

Basement apt. bid nixed by Council

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville resident who "did all the right things" was turned down by Council Tuesday after he asked to rent out his basement to a single mother.

A Main Street resident said he will have to tell the single parent that she will have to move out if council turns down his bid to rent the basement unit.

"The only alternative right now is to evict the tenant," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

Mario Parisi said a half-finished basement apartment was already constructed in the house when he purchased it.

But "The Town does not allow apartments, and the situation is under review through the course of an affordable housing study," said Town Planning Director Michael Saunders.

"Public meetings will then be held as to decisions on public housing units, therefore this application is

premature," he added.

He told Council granting Mr. Parisi the accessory unit would be precedent-setting and would pose a problem for the building department.

But Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb sympathized with Mr. Parisi and said Council's decision would send negative messages to others.

"This guy has tried to come forward legally and has done all the right things. But he's being turned down. This sends a message to people that are trying to get a few extra dollars to go ahead and do this illegally," Councillor Robb said.

But Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall said a vote in favor of this application would be "voting against our own standards" of a ban on accessory housing.

Mayor Sainsbury said Council should submit applications like this to the Starr Group - the Town-hired consultant to study current and future housing needs - to give the Town "more ammunition to fight the province for sewage allocation."

Council voted to table the application until the affordable housing report is studied, but the vote will still disallow Mr. Parisi to rent his basement apartment in the interim.



photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Mayor offers thanks

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury invited local supporters to her 9th Line country home last week to thank them for their efforts during an unsuccessful bid to win the provincial Liberal nomination in Markham riding. Here the mayor serves supporters outside her home as they enjoy a less hectic environment. Mayor Sainsbury was among three candidates vying for the Liberal nomination last month. It was won by Markham Councillor Frank Scarpitti.

New Democrats field candidate

More rounded development, education funding and a fairer tax system are top priorities for the New Democratic Party, says Durham-York candidate Larry O'Connor, acclaimed Aug. 9 by NDP supporters.

Mr. O'Connor, 34, of Sunderland, says Durham-York residents "are being taxed to death," and adds corporations should pay the majority of federally and provincially-inflicted taxes.

"The GST attacks the poor when these big companies are making lots of money and are not paying taxes," Mr. O'Connor says.

Development is also "a great concern," and an NDP mandate would strive to "keep pace" with runaway growth, Mr. O'Connor maintains.

He says people want more than a bedroom community and development should include projects other than residentially-based communities.

Mr. O'Connor will kick off his campaign Wednesday at the NDP's party headquarters grand opening in Uxbridge at 7 Main St. S., along with Mike Breaugh, who recently won the riding vacated by former federal NDP Leader Ed Broadbent.

Lake water quality needs more analysis: LSRCA

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Musselman Lake water quality has "deteriorated with time," largely due to the area turning from a cottage to residential community, Council heard Tuesday afternoon.

"Everything draining into the lake stays into the lake - there is no flushing action," said a member of the tri-party investigation team which performed the study.

Mike Walters of the Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and co-author of the Musselman Lake Surface Water Quality Report 1989, made his first public presentation to local officials, where he outlined the study objectives.

Although he stated the water samples taken late last year "need a lot more analysis," he said the tests were concentrated on determining the levels of certain lake contaminants that would affect its leisure use.

"We did no work on the ground water whatsoever and dealt mainly with parameters affecting the

recreation value," Mr. Walters told the officials and two environmental groups.

"We did the best we could with the report but it would be beneficial to see where the phosphorus is coming from," Mr. Walters added.

Naming nutrients and bacteria as the study concentration area, Mr. Walters said, "phosphorus levels rarely meet" acceptability standards at Musselman Lake.

He added although levels at some testing stations were high, "Musselman Lake did not have a bacteria problem."

He did, however, say the Environment Ministry is working with a "livestock operation" to determine what measures can be taken in future to lower fecal runoff from the stock.

"Bacteria (fecal) levels are very static, going up and down quickly. Levels rise with rain and beach use," he said.

He then stated "fecal inputs weren't a problem with the lake" although "beaches are still being closed."

Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles said he was receiving "two messages."

"In one statement you say bacteria is not high, but earlier you said it was high. Is it or isn't it?" Councillor Alles queried.

Mr. Walters said because levels fluctuate so severely, the LSRCA would need "more time" to study the lake.

"The (York Region) health department picks up a lot more than we do," Mr. Walters said.

'Complex' GST debated

The new Goods & Services Tax means "diverse changes" are on the way for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Council heard Tuesday.

Finance Director Ed Blackburn urged local officials to allow him to hire a professional consultant so the Town can streamline its business in preparation for the complex GST.

"The changes and cost factors for the Town are many and we can't deal with them," the way the books are currently set up, Mr. Blackburn said.

"There are a lot of implications affecting us as a government body - way different than any other corporation," he added.

Debating a report discussed at the meeting, Mr. Blackburn suggested training staff and hiring a consultant professionally equipped to deal with the government.

"Every invoice coming in here has to be categorized and it's very complicated," he stressed.

But Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles said, "most consultants are in the same turmoil as the Town and there is really no guarantee the GST will be passed by Jan. 1, 1991," he said.

Some officials suggested Mr. Blackburn attend courses to learn how to deal with the issue, but he said those courses are expensive and are not geared to train municipal officials.

Mr. Blackburn tried to stress the confusion the GST will cause the Recreation Department, as one example.

"When we provide services (recreation programs) for a child under 14 we don't charge the GST - we pay it and then we claim it back," Mr. Blackburn pointed out.

In spite of his recommendation to hire a consultant, Council voted against the suggestion.



photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Waitin' till the midnight hour

Stouffville residents turned out last Friday night to see the bargains offered at the downtown core's annual midnight madness sale. A host of activities were organized to attract shoppers to the core. Here, local singing sensation Lawnie Wallace (left) performs at Civic Square.

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