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Planning the future

Province applauds Stouffville residents

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents were applauded this week by the province for their overwhelming participation in helping to plan York Region's future.

Municipal Affairs Minister Ed Philip made the acknowledgement to local residents during an announcement Monday offering York Region a special \$465,000 grant to help

cover costs in preparation of its first-ever Official Plan.

"Work done to date on York's first official plan has been encouraging. I have been impressed by the extent of community involvement in the process - Whitchurch-Stouffville hosted the largest community meeting," Philip said.

Local residents packed the Latham Hall last month to share opinions, comments and ideas during one of nine York-hosted Vision 2021 public

hearing sessions.

More than 90 residents gathered to make sure their thoughts would be incorporated into York Region's future planning and lifestyle documents, which will help determine Whitchurch-Stouffville's future.

Philip said the special grant backs the "high-priority project for York Region and the province" signalling a joint interest to "map out the future

for the area."

"This grant demonstrates our commitment to good, long-term planning in York Region," Philip said.

"We are happy progress is being made because official plans are the framework for generating economic development opportunities," the minister announced.

York Region politicians received a final draft of the document which contains pub-

lic comments from taxpayers across the region.

Many of Whitchurch-Stouffville's comments, including preservation of history, heritage and cultural sites and protection of agricultural lands, have now been included in the final draft of the Vision document.

A draft official plan is expected by the fall of 1993, with the final plan to be adopted in spring next year.

Ballantrae residents 'super' angry over Canada Post plan

Residents of a Ballantrae subdivision are fuming this week after learning Canada Post wants to re-locate about 120 super mail boxes to a space in Felcher Park.

Anne McLean says residents living in the area are furious they weren't informed of plans to uproot mail boxes at the Ballantrae

plaza to a location in the park - a move she says jeopardizes children's safety and robs the neighborhood of

already scarce greenspace.

McLean fears cars will be pulling illegal U-turns on Felcher Boulevard once they have picked up their mail, making it dangerous for the many children playing in the park and for those being dropped off at a nearby bus stop.

She says Canada Post should have allowed the residents some input into the matter before sending its work crews to the park to take measurements.

"The residents here were

uninformed of this. It was only on a fluke that we found out at all," McLean said during a parkside meeting with about 15 concerned residents, town parks and recreations superintendent, John Crawley and *The Tribune*.

"Ballantrae is left out of a lot of Whitchurch-Stouffville

funding. We've just always sleepily sat back being very Canadian. Well these mail boxes are not going here. They

are not going in our park," McLean said, urging her neighbors to put pressure on the town to squelch the plans.

But a Canada Post spokesman says the residents were informed of the plan through letters delivered in their mail boxes this week and are getting themselves all worked up for nothing.

Canada Post communications manager for York division, Jim Craig says residents were informed of the re-location plans through letters

(Please see 'Felcher' Page 3)

We've just always sleepily sat back being very Canadian - well these super mail boxes are not going in our park.
- Anne McLean



Police investigate day camp closure

Police will likely determine today whether a local day camp operator legally went bankrupt or intentionally defrauded about 100 area parents.

York Region Police Sergeant Norn Miles said the force is currently investigating the financial status of the Super Camp at Stouffville Road and Leslie Street, and will know today whether operator Lorne Bender had legally filed bankruptcy.

"Nothing is for sure yet - we don't know whether the man is guilty of fraud until after we go through

the books," Miles said yesterday.

Miles said he would send out a bulletin to the public as soon as the investigation determined anything.

Angry parents called The Toronto Star after their children were told earlier this week that the camp would close immediately, reports show.

Miles said more than \$300,000 could be involved in the closure, including about 175 campers at \$1,800 each to enroll, plus busing expenses incurred by the owner.

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