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## Car for chief; water meters top town priorities

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

A new 'fire chief vehicle,' water metering installation and items for the Balantrae satellite fire hall top the town's list for spending considerations during the 1994 budget year.

Stouffville politicians and its department heads met for a full day of budget talks last month to discuss which capital projects will take top priority for next year and which others will make the 'five-year' list.

During the Oct. 25 meeting, which is open to the public, politicians and top staffers assessed the town's current financial position, the town's needs assessment and costs expected by the

town during 1994.

For the 1994 budget year, which starts in April, estimates are now being compiled and officials have already highlighted the following areas as priority for spending:

- water metering and possible implementation in 1994 or 1995, which will be discussed further at Mon., Dec. 13 budget meeting;

- computer purchases for the recreation department subject to provincial grant funding;

- fire chief vehicle purchase from 1995 be considered for 1994.

Politicians also considered the following project cancellations, delays or deferrals during its first day of budget

discussions:

- computer upgrades for parks/recreation be deleted for both 1995 and 1996;

- Memorial shelter and drainage be considered to 1997;

- energy conservation program moved to 1995;

- recreation complex snack bar fryer not be considered for replacement until 1995;

- consultant site plan for museum be put off to 1998.

The five year capital forecast is like a "planning document" which maps out the town's main priorities and expenditures and acts as an economic guideline for the next five years.

The budget is comprised of two por-

tions: capital and operations. Capital items are the town's fixed assets such as infrastructure (water, sewers, etc.) big ticket items such as a fire truck, plus major construction and large repairs.

The operational portion is the "upkeep," maintenance and spending the town undertakes to protect public assets such as snow plowing, grass cutting, repairs and salaries.

In 1993, the town's capital budget was set at about \$2.4 million with the lion's share of costs coming from roads and recreation.

The average resident paid about \$550 last year for garbage, roads and fire-fighting costs.

## Court rule appealed to protect town wells

The town will appeal a Nov. 2 Ontario Court of Justice decision and continue its fight to close down a ready-mix plant operating on Bloomington Sideroad.

Officials met privately with lawyer Stan Makuch of Borden & Elliot Tuesday afternoon for more than one hour before deciding to appeal Judge J. R. MacKinnon's ruling to dismiss the town's case.

The town had filed an application with the Newmarket court in September 1992 against St. Mary's Cement/Canadian Building Materials on grounds the company began operation of a batching plant without obtaining a building permit under Ontario Building Code regulations.

But the company maintains the Code stipulates a building permit is not necessary to set-up and operate a batching plant since no construction took place and only equipment and machinery are on the site.

Judge MacKinnon also ruled that batching was a permitted use, confirmed by the town, when it began its 1990 operation. The judge also ordered (Please see 'Batching' Page 3)



## Rec centre opens satellite office

BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

The Whitchurch-Stouffville park's and recreation department is branching out.

As of Dec. 2, the department will be setting up shop on a one-morning-a-week basis at Balantrae Public School.

Recreation programmer, Peter Arnott is to man the satellite office between the hours of 9 a.m. to noon each Thursday.

While initially serving the purpose of answering residents'

questions regarding parks and recreation services, the branch will soon be hooked up by computer to the rec. centre's head office, said Arnott.

When that occurs, the office will be able to offer full services including registrations.

Arnott said the satellite office is in keeping with the town's objective, as set out in its 1992 Leisure Services Master Plan, to "make our services more accessible to different parts of the community."

"The school has been wonderful," Arnott said of the assistance given by the staff at Balantrae Public School.

"The school board has also been helpful, as has the Balantrae community and school association."

Arnott said the town would eventually establish a second satellite office in Vandonr.

He said he is hopeful the satellite program could be made even more successful with the help of town volunteers.

## Planning process slammed

People who don't fully understand the 'complicated' municipal planning process are made to feel humiliated and uneducated by those who do, charged one local official this week.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice said he, as a direct participant, has difficulty in certain instances understanding the "process" and said he can lament with frustrated residents who are left out in the cold.

"Objections and corrections to any (planning developments) are treated as an inconvenience and a nuisance" at the local council table, Prentice said.

He was referring to council's Tuesday evening decision to approve an official plan amendment to allow the development of the West Hill subdivision south of Lori Avenue, without first notifying concerned residents.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury, however, said the town has followed all required steps under the Planning Act in regards to the development, including holding public meetings for residential input.

"It would be dangerous to stray from the Planning Act," the mayor said, and added the town shouldn't bow to special interest groups for every plan (Please see 'Lebovic' Page 3)

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