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Mayor up in arms

Town's growth plans on hold

By DON BERNARD
Foot dragging by York Region officials is gradually choking off growth in Stouffville, Mayor Fran Sainsbury charged last week.
And she's mystified to know why a decision can't be made on the Town's request to hook into the York-Durham sewer line (known as the Big Pipe).
Her frustration boiled to the surface at last Thursday's

regional council meeting when she tangled with Markham Mayor Carole Bell on the issue of setting a meeting date to resolve the issue.

In an interview on Friday, Mayor Sainsbury said that the issue is clear:

The Stouffville sewage treatment plant is close to reaching its capacity.

Stouffville can't expand its sewage treatment plant because

the provincial Ministry of Environment has said the creek flowing through town can't take any more effluent (treated water coming out of a sewage plant).

Because growth has been slower than expected in Durham Region, that area has some excess capacity to allocate to Stouffville if it's needed to protect the environment.

Stouffville should be allowed to hook into the Big Pipe as soon as possible.

However, Regional Chairman Eldred King says that it's not a simple matter of hooking Stouffville into the Big Pipe. The former Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor said that the servicing needs of the Region must be looked at as a whole.

He denies that Stouffville's needs have been ignored because "it's not a simple question or a request that can be responded to quickly."

He added that long range planning considerations must be examined and a region-wide plan of action developed.

"It's not just a simple matter of hooking up a pipe," Mr. King said.

He admitted that things have not moved quickly on the Town's request and that an engineering department report has noted that the best way to add sewage capacity here is to hook into the Big Pipe.

For Mayor Sainsbury, the frustration has been growing since an April meeting of the Region's engineering committee when the staff report was slated to come before the committee.

Just as Mayor Sainsbury, who is not a member of the committee, was to speak on the issue Richmond Hill Mayor Al Duffy moved the matter be deferred to the June meeting. Then at the June meeting it was postponed again until September because Mr. King was away.

Last week Regional Council decided not to set a date for dealing with the Whitchurch-Stouffville situation pending a meeting Sept. 22 to consider growth projections for all four of York's rural municipalities.

With a municipal election coming up in November, "we're going to waste another year," until a decision is made, Mayor Sainsbury insists.

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Lawnie Wallace stands in front of the Dufferin Gate at the CNE. This Ballantrae girl took top honors in a vocal competition held at the CNE Gate at the CNE. This Ballantrae girl took top honors over the weekend. — Jim Thomas

Lawnie Wallace wows judges at the CNE

Budding country singer Lawnie Wallace has done it again.

The 11-year-old Ballantrae girl won the 12 and under singing competition at the CNE over the weekend in grand style. She sang Sweet Dreams and Blue Moon of Kentucky to take the top award and prize money of \$200.

After preliminaries Friday and Saturday, Lawnie was one of five selected as finalists Sunday evening at the grand shell.

According to Lawnie's mother Kathy, the CNE win was a real feather in her daughter's cap because the competition was stiff.

The win follows victories in the provincial and national 12

and under competitions earlier this summer. "There's always stiff competition," says her mother. "She likes doing it — it's fun."

Lawnie's first big concert came at the age of seven when she joined other country singers in a benefit concert for tornado victims in Barrie, Ontario.

The youthful singer now has a manager and is lined up to appear on a television show at CKVR in Barrie this September. She's just auditioned for Star Search and expects to appear on Hee Haw and the Tommy Hunter Show later this year.

Lawnie is just entering Grade 6 at Ballantrae Public School.

Her 13-year-old brother Jason also entered the CNE competition in the 18 and under category but did not make the finals.

Earlier this year he won the provincial competition for best male vocalist in the 12 and under category (he has since turned 13 and must enter the higher level).

They come by their talent and interest in country music honestly. Their father, William, is a country singer and songwriter.

"They just go (to compete) for the fun of it," Mrs. Wallace said.

Both youngsters also do modelling.

Burned corpse still a mystery

The identity of a badly burned corpse found Aug. 11 just east of the York-Durham town line is still unknown.

The body was found along the side of a gravel road, near the intersection of Sideline 34 and the Eighth Concession in Pickering.

Police believe the body was 22-year-old bakery worker Pritam Singh Chohan of North York.

But Durham Regional Police said Tuesday that the body was too charred to make a quick identification. Dental records are still being investigated.

