



Photo/RICK MADONIK

Just visiting

The Gervais family checked out the new Markham Stouffville Hospital on Sunday as the public was invited to roam the halls before the March 5 opening of the new building. Here the family tours the surgery unit at the hospital. When opened, it will service an area from Steeles Avenue to Hwy. 404 to Uxbridge, and all points in between.

Council Update

Remove obstacles to housing needs minister asks council

Housing message

Ministry of Municipal Affairs Minister John Sweeney wrote to Whitchurch-Stouffville Council about the new Land Use Planning for Housing Policy to "identify and remove obstacles which impede the creation of suitable housing for young families and others."

The affordable housing policy is already in effect in most municipalities and Whitchurch-Stouffville has taken the first step with a survey/questionnaire that will be distributed to some residents by the Starr Group in the next few weeks to determine some of the local housing needs.

Reduced load

The Regional engineering committee will allow Whitchurch-Stouffville to pass a bylaw that will restrict traffic load on certain roadways between March and April 1990. The routes to have reduced load restrictions designated will be Stouffville Road at the York/Durham Line; Aurora Road between Hwy. 48 and the York/Durham Line; and the York/Durham Line between Markham and Stouffville at Steeles Avenue and Stouffville Road; Warden Avenue between 16th Avenue and Bloomington Road; 9th Line between Hwy. 47

and Bloomington Road; 9th Line, one kilometre north of Bloomington Road and Aurora Road; and Vivian Road between Woodbine Avenue and Hwy. 48.

York transportation

The Region of York is forming a working committee to organize a regional transit system. Part of the strategy is to urge the Ministry of Transportation to improve the Stouffville Rail Corridor to "enhance peak period service and introduce off-peak service to the Town of Markham" as part of the program. The completion date would be estimated for 1995. The committee will also recommend that the ministry increase provincial subsidy for roadway construction for the York Regional road system.

Sewage share

Whitchurch-Stouffville will be charged 7.3 per cent more this year for sewage costs or \$1.47 per 1,000 gallons as part of the region's costs of operating the pumping stations and trunk sewers within the region.

Stouffville's annual sewage costs total \$513,000, just less than Keswick's cost of \$570,000 and nearly five times as much as Mount Albert's cost of \$101,000 a year.

Ministry involvement deemed standard in Musselman project

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Concerns from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) regarding the proposed Musselman Lake/Ballantrae water works project are standard procedure, said Chris Tschirhart, MNR resource liaison officer.

Mr. Tschirhart said Friday his ministry's involvement is a step that has to be taken before any major water project plan can

proceed.

"It is all part of the standard Environmental Study Report but is separate from the tri-part study (performed last year by the Ministry of the Environment, Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority and York Region health unit)."

The Town's engineering consultants, Giffels Associates Limited, are required to approach the MNR for its com-

ments, and did so in January, Mr. Tschirhart said.

"Any environmental study report is circulated to almost every ministry in the federal government," he added.

When asked why the municipality did not undertake the necessary steps before discussing the proposal to outraged residents, he said local council made the right move.

"For the past 20 years, government has tried to include the public. If they (Whitchurch-Stouffville council) had gone ahead with the reports first, the residents may have demanded why they were not approached first. It's sort of a 'damned if you do; damned if you don't' situation," he added.

Giffels wrote a letter to the MNR for comments and the ministry's main concern was the water pumping from the project may cause serious draw downs of the water table.

"We don't know if the pumping of water would draw down the table and based on the information we have now we don't know enough to answer those questions."

Mr. Tschirhart said the MNR acts as a "custodian" to the Department of Oceans and Fisheries but he's not sure yet if that area of provincial government should be involved.

"The (Department of) Oceans and Fisheries would need knowledge of this if there is a drawdown but we won't know until (Giffels) performs a pump test."

"If a pump test shows a drawdown, we're sure the fisheries would be affected and we would contact them," he added.

It is now up to Giffels to answer the MNR's concerns and to set up a pumping test in reply to the letter.

It would then be decided if the Oceans and Fisheries department should get involved, he said.

Stouffville animals not being claimed says shelter

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Of the 66 Whitchurch-Stouffville dogs and cats the Kennel Inn Animal Control Centre took into its shelter from October to December, nearly half were put to sleep.

The quarterly report indicates a large number of animals, mostly felines, were not claimed and had to be euthanized in order to make room for the floods of animals the centre temporarily cares for.

For a one year period, the Kennel Inn took in more than 300 animals.

"Unfortunately (euthanasia) has to be done in this business. You can't put a sign on the front door saying 'Sorry, Centre full — no room for any more animals'," says manager Dan Lawrence.

Mr. Lawrence says when people think of a pound, they think of dogs, and consequently, all but one of the cats were put away.

"Most people come in for dogs, and the ones who are looking for cats are looking for kittens," he says.

According to the itemized report, 39 dogs and 27 cats from the Whitchurch-Stouffville area were picked up by the centre.

Of the 39 dogs, 4 were euthanized; six were dead; nine were adopted and 20 were claimed by the owners.

Cats were not as fortunate. Of the 27 cats the centre housed during the three month period, 26 were put to sleep and one adopted.

Kennel Inn also made 13 wildlife calls, including skunks, roosters and starlings; 19 emergency calls and issued five provincial offences.

The offences are issued under a municipality bylaw guided by the Provincial Offences Act. The centre issued five offences including running at large (\$28); no licence (\$28) and continual complaints for barking.

Kennel Inn, located in Aurora, also services Aurora, King Township, Richmond Hill and Vaughan and the centre is "completely separate from the Ontario Humane Society."

He says the Humane Society has the money to advertise the need for adoptions — money the Inn doesn't have in its budget but urges people to adopt the animals.

"I would like to get the message across that we always need more people to adopt these pets."

For more information about adoption call the Kennel Inn at 888-1129.



Photo/RICK MADONIK

Chilly ride

Chris Leonard, 13, at left and Chad Glover, 14, were not too concerned with frigid temperatures and slippery conditions this past weekend. The pair braved the cold to ride to Stouffville Place Mall, Saturday.

**EARN
EXTRA
MONEY
BECOME A
CARRIER
TODAY**

Attention Flyer Advertisers
We can deliver your flyers for as little as 3/4¢ apiece. So far this year, we have delivered 956,632 flyers door-to-door in Markham, Unionville, Milliken, Stouffville, Uxbridge and surrounding rural routes. We can deliver your flyers on the day you want in the area you want — any quantity from 5,000 to 35,000.
Call: Advertising at
294-2000, 640-2100 or
Distribution at 294-8244, or 640-2100

**Call:
649-2292
or
640-2100**