



Photos/BRUCE STAPLEY



Hair today, gone tomorrow

Kevin Morreau goes from long-hair to buzz cut at a fundraising breakfast for SDSS Spartans Sr. Boys volleyball team Thursday morning in the school cafeteria. Frank Frano of Frank's Hairstyling performs the haircut which included shaving Morreau's number 12 into his head. All the Spartans got similar cuts after the team won the DYSSAA title last week. The team is in Ingersoll for the Ontario championships this weekend.

Residents oppose site for proposed bandshell

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ple," she said. Watson and fellow committee member Don Petrie, both long time Stouffville residents, fielded residents' questions and demands, saying they were simply trying to assess the feelings of the neighbourhood. "There's no point in us putting it (the bandshell) there if it's going to be another source of aggravation," said Watson. "We need to get this input." The pair was repeatedly put on the defensive by members of the citizens' group, and tried several times to reassure the audience they were still in the initial stages of making the project a reality.

"I've been accused tonight of being devious, naive, and dishonest," said Petrie. "But we're here to hear your concerns."

"You've got to appreciate you've got a frustrated group of people here," said a resident.

Several committee members suggested the frequent incidents of rowdiness in the park cited by the residents were indicative of deep problems in the community. "After sitting here and listening tonight, I'm more concerned about just where we're going as a community," said Alan Percy.

"Have we allowed the vandals and hooligans to take over our town?" said Watson.

Three jobs cut at town

(From page 1)

the town in 1987 as subdivision clerk. The town has also promoted engineering co-ordinator, Tom Parry, as director of engineering/planning - to head a newly-formed department combining staff from various other departments. Parry, a two-year employee with the town, is an engineer with 20 years of municipal government experience.

The town says its newly-formed engineering/planning department "will generate revenue in certain areas to offset staff costs and not rely so heavily on outside consultants."

"The impact of the social contract, reduced provincial subsidies, depressed development prospects and the overall need to belt-tighten, has forced municipalities across Ontario to take a good hard look at what services they are providing and the staff levels required to provide these services," the announcement states.

While both promotions will cost the town a combined \$24,000 a year in salary increases, the two former posts have been eliminated. "The town feels it has achieved the goal of right sizing and done so in a manner that has resulted in the least amount of adverse impact on those directly affected," the announcement says. It made no mention of severance packages or other initiatives offered to those who have lost their jobs.

Economy

Commercial development ideas meet with mixed reaction at town

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The town's economic advisers want town backing to promote the community's hamlets — but some officials say many of the ideas would not be welcomed by residents.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) presented council this week with a list of ideas on how best to create "commercial potential" in Whitchurch-Stouffville's rural communities, including opening fairgrounds and promoting tourism through bed and breakfast operations, farmers' markets and fish farms.

But Ward 3 councillor Nick Tatone said residents don't like a lot of changes taking place near their country homes which could complicate matters seriously regarding land use, zoning and bylaws.

"One of the problems council could face is with NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard.) We would need bylaws to control some of these (promotional ideas,) and a lot of people don't want fairgrounds and bed and breakfasts near them. We would need a lot of rules and laws,"

Tatone said.

But EDAC chairman, Jury Konga said the town needs to face the reality that it sits smack-dab in the middle of the development-restricting Oak Ridges Moraine, which could still work in the town's favor.

"Everything can be looked at as either a liability or an asset. We may sit on the Oak Ridges Moraine, but that is one of the most significant assets in York Region: we should take advantage of that," Konga said.

"There are a number of opportunities in the rural areas for offering full and part-time employment," he added.

Konga said after meeting with at least six environmental and recreation government agencies and experts, EDAC has based its economic revival suggestions on a "wide spectrum of experiences."

Konga said the community's teenagers would relish this type of promotional avenue because youths fit in well with many seasonal tourism and recreational markets.

"We're not looking to implement things that are inappropriate to the community but we need to update our understand-

ing of consumer needs," Konga said.

He said skeptical politicians should realize that EDAC acts as the town's consultants in a number of areas which could not otherwise be afforded and that any economic plans will be put back into the community.

"EDAC (ideas) should be viewed as an investment. Any tax revenue from new initiatives would come back to the public. If the town is to move forward, we have to put dollars toward this," Konga said.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice drew icy stares from several colleagues when he stressed concern that the town might be supporting 'fish farms' in rural areas when it's currently in legal wrangling with a company over excessive water usage.

"How can we support fish farms which pump 1.3 million gallons of water down the stream a day when we're fighting to stop (batching plants) which draw about 70,000 gallons a day," Prentice countered.

Officials were then warned by staff not to discuss the matter in public. EDAC's report will be discussed again next week in council.

Monster home bylaw a missed opportunity

Whitchurch-Stouffville politicians have backed away from dealing with a potentially disastrous building problem within the community's urban area, one local official charged this week.

"Council has missed an opportunity to get valuable feedback and public input on the issue of monster homes," said Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice after his colleagues agreed not to define monster homes in a special bylaw.

Instead, councillors said the town's current bylaw adequately covers the issue and agreed to deal with each infill housing matter on a site specific basis. But Prentice argued that a site specific process leaves no "mechanism for a public hearing" to include residents' concerns about homes that may affect their livelihood, privacy and investment potential. Prentice last week harshly criticized the building director's report on the issue, calling it "biased, one-sided" and of grade school level.

The report said staff is having a "difficult time" defining 'monster home' and again asked for coun-

cil's direction. Prentice said he would have liked to have seen the town's building expert delve into the matter discussing a definition dealing with side-yards, architecture, height, heritage factors and streetscape aspects. He added proof that the bylaw has no teeth appeared when a home at 43 Church Street was built and which at times exceeded bylaw restrictions without more than a slap on the wrist to the builder. Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril agreed that public input is "very important in this area," but stated a site specific review of each application would be enough.

Both Prentice and Ancheril agreed to hold meetings with residents as each matter arose to enable neighbors to "understand the seriousness of the issue."

"Public input is still vital and will help council," Ancheril said. When Prentice asked that staff be present for the meetings, Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby said that would be costly and of no help since "staff has been unable to find a solution to your liking."

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