

Town says rail abandonment bid costly

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is railroading CN in its bid to abandon the Uxbridge Subdivision Rail line between Lindsay and Stouffville.

The Town formally submitted its concerns to the National Transportation Agency in December after CN filed its notice of application to abandon the local line Nov. 24.

Among other things, the abandonment would end up costing York Regional taxpayers more money to re-open discontinued lines, council stated in its resolu-

tion opposing the move.

Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles charged the December Revenues and Costs study submitted by the federally operated rail company "is only in their favor" and said the cost figures "are misleading."

The study showed annual losses for a three-year period would exceed \$1 million and listed the line as "poor to fair condition."

More specifically, the study showed 1988 losses to be more than \$260,000 and maintained the steady decrease in revenues left no choice but to pull out of the Ux-

bridge/Lindsay/Stouffville extension.

"There is potential here for a high population growth and we should challenge them on this," said Councillor Alles.

He pointed out the Greater Toronto Area uses these rail links as "criteria for expansion" and CN should perform an impact study outlining the consequences and future effects due to the lost line.

"CN is using the profits and losses figures to its own benefit," added Councillor Alles.

Along with council's resolution to the National Transportation

Agency, it also submitted a polished and combined list of concerns against CN's application to wash its hands of the local rail service.

"The regions of York and Durham have and will continue to experience high population growth. Approval of this application would have a detrimental impact on the ability of these regions to plan for future growth."

"In the statement of costs, revenues and traffic section of the CN study, the mileages and populations section did not list Whitchurch-Stouffville which

would increase population by about 18,000.

"Whenever a service is withdrawn from an area, there should be an impact statement provided to outline the possible effects on remaining transportation facilities and impact on the local industry and workforce."

In conclusion, the Town stated the abandonment is premature because Greater Toronto Area growth will be structured around existing transportation routes — especially rail.

Council will send the report to the transportation agency and await its decision.

Seal of approval for local Parkview Home

Parkview Home for the Aged has been given the seal of approval by the federal government as being a top quality health care institution, officials at the Ninth Line home announced Friday.

The Canadian Council on Health Facilities Accreditation has awarded the Stouffville seniors' home with an Accreditation Certificate after a November survey by the council's members.

The Ottawa-based, federally operated council honored Parkview for its quality standards and the home will now enter into voluntary participation with the council.

Involvement in the accreditation program guarantees quality care standards are being met.

The standards developed by the Accreditation Council for hospitals and long term care facilities are the product of Canada-wide consultation with health care experts and are designed to be consistent with community needs and the latest developments in the health and social disciplines.

Management and staff have been intensely involved for several years in the formation of policy and procedure manuals and in making the necessary changes in services and programs.

Parkview announces the preparation for this achievement has been an educational and interesting experience and should help assure the Stouffville community of quality care and services for the residents of Parkview Home.

Caretakers end week-long strike

Students at St. Mark's Catholic School in Stouffville along with other separate school students are learning in clean schools after a week-long strike by their caretakers.

York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board caretakers rejected the board's offer at a Friday meeting, but accepted the two-year contract Saturday afternoon after the wording was modified.

The school board was expected to ratify the agreement at a special meeting last night.

The 328 caretakers and maintenance workers are looking at a 12.1 overall salary increase. This translates into a 10.36 per cent hike to their hourly rates effective Jan. 1, 1990. On Jan. 1, 1991, salaries will rise another 3.1 per cent.

An assistant caretaker who earned \$12.26 an hour will earn \$13.53 today and \$13.95 starting next January.

Caretaking staff are also to receive a lump sum of \$450.

"This settlement amounts to about a six per cent increase in each year of the contract. Given today's economic realities this is a fair contract," board chairman Joseph Virgilio said.

York Region's 59 separate schools, housing 36,000 students, opened for regular classes during the five-day strike, although extra-curricular activities were cancelled along with evening and weekend use of school facilities. Cafeterias in the board's six high schools were also closed.

Food service and extra-curricular activities have since resumed, and evening use of schools is expected to begin this week.

York Region separate school caretakers went on a week-long strike in 1980 when there were 11,000 students in the system.

The Town spent "an awful lot of money" on floral decorations at its 1989 annual Christmas party, said Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall at Tuesday afternoon's council in committee meeting.

The Cedar Beach festivities held on Dec. 8 cost the taxpayers \$1,500 for 20 table arrangements, 136 corsages for women, 136 boutonnières for men and assorted combs, hollies and bows.

"This is an awful lot of the taxpayers' money for flowers for a Christmas party and I can't help feeling guilty and quite shocked," said Councillor Marshall.

But Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb quickly came to the Town's defence.

"For the last four or five years the same two people have had to plan this party and there have been no members of council ever adding input," he said.

Councillor Robb added the staff works hard all year long and "they're worth \$2 a head for a corsage or a boutonniere."

However, Councillor Marshall maintained the policies should be "seriously looked at" to find a better solution or a less expensive alternative.

Flower fees irk Marshall

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Two employees needed to fill town clerk's position: mayor

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The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will add two new employees to its roster following the resignation of Clerk Coordinator Pat Oakes.

Her tenure ends April 6.

The Town will replace Mrs. Oakes with two positions because the provincial government has "burdened" municipalities with far too many new jobs for one person to handle, says Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

The corporation seeks a chief administrative officer and a town clerk with salaries total-

ing about \$126,000.

The town clerk's job will be filled immediately, the mayor says, but it may take longer to fill the CAO position.

"The new person, be it man or woman, will have good leadership qualities," she says.

The Town has been without a CAO since Mayor Sainsbury has served the Town, but now "our platter is full" and "progress has caught up with us," the mayor says. Now there is a need for Mrs. Oakes' job to be split into two positions.

"People demand service and we feel the extra person will allow us to give them the ser-

vice they need and deserve," she adds.

The mayor says the Town has wonderful, hard-working department heads who "don't need a lot of 'bossing' from a CAO but with continued growth and progress, the department heads need to get down to their primary job of making recommendations to council," she says.

"Pat Oakes has always been loyal, dedicated and knowledgeable of the Municipal Act. She has also worked well with the engineers and other areas of the town," Mayor Sainsbury says.



**Back
in
business**

The Stouffville Auction Barns are back in business on Sundays again. Local politicians granted the popular Stouffville shopping attraction with tourist status, thereby making it exempt from the Retail Business Holidays Act, for which it has been fined in the past. Last weekend, the Barns were as busy as ever, as tourists and local shoppers took to the aisles in droves.

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