

Sewage system for lake a regional decision

By TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is powerless to create a sewage collection system for Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae even if local politicians backed the idea, said Mayor Fran Sainsbury this week.

The mayor told Musselman's Lake resident Doug Fox that installing a communal sewage plant in the two northern hamlets falls under York

Region and provincial jurisdiction. "We have no local mandate for sewage unless the York Region Act changed," Sainsbury said.

Fox was scheduled to discuss the feasibility of installing a sewage treatment plant in his area but asked the matter be deferred to June 28 when "more information that has come to our attention" is investigated.

But the mayor said it didn't matter how far the local resident studied the matter because it's out of the town's

hands. Politicians have just signed a three-way agreement with the province and York Region to clinch a multi-million grant allocation for placing a communal water system once the official plan for the two areas is approved by the province.

Residents find out June 21 at 7 p.m. in the Ballantrae Community Centre just how much it will cost them under the Local Improvement Act to hook up to the system. Homeowners can still turn down the plan in a vote which

would require 50 per cent majority before the project could proceed.

But Fox said many residents will snub the water plan unless a sewage system is also installed.

The mayor asked that York Region environmental services employee Peter Osmond attend. Earlier, he told residents a sewage plant was out of the question for the area.

"I'd like him there so everything can be cleared and ratified once and for all," she said.

Police mum on shooting incident

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on Main St. Dr. Paul Westermann treated the dog for 17 skin wounds in the neck and chest. "My opinion as an experienced veterinarian and hunter (but not a ballistics expert) is the dog was shot at least once with perhaps a home made shotgun shell loaded with shrapnel or shredded metal, or two to four times with a rifle," Westermann said. An X-ray showed at least 20 metal fragments embedded in the dog's skin, he said. The vet described

Bully as a friendly and gentle animal when in his office and said the dog is recovering well in hospital despite an infection in the pellet holes.

York Regional Police have refused to talk about the shooting. "Mr. Talbot has made a complaint to the public complaints commission as well as our officers," said Staff Sgt. Brad Law of the emergency response unit. He would not make any comments while the raid is being investigated.



Dog recovering

Bill Talbot, left, holds his dog Bully as veterinarian Dr. Paul Westermann examines the dog's wounds. Talbot has lodged a complaint with York Regional Police because he says emergency response unit officers shot the dog. Bully is recovering at the Stouffville Veterinary Clinic.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Richards on farm dealers' board



DON RICHARDS

Stouffville's Don Richards of Chas Richards and Sons Ltd. has been elected secretary

treasurer of the Ontario Retail Farm Equipment Dealers' Association.

The ORFEDA, a non-profit voluntary association which will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year, represents farm equipment dealers and lobbies the government.

Residents ask for advance notice of flea market events

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gation that the residents need more time to address council before permits for "noise-related" activities are granted.

"I bought my house beside a flea market not an entertainment centre and (residents) want an opportunity to be heard. It's not unreasonable that we receive proper notice to all properties bordering the flea market," he told officials.

Guinane said the flea market dropped off a written

notice regarding the May 28 moto-cross event 24 hours prior to it taking place, which doesn't give residents any time to address council with concerns. Guinane said the flea market's moto-cross event last month caused particular concern to residents, who endured the "irritating, biting noise" from early morning to late afternoon.

"It's an invasion, you can't concentrate and I'm afraid the rules are changing," Guinane

said after pointing out council has increased its approvals over the past two years from one outdoor concert to four last year.

"It's the peace and tranquility of country living that attracted us to our area of town. The investment each of us has made in our homes is substantial and we would very much appreciate council taking our concerns into consideration from now on," Guinane said.

Sainsbury said the flea market had performed sound studies and "did a lot of homework" before the event, which has also taken place in Uxbridge's Elgin Park "in the heart of the town" without incident. "The reason we agreed is because Uxbridge has held these in Elgin Pond and we had heard positive things from other councils," Sainsbury said.

But Guinane said there's no place for a moto-cross event in a residential area.

Flea Market spokesman Rob Shannon, who "wanted to see what kind of reaction" they would get after the event, said it was the company's intention

to hold a moto-cross race, which this year brought in 160 competitors, once a year.

Building director Bob Bennett said the town's bylaw states any "unwanted noise" is cause for complaint but admits taking it further would cost the town between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

"We studied having decibel readings two years ago but the cost is horrendous and the training substantial," Bennett said.

Sainsbury asked the matter be referred to staff to work in co-operation with the flea market and the residents to appease all concerned.



In memory of father

Gertrude and Harold Morgason arrange a bouquet of flowers on their father's grave Sunday

during the decoration day this weekend.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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