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A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, June 27, 1984

Claremont water problems

Residents press for answers

CLAREMONT — A sense of urgency was evident during last week's public discussion on the hamlet's water problems.

Representatives of a number of government agencies present at the community centre on June 20 were pressured to provide details of just how the whole matter is being handled.

"I think they're aware that we'll be watching them," association president Peter Gillespie told the Tribune Monday. "We passed it along to them that it's taking far too long, and they should get going on it."

A water study prepared last summer indicated that a high percentage of Claremont's wells and septic tank systems are unsatisfactory. Members of the community have been anxious to find a solution ever since those findings were made public.

K.S. Hogg of the Ministry of Environment said at Wednesday's meeting that he expects things to fall into place very soon. He added at the same time, however, that Claremont's water problems didn't happen overnight, and a solution doesn't come quickly either.

Test wells will soon be drilled at four or six locations throughout the hamlet to evaluate the potential for either private wells or a communal water system. Drilling will be completed by the end of July and then it will take about six weeks to compile the water data, citizens were told. Final results could reach the Ministry of Environment by October of 1984, and then the various agencies involved will have to sit down and study the findings, Mr. Hogg explained.

He said a decision could be ready in the early part of 1985.

Resident Al Graham pressured Mr. Hogg as to whether "the public" will have input at the level at which the decision takes place. Mr. Hogg replied that residents will be able to ask questions at any step of the process, but Mr. Graham contended that the local ratepayers' group should be represented among the decision-making agencies. Price of the upcoming test drilling has been adjusted to \$88,000.

The high costs associated with finding a solution to the problem prompted ratepayer John Marks to suggest the money be spent drilling 100 new wells. Then we'd have the problem solved without all the costly testing, he said.

A survey of residents' water requirements was carried out during Wednesday's session. Results showed 17 people favored having a new well drilled at an approximate cost of \$1,500 per homeowner (assuming a 75 per cent government subsidy), while only six chose the communal system at about \$2,622 per household. Another 12 residents indicated that they are satisfied with their present water supply and don't want to be liable for any costs associated with a new system.

'Hooping' it up in Claremont



Nursery school fun in the park

Cheryl Norton, 4, gets a helping hand with the hula hoop from instructor Kitty McArthur of the Claremont Co-operative Nursery School. Cheryl and her young classmates enjoyed a beautiful day out in the park last

week during a non-competitive field day. Parents were also involved in the outing as part of the school's co-operative approach to early childhood education.

—Chris Shanahan

Events galore in Uxbridge

UXBRIDGE — Spring Water Days hits full swing this week with everything from street dancing to minnow racing scheduled as part of the fun.

Royal Bank Junior Olympics are on today (June 27) and many youngsters will undoubtedly be testing their athletic prowess. The track and field portion runs from 10 a.m. to noon at Uxbridge Secondary School, while swimming takes place between 1 and 3 p.m. at Uxpool.

A street dance is scheduled tonight atop the hill on Brock Street, beginning at 8 p.m. and running through to midnight. Diamond Rio Band will provide music for this free event.

A youth bowling tournament, organized by Marg Hayward and Donna Bearden of Uxbridge Valley 5-Pin Bowlers' Association, is set for Thursday, July 28. Pins will be flying at the local lanes starting at 1:30 p.m.

The much-anticipated World Championship Minnow Races begin with a splash Thursday at 7 p.m. in the arena. This unique event is sponsored by the Library Building Fund Committee.

The first of two Spring Water Fest '84 nights goes Friday, beginning at 8:30 p.m., followed by a second bash Saturday night. They're both at the arena.

Saturday's events start bright and early with a big pancake breakfast at Royal Canadian Legion branch 170. It runs from 7 to 10 a.m.

The Spring Water Days parade, based on the theme "the good ol' days," winds its way through the streets of Uxbridge on Saturday starting 1 p.m.

The Bicentennial Ball promises to be one of this year's highlights. Music of The Billy Williamson Orchestra will be featured during this Music Hall gala. It gets underway at 8:30 p.m.

An all-day celebration is planned in the park on Sunday, July 1, offering just about every activity under the sun. A Grandstand Show will cap it all off at 7:30

Neighborhood Watch group

Local interest essential

CLAREMONT — Formation of a Neighborhood Watch program in the hamlet of Claremont depends on large-scale public interest, residents were told here last Wednesday.

Constable Peter Wright of Durham Regional Police Community Services Bureau made a presentation on the subject during a meeting of the Claremont and District Community Association.

He began by noting how law enforcement has evolved from past reactive methods to today's emphasis on preventing crime before it gets started.

"What we're doing is using you as an extra set of eyes and ears," the constable told residents. "We want you to call in anything that looks suspicious."

He stressed that Neighborhood Watch is "not a vigilante committee," but is basically "neighbors looking after other neighbors."

"Crime prevention is a matter of attitude," he said. "It's about time we started thinking about helping our neighbor."

Fighting crime would remain the responsibility of the police force, he assured.

The first step for a community, considering participation in the program is to decide if it's really necessary.

"Do you need it? Do you want it? Are you willing to look after it? Were important questions posed by Constable Wright.

"If you people here feel you do need it, then maybe it should be started," the constable suggested.

Surveying local crime statistics is one way to de-

termine if it's really necessary, although Cst. Wright admitted he didn't have any Claremont figures available.

