



Kub kar repairs

The 3rd Stouffville Cub Pack brought out the racing gear for a Kub Kar race at Stouffville Place Mall on the weekend and competed for top honors at the popular event. Zachary Raybould (left), 9, and Nick Sergeant, 8, wait for their turn at the track.

Stouffville salutes veteran employee

"Surprise!" Town Clerk Co-ordinator Pat Oakes was shocked and all smiles as she stepped off the elevator at the Recreation Complex last Wednesday.

Little did she know, a "quiet evening" with Ward 1 Councillor and friend Margot Marshall was not on the agenda for the evening, as planned.

Rather, Councillor Marshall spent months carefully sneaking around to plan the surprise retirement party for Mrs. Oakes, who has been with the Town more than 20 years.

Decorated meticulously in Town colors of yellow, white and blue (including balloons, streamers, napkins and even a Town color corsage for the guest of honor), the upstairs room was filled with old faces and friends that Mrs. Oakes has dealt with over the years.

"It was a super turnout - over 100 people were there," said Councillor Marshall, who worked hard to have her friend arrive without a hitch.

"I think she was so surprised to see both former councillor members and staff there," Councillor



PAT OAKES
20 years of service

Marshall said.

Treated to beautiful flower arrangements, coffee, tea, sweets, cheese and vegetable trays and some wine, Mrs. Oakes was the star guest.

"Pat is thrilled to bits. She saw faces she hasn't seen in a long time."

"After all that planning I swore I'd never do this again; but when I saw how everything went, it was like heaven," she laughed.

Mrs. Oakes is looking forward to dedicating her time to her home and garden and if she develops a green thumb as easily as she handled her job, Mrs. Oakes will have the best garden in town.

Town wants truce with BIA

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Some Whitchurch-Stouffville councillors say the Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the Town "shouldn't negotiate between the papers," and would rather the two groups meet and discuss any problems.

Councillors slammed the Main Street merchant group last month, charging the BIA lacks focus, doesn't have its priorities straight and is taking on too

Merchants and Council squabbling is 'silly and laughable.'

many jobs.

But members of the group retaliated with a letter published in the Tribune claiming its "priorities are very much in place" and stating, "Council should not have made any comments about the BIA in a public forum."

At last week's council meeting, Mayor Fran Sainsbury prepared a letter for the local press to acknowledge the BIA letter, but Council voted not to provide local newspapers with the letter.

"Unfortunately there are some inaccuracies (in the BIA letter)," the mayor said and asked Council to support her efforts to have it published.

But Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall, who sits on the BIA board, said she will not support having the letter put in local papers.

"It is really silly and very laughable," the way the two groups have their differences published in Stouffville's two

community newspapers, said Councillor Marshall.

"I'm really sick of the BIA and Council talking through the newspapers," she added.

Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders passed a motion to "delete sending the letter to press."

If the BIA has a problem with the Town "by all means come in and see us," said Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson.

"There is obviously a lack of communication because I don't understand the comments I made as I saw them in the paper," added BIA board member and Ward 3 Councillor Nick Tatone.

After discussion, Mayor Sainsbury agreed with keeping the letter from the local papers.

"We shouldn't wash our laundry through the paper," she said.

The mayor is to meet with the local BIA because "they want to know how we spend their taxes."

Mayor Sainsbury said she will ask for a meeting between the group and the Town.

Motorcyclists being watched

York Regional Police are dedicating April as Motorcycle Enforcement Month and will be closely monitoring motorcycle operators, the force announced last week.

The announcement came one day after a Stouffville was critically injured in a Millard Street motorcycle crash.

"Experience has shown that during the early spring, some motorcycle drivers regularly do not comply with sections of the Traffic Act," the report states.

Drivers tend not to wear helmets and often don't have proper insurance coverage when operating their motorcycles, said Sgt. Norm Miles.

The force reminds motorcycle operators they must have:

1) a valid class M or R driver's licence (R restricts motorcycle operation to daytime and without passengers);

2) a valid vehicle permit and licence plate;

3) valid insurance coverage.

The April 1 accident in Stouffville resulted in an 18-year-old youth losing his left leg.

Stephen Oldham remains in critical condition at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre eight days after his motorcycle hit a pole at Alderwood Crescent on Millard Street.

No charges have been laid.

Claremont proposal

Hamlet study underway

The results of a new development survey will help determine the amount of future growth allowed in the north Pickering hamlet of Claremont.

Growing development pressures have prompted Pickering planners to review the Claremont Development Plan, a 1985 document that identifies future growth opportunities for the 650-strong community.

Town Planner Kevin Heritage says an important part of the review is gathering comments from Claremont residents on future growth and development.

"If there is a consensus in favor of more growth, we could make such recommendations to Council," says Mr. Heritage, adding that survey results are being compiled and should be made public around July.

"The survey information will be used to help us better understand existing conditions. The first part of the survey is intended to provide information about the people and property characteristics of Claremont, and will be used to help us better understand existing conditions," he says. "The second part is intended to reveal resident comments and opinions on what direction development should take in the future."

The existing Development Plan permits residential growth to occur in two phases. Most of the Phase 1 area has already been built up or is under application, while land included in the second phase can be developed only following the upcoming review process.

Claremont builder Karsten Smith, who has several local proposals in the works, eagerly awaits results of the review.

Mr. Smith favors steady yet moderate growth in an effort to help revitalize the hamlet, which he feels has stagnated in recent decades due in part to the Pickering Airport land freeze.

"We just want to bring Claremont back to where it used to be and make it a more viable community," he says, noting that the Brock Rd. traffic bypass also hurt the once thriving rural hamlet.

Mr. Smith's plans include development of affordable housing and rental units.

Parking proposal

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will need 100 additional parking spaces to accommodate its future \$2.3 million expansion plans, Council heard last Tuesday.

The library board responded to Council's request for future parking requirements to offset the proposed expansion and the members passed a resolution last week.

The construction of the new building will warrant one parking space for every 150 sq. ft. of building, which will add 100 spaces to its current 42-space lot.

The spaces are proposed to the west and the north of the new building site.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury is concerned the cost for 100 new parking spaces will be too high.

"Do they know what that will cost," she asked.

Council received the library board's resolution but took no further action.

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