

Flea market concerts pose problems: Prentice

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Staff Reporter

A policy should be in place to protect residents' right to privacy before the town approves holding free concerts at the flea market, said one local official last week.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice urged his colleagues Tuesday night to establish strict guidelines before allowing the Stouffville Country Flea Market a ticket to hold two free concerts planned for this spring and fall on the 10th Line property.

Prentice said residents' rights should be protected regarding noise, traffic, parking and blocking of streets, and requested staff deal with a policy already suggested by former chief administrative officer, Bob Panizza.

Prentice said Panizza, in a letter to council last year, reiterated his concerns that the flea market location "may not be suitable."

"We shouldn't even be dealing with these concerts until a policy is ratified," Prentice warned.

However, the town's fire chief, building director and acting clerk, all stated they had no problem with allowing two free concerts provided the flea market:

- notify nearby residents ahead of time;
- obtain approval from York Regional Health officials and provide paid duty police officers;
- provide the town with emergency numbers, security plans and parking and traffic details;
- obtain liquor permit;

— notify the town of any residential objections or concerns.

But Prentice said that isn't good enough because the problem also pertains to zoning and what functions are allowed on the multi-zoned property.

He said residents were assured last year that council would make sure their concerns would be dealt with by way of a policy.

He accused officials of forgetting about Panizza's suggestion a policy be passed.

"It's not fair to tell residents that things will be dealt with if they're not going to be appropriately addressed," Prentice said.

He asked councillors to support his bid to deal with one concert at a time and to pass a bylaw banning parking during the concert on nearby Hemlock

Drive, Ivy Cres., and Westfield Estates. Prentice also asked to have "extra paid duty patrol" so cars won't illegally park on nearby streets.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury said Prentice was "picking on the flea market" and said the building has been a great supporter of the town.

She suggested Prentice apply the same strict rules to all outdoor functions and not to single out the flea market.

"It is discriminatory to pick on the flea market. If you're going to ask for this are you also going to ask it of the Strawberry Festival too?" Sainsbury asked.

It was decided Prentice would work with staff to form a policy which will be brought forward by the end of June.

'Monster home' has Church Streeters concerned

Some Church Street residents are concerned a monster home under construction may overshadow and undermine the beauty of their century-old neighborhood.

Several neighbors banded together in council chambers last week to voice concerns about a home that is to be built on downtown, quiet Church Street.

Dr. Donald Morgan told officials a house being built by Ken Nastor may be too large to fit with the surrounding homes and is concerned neighbors will lose privacy.

He stressed the importance of a meeting between Nastor, town staff and neighbors to unravel "fear of the unknown" regarding the size of the building.

Building director Bob Bennett, who recommended council support the plan, said preliminary blueprints show the house will be under the regulation 2,200 sq. ft. allowance and covers 35 per cent of the property.

Bennett also said the building would be within the bylaw's 33-foot height restrictions.

Church St. resident C. Laing said he is concerned that "what (Nastor) says is followed through," and chastised the developer for chopping down several 100-year-old maple trees on the edge of his lot after telling neighbors he wouldn't touch them.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice urged officials last year to pass a monster home bylaw,

which would restrict the height and size of homes in certain built-up residential areas.

"Council has said there is no (monster home) problem in town," Prentice said, but stressed continued concern for "loss of backyard privacy."

"We need more than a handshake deal," from developers, Prentice said.

Council

Stouffville soccer club off the hook for \$2,000

Local politicians last week agreed to forgive a \$2,000 user-fee debt by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club (WSSC) after weeks of indecisive debate.

WSSC representatives finally won the debate after officials decided an internal upset likely caused the confusion in the first

place. Council agreed a temporary shuffle in senior recreational staff last year may have caused considerable delay in corresponding to the groups, and agreed the soccer club can't afford to pay such a large fee with less than 30 registered players.

Sal Lombardo, representing

the club's executive, won council's approval Tuesday night in having last year's user fee debt wiped from the club's dollar-strapped slate.

Lombardo told politicians that the town asked for user fees too late in last year's season to collect from players, and added it would be difficult for soccer vol-

unteers to get the money from 1992 players.

"We're not a collection agency, we're out there because we love the sport. Perhaps if you give us your tax department to collect?" Lombardo asked officials.

The WSSC has agreed to pay their share of the expanded user-fee program this year, but like other groups, complained the town didn't get the message out until after 1992 registration

fees were collected.

Although finance director Ed Blackburn had warned council that forgiving the debt would be a further revenue loss for the town, the budget showed an operating "cushion" of about \$13,000 to cover such losses and expenses.

