



Goodwood family escapes inferno

Firefighters from Stouffville, Uxbridge and Pickering battled a spectacular house fire in the hamlet of Goodwood early Thursday morning. High winds fuelled the blaze and flames quickly engulfed the Conc. 3 home of Stan and Judy Todd. All members of the Todd family escaped uninjured. Damage to the house was placed at \$80,000 not including contents. Stouffville Fire Chief

Walt Smith said he believes the fire originated from a wood stove in the family room of the Uxbridge Township residence. The alarm was sounded shortly after 1:15 a.m. Assistance for the Todds has begun pouring in from friends, neighbors and members of the Goodwood Lions Club.

— Chris Shanahan



First big step for Uxbridge plan

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

The developer of a subdivision that could boost Uxbridge's population by about 1,500 people wants to begin work on a 110-lot first phase this fall.

Members of the township's planning and development com-

mittee gave near-unanimous support to the Seaton Group proposal following a presentation Thursday afternoon.

"I'm really, really pleased and excited, and hope that we can see something get going in the near future," Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor said of the planned

Quaker Village Community, located north of Brock Street and east of Conc. 6, (adjacent to the Arena property).

"This is a long time coming," she added, claiming there's "a great need for housing" within the community.

Previous owners of the subject

land tried but failed to develop on three separate occasions dating back to the early 1970s.

Landscape architect John Davies, a Unionville resident who operates Willowdale-based John E. Davies and Associates Inc., used a selection of charts and slides to present the project.

At the heart of the development would be a 25-acre public park, he explained, a portion of which would be a Heritage Village component allocated for museum uses.

The balance of the park would include a botanical garden, jogging and fitness trails, tennis courts, playgrounds and landscaped areas for passive recreation, according to Mr. Davies.

Seaton is intending to include in the development a 4.5-acre primary school site and a 1.5-acre parcel designated for a municipal office (at the corner of Brock Street and Heritage Parkway).

Mayor O'Connor termed the overall concept "excellent" and said she's confident any planning difficulties can be worked out in conjunction with the Township's engineers.

Houses in the initial phase are to be situated along the eastern property boundary, abutting Centre Street. The single-family residential units, on minimum 55-foot lots, would range in price from \$90,000 to \$120,000.

Committee members carried Mayor O'Connor's motion to support the project in principle subject to comments from Planner

Alex Grant and municipal engineers.

But not before Ward 2 Councillor Francis Hockley voiced reservations about the suggested relocation of the Quaker Hill Museum, now on Conc. 6.

"To move the museum some place else kind of bothers me," he said of the plan to base the facility in the Heritage Village along with other historical dwellings. Councillor Hockley said he's worried about the compatibility of the museum within a recreational, park setting.

Mr. Davies stressed that it's all just a concept at this stage and his client would be willing to consider alternatives. Company representatives have already met with museum board members to discuss the matter.

"The Township of Uxbridge will realize significant growth in the coming year, growth potential that has existed for some time," according to written text describing the proposal. "This potential can now be realized as social, economic and political factors have created a positive climate for development."

The developer anticipates the construction of 100 units of multi-family residential housing in a later stage of Quaker Village, the meeting was told.

The Seaton Group, operator of Uxbridge's Foxbridge Golf Club, purchased the Quaker Village land on Feb. 20 and has since secured project funding of more than \$3 million.

Despite cost cutting effort, RC board deficit \$1 million

By GREG COATES
Staff Reporter

Despite tough budgeting and a concerted effort to reduce its deficit, York Region's separate school board remains almost \$1 million in the hole.

John Zupancic, director of education, said it was hoped the

board would have its deficit eliminated by 1986, but an error in calculating government grants in transportation has pushed the deficit close to the \$1 million mark.

"I thought we were going to be out (of debt), but transportation has thrown us back in," said Mr. Zupancic.

In 1982, the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board's deficit was \$1.3 million, but cut-backs and heavier teacher workloads reduced it to \$527,058 by 1984. Recently released unaudited figures show the board's deficit currently sits at \$923,072.

The result is an expected tough budget for 1986. John Sabo, superintendent of business and finance, said the budget is still in the draft stages, but is starting to take shape.

"We're at the point where we've established everyone's wants and needs," he said. "It's going to be an extremely tough budget. We're fighting to reduce and eliminate the deficit, yet not jeopardize the educational services provided by the board."

Current expenditures for 1986 are listed at \$80.7 million, up about \$18 million from last year.

However, on Monday trustees instructed administration to review the draft budget and identify areas that could be cut to reduce expenditures by \$4.5 million. Mr. Sabo predicted the board could probably handle a budget in the \$76-77 million range.

Markham Trustee Terry Ryan noted the largest increases are in the regular day school budget (up \$7 million) and special education (up \$1.5 million).

"There will definitely have to be some trimming," said Trustee Ryan, adding that separate school supporters can expect a mill rate increase. "We hope to keep it down around the inflationary level."

The York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board is one of the fastest growing school boards in North America.

Ed and Claudette



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