

Comment Page

Restrictions hurt tax base

Whitchurch-Stouffville, still fighting the image that it is a poor cousin in an otherwise affluent family, is being short-changed again in its bid to secure land for industrial development.

Again, Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury has been forced into the fray - this time over a proposal by York Region to restrict industrial land growth to areas that are serviced on the York-Durham sewage scheme.

Residential taxpayers, meanwhile, are the ones who will be further burdened by an imbalanced tax base.

Like other municipalities, Whitchurch-Stouffville hopes to even the gap of industrial-residential assessment.

The Gormley Industrial Park, which has been in the planning stages for the past two years, would help in that cause.

But the handcuffs being placed on Whitchurch-Stouffville and other smaller areas like East Gwillimbury leave the municipalities in the lurch.

There is no question that Whitchurch-Stouffville needs a more balanced tax base.

York Region, meanwhile, refuses to hear the plea.



...and in this corner...

Parkview services weave magic

It's no secret to most of the people who live in Stouffville that there is a sort of magic behind the success of Parkview Village and the other related facilities that do much here for local seniors.

It's not the sort of magic one finds in the work of a David Copperfield, but a human magic that is brought about when caring people work together to bring a dream to life.

That original dream, shared by a group of Stouffville area men and women almost 30 years ago, is a reality today.

But it was a dream with an exponential effect - hundreds of seniors today are housed at Parkview Home, Parkview Apartments and Parkview Village.

All facilities are related, but are vastly different in scope and services. One constant, however, is



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the quality and care provided, whether its for seniors who require medical supervision, or those who are independent and more active.

One of the original people behind the Parkview developments - from conception to completion - is Joe Nighswander, a soft-spoken and modest figure who currently oversees the operation of the Village.

Mr. Nighswander is awaiting a much-deserved retirement (he announced it earlier this year) but leaves behind a legacy that he, and

others who were with him in the early stages, can be proud of.

I spoke with him in the modern Parkview Village cafeteria over lunch last month, and learned much of the story that brought Mr. Nighswander to where he is today.

A farmer by trade, Mr. Nighswander was slightly uncomfortable discussing philosophical issues about his retirement and the history of Parkview with a local newspaper editor.

Indeed, he reminded me more than once in the span of our lunch

that I must mention the myriad others who played a role in the local success story known today as Parkview Services for Seniors.

It's true there are many who helped bring the original building - and the other facilities that followed - to Stouffville's senior citizens.

They know who they are and are justly proud of their accomplishments.

But all it takes is a look around Parkview Village, or Parkview Home, to see the fruits of all that labor.

See the bright, spacious Parkview Village Auditorium with its limitless possibilities for events and activities. Or venture downstairs to the cafeteria, abuzz with conversation and light laughter as men and women there share a

meal and friendship.

At Parkview Home, just up the road on Rupert Street, the setting is different but much activity goes on here too.

One senior quietly knits a child's sweater in the main-floor day room, content with the task before her. Two gentlemen sit nearby, chatting amiably, as one taps a rhythm in 2/4 time on the floor with his cane.

The setting is a friendly one, and people seem truly content with their lives at these facilities.

If Stouffville is truly "the friendliest town in Ontario", then so too is it one that cares for its aged population.

People like Joe Nighswander figure prominently in the development of this philosophy. For that, many are grateful.

Editor's mail

BIA budget issue angers group

Dear Editor,
An open letter to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council.

With reference to an article in the Tribune Weekender dated March 23, 1990, I would like to address the following points:

1. The BIA budget was put on Mr. Blackburn's desk on Tuesday, Feb. 20. If it was not the information he required, why did he not call and ask for the correct information before Monday, March 19?

2. The BIA formulates its own budget to cover costs for one year which includes advertising, promotion, and a fixed expense to the Town for its BIA contribution to the streetscape. Had the Town not granted us \$5,300, we would have done with fewer flowers.

3. Our priorities are very much in place. We advertise on behalf of all the merchants downtown. We col-

laborate with the Strawberry Festival Committee to promote the town. The Harvest Festival is only in the planning stages. The Festival of Bells will be held again, as a kick-off to the festive season. Merchants need to have a special event going every month. None of the above events cost taxpayers any money.

4. Our budget is set. We ask the Town to help with the cost of flower baskets. Surely in a town budget of millions, a \$5,300 contribution to help beautify the town is not astronomical and benefits the whole community.

5. Mr. Tatone should know better than to make off-hand comments. He sits on our board and has commented that our budget was well executed this year and has not changed for three years - a bit of a feat these days. We welcome your

assistance, Mr. Tatone, not your off-the-cuff complaints.

6. I believe Council should not have made any comments about the BIA in a non-public forum. We must be allowed our opportunity to speak at the same time. We should have been invited to a meeting to discuss complaints.

As we have in the past, we will endeavor to work in harmony with Council. I hope this letter will clear up any questions people may have about the BIA.

We work very hard to keep the downtown a place to be proud of. We need the support of Council and the people who live in Whitchurch-Stouffville to continue this tradition.

Sandra Stronach
Chairman of the Board,
Business Improvement Area

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