The force's role would mainly be during the organizational stages, he told the ratepayers.

"Police help residents get started and then it's in their hands," he said, noting that the program is relatively inexpensive yet has been effective.

There are presently nine Neighborhood Watch groups operating in Durham Region, and that

number is growing, the constable added. But so far there are none in the north end of the Region.

Hamlet residents were informed that 75 per cent community participation is required before the area can be recognized as an official Neighborhood Watch zone.

Ward McCance, chairman of Claremont's committee looking into the program, said citizens will be canvassed to test the level of support.

Response from this survey will determine if the group will still consider involvement in Neighborhood Watch, he added.

Home-owners care

CLAREMONT — Residents really do care about how their hamlet looks, beautification committee chairman Brian Kerman reported at a meeting last week.

"There are a bunch of people who care about making the place look pretty," Mr. Kerman told members of the Claremont and District Community Association.

The beautification committee is a branch group concerned with improving visual aspects of the north Pickering community.

Mr. Kerman reviewed such projects as road improvements and tree planting, a task handled by the Town of Pickering.

He also said research is continuing on the Heritage value of many homes in Claremont.

Artists display

UXBRIDGE — The work of artist Gary Le Drew will be featured during a special Spring Water Days exhibit this Friday, June 29.

A collection of 25 oil paintings entitled "Uxbridge 1955" will be on display at the Music Hall from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The show focuses on area landmarks such as the creamery, bell tower and post office, he explained.

"I've painted old buildings that have been rebuilt and some that are no longer there," explained Mr. Le Drew, who describes his style as realism.

This will be the Uxbridge artist's first solo show.

Another art presentation will take place on Saturday during the pancake breakfast at Royal Canadian Legion branch 180. Watercolors by Uxbridge's Lynne McIvride will be shown downstairs at the Legion from 7 to 10 a.m.

Dirt biker injured

CLAREMONT — A 24-year-old Claremont-area man suffered head injuries in a dirt bike accident last Friday, June 22.

Louis Lambert, R.R. 3, Claremont, was apparently operating a dirt bike in the area when he fell off and struck his head, according to a Durham Regional Police report. He was treated at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

The accident is still under investigation.

Queen, Citizen chosen

UXBRIDGE — Wendy Lewis was crowned Fair Queen here Monday night during the official opening ceremony of Spring Water Days.

The 18-year-old Uxbridge resident was chosen over seven other contestants during a pageant held at Uxbridge Secondary School. She represented the Lions Club.

Kelly Rathby, 19, was Princess Kelly, sponsored by the Soccer Club, was also voted Miss Congeniality.

Annetta Postma was judged to have delivered the best speech. Her topic was "being a teenager."

Alma P. Soper and Dr. J. Russell St. John were co-recipients of 1984 Citizen of the Year honours, also revealed during Monday's program.

Other citizen award nominees were Kay Bond, Dorothy Simpson, Robert Pollard, Ray Laswick, Keith Paradine and Harry Stemp.

An added attraction was a Town Crier contest in conjunction with the province's Bicentennial. Robert Corbett was the winner.

Queen contestants made a special presentation of a bouquet of roses to dance instructor Annette Smith. She taught the girls the dance routine they performed during the talent portion of the pageant.

Late Albert Brown 'He cared'

STOUFFVILLE — "Love and caring," Lloyd Wilson spoke of these qualities in the life of Albert Brown when he addressed family members and friends at the funeral service, June 25.

Mr. Brown, commonly referred to as "Ab," passed away suddenly, June 21, after attending an auction sale near Zephyr. He was 72.

"I never remember meeting him when I didn't feel the better for it," Mr. Wilson said, "his sense of humor helped lighten the burden of the day."

"The welcome mat was always out at the Brown family home," the speaker recalled. "Even when one had stayed longer than he should, he was invited to stay even longer," he remarked.

Lloyd Wilson told of Albert Brown's love for his family and how he lived for his grandchildren. "They were first of the line," he said.

Rev. Donald Pugh, former pastor of Altona Missionary Church, described the deceased as "a man of warmth and hospitality."

Prior to taking up residence at R.R. 2, Oakwood, Albert Brown farmed on the 10th Concession of Markham near Mongolia. Although retired, he always kept busy, both at his own place or at the farm of his son-in-law and daughter, a short distance away. He had as many friends in the Oakwood area as at Stouffville. This was apparent by the hundreds who visited the O'Neill Funeral Home both prior to and on the day of the service.

Besides his wife, the former Edna Hare, Mr. Brown is survived by two daughters, Donna Appleton of R.R. 2, Oakwood and Helen Walters of Madoc; a foster

son, Bill Henley of Brantford; one brother, Percy of Minden; three sisters, Bethena Davis, Stouffville, Velma Davis and Verna Muirhead, both of Markham; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Full bearers were Clifford Betz, Jack Mitchell, Leonard Webster, Walter Winn, Lloyd Grove and Ronald Beckett.

Interment was at Stouffville Cemetery.



Top academic students at Claremont Public School

A variety of achievement awards were presented at Claremont Public School's Grade 8 graduation ceremony last Thursday evening. Students receiving top individual honors were (l to r) Tiffany Houston, recipient of the Muriel Gostick Citizenship Award; Sharon

Craig, winner of the Ken Ward Memorial Trophy for All-Round Proficiency; and Sarah Mooney, with her General Academic Proficiency Award.

—Chris Shanahan