

Ancheril questions cost of repairing rural ball diamonds

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The town shouldn't spend money repairing ball diamonds even if the money is there to do so, one local official stated this week.

Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril doesn't want to spend \$10,000 in left-over repair funds to fix out-of-town ball parks - asking only those repairs for Memorial Park diamonds in Stouffville be undertaken this year.

The town's recreation superintendent, John Crawley however, told officials minor repairs to Rupert, Vandorf and Ballantrae parks are way past due.

In fact, if they aren't undertaken this year he would recommend the repairs be "high priority for 1994," Crawley said.

Crawley added he performed a "walk-around tour" of all town diamonds in April with minor baseball volunteer Mary Myers to identify the most pressing repairs needed to the rural parks which include replacing old, deteriorating wooden fences.

But Ancheril said repairs to Memorial Park's Diamonds 2 and 3, which call for \$7,000 worth of fence heightening to keep out-of-play balls from neighboring backyards, should be the only repairs the town commits to.

"Why do we take the attitude that just because the money is there we have to spend it? We should fix (Diamonds 2 and 3) and leave the rest to a later time," Ancheril said.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury said she's "afraid to wait" to repair old fencing because costs can escalate so quickly.

Sainsbury said local baseball tournaments can create an economic upswing for local businesses and stressed the need to help one of the town's largest recreation organizations.

"Everything just gets worse when you wait," Sainsbury said in reference to the town's delay in purchasing a new firetruck which cost the town an additional \$50,000.

Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld agreed, stating conditions at the Vandorf and Ballantrae ball diamonds are "nearly beyond repair."

Officials voted to spend \$16,500 to repair both in -and rural ball diamonds. Ancheril voted against the expenditure.



Photo: BRUCE STAPLEY

McNeil memorial award for SDSS

Bob and Sheila McNeil, left, present Stouffville District Secondary School with the Spartans softball sweater of son Dan McNeil Thursday. The sweater honors the late SDSS athlete and will hang in the hall recognizing the school's athletic achievements. The family also donated the Dan McNeil Memorial Trophy. See page 12 for more.

Town must grow, says builder

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ministries and "160 procedures," he said.

Lebovic said 35-foot lots allow him to build a better

quality house within affordable standards set by the province.

He said if he extends the lot size to 45 or 50 feet, there will be less money left

to put into the structure. Brick might have to be substituted for siding, etc., he said.

Lebovic, who has been in the real estate business for more than 40 years and who is a past president of the Urban Development Institute in Ontario, said he would "rather not build at all than build something cheap."

As far as residents' concerns about overloading roads, Lebovic said his plan is to build a collector road parallel to Main Street which would actually re-route traffic away from the already overcrowded thoroughway.

"I understand that people don't like change and most don't understand about growth. People aren't buying estate residential anymore. If Stouffville doesn't get people to move here, it will become a ghost town - the town will die," Lebovic said.

"There is no infrastructure here - if Stouffville doesn't grow it will go backwards, business will die, the town will die," Lebovic predicted.

Town says no to \$1.5 million road grant

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A \$1.5 million road grant to upgrade Hwy 47 was "kissed good-bye" last week because the town can't meet timing restrictions imposed by Queen's Park.

Ontario's Transportation Ministry offered the town a road subsidy this year to upgrade, widen and reconstruct parts of Hwy 47 from the west connecting link at the 10th Line all the way to the 9th Line.

The major construction project would have cost the town about \$322,000, 10 per cent of the entire project cost.

But officials turned their backs on the money last week because it can't begin the project as quickly as the province would like, said the town's road expert, Paul Whitehouse.

"There's no one here that hates to give up grants of this magnitude more than me, but

the restrictions (the province) put on us are too much - we would have had to pull off (a major portion of the work before the end of 1993,) Whitehouse said.

He added the town needed more time to complete necessary studies and paperwork before construction could begin, but the province wouldn't agree to wait.

The subsidy was offered for a specific portion of Main Street, west of the 9th Line, but utility relocations, road widenings and environmental assessments stand in the way of construction beginning, Whitehouse said.

If the town took a chance, started the project and couldn't meet the time frames set by the ministry, Stouffville could be left holding the funding bag, Whitehouse warned.

"Even if we were given the green light (to begin) today, the project would carry into 1994

and we could be left funding the whole project. And that's scary," Whitehouse added.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice said losing the money this year is a heartbreaker for the town.

"I hate to kiss this kind of grant goodbye," he said.

Whitehouse suggested the town re-do its plans and look at

performing the repairs in "small doses."

"We could look at sections and sequences and develop these plans over stages we can afford," Whitehouse said.

He said the cancellation of subsidies this year will not affect the town's chances next year of obtaining new road repair grants.

York may take IWA fight right to Supreme Court

(From page 1)

search process makes sense or if it is even legal," Blue said.

The region has so far spent nearly all its \$200,000 budget to fight the IWA, but Blue and King say it could cost up to \$4 million to complete the battle at the Supreme Court of Canada.

And King said if costs continue to mount, taxpayers have only the province to blame.

"The government should stop the search process immediately until the legality of what it is doing is settled. Why spend tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars per week on work that may have to be re-done," King said.

Obituary

Patricia Kuhn active in Girl Guides

Long-time Stouffville resident Patricia N. Kuhn lost a courageous battle to cancer on Monday, May 31 and passed away at the Centenary Health Centre in Scarborough. She was 51.

Mrs. Kuhn, a respected Church Street neighbor to many, was a valued member of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Commission since she joined the staff in 1978.

Mrs. Kuhn left her secretary treasurer's post last December to enjoy life at home, and was greatly missed from the office by commission staff.

The mother of two grown daughters, Mrs. Kuhn was active in the local Girl Guides, volunteering her time in the administrative sector of the girls' group.

Mrs. Kuhn was born in Richmond Hill in

1942 and her family moved to Toronto where she was raised. She moved to Stouffville in June, 1967 where she brought up her daughters Christine, 25 and Jennifer, 23.

She leaves behind her mother, Nancy McNiffe, daughters Christine and Jennifer, and son-in-laws Blair and Joe; her sister Judith Whitton and nephew, Tim and predeceased by her father, Fred McNiffe and brother, Kenn.

The family held a private service and committal to remember their loving daughter and mother on Thursday, June 3 at O'Neill Funeral Service.

Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society are being accepted and appreciated on Mrs. Kuhn's behalf.

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