

S1U

# Stouffer St. residents at odds in pigeon proposal

**DENISE MCDONALD**  
Correspondent

A local resident came up against stiff opposition from neighbors Tuesday night over his bid to continue housing up to 60 racing pigeons on his Stouffer St. property.

Residents voiced their concerns about the issue at a public meeting held to consider Town Planner Michael Saunders' recommendation that the town consider a temporary zoning bylaw which would allow Adolfo Bianchi to raise the birds.

Council will vote on the fate of the Mr. Bianchi's aviary in future.

Although the pigeons are currently housed in a loft in the centre of his backyard, Mr. Bianchi has requested he be allowed to continue using the aviary either on a permanent basis or for a two-year trial period.

Solicitor Gord Ness pointed out Mr. Bianchi was unaware of any prohibitive bylaws before he moved the pigeons onto his property.

"When the aviary went up two years ago, I understood they were building a tool shed," said neighbor Eleanor Ward. "It went up in two days and then all of a sudden there were pigeons in it. It just seems strange we're even here today when right in the beginning the bylaw said he wasn't to have these birds."

Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb added that Mr. Bianchi should have known aviaries were not permitted within town limits.

"I'd just like to point out he previously lived in Ballantrae and had an aviary at the rear of that property," he said. "Ob-

viously it didn't disturb the neighbors because it was far enough away from their homes. The thing I see here is these people have smaller lots and they have a right to enjoy them."

Councillor Robb pointed out he had nothing against pigeons but felt "all people have rights and this is a built-up area."

John Campbell, Glengall Lane, agreed:

"I have a great concern with this. For one thing, the property values would not be positive. I'm particularly concerned with the amount of noise they will make."

Mrs. Ward added that "having a couple of birds cooing in your feeder is quite different than 60 birds wanting their morning meal."

Vanzant Court resident Bruce Gribbon said he hadn't noticed the birds until he received notice of the public meeting. However, he said he now notices more droppings and cooing in the mornings.

"Could you imagine having a barbecue in your backyard with 60 pigeons next door? I can't believe we're even here," he said.

However, a supporter of Mr. Bianchi's aviary said there has never been a problem associated with the birds. Blanche Harper, appearing on behalf of her daughter, whose property abuts the Bianchi's, said the birds are "a delight to watch."

"You never even know they're there unless they're being exercised," she said. "Even then you don't notice unless you're looking for them, which we frequently do."

She stressed the pigeons never fly unless supervised, don't smell

and aren't noisy.

Mr. Ness also pointed out Mr. Bianchi had checked with neighbors before raising his loft and found no objections. He said the building was "neat as a pin" and added that if any pigeon developed a habit of landing elsewhere, the bird would be destroyed.

Mr. Saunders had recommended the number of birds be limited to 30 on a two-year trial basis.

It is aimed at providing time for the town to consider the hobby's impact on the neighborhood and allow them to make any adjustments to the zoning, including prohibiting the aviary.

"There are always going to be people who object," said Mr. Ness. "But it's your decision whether residents are going to be allowed to use their property in a manner in which they enjoy."

Concluded Councillor Robb: "Since I've been on Council we've had a lot of meetings on this particular subject; where does it stop?"

## No decision yet

# Pub owner still pushing for patio

Earl of Whitchurch owner Graham Hoad may be closer to seeing approval for his outdoor patio, if he agrees to drop the seating capacity to a maximum of 40 people.

"My original application for 100 seats was a figure picked out by the liquor inspector because that is the space I have available," he told members of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Planning Advisory Committee last Tuesday night. "That number can be dropped considerably because I don't need that amount of seating."

According to a report submitted during an earlier meeting, Mr. Hoad's original request would have necessitated a parking exemption of 20 spaces. However, the reduced seating number would only require eight.

He said current parking "is very adequate" and noted that the GO Transit parking lot and office building at the rear is not heavily used during hours the patio would be in operation.

However, Chief Building Official Bruce Arrowsmith stated in a report that because the office

building has not yet been occupied, its effect on parking in the area could not be properly assessed.

"We also have a lot of people that will walk to the pub," countered Mr. Hoad. "Everyone that comes to our establishment does not necessarily bring a car."

He also said it's unlikely that both the outdoor patio and inside restaurant would both be filled to capacity.

Said Ward 3 Councillor Nick Tatone: "I was the guy who sat

back the last time this was brought to our attention. All I'm trying to do is come up with a solution where no one else will complain and everyone will be happy. I'm just trying to avoid complaints later on."

Although taking cash in lieu of \$1,000 per spot was suggested as an alternative at the previous meeting, Mayor Fran Sainsbury pointed out they would then be creating an \$8,000 problem.

Members agreed to receive the new information with a decision to be made at a later date.



### Brushing up

Walter Kruger, 60, applies the finishing touches with a brush in hand, along Main St. last week. He was one of the town's decorative lamp standards hired to paint all the posts on Main St. grey as part of the town's beautification program.

