

Scotia McLeod

DESIGN YOUR OWN RETIREMENT

WILL YOUR CURRENT SAVINGS & INVESTMENTS BE ENOUGH WHEN YOU RETIRE?

CALL FOR A FREE WORKSHEET 226-9505

SERVING MARKHAM/AMMONVILLE TRUSTED FINANCIAL ADVISORS SINCE 1921

Weekender Edition

4000 copies

Stouffville Tribune

VOL 6 NO. 47

A Metroland Community Newspaper Saturday, November 24, 1990 56 Pages 25 cents

Great Rates!

11 3/4%

Guaranteed Investment Certificates

STANDARD TRUST

Phone For Details 294-6865

Boards aim to get lot levies in '91

School boards in York Region hope to start collecting educational lot levies in early 1991.

The York Region Board of Education and the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board need only provincial approval before instituting the development charges act allowing school boards to collect a fee through new home development to be applied to the building of new schools in the area.

The boards submitted a plan to the Ministry of Education Oct. 17. "We're the first two boards bringing this forward," Separate Board Superintendent of Business and Finance John Sabo said. He added other boards probably won't be handing in reports for at least six months.

The two York Region boards will gather the money and place it in a communal pot. "It's not ours, it's not theirs," Mr. Sabo said. He explained the draw from the pot will be based on need and ministry approval.

Originally, the boards estimated a charge of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 would be levied on new homes. The separate board calculates each residential unit with householders supporting the Catholic board will pay \$1,360.

The board arrived at this figure by dividing the cost of new school construction (\$42,168,616) by the number of new housing units (31,000).

Public board supporters will pay \$2,600.

But trustees are worried developers could challenge the act that allows the collection.

However, "If developers sue anyone they'll sue the provincial government and rule the province didn't have the right to pass this legislation," Markham Trustee Terry Ryan said.

The legislation is designed to make up the difference between the approved cost of the construction of a school and the amount of money granted by the ministry. The current grant rate is 69 per cent of the cost of the school construction at the elementary level, Mr. Sabo said.

After ministry approval the York Region boards' plan, a public meeting will be called. The legislation can be enacted five days after a board meeting.



Unlucky No. 4 prompts address change

TRACY KIBBLE Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council has changed its regular house numbering policy to accommodate Oriental superstitions, it was decided Tuesday night.

And although some officials stressed the decision could be precedent-setting, they agreed

under the circumstances the policy could be changed in this isolated case.

Larry Hoffman, of Landford Preston Lake Ltd., asked Council Tuesday to allow him to assign house addresses without use of the number four on the 12 lots he is building.

He said the number four, used alone or with other numbers, means death to many Orientals.

He said most of the pre-sold homes were purchased by people of Chinese background, but none would agree to buy the houses with a number four attached to it.

"Most people who are Chinese feel very strongly about the number four and some to the point where they will not even visit a home with the number four in it," Mr. Hoffman said.

"It is such an enormous issue and a very serious matter to them no matter what you and I think about it. And it's not just 10 per cent of Chinese - it's all of them

that feel this way," Mr. Hoffman added.

Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders was the first Town official to move that the request be granted and explained why the number four is a bad omen to Chinese people.

A school teacher himself, Coun-

they have and I think we could accommodate this request," Councillor Sanders said.

Eliminating fours will mean eliminating the number four, fourteen, twenty-four, etc., but Mr. Hoffman said it would be beneficial to alter the numbers now instead of waiting until after the homes are occupied.

Mr. Hoffman said regions such as North York and Scarborough have dealt with the dilemma and added he didn't see any "great downside" in accommodating the

The number four sounds like death and they don't want their homes linked to that.

cillor Sanders said he recently approached another Chinese teacher about the issue.

"The history behind this shows a very definite concern of why Cantonese people do not like the number four. It's not a mythological thing, it's the sound of the word 'four' in Cantonese. The number four sounds like the word 'death' and they don't want their house being linked to death."

"The number 14 means sure death, so I can see the concern

request." But Town Planning Director Michael Saunders said the request could bring a rash of future house numbering changes to avoid superstitious 13 and the number six, which is supposed to be the number of the devil.

Council granted the request to eliminate fours from the house numbers in the subdivision, on condition the changes did not cause staff any major problems.

A LOOK INSIDE

- Comment.....p. 4
- Letters.....p. 5-6
- Sports.....p. 27-32
- Entertainment.....p. 22-24
- Religion.....p. 31
- Puzzle.....p. 16
- Classified.....p. 33-39

See our real estate section.

Dickens' tale of Christmas reviewed. See page 22.

