

Ringwood residents upset over flooding

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Four Ringwood residents told Council last week their properties are now flooding because of the grading change to the abutting Greco property located next to Farmer Jacks on Stouffville Road.

Since last June, when the large property was filled, the Old Hwy. 48 homeowners complained of bad smells in their private well systems and said the alterations were caused when the land next door was disturbed.

Now the owners say the seven-foot-high filled property is flooding their properties and urged Council to take action.

Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson, representing the residents' concerns, told his colleagues

"The Greco swail is not working and is flooding the properties."

He said the (Town) Bylaw Enforcement Officer contacted the owner last Monday and sent them a letter regarding the constructed swail ditch.

But in the meantime, the swail ditch is "not sufficient" to stop runoff, the residents say.

"Large boulders and tree roots are stopping the proper flow of water," Councillor Emmerson said.

"That swail is too small to handle spring conditions in our wet humble opinion," remarked Ringwood resident, Jack Mehaffey.

"If he fixes it, that's all we're looking for," Mr. Mehaffey added.

Councillor Emmerson assured the residents the problem is "not a dead issue" and said "staff is on top of it now."

The residents' also said they

were not aware the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is blaming the problems on "construction and maintenance deficiencies" by the owners themselves, until they read it in the Feb. 21 edition of the Tribune.

"Our well water is a big mess. Why (if the ministry is blaming us) are all the wells smelling bad at the same time; all slowly declining at the same time if it's our wells?" inquired Brian Tew, another Ringwood resident present at the council meeting.

Smell

"I can't even drink the coffee. Everybody's well levels went down together, but when we cleaned and pumped and recharged ours, the smell still came back."

"We haven't had that smell in 10 years," Mr. Tew added.

"Where all that fill is coming from really concerns me," agreed Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb.

"There are legitimate concerns here and we should go after the MOE," he added.

Pat Tew said the health office, which told the residents earlier that there is no proof the runoff is the cause of the water smell, "they only checked the fill, not the dry soil," she added.

"We wonder if (Greco diggers) disturbed the field tile that fed the aquifer to our wells," she noted.

Councillor Emmerson said he would keep the residents updated on staff's findings and said he was sure when the Town spoke to the owner they agreed to fix the problem.

But the residents are wary of this, because they say the owner promised he would rectify problems before, and did nothing.



Photo: BILL LANNING

Friday crash

This dump truck was involved in a single vehicle crash at 3:40 p.m. last Friday. The truck, driven by Joseph Paul, 50, of Sheppard Ave. E. in Scarborough was southbound on Hwy. 48 at Bethesda Rd. in Stouffville when the right tire of the

truck blew, sending the vehicle into the east ditch. Paul received minor injuries and was treated at York Central Hospital in Newmarket. There were no charges laid in the accident, police sources say.

Hydro appeals for restraint

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Ontario Hydro speculates electric consumption will rise by 100 per cent by the year 2014, local Council was told last Tuesday afternoon.

The cold weather in December caused the corporation to appeal for conservation as equipment repairs combined with minus 30 degree weather made it hard to

keep up with the demand, a hydro spokesman said.

Tom Bennett, area manager, approached Council to discuss the corporation's demand/supply plan it hopes to implement over the next 25 years.

The new plan "hopes to involve all municipal councils in the province," Mr. Bennett told the politicians.

He warned of short life expectancies of nuclear power plants and said the Pickering plant "will have served its useful 40-year life" in the year 2014.

"I'm not convinced nuclear power is the only way to go.

Research shows fusion energy is far cleaner," said Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles.

Mr. Bennett agreed power alternatives are being researched by Ontario Hydro and said affordable housing could help to relieve large home consumption in future.

"With affordable housing people won't be lighting such large homes."

The presentation was a step to inform and prepare municipal councils across the province of the large corporation's demand/supply plans of the future to meet "today's style of living" demands.

Council Update

Multiculturalism study needed to examine area ethnic services

Multicultural study

A multicultural study is recommended for York Region by the Community Services Committee, to determine the weaknesses of services for people with ethnocultural backgrounds.

A Multicultural Advisory Committee was established by service providers and community residents "to examine the capability of services to meet the needs of the multicultural population in York Region," states recommendations from the Community Services Committee Feb. 8.

Research for the study cost the region \$64,000 to "highlight the

organizational weakness of many services to positively or pro-actively assist clients from diverse ethnocultural backgrounds."

The "commitment to multiculturalism" includes "encouraging and developing partnerships between community groups and service providers" in order to resolve problems that will "strengthen the existing social service system."

Conservation costs

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSCRA) will charge Whitchurch-Stouffville about \$48,000 in 1990 as a general land levy for watershed assessment - a 10 per cent increase from 1989, according to the authority's 1990 budget estimates. Each year the LSCRA receives a portion of its operating costs from shared municipalities which it services, depending on the percentage of each municipality's lands lying in the watershed areas. For example, Georgina pays nearly \$91,000, or 13 per cent of the fees, while Richmond Hill pays less than one per cent of the LSCRA fees or just more than \$3,000 a year.

York Region, as a whole, will pay \$514,414 general levy to the LSCRA as it occupies nearly 72 per cent of the watershed areas, whereas Durham Region occupies seven per cent.

Well problem

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) wrote to an Aurora Road resident last week in regards to

private well water concerns and the "impact (on the well) as a result of road deicing activities on Aurora Sideroad." The ministry said the well was suitably constructed and contained a "sufficient quality and quantity to be used as a domestic water supply." MOE said the sulphur problem in the well is a "natural quality problem known to occur in your area."

The ministry, did however, say the well problem "qualifies for remedial action" but said the Town's Musselman Lake/Balantreae proposed water system would "correct such problems."

Volunteers sought by foundation

The Stouffville chapter of the Kidney Foundation of Ontario is appealing for volunteers to canvass local neighborhoods to raise money for the charity's cause.

March is Kidney Month, and Stouffville area Chairman Cliff Moss says volunteers need only sacrifice four hours of their time for the month.

"The kidney problems have no respect of age and all money collected goes to research," he said.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, please call 642-2104.

Speeding will cost lead-footed drivers

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Speeders beware - it will now cost nearly three times as much if you are caught speeding by all police forces effective March 1.

Bill 95 received Royal Assent in January to hike the speeding fine limits as a major deterrent to speeding - noted as one of the major cause of accidents.

In some cases, fines will be increased as much as three times

what they were.

RCMP, OPP and York Regional forces will be now be charging \$45 to motorists speeding 20 km over the limit - a hike from \$18.75.

Speeding in excess of 50 kms over the limit used to mean a \$162.50 fine last month; now it will cost \$487.50.

"Speeding has become recognized as the major contributing factor to accidents," York Regional police Sergeant Norm Miles recently told The Tribune.

Parents wanted

York Region's Children's Aid Society (CAS) is seeking two-parent families with at least one child between the ages of 10 and 16 to take part in a research study.

It's part of a CAS project run by Family Research and Clinical Studies, and requires approximately two hours of a participant's time in their own home. Confidentiality is assured.

For further information, contact Debra Brick at 895-2318, Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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