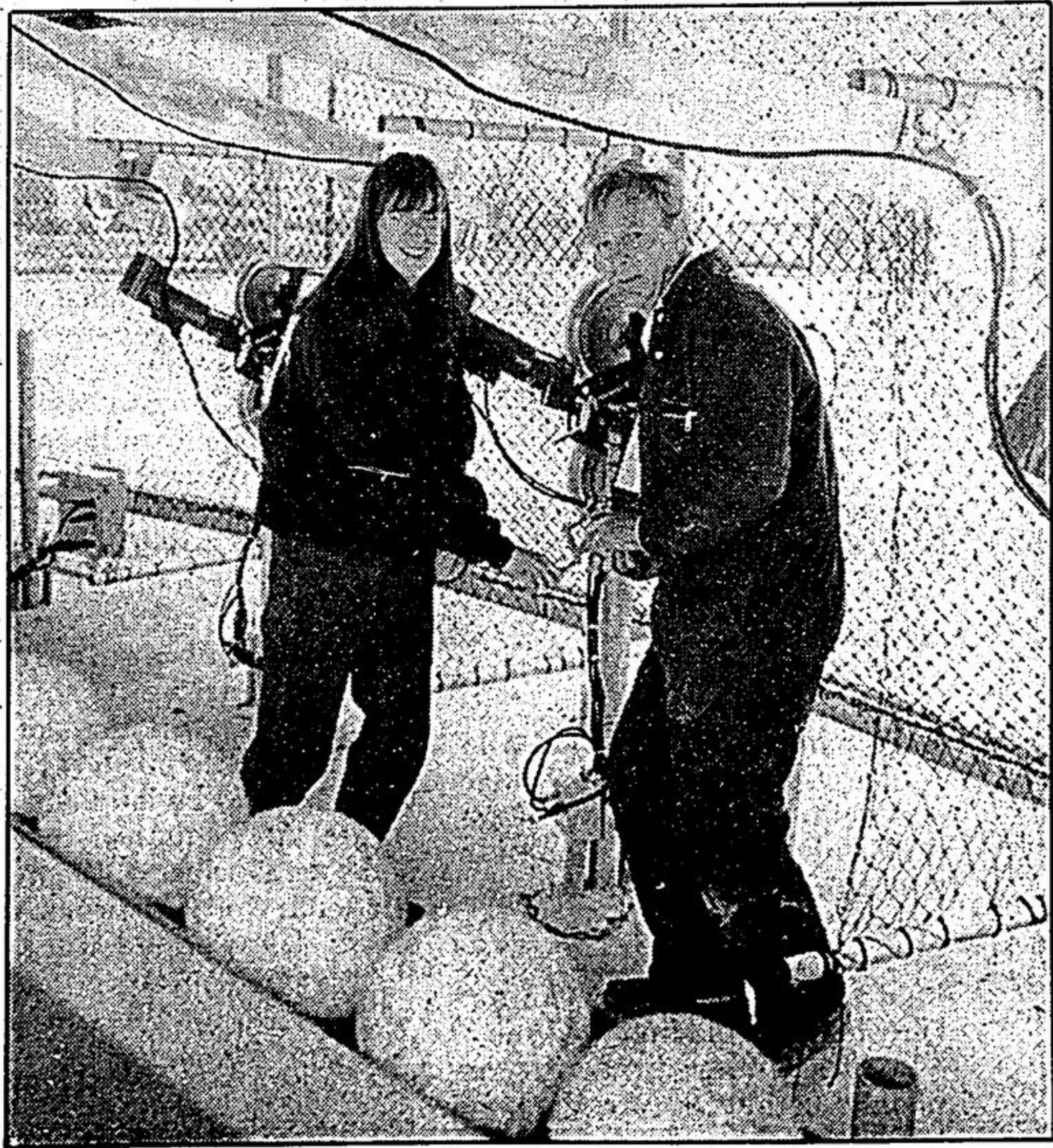
After several attempts to have the club pay its debt over an extended period, a motion finally passed to write the \$2,000 off altogether.

M/S Hospital helping sagging donations

Markham Stouffville Hospital is holding a food drive to help fill empty shelves at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank and other regional food banks.

In a release issued this week, York Region Food Network co-chair Jenifer Clarke is urging residents to drop off donations up until Friday, April 30 at the hospital. The effort is one taken on by three hospitals, also including York Cen-

tral in Richmond Hill and York County in Newmarket. The hospital drive is in response to the lack of donations during the Spring Food Drive, Clarke said. "Our health care system is greatly affected by people who go hungry. Nutrition is vital to good health, so as a preventive measure, (local hospitals) have initiated this drive. The York Region Food Network is giving its full support to this endeavor," Clarke added.



Swing, batter!

Timber Creek Golf recently opened north of Stouffville, and is already attracting pre-season golfers and sports enthusiasts. Here, co-owner Lynn Reesor and Taylor Lownds work in the batting cages.

Photo/LORI EMMERSON

Apathy hurts town: Johnson

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said. She added the executive last year received little support from its "apathetic" members.

"Tell us how we can better serve you?" Johnson said. She added local business people think as long as they're registered members, nothing else is needed from them.

"They seem to feel, 'I pay my membership, now don't bother me, but that's not enough,'" Johnson said.

She added the apathy among local business people is apparent because the chamber didn't receive one nomination this year for its annual Business Achievement Award, which was to be presented at its April annual meeting.

"There was not one single nomination. Do member businesses feel so inadequate that they are not worthy of achievement?" Johnson asked.

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