltd., and Ramira Builders.

Barbara Moore, Lot 5 Conc. 6, Uxbridge, asked representatives whether the complex's construction would affect water quality, since most neighboring homes had individual wells.

Steven Kirshenblatt, of Kirshenblatt Korman Maniates Architects and Planners in Toronto, said the project would be hooked up to a public water and sewage system.

"We intend to collect all surface drainage...and we propose to let only the grass areas drain naturally," he said.

Company representatives addressed issues like garbage and snow removal by stating no build-up would occur. Seaton Group would make provisions for weekly garbage pickup from an outdoor bin and snow collection.

The entrance and exist is designed to open onto Brock St. which raised questions about accidents, increased traffic, parking, and noise.

"The residents in this area have been subjected to increased traffic, noise, and lights (with the arena)," stated a neighboring resident. "Residents don't need to be subjected to this."

Mr. Kirshenblatt said ample indoor and outdoor parking (43 spots) will be provided for the complex.

Solicitor Steven Melnik claimed the location of the driveway shouldn't pose a problem with the number of vehicles which would be using it.

According to Mr. Melnik, the concerns on density we-

ren't an issue because "this is not a high density urban proposal."

Committee members assured the public that these types of concerns could be considered and applied when drawing up the site plan agreement.

Mrs. Moore also asked why the company wouldn't re-locate the development to an area already zoned multiple use.

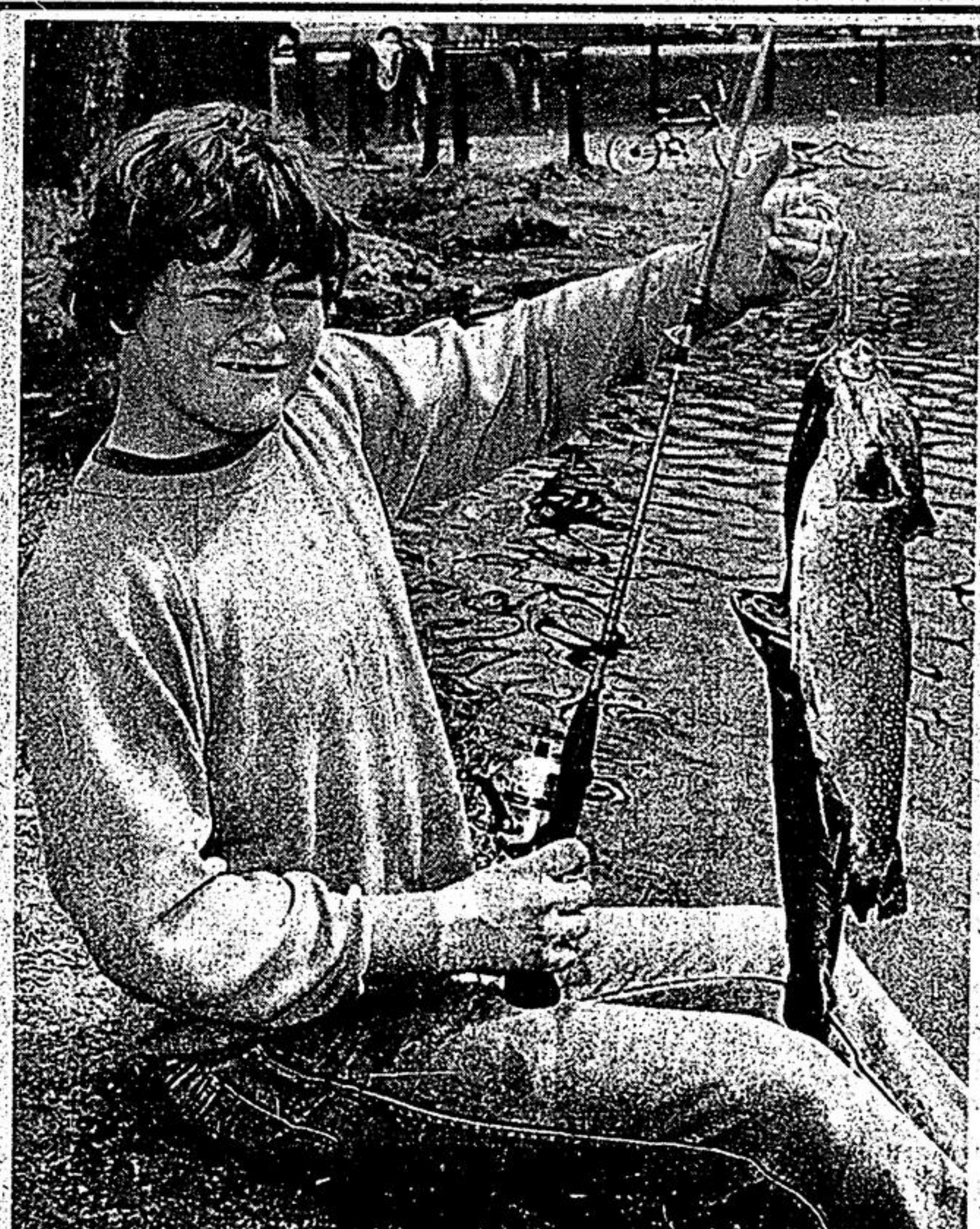
"A community like ours never has enough multiple use, or anything for that matter," said Uxbridge Mayor Bill Ballinger.

