

Politics

Mayor offers her vision for 1994

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Staff Reporter

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville hopes to clean up a number of unresolved issues which lay at unrest across the vast municipality during 1994, said Mayor Fran Sainsbury during an interview this week.

While delving into the many matters currently plaguing rural Whitchurch-Stouffville, Sainsbury said the first issue to resolve, however, is council's attitude.

For the second year in a row, the mayor is urging her fellow politicians to take to the council table this year with a more posi-

tive attitude, or risk dividing the town and leaving important matters up in the air.

"This council just has to stop playing games. As elected officials one must do his homework and things will get done if we all follow the same procedure," Sainsbury insists.

But 1994 is municipal election year, and the mayor knows full well the "silly season" will likely take full flight around June or July when those vying for her seat will announce their intentions to oust her - if she runs.

Sainsbury said it's still premature to announce whether she'll retire this year, but adds she has heard rumors that at least six

other people want to take over her duties.

"It looks as if everyone is running for mayor and no one is running for council," she laughed.

The mayor said if people want to start "earning Brownie points" however, they should realize that rhetoric and promises are easy to initiate until you look at the roadblocks that Stouffville is up against.

She offers a little advice for those many rumored mayor wanna-bes out there.

"If you're not willing to work within the process it will drive you mental - that's the most frustrating thing. People don't realize what Stouffville is up against,"

Sainsbury contends.

All that aside, the mayor is hoping she and her fellow council members can clean up a number of half-finished issues - the most important, she says, is to gain approval from the powers that be for some much-needed industrial growth in Gormley.

The town's so-far-failed official plan amendment No. 88 has been on the books for some years, and has not earned the approval from either York Region or the province - both stating industrial growth on unserviced land is not a wise move.

But the town has scaled its plan down considerably and the mayor hopes some of the landowners will be granted building permits through a 1994 fight at the Ontario Municipal Board.

"We really need an industrial tax base because there is not a lot of growth planned for Whitchurch-Stouffville," she said.

The mayor has criticized the region's first-ever official plan document which was approved by the province late last year, stating the vision leaves little room for growth within the municipality for the next three decades.

She also hopes to delve a little deeper into the Ballantrae/Muselman Lake water problems and stresses disappointment that the town "got the studies and not the water."

She said after trying to convince the environment ministry through research that the com-

munities desperately need potable water, the province has remained noncommittal to any funding. "We'll have to come up with other ways to bring those residents potable water," she said, noting that at least the studies are in place.

She said the community of Bloomington should have a communal well, while Vandorf/Preston Lake needs a secondary plan to appease concerns of minor industrial growth there.

The mayor also wants to look into the province's enforced social contract legislation, stating the town acted hastily when closing down for three days without paying its employees.

She said slashing projects would have been far more effective.

And Sainsbury said roads must also take a higher priority this year, hinting that if there is a municipal tax hike in 1994 it will, once again, be due to road breakup and damage.

She said last year's thaw caused about \$1 million damage to rural roads, with only one-third of that being repaired under its budget. The town plans to spend about \$400,000 this year to continue its road repair works, she said.

Preventing asphalt plants from striking up in the town's 14 gravel pits, and dealing with any landfill site rumblings will also be high on the council's list during 1994, Sainsbury said.

The council meets for the first time this year on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Mush

Tim Rogers dropped by the library with one of his sled dogs as part of the library's holiday event line-up. Here, the dog, Samantha, entertains the youngsters.

Railway may be ready to roll by 1995

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obtain a second locomotive - that's in the works now."

The target date for operation of the railway is the summer of 1995. It will operate immediately between Stouffville and Uxbridge, and not between Goodwood and Uxbridge as previously reported, Button stressed.

"We will be running between two villages, which will make the whole operation unique. The reception we got this year with the miniature train and fund-raising was exceptional," he added.

"The support from the community has been wonderful and (MPP) Larry O'Connor has been extremely helpful and supportive. He really did a great job for us with the private member's bill."

Thanks to donations from local individuals and companies, Button noted, YDHRA has been able to do a substantial amount of work on the track

and has almost completed renovations to the passenger car.

"We would very much like to thank Schell Lumber and Duncan Giles of Chev Olds in Stouffville for their invaluable help." While things have come together rapidly in the last year, the dedicated members of YDHRA have been working away at their dream since 1985.

When that dream finally reaches fruition, it will provide enormous benefits to the area, bringing tourists to local stores and restaurants and putting both communities firmly on the map.

The South Simcoe Railway, which runs between Tottenham and Beeton, started in 1992. In its first full year of operation, the tourist train carried approximately 25,000 passengers.

And although there are hurdles still to be overcome before our own tourist railway becomes a reality, YDHRA members are determined to aim for full steam ahead in 1995.

Crime Watch

Thief makes off with \$20 on bicycle

A thief snuck in the window of a Vandorf Sideroad house and stole twenty dollars last Tuesday afternoon.

Between 12:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. someone forced open a window then ransacked the place. The only item reported missing was one \$20 bill. Damages are set at \$5.

Police said the thief fled on a bicycle.

Nothing missing

A local convenience store was broken into but nothing stolen.

The rear door at the Ballantrae Variety on Felcher Blvd. was pried open sometime

between 11 p.m. Dec. 22 and 8:30 a.m. Dec. 23.

Damage is set at \$300 but nothing appears to be missing.

Oven swiped

One microwave oven was taken from a sales trailer parked on Stouffville.

Police said an unknown suspect entered the trailer parked at Woodbine Ave. and Abbotsford Rd and grabbed a black microwave worth \$400.

The theft occurred between 5 p.m. Dec. 21 and 1 p.m. Dec. 22.

Party goes awry

A New Year's Day celebration in Whitchurch-Stouffville

turned violent as two women started scrapping.

Two party-goers began arguing at an Aurora Rd. gathering Jan. 1. York Regional Police said the verbal assault turned physical when one woman threw a couple of beer bottles at another woman. She then grabbed a knife from her purse but was disarmed before anyone was cut.

A 37-year-old woman received minor injuries during the scuffle. A Stouffville woman, 38, of Hillisdale Dr. was arrested at 9:40 p.m. Jan. 1 and charged with assault with a weapon.

First report released

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man stresses the need to give parents hard data on their child's performance.

Parents should know what is taught as well as what their child has learned to the point that report cards become simply a formality as parents will already know the level of their child's performance.

Communication with staff and the community should not be to control damage but to let people know what's happening in the system that is good.

The board should hire a second communications officer and a graphic artist to get in touch with the public and stay in touch, Cressman said.

Trustees should also pick a side in the Junior Kindergarten debate. Either start

offering the program or chose to fight the government, Cressman said.

The board has looked into alternatives such as offering JK in community buildings, but Cressman said the cost would be the same in the long run as offering the class in a traditional manner.

Cressman recommends the York Region board join with other boards in Ontario who do not supply JK to lobby together to keep the program optional.

The former board chief touches on contract negotiations, suggesting more staff is needed to bargain with board unions, and he said more staff and students need to be involved in implementing the race relations policy.

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