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Strawberry Festival Brantham Jewellers 5 Main St. W., Stouffville 640-4646

# The Tribune

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## Public meeting called in housing plan

DENISE MCDONALD Correspondent

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Planning Advisory Committee has agreed to schedule a public meeting after summer recess to hear any objections to a proposed 10-lot residential subdivision on Kennedy Rd. According to a report submitted during last Tuesday evening's meeting, area resident Carol McCrone requires both an official plan and zoning amendment to proceed with her bid for the subdivision planned for members of her immediate family. "Mrs. McCrone has owned this property for the past 25 years; it has always been her intention to develop it into a family subdivision," said Alcorn & Associates representative Julie Ground. Ms. Ground pointed out that all 10 lots are expected to be a minimum of two acres or greater, with nine to be connected by a cul-de-sac road with access from Kennedy Rd.

However, in order to minimize the environmental impact on a creek traversing the property, the tenth lot would require its own direct access. The Ministry of Natural Resources has confirmed this property as a wetland, but Ms. Ground assured members "the way the plan has been set up, they would anticipate proper zoning through the environmentally sensitive area." Although Town Planner Michael Saunders claimed it was his understanding that the adjacent property owner to the west is considering making a similar application to develop, members indicated concern that the only access to the McCrone subdivision would be through the cul-de-sac. "I have a whole lot of concerns with the application," said Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall. "The little, extra house is just a severance of two acres with a separate entrance. I realize it's a sen-

sitive area but I don't think it's the best planning. And by having a cul-de-sac with only one entrance in and out, if there ever was a fire or accident, there would be a big problem." Ms. Ground added the idea of installing a median at the entrance. Prior to scheduling a public meeting, it was recommended the Town confirm with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that there are no agricultural codes of practice infractions associated with the proposed development. As well, officials will investigate whether a traffic noise report will be required along that section of Kennedy Rd. and whether a second individual lot access will be available for the proposed tenth lot. "This application was submitted six months ago," said Mr. Saunders. "They've met all the policies, and followed all standard procedures. If we have the public meeting, any concerns about the appropriateness of this development will come out there."



Coming along purrfectly

Stouffville youth Shane Stapley, recovering at the Hospital for Sick Children from burns to 45 per cent of his body, had some feline friends drop in last week to wish him all the best. The two felines, from the Toronto production of the hit musical Cats, dropped in on Shane before he underwent a four-hour skin-grafting operation to repair his damaged legs. From left are Kerri Lyn Wasyick (Bom Bacurina Cat) and Gino Berti (Corico Cat). Shane is expected to be in isolation at the hospital's burn unit for another three weeks according to Dr. Howard Clarke.

## Business as usual for Ballinger

MATT NICHOLLS Correspondent The Ontario government must forget the Patricia Starr scandal and continue to work hard for the province, says Durham-York MPP Bill Ballinger. Mr. Ballinger says MPPs must not get sidetracked from their agendas in light of the biggest scandal to hit David Peterson's Ontario Liberal government since it took power in 1985. "We're still going to keep our agenda," Mr. Ballinger said in an interview from Queen's Park on Monday. "I'm still out working hard for this riding. It's business as usual as far as I'm concerned." Last month Ms. Starr resigned from her position as head of the Toronto section of the National Council of Jewish Women because of allegations she distributed more than \$80,000 of group funds to provincial and federal politicians. Gordon Ashworth, Premier Peterson's executive director and key insider, also resigned last week after admitting Ms. Starr had arranged for a free refrigerator and his house to be painted through Tridel Corp. Tridel Corp. constructed a \$10-million housing project in North York for the charitable organization Ms. Starr headed. The provincial opposition parties have also charged that Mr. Ashworth is responsible for recommending Ms. Starr for the posting at Ontario Place. The scandal, dubbed Patty

Gate by some media sources, has prompted Premier Peterson to call a judicial inquiry to sort out exactly what has happened. And it's a move Mr. Ballinger and other Liberal MPPs at Queen's Park wholeheartedly support. "We're other MPPs at

Queen's Park) very pleased that Premier Peterson has taken steps to get to the bottom of this," Mr. Ballinger said. "But the opposition parties have denounced the Premier's call for a judicial inquiry, saying it will fail to clear the situation for the Liberals."

