

Mayor praises Rotary Club at recent meeting

By KATE GILDERDALE
Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury was the guest speaker when the Rotary Club met recently at The Blue Orchid Restaurant, Main Street West.

Mayor Sainsbury, on behalf of the Town, thanked Rotary for the excellent work members do "in improving the quality of community life and assisting others less fortunate than ourselves."

In turn, she said, members of Council do their best to serve the public's best interests also.

Mrs. Sainsbury covered all areas of Council participation including recreation.

She pointed to recent improvements that have been completed in local parks, the swimming pool, tennis courts and at Lat-cham Hall.

With respect to Stouffville's downtown, Mayor Sainsbury said the municipality had received a \$280,000 PRIDE improvement grant.

The additional cost, she said, would amount to \$33 per household over a four-year period. Lot levies were also used, she explained.

She hopes the project will be completed this summer.

Although the plan calls for Victorian design, Mrs. Sainsbury admitted all store-owners hadn't followed this guideline.

"We don't have architectural control under the building code," she said.

She praised owners of such establishments as The Blue Orchid and The Earl of Whitchurch for meeting the design criteria.

"Many have co-operated; some have not," she said.

Road work will continue to be a

high priority, Mayor Sainsbury said. Regional roads, she noted, do not come under Council jurisdiction.

Mrs. Sainsbury touched on the Town's recently implemented recycling program.

"It's not without problems," she said, "but it's in place. We hope to improve the service."

Through recycling, the cost of garbage disposal should be reduced, she stated.

Mayor Sainsbury had praise for the Whitchurch-Stouffville volunteer fire department.

She described it as "one of the finest in Canada."

The Mayor referred to Whitchurch-Stouffville as "one of the have-not municipalities" within the Region of York. "But they (the Region) are finally beginning to look at our needs," she stated.

Mayor Sainsbury slapped the wrists of Queen's Park, saying, they expect a municipality like Whitchurch-Stouffville, with limited resources, to "do too much, too fast."

"It's fine to ask Markham to do this and fix that. They have the money in the bank," she said.

She noted that Whitchurch-Stouffville shouldn't be expected to follow the same program timetables in the way larger towns like Mississauga or Vaughan are.

Because the Town lacks full-time lawyers and engineers, unlike its larger counterparts, a lot of work must be sent out and this results in delays, making it difficult to meet deadlines, Mayor Sainsbury added.

And the affordable housing issue can't be solved until the

question of sewage capacity is addressed, the mayor noted.

Stoplights on Main Street, particularly in the area of Summitview School, are a top priority, she said.

The municipal office is overcrowded, but will be alleviated with the acquisition of a real estate office from Westfield Estates, Mrs. Sainsbury added. The office has been relocated in the Town Park.

"The Planning Department will be accommodated there," she explained.

Council meetings, she said, are always open to the public although the seating capacity is limited.

Mayor Sainsbury pointed with pride to the three Conservation Areas in Town, plus seven kettle lakes, 700 acres of regional forest and 100 acres of park land.

She estimated the number of bona fide farms at 50, plus many hobby farms.

Concluded the mayor: "The Rotary Club is to be commended for the excellent job it does — caring, sharing and going that extra mile for others. This makes Whitchurch-Stouffville a special place in which to live. Volunteers, have made us what we are today."

Free skating

One more afternoon of free skating at the Town Rec Centre is being offered during March Break school holidays by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Newcomers' Club.

A free skate was held last Friday, and the other is being held Monday, March 27 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Durham told to pay firms

DURHAM REGION — Back in the early 1980s, the firms of First City Development Corp. Ltd., and Tamay Realty Co. Ltd., had big plans for a 600-acre property in Brooklin.

They proposed to build an 8,000-unit residential development there.

To help pay the \$8 million cost of extending municipal water and sewers to the site, the firms offered a letter of credit amounting to \$2.1 million. With interest, the figure has since escalated to \$3.1 million.

The project subsequently failed and the land reverted to

a former owner through foreclosure.

The region cashed the letter. Now, an Ontario Court of Appeal has ordered in favor of the development companies. The region must pay the money back.

Chairman Gary Herrema said the judgment indicates that requesting money "up front" for water and sewer services is illegal.

