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Maintenance of Highway 47 soon Town's responsibility

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Highway 47 will soon be the responsibility of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville - a road swap between the municipality, York Region and the Transportation Ministry (MTO), Council heard Tuesday.

A report from Town Chief Administrative Office Bob Panizza and Public Works Director Paul Whitehouse indicates the transfer of roads from Hwy. 47 to the town, from Hwy. 48 to Lincolnville is met with "great enthusiasm" from all parties involved.

The Hwy. 47 section from Main Street North to Lincolnville is slated for reconstruction in 1991 and MTO will upgrade the section from McNeil Pharmaceuticals to the Stouffville Sales Barn before the Town takes over, the report stated.

However, the transfer will not

take place until upgrading is met with "satisfaction to the Town and not until the westerly approach section of the King's Highway is upgraded," the report added.

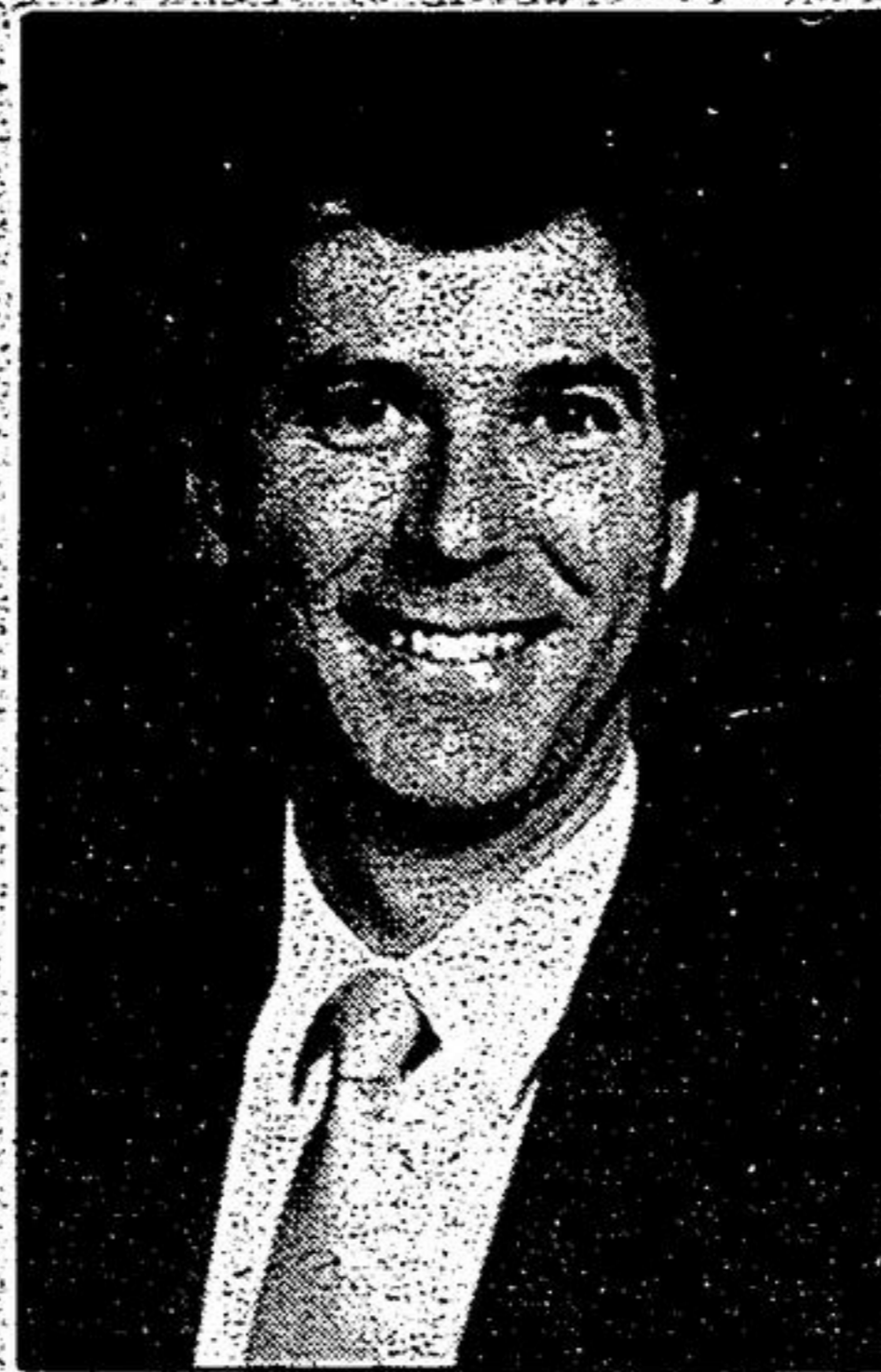
A \$50,000 assessment study must be undertaken by Town planning consultants Giffels and Associates to determine alignment and costs, to be paid for by MTO.

But Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles asked what "direct benefits" the Town will reap from such a highway transfer.

Mr. Panizza said "there are no direct benefits."

In fact, the Town will now be responsible for the maintenance of Hwy. 47 but, in return, will be giving up the eastern-end Town line "which needs considerable maintenance," Mr. Panizza said.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Sainsbury said once the studies and approvals are in place (from MTO and York Region) the Town



BOB PANIZZA
Highway transfer

needs "to get tough" on road-cutting for service hookups, which ultimately ruins the road, she said. "No more cuts (in pavement) for anybody, not Bell Canada, not Classicom and not hydro," she stressed.

Council supported staff recommendations to have a Hwy. 47 assessment study performed, as the first phase in the highway transfer between the region, the Town and MTO.

Stouffville mobility transit service studied

A mobility transit service to transport disabled residents in Whitchurch-Stouffville is being studied in co-operation with York Region, Council heard last week.

Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders, a member of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit Group, has been trying to get approval from local officials to support the group's cause since May.

But the issue had been tabled until all members of Council could be present due to a split vote for support of the plan.

The service would be used to pick up and drop off disabled residents at areas throughout the municipality on certain days, but Mayor Fran Sainsbury, who agreed there is a need for the service, said the project should be a regional undertaking.

"I don't understand why we're not going regionally with this - to be part of a study to serve all of the nine area municipalities where we would all help pay for the service,"

Mayor Sainsbury said.

But Councillor Sanders said he has already talked to regional officials, who suggested the Whitchurch-Stouffville group set up something to determine needs here.

"The job of the committee is to find out how many people in Whitchurch-Stouffville would benefit from a mobility transit service," Councillor Sanders said.

He assured his colleagues the local group is "just gathering information" and is in full support of regional efforts to implement such a service.

But Mayor Sainsbury said data should be obtained through the region first.

"We're doing this backwards. If the region undertook the project we would get all the data we need," she said.

Council voted to support the local group and to have the committee work closely with the region on the project.

Search still on for missing man

The search for a Whitchurch-Stouffville man who went missing Aug. 4 from an Ottawa-area campground, has been expanded to include the Toronto area, says Belinda Burston, regional director of the Christian Horizons Group Home.

Ian Moody, 53, a developmentally handicapped man who lives at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Christian Horizons Group Home, wandered away from the Logosland Campground in Renfrew nearly two months ago.

The group home staff had taken some of the residents there on the long weekend for a holiday. After checking Mr. Moody's tent at 7:45 a.m., staff discovered

him missing 15 minutes later.

Mr. Moody, who has wandered away from staff before, but never for long periods of time, left his tent Aug. 4 and has not been seen since.

Because there were no sightings of the man in Renfrew, despite extensive searches in the Ottawa area, Ms. Burston contacted the Toronto police and media to expand the search area.

Since he has not yet been located in the Ottawa/Quebec area, Ms. Burston suspects he may have been picked up along the TransCanada highway and possibly driven back to Toronto.

Both the Toronto Sun and The Toronto Star daily newspapers have published pictures of Mr. Moody, and Ms. Burston said the Christian Horizon Group Home has had one false alarm.

"Last week a taxi driver in Toronto thought he picked Ian up. But it turned out to be someone who looked amazingly like him. This is encouraging though, because at least people are looking for him, and at least he is being brought to the forefront of people's attention," she said. The Ottawa OPP had originally



IAN MOODY
Still missing

told Ms. Burston and other staff of the group home that someone may be giving Mr. Moody shelter.

Posters have now been distributed to police forces, bikers and truck drivers in both areas.

"We're really getting worried because winter is coming," Ms. Burston said.



A fond farewell

Staff at the Stouffville post office bid a fond farewell to longtime employee Joyce Ewen at a going away party held in her honor last Thursday. Mrs. Ewen was a 22-year employee at the local postal branch and was well known among local residents. About 12 of her co-workers gathered for the going-away party before work started on Thursday morning.

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