"The Opposition's job is to oppose," Mr. Ballinger said. He added that the long-term effects of the scandal "will not be known" for sometime. "We'll know soon enough when all the cards are on the table, so the constituents can judge for themselves," he said.

## Fire guts Main Street apartment

MATT NICHOLLS Correspondent Just last week, Stouffville residents Rob and Kris Kerfoot had a cosy second-floor apartment above the Savex Drug Mart on Main St. Today they have virtually nothing. A Sunday evening fire ripped through their second-floor apartment causing extensive damage and leaving the young couple without a home. The couple "just saw smoke coming from under the door" when they returned from a walk to B.J.'s Variety at about 10 p.m., Rob Kerfoot, 21, said in an interview from his brother-in-law's house in Goodwood. They opened the door and "high flames" were shooting up everywhere, he said. "I called 911, but I forgot Stouffville isn't hooked up yet. The operator put me through (to the fire station)." York Region is in the process of implementing a 911 emergency service, but it has not yet been finalized. He knocked on the doors of the other two apartments above the drug mart to warn the other tenants of the fire, Mr. Kerfoot said. "A man and his boy were in one apartment but they got out okay," he said. Stouffville firefighters arrived on the scene almost immediately and they were very helpful," Mr. Kerfoot said. "They explain everything to you," he said. "We didn't have insurance, but they explained what we had to do." "We pretty well lost everything." Stouffville Fire Chief Bill Brown said firefighters arrived at around 10 p.m. and extinguished the fire at approximately 2 a.m. Mr. Brown said an aerial ladder was brought up from Markham to help fight the blaze and some firefighters were weary after responding to another call just minutes before the fire. The cause of the blaze has not yet been determined, but "it looks like it started accidentally," Mr. Brown said. He said the fire caused approximately \$100,000 damage, but that figure "is hard to determine exactly because a number of parties are involved."

## New tree policy debated by Town

DENISE MCDONALD Correspondent Members of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Planning Advisory Committee are unsure which direction to take on recommendations that they forward to council a bylaw proposal to regulate and prohibit tree planting on town roadways. According to a report submitted by Town Planner Michael Saunders during last Tuesday night's meeting, it was his understanding committee members wanted to protect existing woodlot area more extensively, including potential development sites far removed from public road allowances. And while it was pointed out the proposed bylaw would not accomplish this, he indicated it would be "better than nothing." If approved, the bylaw would prohibit anyone from injuring, destroying or cutting down a tree upon or adjacent to a highway unless they had consent from the Town. As well, Council would be able to prohibit the planting of any tree species deemed unsuitable and could order any tree growing or planted on a highway removed. The bylaw would also give the Town engineering co-ordinator authority to supervise planting and trimming of trees on private property where the branches extend over a highway. In addition, Town officials would be allowed to remove decayed or dangerous trees if directed by Council. However, the bylaw would not give the Town authority to protect or preserve existing woodlots on private property. "I don't think we can control what happens on private property," said Mayor Fran Sainsbury. "If a resident doesn't like trees and would rather have them in the fireplace, then they have the right. I think this would apply more when entering into a subdivision agreement; it would give us some control." Mrs. Saunders also pointed out the proposed bylaw would give the Town rights regarding the Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Electric Commission trimming of trees. "I move we accept this recommendation but I do so sadly; we need a new school more than we need more portables."



Late night crash

A York Regional Police officer surveys the damage to a car after it crashed on Stouffville Rd. near Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on Sunday night. Police said no one was injured in the accident. A 26-year-old Willowdale man is charged with impaired driving in connection with the crash.