

Reader rails against interim bylaw

Dear Editor:

Contained within the August 28 editions of both *The Stouffville Tribune* and the *Stouffville Sun* are articles relating to a press conference held by Mayor Sainsbury and the town's chief administrative officer, Bob Panizza, regarding the controversy surrounding the interim control bylaw passed by the town restricting the use of industrial extractive properties and the resulting court actions. These articles are entitled: 'Officials set record straight on gravel pit issue' and 'Mayor, CAO clear up gravel confusion.'



any wonder we are now saddled with the multitude of actions brought against the town? Smooth move, Fran.

✓ According to the CAO's statement, the present bylaw does not permit new types of industry on these sites. However, gravel pit operators believe the by-law leaves room for such activity.

This statement is absolutely ludicrous. If the present zoning bylaw did not permit the uses in question, why was an interim control bylaw passed prohibiting the uses? For fun?

Even the town's own lawyers, (who wrote the bylaw) stated that the use was permitted. The town then wrote a letter confirming this advice to one of the pit owners, this correspondence is available if you wish to have a copy.

✓ The press release goes on to say that the \$58,000 study that the town has commissioned will assess such things as noise, truck traffic, odor, water usage, potential for spills and effects on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Further, officials have expressed concern about the quality of the town's water supply.

The question was asked at the public meeting for the study if any detailed testing or site specific hydrogeology was to take place as part of the study.

The response was no. They are only looking at it in a global sense using generally available data. It escapes me how recommendations and decisions can be made regarding water usage, capacities, impact, etc. without detailed site analysis.

In any case, if the town's real motives are concern for the municipal water supply, why have they failed to mention in their press release that the owners of the Bloomington Road property, which is closest to the town's water supply, commissioned a detailed hydrogeological study from one of this country's most prominent and respected engineering firms in this field to determine what, if any, impact their development would have on expensive the town's water supply.

This was an exhaustive, extremely expensive study done with proper approvals from the Ministry of the Environment and assistance from the Region of York, which determined that the proposed water use would

not interfere with the town's water supply. The results of this study were offered to the town prior to them passing the interim control bylaw and they expressed no interest at all in having this information.

They also fail to mention that a serious environmental problem, which could affect the town's water supply, has been allowed to exist on the referred to Bloomington Rd. property for many years and that the present owner has voluntarily agreed to remedy this situation as part of the site re-development.

Passage of the town's interim control bylaw has delayed the remedial work required to eliminate this problem indefinitely.

This combined with the fact that the town's water supplies are already protected under existing provincial legislation, as they are very much aware, certainly makes one question their statement that they are just trying to look after the town's interests.

✓ Last, but not least, it is apparent that the recent press release was prepared by Toronto lawyer Stan McKuch for the mayor and CAO. I wonder how much that cost the taxpayers of this town?

I also wonder how much that cost the taxpayers? I also wonder why our elected representatives find it necessary to hire a Toronto lawyer (or any lawyer for that matter) to respond to legitimate concerns expressed by members of this community?

The point of my first letter was to point out that town officials seem content to spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars needlessly rather than trying to resolve these issues and this is not the first time they have taken this approach.

Just ask Dave Fockler!

As far as I'm concerned the recent statements made by the mayor and CAO do not set the record straight and only add to the confusion which they have created and which we are paying for in a big way.

Under the circumstances, I find it extremely difficult to believe that town council authorized this press release and would be very interested in knowing which members of council voted in favor of same.

Personally, I refuse to buy this self over their own bungling of this situation and feel very strongly that those responsible for allowing matters to deteriorate to this point should be held accountable for wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars of public funds and asked for their resignations.

Dave Probert, Stouffville

Reunion '91 says thanks

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Reunion '91 planning committee, I would like to express our appreciation for your paper's support and coverage of our two day high school reunion in June. As well, we thank the Strawberry Festival planners for allowing our inclusion in their festivities and all community organizations, merchants and individuals' contributions to our success.

Most of the profits realized have been turned back into the high school for educational purposes, but I am pleased to announce that because of the amount of monies involved, contributions have been sent from the committee to the Chamber of Commerce, BIA, Kinsmen Club, Lions Club, Lioness Club, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and the Markham Fair. A special thanks to all former students who attended the reunion and made it a reality.

J.H. Rehill
Stouffville

Having spent a considerable amount of time looking into this particular issue and speaking to parties on both sides of the fence, I can only say that the mayor and CAO are NOT "setting the record straight." In fact, their so-called press release extremely misleading and an insult to anyone knowledgeable of the facts in the case.

For example:

✓ When this mess first came out in the press, the mayor stated that she could not comment because of the pending court case and OMB hearings.

If she could not comment publicly, then why was I invited to a private meeting so the CAO could explain the town's position, (which by the way, does not wash). Now, because of poor press they are in a position that they feel that they can comment? What happened to the pending court case and OMB hearings?

✓ The mayor stated in her press release that "this is not an issue of stifling development at some local gravel pits, it is an issue of planning..." This is absolutely astounding when one considers that the town's planning director was not aware of the interim control bylaw until the evening it was presented to council and passed; there were no planning reports to council recommending passage of an interim control bylaw; there are no planning minutes directing town staff to prepare an interim control bylaw and no one in the planning department appears to have had any knowledge of the bylaw prior to its going to council. So much for it being an "issue of planning."

✓ The press release states that the town had a RIGHT to pass the interim control bylaw without notifying pit owners, and this is exactly what they did. Granted, it does have that authority. However, is any way to treat long-term corporate citizens who play a vital role in our industrial community? What about their rights to the lawful use of their properties, or don't their rights count? Is it

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TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES REPORT

The Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has received the Development Charges Report prepared for the Town by C.N. Watson and Associates. The report recommends development charges related to development and redevelopment in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in accordance with the new **Development Charges Act, 1989**. The Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will hold a public meeting pursuant to Section 4 of the aforementioned act. Members of the Public are invited to attend this meeting at which time the development charges proposal will be presented.

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 1991
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Civic Centre

Members of the Public will be given an opportunity to make comments regarding the proposed development charges and related report. In addition written comments may be submitted to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville no later than September 30, 1991 at the following address:

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
19 Civic Avenue, P.O. Box 419
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 7Z6

Attention: Town Clerk

Comments received from the Public either in writing or at the public meeting will be considered prior to the preparation of the final report and implementing by-law. Copies of the report can be obtained from the Clerk's Department, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville on or after August 21, 1991.

Further information or enquiries regarding the details of the report may be obtained from the Town Treasurer at 640-1900 or 895-2423.

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