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Stouffville's support sought in Rouge Valley strategy

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville is the only municipality in the Rouge River Valley System not to endorse a watershed management strategy, Council heard Tuesday.

The Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA)

said Whitchurch-Stouffville is a key member in the strategy, which aims to improve fisheries and the eco-system along the Rouge.

A recent report lists vast improvements to fisheries, run-off control, and urban drainage.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury said, "fish don't pay taxes."

"We have not endorsed this yet

because they've put the cart before the horse on this project," she added.

The mayor said the MTRCA must prove its population forecasts are correct and research servicing capabilities for expected growth in the area first.

"Until the Region of York, the Ministry of the Environment and the province resolve the service collec-

tion issue for the town, we'd just be making our job harder," Mayor Sainsbury said.

But Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles argued the MTRCA does not deal in sewage, but in conservation.

"Look what's happened in Scarborough with development, they've really messed up there. We still have a chance to save our environment," Councillor Alles said.

But, "the federal government passes (responsibilities) to the province. The province passes to the region, and the region passes onto us. Every-

thing comes back to us. We'll end up with a lot of extra work and no backing and they keep coming up with more schemes," the mayor rebuked.

Mayor Sainsbury added the MTRCA is making "motherhood

statements now, which they called radical when we fought these same issues in the '70s."

But Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders said all the MTRCA is asking is to endorse the environment as top priority. I can't see how we can oppose that. We should be right behind them," Councillor Sanders said.

"As long as they don't send me the bill they can do whatever they want in the watershed," Mayor Sainsbury argued.

Meanwhile, the report has received support from Scarborough and Markham, said Town Planning Director and member of the project's planning task force, Michael Saunders.

Council agreed to support the plan in principal.



photos STEVE SOMERVILLE

Funky fashions

A fashion show held Thursday morning by the Goodwood Christian Women's Club highlighted the work of local designer Judi Von Zuban (inset). The show attracted an appreci-

ative audience who viewed the various fashions the designer created. Here, Kathie Kimball models an outfit for the women at the show.

SDSS track project moving along well, say organizers

The SDSS community track is progressing "wonderfully well," and the project should be completed by early May, said Ged Stonehouse, chairman of the track committee.

Mr. Stonehouse told the Tribune weather is posing the biggest problem in the track's construction, and has delayed the project about six to eight weeks.

Machinery has been needed on site longer than anticipated and graders had to be called in to clear snow, he said.

"Weather has been the biggest pain, which has hit us with extra costs. But we have managed to save by using local contractors - so we should be able to come within our (\$450,000) budget," Mr. Stonehouse said.

To date, however, the project is faring well with rough grading and the building of the track, tennis courts and runway for the high jump area prepared and ready for surfacing.

The first layer of asphalt for the track is complete and the lighting is wired and the poles are on the site, Mr. Stonehouse said.

By spring, the project should be complete, and officials hope to have the rubberized surface of the track complete in May. Clean-up, smoothing and sodding will also be done in the warmer months, he added.

Mr. Stonehouse said the Wall of Fame, a wall to be erected at the northeast corner of the site where residents can buy a brick with their family name engraved on it, still needs more donations.

The Track Committee hopes to sell 200 of the bricks, which will bring in at least \$30,000, but have sold less than 50 so far, Mr. Stonehouse said.

If you are interested in having your family's name engraved on the Wall of Fame and are looking for a way to help fund the community track project, call 640-7277.

"We still need a significant number of donations" for the wall, Mr. Stonehouse said.

Service for peace in Stouffville

Stouffville area churches are joining forces tomorrow to pray for peace in the Persian Gulf.

Peace at Parkview Village Auditorium at 4 p.m.

The Stouffville Ministerial Association is holding a Service for

If an eleventh hour settlement is reached in the crisis, the service will be one of thanksgiving.

A LOOK INSIDE



New play Sinners coming. See page 20.