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VOL. 97, NO. 32 A Metroland Community Newspaper Wednesday, December 19, 1984 32 pages 50 cents

Town faces a problem with sewage

STOUFFVILLE — The former Village of Stouffville is facing a sewage capacity crisis. When the maximum volume is reached, build-up will grind to a halt.

According to Mayor Tom Wood, the only solution is a return to septic tanks. On this score, however, some members of council are wary and so is the Public Health Branch of the Region of York.

Dr. O.S. Slingerland, York Region's Medical Health Officer, said much depends on lot sizes and soil conditions. Heavy clay, like in Stouffville, doesn't accommodate septic tank drainage nearly as well as sand-like in Ballantrae. With respect to use, he said "York Region has more and larger subdivisions on septic tanks than any other area in Ontario."

Reduce build-up plan

STOUFFVILLE — Development of a 42-home subdivision, only a portion of the 104 lots in the original Plan, is expected to proceed next year at the westerly extension of Rupert Avenue in Stouffville.

The proposed build-up has been reduced to less than half its original size due to a lack of sewage capacity.

The applicant is Fairgreen-Southwick Investments Limited.

The majority of single-family homes will front on Rupert Avenue with the remainder located on a cul-de-sac to the north.



Eldred King, (right), former mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville and now chairman of the Region of York, was the guest of honor at a Civic Recognition Banquet, Saturday, in the Ballantrae Community Centre. Mr King was presented with an engraved clock by the Town's present mayor, Tom Wood, along with an engraved gavel and Town crest. —Jim Thomas

Continue pollution search

MUSSELMAN'S LAKE — Dr. John Hodgkinson, York Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health is convinced one property owner is likely responsible for pollution problems at Musselman's Lake. But who is he and where?

"So far, we've drawn a blank," Dr. Hodgkinson said, "but someone has to be getting away with something."

Musselman's he said, is easily polluted because it's relatively shallow. Also, unlike Lake Wilcox, it has a low rate of discharge.

While seagulls frequent the lake in large numbers, Dr. Hodgkinson isn't convinced they're to blame. He points out that the pollution rate increases and decreases at various times. "It's very unpredictable," he said.

Despite officials' lack of success in determining the pollution source, Dr. Hodgkinson isn't giving up.

"It's going to take time, but we'll keep plugging away," he concluded.



Two former employees of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Road Department were honored for long service-Fred Gibson, (left), 17 years and Walter Pattenden, (centre), 31 years. Presentations of long-service pins and Town crests were made by Road Superintendent Ron Gibson. —Jim Thomas

Musselman's Lake No source for pollution

MUSSELMAN'S LAKE — An intensive survey of about 360 properties has failed to identify the major source of pollution at Musselman's Lake.

The Ministry of Environment study says waste build-up from waterfowl, tile beds and septic systems are not the main contaminants.

"The major source of contamination has not been ascertained," Mayor Tom Wood explained when the topic was discussed at the Dec. 11 Council meeting.

A letter to the Town from York Region's associate Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J.R. Hodgkinson dated Dec. 3, states:

"While a significant number of properties were found with septic systems which do not meet modern specifications, the study unfortunately did not find the source of our problems with the lake."

Survey results will be combined with data from two other recent Ministry of Environment studies to form a comprehensive report, he added. It's expected to be available to Council and other concerned groups, including the Churchill Drive Ratepayers' Association, by year's end.

Dr. Hodgkinson suggested the Town, lake residents, the region and other involved government agencies meet in April or May of 1985 to "plan the next stages of our efforts to jointly identify and correct the problems which have plagued Musselman's Lake."

Surface drainage patterns of surrounding land and silt at the lake bottom

Propose 'Watch' program

BALLANTRAE — A canvass will be conducted in the areas of Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake to learn if there's support for a Neighborhood Watch program in the communities.

A 50 per cent response is required to make the program practical, a public meeting at Ballantrae United Church was told, Thursday.

Marian Acton, a chief organizer, said seven people have agreed to conduct a survey and tabulate their findings.

Purpose of Neighborhood Watch is for residents to keep a check on homes when owners are away and call police should they witness anything suspicious.

Mrs Acton described the program as "good community outreach for the church."

Close to 50 people attended Thursday's meeting, she said, and all seemed very interested.

