

Tribune Exclusive

Region may see break in dumping fees

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

York Region municipalities will see a break this year in dumping fee costs if Metro politicians approve the plan this summer, *The Tribune* has learned.

Metro's public works staff is set to offer York \$18-a-tonne more in rebates for 1993 than last year, and has already approved a 41-per-cent tipping fee reduction to the private sector, according to Metro works solid waste administrative manager, Peter Barry.

Last year, York's municipalities received a rebate of \$86 a tonne, but Barry said staff wants to raise that to \$105 a tonne for 1993.

He said the move was instigated after the city saw a drop in operational costs to run

Keele Valley landfill site in Vaughan last year.

The extra money could mean a surplus in solid waste budgets for all nine York municipalities, but officials say it's too early to estimate what the move will mean for regional taxpayers.

"This might be an advantage to us, but I'm not sure how big yet," said York's chief administrative officer, Bob Forhan.

Metro politicians last week approved reducing its tipping fee charges to the private sector by 41 per cent, from \$152.50 to \$90 a tonne - a move to lure customers away from cheaper dumps across the US border.

Forhan said the tipping fee reduction might create spin-off business in York that would otherwise be lost because of high solid waste costs to private

business. "This could mean a plus for (York's) industrial and commercial sector - companies which were forced to re-locate and drive to dumps in the U.S. for cheaper fees," Forhan said.

But that doesn't necessarily mean great savings for the region, Forhan cautioned.

"What we gain at one end, we could lose at the other," Forhan said.

If Metro politicians approve the rebate increase to York municipalities this June, it could mean a \$109,000 solid waste budget surplus for Whitchurch-Stouffville, Barry said.

Public works director Paul Whitehouse said although he's remaining optimistic, he was advised to budget "for the worst case scenario."

York is currently suing Metro

for \$60 million after the city backed out of its 1992 agreement with the region to pay \$112-a-tonne in owed rebates.

After York's budgets were set last year at the agreed-upon rebate, Metro said it would pay only \$84.

Stink raised about manure

A Cedar Valley couple says they are fed up with flies and the stench of horse manure from a neighboring property which forces them to give up outdoor summer enjoyment.

Doris and Robert Tompkins say their neighbor, who owns a seven-acre boarding stable, piles horse manure too close to their property and fails to clean the area up.

The couple says the odor is so bad they can't use their pool or enjoy an outdoor barbecue and constantly live in "fear of water contamination."

The Tompkins also say they pay more taxes than their rural-zoned neighbor, who, they say, also gains financially from his horse boarding business.

"Does this sound fair to you?" they asked council in a letter this week. The couple says various agencies agree there is a problem, but refuse to take responsibility to force a clean-up.

The couple will make a presentation to council tonight.

Road concerns Stouffvillites

(From Page 1)

south of Stouffville and takes up about 1,500 acres east of the Ninth Line and north of the future Hwy 407.

"Some things are firm - some things are still open," Duany told the crowd of Stouffville and Markham-area residents.

Two questions dominated the discussions. The first was traffic. People are concerned that the traffic congestion in the area will become unbearable with the influx of what is proposed to be up to 20,000 new residents to the area.

Many feel the roads are already too busy and say something must be done before they go ahead with the plan.

Duany said Markham's population is expected to increase by 70,000 by the year 2023, and about 18,000 will be living in this study area.

While he said it is not possible to stop the increase in traffic "this plan generates the least traffic possible."

By the time the area is fully functional, 40 per cent of the travelling will be kept within the bounds of the plan, he said.

There were also some concerns raised about the access to the Markham-Stouffville Hospital by Stouffville residents. People wanted a commitment from the town that they would fix up Ninth Line before starting this development.

As it stands the road is rough and hard to drive on. If this development goes in as planned without the repairs to Ninth Line, Stouffville residents will have difficulty getting to the hospital.

But there was no answer to this question. Neither municipality will take responsibility for the road. They are trying to get the regional government to take over the maintenance.

Murray Wilson, who is leading a crown corporation of the Ministry of Housing dealing specifically with the Markham East area, sees the first ground being broken between 18 months to two years. However, Lorne McCool, Commissioner of Planning for Markham, thinks it won't be until 1996.

But all agree that the whole plan will take about 20 years to finish. About 80 per cent of the land is owned by the Province of Ontario but there are also about 14 private landowners.

These owners are getting frustrated with the whole process. "I don't want to sit around for 20 years under construction," said Claire Baker, one of the land owners.

The plan has allowed for 10 elementary schools and two secondary schools and the maximum dwelling units will be 9,000. There will be about eight dwellings per acre.

The next step in the process is to develop a Secondary Plan that will be approved by the municipality and the province.

Anyone wishing a detailed list of steps left in the process up to the start of construction will be able to get them from the Markham planning department within two weeks.



Photo/LORI EMMERSON

The old fashioned way

Volunteer Gladys Clarkson whips up a batch of Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's annual pancake pancakes, 1800s style, last Sunday at the breakfast.

People

Swimmer Angela White still finds time to coach, fundraise

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Being a competitive swimmer requires time, effort and dedication, not to mention boundless enthusiasm.

Sixteen-year-old Musselman Lake Resident Angela White, who has been seriously involved in swimming for the past seven years, spends between 18 and 19 hours a week training, and is also responsible for coaching a group of six to eight-year-olds twice a week.

"I started in group training when I was 10; maybe three or four times a week," recalled White.

"Since then I have moved up three groups to the top level."

White is a member of the Newmarket Stingrays Swim Club and her schedule is extremely demanding.

"I get up at 4.45 every morning from Monday to Friday and swim from 5.30 to 6.30 a.m., and then we swim Monday, Tuesday and Thursday night from 4 to 6 p.m."

As well, she is in the pool from 7 to 9 a.m. every Saturday, in addition to coaching Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Not bad for someone who originally wanted to take up diving.



WHITE

"My parents were trying to find a diving club for me, then a friend told me about the Stingrays and I went for a try-out and started from there."

Since last season, White has achieved her first level of Canadian Nationals.

"I have Eastern Canada times in both my 100 metre and 200 metre backstroke events."

She is currently working towards achieving Canadian National times within two years. "Swimming is a pretty tough field," she observed. "There's a lot of travel involved as well as the training."

White also participates in an annual swim-athon with the Stingrays, who to date have raised more than \$34,000 for the York County Hospital Foundation.

She has been the top female fund-raiser for the past two years and is now the top fund-raiser overall for the club. Among her sponsors is the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The Aurora High School student has little time left over for social life between Monday and Friday and is usually in bed by 8 p.m. on week nights.

Since she arrives at school early, she gets much of her homework done in the morning and after school.

And when she does have free time, it's not surprising that she prefers it to be unscheduled.

"On Friday and Saturday I like just hanging out with friends," she concluded with a smile.

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