

# Markham Council, residents compromise

When residents of the Arnleigh Heights subdivision (near Buttonville) heard that the Town of Markham was planning to expand Hughson Park recently, they were all for it.

That is until they found out that the level of the old section of the park was to be raised four or five feet to accommodate the new.

But after two public meetings and the resolve of the Town not to change its stand, the residents finally settled for a compromise. They will now have significant input on the type of playground the Town will build and have also managed to change the name of the park from Hughson to Arnold.

"We're not totally happy with it, but we have to accept it," said Ed Quesnelle, who acted as spokesman for the Arnleigh group.

Mr. Quesnelle said his group objected to raising the park to the higher level for

several reasons. One was that it was now impossible to look into the park and see who is in it from road level.

"It looks like a reservoir at our end of the park," he said, noting that at the other end where a new subdivision has been constructed, the park is level with the surrounding area.

"It's beautiful at the other end, but I guess we're stuck with what we got," he continued. "You have to walk into the park to see what's there. It looks like they (the Town) are trying to hide something."

Ward 3 Councillor Fred Cox said he is pleased with the new park and thinks it's a great addition to the community.

"From a visual point of view, it's 100 per cent better," said Mr. Cox. "It's been landscaped and treed and it has a new pathway. The Town has received many compliments."

Mr. Cox explained that when a new subdivision north of the Arnleigh residents went in, the developer was told he had to build a park. It was decided at that point to build one park for both communities by adding to the existing one by raising the level of the old park.

That's when the trouble started and the public meetings called. In addition to objections about raising the level of the old park, some residents asked the Town if a ball diamond could be installed. Another resident wanted a horseshoe pit.

"There isn't enough room for a ball diamond and a horseshoe pit just isn't appropriate," said Mr. Cox.

The public meetings were each attended by approximately 100 residents. Mayor Carole Bell estimated that as much as \$13,000 could be saved by joining the two parks. Mrs. Bell suggested the money be used in conjunc-

tion with that of the developer to buy additional playground equipment and the motion was accepted.

The area residents, who will have input as to what type of equipment will be installed, also asked that the name

of the park be changed to Arnold Park. George Arnold, who once owned a farm on the property where the Arnleigh

subdivision now resides, donated the land for the original park.

## Error may cost Town \$2,000

By CHRISTINE KOSERSKI Staff Reporter  
A simple typographical error may have cost the Town of Markham \$2,000.

The error was the typing of the letter 'y' at the end of the word 'eight' which changed a bid of \$8,975 to \$80,975 on a tender for new lights for the Toogood Park tennis courts. The figure was written out in full instead of using numerals.

The tenders for the supply and installation of new lights for the tennis courts were opened July 19. One was from Leslie & Palmer Co. with a

bid of \$10,885; the other from R.E. Wilson Electrical Contractors Inc. was for \$80,975.

Parks and Recreation Director Brian Wigglesworth told Council he had no choice but to recommend the lower bid of \$10,885 even though the other bid was quite obviously meant to be \$8,975, about \$2,000 lower.

"It bothers me that we would spend \$2,000 extra because of a typographical error," said Councillor Dooreen Quirk.

"I feel it's very dangerous, that once we open a tender, to assume what someone has done on a tender," explained

Mr. Wigglesworth. "This is an obvious error, but to keep the tender process honest and above board (we had to accept it)."

Regional Councillor Ron Dancy agreed with Councillor Quirk. "I don't see why we should be spending \$2,000 more," he said.

Councillor Mike Popovich also agreed saying, "This is very obviously an error."

But Regional Councillor Ron Moran said, "How in the world can we accept this at \$8,000 when it says \$80,000, it's the principle of the thing."

When a spokesman for Wilson Electric was contacted,

he acknowledged the mistake and apologized for it, according to Mr. Wigglesworth.

Chief Administrative Officer Joe Pickard said, "These are two legitimate tenders. We can't go back and ask him to drop \$70,000 just because he made a mistake."

A tie vote was broken by Mayor Carole Bell who voted in favor of accepting the Leslie & Palmer Co. tender. Councillors Dancy, Quirk, Elson Miles, and Popovich voted against and Councillors Moran, Bonner, Rayner, and Landon voted in favor of accepting the tender.

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