

Weekender

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Parking snag for apartment proposal

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

An application to build apartments behind the Stouffville Bakery may "enhance" Commercial St., say some members of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council.

But in order to give the go-ahead for the construction of four apartments beside the library lane, bakery owners Gerhard and Peter Hartung need a parking ex-

emption for future tenants.

Ken Sandiford, on behalf of his clients, told planning committee Tuesday evening that five or six spaces would be needed and asked for a green light on the project.

"We have had lots of opportunity to observe the parking situation in and around the library and we don't think our request is unreasonable when residents would not be there when the

library is open," Mr. Sandiford said.

Willing to enter into a lease with the Town for parking, the owners would agree to enter into a tenant/landlord contract that would control where and when renters would be allowed to park.

But Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders pointed out that York Region said some time ago "there would be no parking exemptions."

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said parking is prohibited between the 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. to allow for plowing.

"We would need to obtain a permit or sticker of some sort," she said.

But Council agreed the move could enhance and improve the look of Commercial Street.

"This raises a good point. If spaces were allocated on Commercial St. the whole area could

generate a lot of parking," said Councillor Sanders.

Originally the owners wanted to construct six small units — two without windows — but have agreed to build four larger spaces (two at more than 750 sq. ft. each and two smaller units at nearly 500 sq. ft. each.)

Council members will make a final decision whether to honor a parking exemption at an upcoming council meeting.

Bylaw makes work

Landfill bylaw being reviewed for Stouffville

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Additional workload is reality when a municipality enforces any bylaw, says Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Chief Building Official, Bob Bennett.

Commenting on a statement made by the Town of Georgina's Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Mike Baskerville on the northern community's nine-year-old bylaw to restrict landfill, Mr. Bennett says the Town will review the bylaw before "adding bodies" to the staff roster.

Following resident complaints about well water deterioration at several locations, Council agreed to review Georgina's landfill, grading and altering bylaw in order to control the problem.

Mr. Baskerville says the bylaw in Georgina has added so much additional work to the engineering department, a position of "fill inspector" was created.

"There's no sense hiring new people if the workload doesn't increase but in some cases, when a bylaw is definitely needed, there may be cause to," Mr. Bennett says.

He adds the review of the bylaw may take up to six months and if the Town does model a bylaw after Georgina's "we'll see how it goes first before hiring new people."

"We will see how much work it generates and how much time it takes first," he says.

The Georgina bylaw has solved a lot of problems there, and gives the Town control over an otherwise bad situation, Mr. Baskerville told the Tribune last week.

Mr. Bennett says the department will make recommendations to Council on whether the bylaw in Georgina meets with Whitchurch-Stouffville needs but the Town "will stay with the status quo for the time being," he says.



Winter wonderland?

Rather than tow her children through snow drifts young Jill, 4, (left) and Thomas, 2. But the this week, Brenda Stone had to battle rain and fog umbrella protectively provided by Mrs. Stone was enough for the happy adventurers. The trio made it to the library none the worse for wear and January thaw made the going a trifle soggy for settled into a good story-telling.

Local merchants furious over shopping comments

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Stouffville Main Street merchants are shocked and angry after a local politician made public remarks about local shopping opportunities — which do not include the downtown core.

The merchants were responding to comments made last week by Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb at a meeting regarding Sunday shopping exemption for the Stouffville Flea Market.

In light of the remarks, Stouffville Business Improvement Area President Sandra Stronach says he's not a good representative for downtown Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Mrs. Stronach and other merchants were angered after

reading comments by Councillor Robb in which he stated he "would go (to the flea market) before we would go shopping on Main Street."

At the Jan. 9 committee meeting, Mr. Robb said he takes out-of-town family and friends to the Hwy 47 attraction.

"It's terrible when politicians run off with their mouths without putting their minds in gear," said Bob Ancheril, proprietor of Ancheril Fine Shoes.

"He has to realize you don't have to put one group down to praise another."

Mrs. Stronach and other merchants, who have long been promoting the downtown core as Stouffville's central shopping attraction, agrees.

"He's not a good representative for downtown. The merchants work so hard and then an elected official says something like this. I was very upset," she said. "The flea market doesn't even pay business taxes to downtown."

Mrs. Stronach said one merchant who saw the comment "was visibly upset" by Mr. Robb's remarks; and a resident from across town also voiced concern.

"I could hardly believe he was saying this but because it was quoted I knew he meant it," Mrs. Stronach added.

"I feel he should be asked why he doesn't shop on Main Street." At press time, Councillor Robb was unavailable for comment.

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Stouffville
merchants