"Other areas of town would be better suited," said Wayne Trotter, a resident to the west of the development. "This is an area now for single-family dwellings."

"We do not hold clear excess to any other land at this time," stated Mr. Melnik.

At this point in the meeting, Developer, Don Kerr, pulled out a piece of paper containing financial figures and proceeded to accuse Seaton Group of owing large amounts of money in real estate taxes since 1977. Mr. Kerr claimed because they owed money on the east and west Forsythe properties they couldn't build anywhere, but the current location.

"This is totally uncalled for at this meeting," screamed Regional Councillor Gerri-Lynn O'Connor. "I'd be interested to know how Mr. Kerr manages to get people upset even when he's not presenting anything," chuckled Ballinger.



Fishy kid business

The Royal Canadian Legion, branch 170, Uxbridge, held their annual Fishing Derby for children at Elgin Pond, in Uxbridge, Saturday. Jim Cabell, 14, of Goodwood, displays his catch of speckled trout. Jim won the first place prize for the longest fish, which was 16.5 inches. Other first place prize winners included: Danny McCallum, 13, of 204 Wheeler St., Toronto, for the heaviest fish weighing three pounds; three-year-old Adam Kennedy, of Uxbridge, was the youngest boy with a catch weighing seven ounces; and Judy Traynor, 5, of Leaskdale, was the youngest girl with her fish weighing 8.5 ounces. Approximately 150 prize ribbons were given out during the event.

Jim Thomas

Roads become graveyard

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge Township is experiencing an increase in illegal dumping of dead livestock on rural roads said a spokesman for Durham Regional Police, Uxbridge 26 Division.

"People are just dumping them on the side of the road," said Staff Sergeant Aird. "It's an easy way to dispose of them...and it's hard to find out who does it."

Aird said they have been receiving a number of reports, the most recent being two calves left on the side of the road just south of Uxbridge. Police have also found a dead calf and goat east of the town.

He said legally dead livestock must be disposed of within 48 hours of death. The usual method is to bury them. People dumping livestock illegally can be

charged under the Dead Livestock Act said Aird. He claims it's difficult to catch the offenders because dumping is usually done at night.

Pickering plans first fun run

PICKERING — To help celebrate National Physical Activity Week the Pickering Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting their first annual five kilometre Fun Run Sunday, May 13 starting at 1 p.m. at the Pickering Recreation Complex.

The run, which starts and finishes at the complex, is open to all ages and abilities. Admission is \$1.