

Builder takes Stouffville Council to task

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The "good corporate citizens" of Whitchurch-Stouffville are treated badly by local officials and its staff, says a well-known developer.

Ken Sandiford, co-partner of A College Street now closed

College Street is now officially closed to vehicular traffic, after local officials passed a bylaw Aug. 14 to stop up the lane at Summitview Public School on Main Street.

& S Construction, was at a recent Council meeting after hearing that a bylaw would be passed regarding a 58-acre gravel pit at Hwy. 48 and Bloomington Road which he purchased last year.

Local officials passed a bylaw that would halt any development on gravel pit lands until studies are undertaken as to how development would affect parcels zoned for gravel pit extraction. Armed with his lawyer, Mr. Sandiford urged officials to give him time to deal with the bylaw. He also charged officials knew the development halt was inevitable long before he was notified, even though he said he inquired last year about land use during a conversation with one official about the purchase.

"You should all be shameful of yourselves. This is really unfair the way (corporate citizens) are being treated by the staff and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville," Mr. Sandiford fumed. He pointed an accusing finger at Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson, who he claimed "confirmed the use of that property" during a brief discussion July 27, 1989.

Mr. Sandiford claimed a concrete plant was a permitted use at the time he purchased the land and said he would "be delighted to know when this bylaw was written."

He also slammed town staff, and accused the building department of "harassing" him. "If I were you, I'd be slightly embarrassed," he said.

Mr. Sandiford claimed he had plans lined up with a "large corporation" to spend \$5 million on a "state-of-the-art" concrete plant, and said all he hears from officials is "back room, second and third-hand reports."

Despite Mr. Sandiford's concerns, Council passed a bylaw that would halt any plans the developer has in the works.

Concerned parents and members of the Summitview PTA had earlier stressed concern the small street was situated dangerously close to Kindergarten children when playing outside.

Council voted unanimously to stop up and close College Street. Lights will soon be erected at the Stouffer/Main Street intersection to ensure children and residents can cross the busy intersection safely.

Ed Lyons, of Ballantrae, was among the 400 elementary school teachers that attended the week-long Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation (OPSTF) conference in Toronto recently.

The annual assembly brings together educators from across the province to establish policies for the upcoming school year, according to a OPSTF press release.

Mr. Lyons, who teaches at a Scarborough school, says the annual meeting "is a good thing for all teachers as it addresses teachers' concerns and discusses school issues."

He says the union approved making substance abuse and sex education a "higher priority," in the curriculum.

He adds that concerns from teachers in Manitoulin Island may differ from teachers in Toronto, as an example, but the conference attempts to cover all the bases and tries to accommodate all concerns, he says.

The OPSTF also approved increasing support to teachers in developing countries. The organization will spend \$60,000 on teacher exchange and school twinning programs, as well as sending bursaries to women teachers and shipments of school supplies.

Through its umbrella organization, the Ontario Teachers' Federation, OPSTF will request the Education Ministry require school boards in the province to develop and implement comprehensive substance abuse education policies and programs, the press release states.

But Mr. Lyons says the items approved have to be "directed toward the government."

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Drug education top priority: teachers

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CNIB golf tourney set at Spring Lakes

Blind and visually impaired golfers swing into action Sept. 20 at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's (CNIB) 1990 Golf Classic tournament at Spring Lakes Golf and Country Club on Hwy. 48 and Hwy. 47 in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The CNIB strives to help the visually impaired and says aging is the main cause of blindness and impaired vision. More than 70 per cent of its help goes to seniors, states an announcement regarding the upcoming golf tournament.

In order to prove that minor impairment "poses no threat to an individual's independence," the event will show how visually impaired people can enjoy sports.

"Participating in sports with visually impaired people doesn't take a whole lot of skill," says Luis Greco, CNIB district administrator, York-Durham District Office.

Because of the aging population the CNIB is helping more than 10,000 people in Ontario - and the numbers grow 14 per cent each year.

Participation in the CNIB-sponsored 1990 Golf Classic will assist the organization in providing more effective help to those in need. The non-profit organization "depends heavily on special events" to keep up with the demand for its service, Mr. Greco says.

Tickets are \$100 each and \$1,000 for a corporate sponsorship. Each ticket includes 18 holes of golf, a cart and the banquet which follows.

If people want to participate in the banquet only, tickets are being sold for \$40.

For more information on how to obtain tickets, contact any York Region CNIB advisory board member or the Markham office at 294-5752.

Correction
A story in last week's Tribune regarding controversy surrounding the Stouffville Track Project incorrectly attributed a statement to Dennis Holroyd regarding placement of tennis courts 150 yards from any residence. Mr. Holroyd never made the statement. The Tribune regrets the error.



On the election trail

The 10th anniversary of Home Support Services in Stouffville last week provided the opportunity for provincial election candidates to get to know their voters. Tory candidate Jack Hauseman had his cake and ate it too.

(top photo) while incumbent Liberal MPP Bill Ballinger also stopped by for a "piece" of the action. Home Support Services provided local seniors with birthday cake and light refreshments to mark the occasion.



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