# Population limits stall housing bid

**DENISE MCDONALD**  
Correspondent

A Whitchurch-Stouffville's native's application for a property zoning bylaw amendment could be stymied by a Musselman's Lake population limit and the question of communal water servicing.

According to a report submitted before the Planning Advisory Committee during last Tuesday's meeting, Thomas Montgomery has requested a severance at his mother's Concession 8 property which would allow him to build his own home after his armed forces retirement takes effect.

However, because a population ceiling of 1,000 for the hamlet of Musselman's Lake has already been surpassed by 200 people, Town Planner Michael Saunders reports additional residential development, other than on lots of record, cannot be accommodated at this time.

He did point out this restriction could be modified in the future, if a piped water system was provided in the hamlet.

"I assume you want us to hook up to this proposed future servicing," said Mr. Montgomery. "I wasn't aware of this in this area."

He stressed such a requirement wouldn't be a problem. "I'm not a man of a great amount of money, but this (building his own home) is what I want to put it into."

And should the town grant his application, Mr. Montgomery suggested clauses concerning water servicing and the condition that the population ceiling may be lifted be written into his building permit.

Committee members indicated a meeting to discuss the potential for a water supply has already been scheduled for the fall.

Mr. Saunders recommended the application be suspended until a decision on water servicing was made and whether an increased population could be accommodated.

He also suggested the application be placed on file to be considered for such water servicing.

"This type of recommendation has been made consistently the last two years," he said. "You're not the first to be affected by it."

## News follow

# Stouffville teenager on the road to recovery

**BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Correspondent

Stouffville resident Debra Surman is one busy teenager.

Friends may find her working part time at the Stouffville A&P umpiring a Stouffville Stinger on a Thursday night at the Town Park, or managing the Stouffville District Secondary School senior boys softball team.

Debra, 18, was near death last October after a serious car crash in which she was a passenger. The car she was riding in left the road and smashed into a telephone pole, leaving her with grave injuries.

In fact, Debra's instinctive reaction to cover her nephew who was also in the car could well have saved her life.

"When we hit the gravel on the shoulder, I took off my seatbelt and covered Anthony (her infant nephew). The pole squashed the car from the side where I had been sitting right up to the baby seat."

But the impact still left her with four breaks in her pelvis, a ruptured liver, a broken collar bone, broken ribs, internal bleeding, a collapsed lung and a spleen that had to be removed.

After 41 days in York County Hospital in Newmarket, Debra had defied the odds. She had gone



**DEBRA SURMAN**  
Beats the odds

from a critical care patient, able to communicate only by faint hand squeezes, to a victorious fighter, heading home for further convalescence that would even-

tually bring her back to being able to talk, walk, and function normally.

"When I first came home, I couldn't move off the couch," says Debra. "The therapist came in regularly, and eventually she told me to do three laps of the house a day. One day I did four and I got really excited."

January saw her return to school on a part time basis. She started attending classes full time after the March Break.

"Today, she's resumed many of her regular activities, although she is still prone to tiredness, and becomes ill easily because of the loss of her spleen."

"I get tired if I overdo it. If I work one day, I've got to take two days off!"

"I went to the school prom; I was sick afterwards though, with a cold and sore throat."

Debra realizes she may have lifetime limitations because of her injuries, but is philosophical. "My pelvis will always hurt, and I might never be able to ski; I tried to swim in our pool, but I started to sink, because my stomach muscles aren't developed yet."

"But I've learned how to knit, and look after plants, and I'm going to start making crafts to give away or sell."

"I sort of feel like I started a new life after the accident. You live each day to the fullest. I must be here for a reason; that's what my mom says."

And Debra says she will never forget the concern of the people of Stouffville when she was in the hospital. "It was just

unbelievable. I had over 1,000 visitors at the hospital at once."

Debra will move to Nestleton with her family this summer, and is also planning a trip to Nova Scotia in July to visit her grandfather. "My grandpa wants to show me off," she says.

She will take an English course cards, and one night I had 18 visitors at the hospital at once."

And with smile firmly in place, she will always remember how she beat the odds.

"The doctors say it was a miracle. They just can't believe the rate of my recovery."

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**INSERTS FOR WED. JUNE 14TH**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autogenics</li> <li>Toronto Life</li> <li>Deck 'N' Den</li> <li>Markham Village</li> <li>Festival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colour Your World</li> <li>Big V Pharmacy</li> <li>Home Hardware</li> <li>Eatons</li> </ul>
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Photo: RICK MADONIK

## Garage sale goodies

Saturday was the perfect day for a garage sale and Jessie Batten (left photo) was just one of the many Uxbridge residents who came to look for bargains at this sale on Victoria St. Five families displayed more than 1,500 items during the two-day sale. One of the most popular items at the sale were the books. In the bottom photo, (from left) Ede Barr and Jessie Butler search for some interesting titles.