"We had no right to demand a letter of credit even though they volunteered it," Mr. Herrema said. "It may change the way a lot of development is going in Durham."

The chairman said the region may have to ask for new legislation that allows up-front funding. He explained that obtaining such funds in advance helps protect residents against having to pay for servicing costs if a proposed development falls through.

While disappointed with the decision, Mr. Herrema said the region can pay the amount ordered since the money received when the letter was cashed was never used and remains in a reserve fund.

The legal fees, that Durham must also pay, are estimated at \$500,000.

Annual Festival may get musical accompaniment

Strawberry Festival committee members welcomed two unexpected visitors to their monthly meeting at the recreation centre last week.

Steve Thomson of Backstage Productions, which handles bookings for Ronnie Hawkins, and Roger Farrell of the Deer Park Inn, where Hawkins is currently appearing, asked the committee to consider tying in Stouffville's biggest community event with an outdoor music festival they hope to run at the facility over the Canada Day weekend.

Thomson suggested running a musical talent search prior to the event, with winners appearing onstage at the Deer Park Inn during the July 1 weekend.

Committee Vice-Chairman Jim

Kidd gave him a brief overview of plans for the Strawberry Festival, pointing out that it was a community celebration. "We haven't the money or the people to make this a big event," he said.

Committee members felt the proposed link-up could provide benefits for the Strawberry Festival, by attracting people from out of town through the extra publicity generated for the music event.

Festival events confirmed at the meeting included the sponsorship of the Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville Pageant by Bunny's Flowers, a karate exhibition which will take place on the Saturday in the park, and the baby contest, to be sponsored by the Canadian Progress Club.

Secretary Pat Ratcliffe noted that Family Trust will sponsor the big wheel contest, the Lionesses will run the bike decoration competition and the Block Parents have confirmed they will organize the pie-eating contest.

It was agreed there should be signs to direct traffic on the Saturday, between noon and 4 p.m., when Main Street will be closed to vehicles.

Committee chairman Gary Fisher emphasized that volunteers are urgently needed to help with various events.

Those interested are asked to call him at 640-2466 during working hours or at his home number, 640-5441. The next meeting of the committee takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11.

Auto shop expands to Stouffville

By BRUCE STAPLEY

An ex-Stouffvillite and a Markham businessman have combined to open up Stouffville's first shop devoted strictly to exhaust system, radiators, and gas tanks.

Pronto Auto set up for business last November in the new industrial plaza on Sandford Drive in Stouffville's west end. And so far business has been steady.

"I've been real happy with the reception we've had so far," says shop manager and co-owner Ken Paterson of Markham. "People are finding us. And of course, our biggest form of advertising is the guy who just left. Treat him well, and he'll tell others about you."

Paterson, 23, worked as an employee for his partner, Ron Grills, in a Pronto outlet in Markham, before opening up in Stouffville. Grills continues to operate the Markham branch.

The two felt it would be advantageous to put the new shop in Stouffville, due to recent growth, as well as to the fact they would be able to draw customers from Stouffville who were previously patronizing the Markham outlet.

"We felt Stouffville was a growing town, and a friendly community. And it's close to our Markham store," says Paterson.

Paterson says the shop is offering same-day service, and has all the necessary equipment to handle any type of job. "Everything is done on the spot. We have a pipe bender so we can make pipes that we don't have in stock for exhaust systems. This helps us keep our inventory down, which means we can pass the savings on to our customers."

At the present time, Paterson is the shop's only technician. His wife Mandy comes in to look after the office work, and his father is available for deliveries or for driving customers home. There will be another shop employee coming on board within the month, says Paterson.

The shop comprises 3,300 square feet.

He claims that the present day emission requirements have resulted in a big after-market parts business, and that he is able to offer his customers competitive pricing. "We have been able to get some of these after market parts for as low as half price of what some of the others are charging."

And the original exhaust systems on cars today don't last as long as they once did. Systems that used to last four to five years sometimes last only one to two years today."

Paterson says Pronto offers a thorough warranty program to back up their service. "We are giving a lifetime warranty on mufflers and gas tanks."

As for the future, Paterson says the shop will soon offer truck accessories such as box liners, running boards, and roll bars.



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