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Trustee urges lot fee charge to offset new school expense

STOUFFVILLE — Harry Bowes, Board of Education member for Whitchurch-Stouffville, claims a lot fee charge on properties in new residential subdivisions would go a long way towards financing new school accommodation.

The former trustee chairman took his proposal all the way to Queen's Park Thursday in a meeting with Education Minister Sean Conway and Ontario Treasurer Robert Nixon.

The hour-long discussion was arranged by York Regional Chairman Eldred King assisted by York North MPP Greg Sorbara. Others in attendance included the heads of York Region's two school boards, Celeste Pellecione and Charles Cooper; board directors Robert Cressman and

John Zupancic; Mayor Carole Bell of Markham and Mayor Al Duffy of Richmond Hill.

It's Bowes' contention that residents now living in Whitchurch-Stouffville and other municipalities, should not be burdened by costs associated with new school sites and buildings. A lot fee arrangement, he says, would require those people to pay (indirectly) for a service they themselves make necessary.

At present, the Planning Act doesn't permit this, Bowes said.

The local trustee pointed to the fact present home-owners aren't saddled with the expense of new municipal services associated with immigration into a community. He sees new schools as being no different.

He estimates that, in 1987, public school residents will pay approximately \$155 to subsidize education facilities for new residents coming into the area.

He said both Mr. Conway and Mr. Nixon gave his presentation close attention.

He suggested, however, that his lot fee proposal could meet with opposition at the municipal government level.

He praised the support received from both Mr. King and Mrs. Bell.

Further to his lot fee recommendation, Mr. Bowes claims Boards of Education should be able to withhold approval of subdivisions if they feel school accommodation isn't adequate. On one occasion this was done, he said, "and we heard back from the Region and the Ministry in no uncertain terms."

"In considering a plan of subdivision, regard should be had for the health, safety, convenience and welfare of the present and future inhabitants of the local community," Bowes stressed.

He also suggested School Boards should have a say as to whether a particular subdivision is premature or in the public interest.

Mr. Bowes concluded his presentation with two major points, both of which, he said, had been approved by his Board:

(1). That the Planning Act should extend the privilege to the

Board of Education as well as to the Municipality to enter into agreements imposed as a condition of plan of subdivision approval.

(2). That the Planning Act should be amended to enable the Board of Education to recommend the withholding of subdivision plan approvals until such

time as school accommodation can be made available.

Mr. Bowes said Charles Cooper, Chairman of the Public School Board, urged the Ministry consider longer terms of planning so future needs can be better met. He also requested 100 per cent funding of all portable classroom accommodation.

Mr. Sorbara expressed satisfaction with the result: "I'm delighted when we can assemble all the key players around one table. I believe we have to join together in an effort to manage the phenomenal growth in needed school accommodation. This sort of co-operation will generate solutions far faster than the path of mutual buck-passing," he concluded.

Windfall

Jim and Bonnie Bishop, Main Street, Stouffville, could soon become instant millionaires. They are one of 50 finalists in the Match 3 Sweeps sponsored by Ontario Lottery Corporation.

Mr. Bishop purchased his ticket at the 1000 Variety in the A&P Plaza.

The least they could win is \$10,000, a Lottery Corporation official told The Tribune. Other prize levels are \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000.

"There's no way they can lose," the caller said.

Mr. Bishop is an employee on the staff of Dafco Flooring Company, Maple. The couple has a seven-month-old son.

Whatever the amount of their windfall, they plan to deposit the money in the bank. The Tribune was told.



P.C. woes blamed on 'liberal' media

YORK-PEEL — The current woes of the federal Progressive Conservative Party that finds them trailing both the Liberals and the N.D.P. in the Gallop Poll have been blamed on a 'liberal' press gallery at Ottawa.

John Crosbie, the Government's Minister of Transport, levelled this charge as guest speaker at the annual meeting of the York-Peel Progressive Conservative Association in Aurora, Thursday.

Both he and Sinclair Stevens, the Riding MP, assured the audience the Party would 'bounce back' in the two years remaining before the next election.

Crosbie blasted the press coverage out of Ottawa claiming there are not two but three opposition groups, the Liberals, the N.D.P. and the media.

"Bear in mind," said Crosbie, "everything our government does is represented by one or all of these groups in a negative light."

His briefcase bulging with statistics, the Transport Minister pointed to a buoyant economy and job creation as an example of what the Progressive Conservatives have accomplished. He said 675,000 jobs had been created since the Tories took power, 62,000 of these in the Toronto area alone. Unemployment, he said, had dropped by 211,000 over the same period.

"But the opposition doesn't want to bother you with this information," he chided.

Crosbie said the people of Canada will look at the facts, two years hence, and return a P.C. majority to the House.

"Don't count us out yet," he stated.

Mr. Stevens said people are very volatile in their views these days. "You should not, under any

circumstances, be too concerned by polls."

Stevens claimed as 'unfortunate' some so-called conflicts of interest had been 'blown up so much' in the papers.

"But when there's so little foundation behind all this, I'm confident the general public will see through it eventually," he concluded.



Gormley blaze Heavy damage

GORMLEY — Damage has been estimated at \$50,000 after Saturday's Go-Camping trailer site east of Woodbine Avenue, R.R. 1, Gormley.

Two mobile homes were destroyed and a third was badly scorched. The rear of a nearby Texaco Station was also damaged.

"I was sure the garage was gone," said Bill Brown, and later, Stouffville firefighters, aided by a number of volunteers from Richmond Hill, kept the flames from spreading.

The Richmond Hill brigade was in the area, Gormley explained. Units immediately responded to its request for assistance. "All the boys down the job," he said.

Exploding propane tanks made the job difficult, the fire extremely hazardous. "Our guys were trucking for White Gator," Brown said.

The two burned trailers were being used as temporary offices until something more permanent was erected.

The blaze was reported at 9:43 p.m. Firefighters cleared the site until 2 a.m. The fire marshal's Office is conducting an investigation to determine the cause.

Young athletes win top medals

STOUFFVILLE — Two young Whitchurch-Stouffville athletes have again brought honor to themselves and to the Town.

Tracey Garbutt, 17, of Manitoba Street, Stouffville, was a participant last weekend in the Ontario Special Olympics Winter Games at Kapuskasing.

Keith Brettell, 15, of Rosedale Court, Ballantrae, took part in The Windsor Indoor Classic for the Physically Disabled at Windsor.

Tracey won a bronze medal in Division 2 of Ladies Cross-Country Skiing. She's also been invited to attend the Ontario Sports Award Banquet, April 10, at the Sheraton Hotel, Toronto.

Keith won two gold medals in five swim meets entered. He placed first in the 800 meters, (Jr.), and first in the 25 meter butterfly, (Jr.). In the 500 meter freestyle, (Jr.), he captured a silver.

In senior competition, he placed second in 3,000 meters and fourth in 1,500 meters.

It was Keith's personal best in

each of these classes. His time in the butterfly was three seconds faster than a mark set at Calgary.

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