

Bell Canada promises little disruption during cable work

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Bell Canada has revised its original fibre optic cable installation plans, promising to avoid tree removal and to negotiate with Bethesda Rd. property owners.

The company said it will clean up or completely avoid any mess created by the installation of the underground cable to run along the north side of Bethesda Rd.

Bell Canada spokesman Ken Taylor told council at Tuesday's council-in-committee meeting

the "special project" will be built and cleaned up to standards and a man will be on site to monitor progress "99.99 per cent of the time."

"We don't normally have a man on site at all times, but because of the nature of this project someone will be there all the time. The idea is to get there and clean up as soon as we can," he told members of the committee.

He said all residents affected by the installation will be notified door-to-door by contractors who will explain any procedure

beforehand and each property owner will get a letter with a contact number and name.

The new cable will act as a backup system for two-year-old cable already installed and in three years time will replace old Main St. cable through "manhole road work" to allow for future rural sideroad expansion, Taylor explained.

"The cable is concrete-encased for protection and for future requirements will act as a feeder for rural sideroad accessibility.

"The beauty of the structure is workers can operate through manholes instead of constantly digging up," he said.

The project — to carry workers through the middle of December and into the spring of 1990 — will involve some trenching, digging and tunnelling on various lawns on the north side of Bethesda Rd.

But Taylor said Bell and its contractors "should be able to clean up the lawns to 100-per-cent restoration."

"We'll make sure we do our job and our contractors are aware of your (council's) concerns as well."

Mayor Fran Sainsbury expressed concern of tree root damage but Mr. Black said the town consultants have worked with the company and will "avoid 95 per cent of the trees."

"We should touch very few mature trees and some located away from the property lines could be tunnelled."

Another council concern was the cutting of asphalt on driveways and removing pavement. Black said the price of augering around the driveways was cheaper than replacing asphalt so the company will work around the driveways as much as possible.

Town awards snow removal to Turner

Peter Turner Excavating was awarded the town contract to remove snow from municipal sidewalks and sand them for \$32 an hour — the lowest of three submitted tenders.

Although the company's \$750 monthly standby fee ranked higher than the \$500 fee from Mel Emmerson Construction, its hourly rate was lower by \$9.50. There was one other bidder but staff said specifications on the tender were not clear.

The quotations were received and opened last month with the mayor, treasurer, clerk co-ordinator and engineering co-ordinator present.

Peter Turner Excavating also won the bid for snow removal at the recreation complex, agreeing to waive the monthly standby fee of \$400 if the company was awarded both contracts.

The town will pay the company \$38 an hour for the recreation complex snow clearance.

The bid was accepted, following staff recommendations to award the contract, due to the company's satisfactory service over the past two years.

The town also accepted a bid for snow removal equipment, at an increase of five per cent over last year. Mel Emmerson Construction and Haulage won a town contract until 1992 for a grader and a truck/plow/sander at the price of \$1,890 a month this year and \$1,985 a month next year.

Sanders frustrated by leaf problem

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Councillor Jim Sanders wants the province to step in and solve York Region's "nickel and dime" plan to combat the autumn leaves problem which, he said, "is not working."

"This is an ongoing waste management problem," he said at Tuesday's council in committee meeting.

The comment was prompted when council learned Keele Valley would take the region's separately bagged foliage — but only for this year. Next year it's back to square one.

"All the region has are fragmented programs that have been going on for 10 years," Councillor Sanders pointed out.

"Can't the province get hold of this and give us some direction? It's good to experiment but this can't go on forever."

Mayor Fran Sainsbury agreed the problem is ongoing and will continue to get worse. She cited a further inconvenience for next year.

"White goods (fridges, stoves, freezers) will not be accepted at Keele Valley next year. We need to take a long hard look at this," she said.

Paul Whitehouse, engineering co-ordinator cited a plan in Newmarket that seems to be alleviating the problem somewhat. There, the leaves are

gathered and stored by residents until one final day after all the leaves have fallen. A truck then picks up everyone's foliage on that day.

And in Durham Region, Chairman Gary Herrema has ordered biodegradable bags for leaves.

But Whitehouse said he checked into that and there are no bags that are biodegradable.

While the problem mounts like yesterday's garbage, the town will continue with its plan to use the newly-arrived \$8,000 leaf vacuum and the mayor will present the problem to regional council.

One bid for winter sand

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will pay nearly \$32,000 to Gormley Aggregates Ltd. for a contract to supply and stockpile winter sand.

The company submitted the sole bid of \$8.55 a tonne for sand used to de-ice municipal sidewalks, parking lots and roads.

But officials reviewed four bids in their quest to purchase a gas detector, used to locate and monitor gases in confined work areas such as manholes and pump stations.



Lucky the cat's not feeling much up to her namesake as she waits in the arms of owner Laurie Brooks until her turn for a rabies shot at the veterinarian's office on Saturday. Many local residents took advantage of the annual sale on rabies shots for cats and dogs sponsored by many local veterinarians.



Fred Cook, 81, is grateful for the help of CIBC bank employee Deanna Jacob. The 19 year old noticed the elderly man struggling with his wheelchair in the bank parking lot. She ran out in the wind and rain to help him and earned his heartfelt thanks.

Wheelchair-bound man rescued by bank worker

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For 81-year-old Fred Cook — a disabled senior citizen left stranded and helpless on a cold and rainy day — 19-year-old Deanna Jacob proved a ray of sunshine.

Cook, a long-time community resident, called the Blackstock teenager nothing less than "a good samaritan."

Last week the senior parked his van in the south Stouffville CIBC branch parking lot and wheeled toward the building when a pulley-type belt from his electric wheelchair slipped off, leaving him stranded in the parking lot.

"It's a job to get the belt on. I was stranded there and I didn't know what to do. It was rainy and I was wet and there was no one around," he said.

Jacob noticed the man from the bank window. "It looked like he was really stuck and in a rut and when I got out there I noticed the belt was all twisted," said the teen, a one-year employee at the Stouffville branch.

The young woman ran out to assist Cook and together they managed to get the belt back on and in working order, despite the wind and rain.

"He was very nice. He was worried my skirt was getting wet and he thanked me."

"I couldn't get the belt on by myself because I can't get out of my chair. I was on my way to see someone in the bank and I asked the lady for the girl's name."

When asked how it made her feel to help someone out, Jacob said, "I like helping people if I can and he was a nice man."

Cook was stricken by polio when he was two-and-a-half years old and lost the use of his legs as a result.

Keeping up with the times, Cook is as independent as the next person, driving a hand-controlled fully-equipped van which accommodates his wheelchair.

Cook said he tries to avoid trips into town when it's cold outside like on the day of the "rescue" and was grateful for the help of a young woman.

"It was awfully nice of her."

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