Former mayor guest of honor

STOUFFVILLE — Former Mayor Eldred King, now the Chairman of the Region of York, was 'centre stage' Saturday, when the Town held its annual Civic Recognition Banquet at the Ballantrae Community Centre.

Mr King, described by master of ceremonies Wilf Morley as "a man of wisdom", was the recipient of several gifts including an engraved wall clock, an engraved gavel, a Town crest and his squeaky Town Office chair, complete with a can of 3-in-1 oil. A presentation was also made to Mrs King.

"We were fortunate to have a man of your capabilities as mayor," said Tom Wood, Mr King's successor. Clerk Pat Muir praised the former mayor for his many contributions to the Town.

"I was proud to work with you," she said.

Councillor Morley said the municipality appreciates "what you have done and will continue to do, even though you're up there looking down on us."

Eldred King, in reply, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Town. "I enjoyed every minute of it," he stated.

"Not everyone, Mr King explained, is afforded the same chance that had come his way. "I'll continue to serve my fellow man as long as I can."

Accepting certain responsibilities are sometimes selfish decisions, the former mayor said, even when the end result is service to others.

Mr King described his new position as "enjoyable but very different." He said the decision to move on was made easier by the fact he was satisfied with past accomplishments. He thanked Town employees and members of Council for their co-operation.

The guest of honor was accorded a standing ovation.

Carol Sing

STOUFFVILLE — A community carol sing will be held Friday, (Dec. 21), in the Town Square from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The concert, organized by the Ministerial Association in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce, will include choirs from several local churches.

Throughout the evening, hot chocolate will be served, courtesy Jack Chambers and Stouffville IGA.

Carol sheets will be provided by Marie Adams of the Stouffville Christian Supply Centre. The public is invited.

To erect safety guardrail

STOUFFVILLE — With the co-operation of the Region of York, steel guardrails, and a flashing light will be installed on the 9th Concession as it approaches Musselman's Lake.

The decision, approved Dec. 11, follows a two-vehicle accident there, Dec. 6.

Mayor Tom Wood, at a press meeting, Friday, said the hazard was brought to Council's attention by Councillor-elect Ron Robb of Ward 2. "Let's give credit where credit is due," he stated.

He explained that following the Robb appeal, he'd written a letter to the region's Chief Engineer Bob Hodgson indicating the seriousness of the situation.

While Councillor Robb voiced concern over hazards at two locations, including a right-angle turn on the Cedar Beach side of the Lake, Mayor Wood said only the 9th Concession was dealt with in the resolution.

"Our concern is primarily the Ninth," said Wood. "Since it's a regional road, all we can do is ask."

Mayor Wood said also the entire area around the east side of Musselman's Lake requires attention due to severe erosion. The problem's made all the more difficult, he explained, because much of the property fronting on the water is privately owned. He said none of the agencies, that would ordinarily assist financially in correcting the situation, want anything to do with it.

For service

STOUFFVILLE — Twenty-three employees, several now retired, were honored for long service when the Town held its annual Civic Recognition Banquet, Saturday, at the Ballantrae Community Centre.

Gold pins were presented to: Walter Smith, Ken Wagg, George Wilson, Charles Jackson, Walt Pattenden, Lorrie Shropshire, Al Williams, (25 years); Grant Turner, Jim Renne, (20 years); Ron Gibson, Fred Gibson, Bob MacAloney, Peter Alcorn, (15 years); Pat Muir, Eldred King, Ken Alda, and Margaret Heard, (10 years). Honored also, but not in attendance were: Bill Brown, Bill Dilke, Don Lewis, Ken Roberts and Susan Slack.

Walt Pattenden and Fred Gibson of the Roads and Works Department are now retired. Mr. Pattenden will be years of service and Mr. Gibson, seven years.

Former Mayor Eldred King is now Chairman of the Region of York.



Angels by candlelight
The sanctuary of St. James Presbyterian Church, Stouffville, was filled, Sunday evening for the annual Christmas Candlelight Service involving the Sunday School children under the direction of Joy Johannessen and the senior choir. Shown here are two pretty head angels, Heather Baker, (left), of North Street and Sarah Zeck, Main Street West, both eight. —Jim Thomas