Low cost homes unlikely in town

Despite a recent provincial government policy statement, Stouffville won't likely see more low cost housing until the problem of sewage capacity is solved, according to Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

Last week, Ontario's Housing Minister Chaviya Hosek announced that 25 per cent of homes in new subdivisions must be geared toward medium and low-income people.

In an interview Friday, Mayor Sainsbury said that she favors a mix of housing including rental units but that little can be done in Stouffville until the town finds increased sewage capacity.

She noted that such housing would have to be built in the urban area of Stouffville and be fully serviced by sewer and water. Putting lower income units in

rural estate subdivisions is not feasible because of the high cost of land, she said.

Although there is a policy statement, clarification is needed from the Ministry of Housing on how it may be applied in Whitchurch-Stouffville, the mayor said.

In an interview, Regional Chairman Eldred King — a former mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville — said that affordable housing could be developed in various ways in York Region.

There could more co-op or government subsidized rental units as well as lower cost houses for purchase. He noted that the full impact of the policy statement won't be known until subdivisions are forwarded to the ministry for approval.

Race in Ward 3

Second candidate declares

A second candidate has entered the race for Whitchurch-Stouffville's Ward 3.

Johan Aaltink, a maintenance manager with Pitt Steel in Markham, announced his candidacy over the weekend. He's a 13-year resident of the Preston Lake area.

The other declared candidate is Nick Tatone.

Mr. Aaltink, 43, feels that the northwest portion of Whitchurch-Stouffville has been neglected in recent years.

His priorities include pushing for public acquisition of North Rd. at Preston Lake — an issue he sees as very important to Ward 3 residents.

He feels that area residents should be properly protected by buffer zones or road rerouting if large industrial development is allowed in the Gormley area. He favors a phased development.

"It is a good idea to have industry all in one area and that area is readily available to transportation which is important for industry," he said in an interview. "I am worried about the people who live there, and something must be done to help them live with the development."

Rather than an indoor swimming pool, Whitchurch-Stouffville needs to maintain and upgrade its existing facilities. He noted that ball diamonds in many rural areas don't have benches and need extensive grading.

He feels it's unfair for people in the northwest part of the Town to pay for an indoor swimming pool in Stouffville — a facility most of them won't even use.

A new pool in Stouffville should be paid for by voluntary donations and corporate sponsors "with perhaps matching donations by the Town," Mr. Aaltink said.

And, rather than building a new Town Hall near Stouffville, he feels that the current building should be expanded and more parking opened up to the south.

"There is at least 10 more years of life in that building, if expanded," Mr. Aaltink said. "People identify with the clock tower and for a town of under 20,000 people we don't need to be out in the middle of nowhere."

Rather than hook into the Big Pipe, he feels alternate means



JOHAN AALTINK

Wants Ward 3 seat

should be found of improving Town's current sewage treatment plant.

Sensitive environmental areas, such as those at Woodbine Ave. and Bloomington Rd., should be protected.

"We are at the headwaters of many streams, and we should be sensitive to the environmental increased development can bring," Mr. Aaltink said.

He sees Whitchurch-Stouffville as a medium-sized town with hamlets, fields and industry confined to specific areas. The lack of sewage treatment capacity will limit growth and maintain the rural nature of the community, he says.

Mr. Aaltink has worked for Pitt Steel for the past 13 years overseeing, designing and updating maintenance at the firm's two plants. He has made a point of regularly attending council meetings during the past 18 months.

Mr. Aaltink's wife's name is Jan and they have four children: Trina, 14; Marijke, 11; Brooke, 9; and Rachael, 4.



Working up a head of steam

Stouffville gears up for Terry Fox Run

Stouffville area residents should dust off their sneakers for the annual Terry Fox Run coming up on Sunday, Sept. 18.

Run organizer Dixie Sellers says that pledge sheets are available at The Tribune office, the library, Scotia Bank and Canadian Tire branches in Stouffville. They will also be distributed in the schools during the first weeks of the school year.

This year's 10k route is the same as last year and participants are invited to run, jog, walk or ride their bikes. Even those not wishing to solicit pledges can take part for a \$5 entry fee.

Last year \$6,999 was raised by 88 participants. Orchard Park Public School was the top school in the event. Starting point is Latcham Hall and the time is 1-5 p.m.