

# Weekender

VOL. 3 NO. 20

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Saturday, May 16, 1987

64 pages

25 cents



## It's apple blossom time

Mary Hill of Markham takes time to smell the apple blossoms along with a friend's huskie, Kayla, at Applewood Farm in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The farm is 10.5 kilometres north of Hwy. 7 and features pick-your-own strawberries

and apples in season. Weather forecasts for the long weekend seem favorable for plenty of other favorite outdoor activities.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

## Policy sparks debate

By DENISE McDONALD

A new policy eliminating sidewalks on dead end streets and non arterial roads in Whitchurch-Stouffville has created yet another dilemma for members of Town Council.

On April 27, contrary to residents' wishes, council voted in favor of putting in sidewalks on Beryl Ave., Percy Lane and Sunset Blvd., in accordance with a subdivision agreement between Victoria Woods development and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Now, two weeks later, residents both for and against the installation of street walkways appeared before Council after learning walks would not be put in on Ironwood Cres.

"One of the reasons many people purchased their homes here in Town is because sidewalks were planned for the street," Doug Benedict of 14 Ironwood Crescent said at Tuesday night's council meeting. "Although I purchased my home as a resale, I did consult the sales office and was told 'yes' sidewalks were part of the project and that the builder pays for them as part of the development."

R. W. Boudreau, 10 Ironwood Cres., also claimed he was informed in March, 1986, that sidewalks would still be installed.

"The major reason I moved from my past home was the lack of sidewalks," he said in a letter addressed to council members. "One of the children on my present street is handicapped. It's particularly unsafe for her to play on the streets."

According to Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders, the Town's policy to eliminate sidewalks on stub roads was to help create a more park-like setting. However, he feels this is not being communicated quickly enough to prospective buyers.

"We can't look into the future and say by having sidewalks, accidents will be prevented," Mr. Sanders said. "We had to make a decision one way or the other, and we chose the one we felt was best."

Reid Patterson of 128 Ironwood Cres., speaking on behalf of residents opposed to sidewalk installation, agreed.

"I admit everyone's major concern is child safety," Mr. Patterson said. "But after talking to all my neighbors, everyone agreed most children will play in the streets anyway. Ninety per cent of speeders on our street are construction workers who want to get on and off the job as fast as possible. Any other drivers are residents who know kids are playing on the streets and are particularly cautious knowing it could be their child. I myself never rush to get home."

"When I went around talking to people, I went into a garage and saw \$200 of road hockey equipment," the homeowner continued. "My first thought was this is going to be a good, safe residential community where parents aren't afraid someone is going to come racing up the street."

He is concerned sidewalks would limit driveway space and force many residents to park in the street, thereby increasing the danger of children running out between parked cars.

Councillor Ron Robb said: "I raised my own kids without sidewalks and fortunately none were hurt. But no matter how good drivers' intentions are, there's always one bad apple in the bunch. I've seen some pretty close calls involving residents almost hitting a child. If I could have sidewalks on my street today, I would feel a lot safer."

Explained Mayor Fran Sainsbury: "When residents from Aspen Cres. came in saying they didn't want sidewalks, we decided to take cash-in-lieu for these streets, rather than do them one at a time. My concern was the number of streets in town requiring maintenance."

## Hospital tenders opened

By MAXINE SHARE

We're one giant step closer to having our hospital. Markham-Stouffville Hospital, president Michael Butcher opened sealed tenders vying for the project's construction contract Thursday.

The low bid came from Ellis Don Limited at \$42,301,000. Hospital board chairman Mac Cosburn said all the bids (the highest came from V. K. Mason Construction Limited at \$44,670,000) were lower than anticipated. Cosburn said estimates were approximately \$45 million.

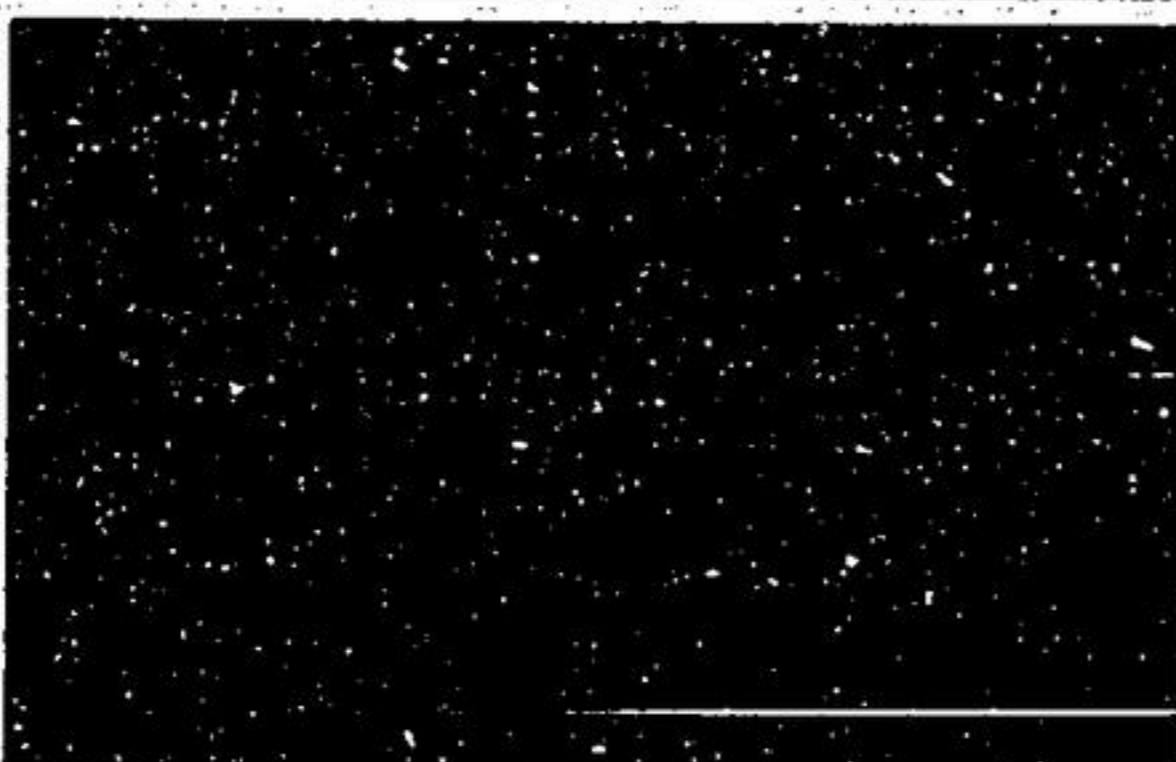
But project manager Michael Barstow cautioned there are several steps before the contract

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