



Stouffville Tribune

Weekender



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Airport

Government to sell off Pickering lands

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The federal government wants to unload more than 5,000 acres of land it thought was needed for an airport development in Pickering, just east of Stouffville.

Transport Canada announced this week it doesn't need 2,064 hectares (or 5,100 acres) as part of a 7,530-hectare block acquired 20 years ago for a future international airport in Pickering.

The surplus will be sold off in blocks once the ministry decides how much the land is worth and who should get first crack at it, announced Transport Minister Jean Corbeil. But Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the ministry's announcement was "not well done," and wants more details on how the sale of land will affect Stouffville.

"There is nothing here but a bunch of squiggly black lines," Sainsbury said, in reference to a diagram indicating the land surplus boundary lines.

Sainsbury is calling the ministry to be more specific in its description of the land and wants to know how many acres will affect Stouffville.

"The sale of these lands should be made fair to all real estate companies," she said.

Transport Canada press secretary for the Minister of

State Sandy Hutchison told *The Tribune* Wednesday that the announcement is only the preliminary stage of the sale.

She said the ministry is not

Decision to not evict called illegal

Whitchurch-Stouffville council has made an illegal decision by not evicting a Baker Ave. family from their home, a resident charged this week.

Dr. Blair Mitchell, of Orchard Park Blvd., said council acted illegally, and made a decision for reasons other than for the benefit of the municipality.

Mitchell told officials the municipality would be "embarrassed in the long run" if they don't evict a family from their illegal 35 Baker Ave. home.

He accused officials of "hiding behind the veil of the province."

Mitchell is referring to council's earlier decision to defer action against Baker Ave. homeowners until the province decides if it will legalize basement apartments.

But Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice said even if the Apartments in Houses legislation becomes law, the Baker Ave. situation would still be illegal because the second dwelling is not attached to the main dwelling on the property.

The trouble started when the

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yet aware of how many acres affect Stouffville at this stage in the process.

"We're not selling the land now; we're just establishing

the surplus and determining how to go about the disposal of the land," Hutchison said.

"I wish to stress the retention by Transport Canada of

some lands (5,466 hectares) does not mean that development of an airport there is being considered at this time," the minister announced.



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Riding around

Patrick Callahan, 5, at left, and Erin Conlin, 6, have fun on one of the rides at the Goodwood Lions Club beef and corn roast last Saturday. Many residents turned out for the event.

Fire truck for town approved

After five years of asking, fire chief Bill Brown finally got

approval Tuesday night to purchase a \$500,000 customized

fire truck for the town.

Although council had already approved the big ticket item during March budget deliberations, Brown requested to put out the tenders for a manufacturer for the new pumper/aerial fire truck.

But Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice, the sole official to object to the expenditure, said the chief should investigate an "equipment exchange" with another municipality.

"We need to be more creative here," Prentice said. He suggested Brown find a municipality which might have an equipment surplus.

"We could try an exchange for a one-year trial. We don't know how many streets this new

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Prentice criticized for slamming town's dump report

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Local officials blasted Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice this week for his criticism of the town's dump report, a story which appeared in the *Weekender*.

Prentice said at a council meeting Aug. 11 that he was "disappointed" after reading a \$30,000 dump fight report completed by town-hired consultants. Prentice said he thought the report was inadequate because it did not include technical flaws in the Interim Waste Authority (IWA) site search process. He also said, as reported in the *Weekender* Aug. 15 edition, that the consultant findings could be challenged in court

because of its lack of technical data.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury, in the same *Weekender* story, said the consultant team was not hired to delve deeply into the technical inadequacies of the IWA.

She said Prentice misunderstood the consultant team's job, which was hired in July to find flaws in the IWA process.

But Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley continually slammed Prentice for his comments to the press. She told him he had plenty of time to make his comments known when council first heard the report. Bradley also defended consultant Gartner Lee's reputation as a "renowned and respected" firm. Prentice said he took "exception" to Bradley's attempts to "pub-

licly embarrass" him, and said he had every right to question a report when taxpayer's money is being spent.

"It's about time we know what's happening (with taxpayer's money)," Prentice said. Then Ward 5 councillor Bob Anchiril joined the fray, despite chairman Stephen Ellerby's attempts to quash the discussion.

"We all knew what the terms of reference were, Mr. Prentice. We were to deal with the IWA points about why they chose Stouffville sites. If we are not on that short list I think we will be happy to have spent \$30,000 instead of \$100,000," Anchiril said. "It's premature to spend the money now," he added.

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