

Stouffville library expansion to cost taxpayers \$1 million

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Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville taxpayers are being asked to chip in about \$1 million for a proposed 10,000 square foot library/gallery addition, Council heard Tuesday night.

That would total about 50 per cent of the \$2.3 million tab needed to construct an addition onto the present 7,000 square foot facility.

But the library board said the \$1 million cost to taxpayers works out to about \$20 per capita a year - less than the cost of one hard cover book, or about five cents a day.

The balance of the funds would come from the province (\$777,000) and a fundraising scheme (\$500,000), said Keith Sutherland, a member of the library planning committee.

He asked Council "not to faint" when it learned of the costs needed by the municipality to construct the expansion.

"We want to work together with the Town to investigate the different ways in which we can find resources rather than have the money come directly from the taxpayer. The funds should be well within the means of our library committee and

the Town," Mr. Sutherland said.

Operating costs would total about \$500,000 a year - another \$3.51 per capita.

An addition is needed because the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and the Latham Gallery facility is "currently below provincial recommendations and standards and is not meeting provincial norms (according to population)," said Mr. Sutherland.

He said 45 per cent of Whitchurch-Stouffville residents borrow 102,000 items each year and has 6,100 members that use the facility in 178,000 different ways, according to studies undertaken by the library board and consultant group Fox Jones.

He added a large percentage of people in adjoining municipalities also use the facility.

"Our studies indicate that the reputation of the library is attracting people regardless of where they live," he said.

The addition, aimed for completion in 1995, would mean more ways the library can be used by the residents including the designation of more quiet rooms, the addition of a meeting/conference room, more

children's programs and provisions for more gallery space.

The library board wants the Town to approve the building addition in principal, to commit \$150,000 to the library reserve in 1991, and to have the Town Finance Director "investigate other avenues of funding to cover the expansion plan costs to 1995."

Council voted to refer the \$150,000 request to its Nov. 12 capital budget meeting, and to support the building in principal for completion in 1995.

York lags in study

Whitchurch-Stouffville is ahead of York Region in its study to determine current and future housing needs, said one member of the regional committee in attendance at the Town offices last week.

Town-hired consultant the Starr Group recently presented Council with its first draft and one regional staff member came to hear the results.

However, some local politicians are worried the region, which lags in a province-wide initiative to accommodate housing for its residents, may undo or change what Whitchurch-Stouffville has already completed.

"I'm concerned that once the region implements (a housing study) that ours will have to be changed," Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders said.

But, Barbara Jeffrey a senior planner at York Region and co-ordinator of the region's affordable housing statement, assured council that York is working with the area municipalities to ensure housing strategies at the region do not conflict with initiatives at the municipal level.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the consultant's recommendations, which include a provision to encourage more industry to "ease the burden" on taxpayers, is well founded but said the town's future depends solely on sewage availability and plans at the region.

She also stressed concern that an August, 1991 deadline by the consultant for putting some of the recommendations into action is not possible.

"We can't do much in 1991 because of the planning process. I would like to see the time extended to 1997," she said recently after the Starr Group presented Council with its first draft.

A 36-page report outlining suggested policies, strategies and monitoring systems the Town undertake to accommodate a comprehensive housing mix, has Council concerned.

Some local officials and staff say nothing can be done until more sewage allocation is available.



photos/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Halloween hams

Stouffville area youngsters turned out in all their Halloween finest at Stouffville Place Mall on Saturday for a costume judging contest held there. Mall officials organized the contest and had quite a task in selecting the winners! Top photo, Justin Lawrence, 2, poses for the judges en route to taking first place in the "Up to Age 5" category. Below, mascot J.J. Bird offers a hug to Preschool Mutant Ninja Turtle Jerrica Loyal, 3, who came in third in the same category.



Stouffville Council Update

Kinsmen granted \$3,500 for parade

Residents at Westfield Estates in Stouffville who claim work on their subdivision has been incomplete for the past five years, said they will wait until next spring for work to be finished.

Ratepayers representative Lorenzo Orsetto told local officials last week, "we've waited this long - another six months won't kill us."

He said the residents "don't want to be caught in weather conditions and have to start the work again next year."

He also thanked Town Chief Administrative Officer Bob Panizza for working with the residents to get the work done.

Clear bags only please

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will collect only those leaves in clear plastic bags and will buy five of the see-through bags for each residence in urban Stouffville as part of York Region's new leaf and organic waste collection program.

The program began Oct. 22. All of York Region's leaves and organic waste are being trucked to a 15-acre compost site in Richmond Hill.

The Town will purchase 2,000 clear plastic bags and offer them free to residents and will be offering a special leaf collection for the first week in November.

The leaf composting facility, located on the south side of Bloomington Sideroad, between Leslie Street and Bayview Avenue will be operated by Miller Disposal and will be open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for residents to drop off leaves free of charge.

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents are encouraged to compost leaves on their properties.

Leaf waste is being banned from landfill sites.

Thanking the Town

Cliff Aiken, a representative of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), thanked Whitchurch-Stouffville for its support during the past 12 years last week.

Mr. Aiken said the Town, through efforts at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, has helped many blind people to read by providing 'talking books' and large print books for the visually impaired.

The CNIB presented Mayor Fran Sainsbury with a plaque to honor the Town and its efforts.

Parade grant

The Stouffville Kinsmen Club expects the 1990 Santa Claus Parade to be bigger and better than ever, Council heard last week.

The Club asked the Town to donate \$3,500 to the parade this year, which will contain the theme "Winter Fun."

Whitchurch-Stouffville Councillors voted to provide the money to the Kinsmen.

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