



Photo/LORI EMMERSON

### First dip

Norm Hartzman and daughter Lindsay took advantage of the warm weekend weather to get in the first dip of the summer season at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area Sunday.

## Ontario budget cuts mean \$70,000 less for Stouffville road repairs

TRACY KIBBLE  
 Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents won't see as many local road repairs this year as the town had originally planned - and once again the province is being blamed.

Some local politicians stressed concern this week that the town's approved three per cent tax hike won't cover planned road improvements and other operational costs because of Ontario's late budget announcements.

The NDP government said it's forced to cancel about \$176 million in municipal grant money this year in order to keep the province's mounting deficit in check.

Ontario's grant reduction means at least \$70,000 won't enter the town's vault this year - money the town had estimated into its budget to offset operational costs.

And in order that the shortfall won't affect local taxpayers further, officials agreed some road improvement projects may have to be pulled in order to "hold the line" taxes for 1993.

Municipal roads are in dire need of repair this year due to an exceptionally damaging spring frost break up, and rural patch-up jobs are being named the town's number one priority.

Town road expert Paul Whitehouse earmarked about \$1 million worth of high priority road repairs but officials have only enough money to fix about one-third of them, reports show.

The \$70,000 cutback to the town will mean starting 1994's budget talks in a deficit position, officials said, but agreed keeping taxes at its approved three per cent hike is essential.

## Bradley in deep after suggestion to close pool

Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley was swimming in the deep end without a life preserver with her suggestion last week that the town should close the Stouffville outdoor pool.

Bradley suggested perhaps the town close its sole swimming facility because of a staff report showing it will cost about \$6,000 to repair before opening season.

The report shows "several deficiencies" during inspections of the Memorial Park pool in May including replacing fence posts and the filtration motor/skimmer basket, as well as installing a new lighting system "now deteriorated beyond a safe level."

Staff suggest the repairs "require immediate atten-

tion" before the pool could be opened to the public and in time to begin scheduled activities and lessons.

But Bradley said the town should close the pool if it costs too much money - a suggestion that was greeted with sour looks from her colleagues.

Town recreation director Marlane McKee Wetheral said the pool is operating at 96 per cent capacity for instructional lessons and is busy all year for public swimming.

"If (council) wants to close the pool the decision should have been made at budget time. We've registered and advertised swimming programs and have 300 children ready to swim - I don't think you want a



BRADLEY

delegation of that size," McKee Wetheral said.

She added council would be in for a large number of complaints if it takes away the only swimming facility the town is likely to see for many years.

The director told local politicians that the pool is not losing money and asked council to "give us a chance" at running the facility.

Officials voted to spend the \$6,000 on repairs to be undertaken in time for lessons to begin next month.

## Town may need new building staff to comply with Act

TRACY KIBBLE  
 Staff Reporter

The town has "no choice" but to accept sweeping changes to Ontario's Building Code Act even though municipal building departments across the province have vehemently opposed them.

Whitchurch-Stouffville building director Bob Bennett told local politicians this week the town will "just have to adjust" to Ontario's Bill 112 legislation.

Bennett said building departments across the province "complained and lobbied" against the act "to no avail."

He predicts many of the changes will be "vigorously pursued" and will cost the town thousands of dollars and hundreds of extra hours in staff time.

"Under this new legislation, chief building officials will find themselves spending a growing

amount of time, either in court under subpoena or in (provincial) offices responding to an increased number of inquiries and demands for information," Bennett said in a report.

To protect the town's interests it will be necessary to "examine our present methods of information, collection and recording," Bennett said in a report.

Bennett told officials the Act could mean additional staff requirements for the town's building department to meet new demands on current staff because of many of the changes.

The town will know how the changes financially affect it by July 1 when the legislation,

including combining the Building and Plumbing Acts, take effect.

Some of the most significant changes to the province's building code include:

- ✓ subpoenaing building department staff as court witnesses and an increase in requests for information currently deemed 'confidential.'

- ✓ making the town liable for inadequacies and defects which will be alleged to have arisen from improper inspections.

Bennett said higher fees may have to be imposed in order to meet stringent demands under Bill 112.

Officials received the report and will wait until July 1 when Bill 112 becomes law.

### Town

## New CAO arrives in Stouffville

The town's new chief administrative officer is on the job this week and spent the majority of his first day meeting with staff and councillors.

Merlin J. Dewing, formerly employed with the Township of Charlottenburgh, began his top post with the town on Mon., June 14 as a result of an interview in May.

Dewing, who previously held a senior management position in Charlottenburgh, was chosen over 140 potential candidates by a six-member selection committee comprised of four councillors and two senior staff members.

Dewing has 20 years of municipal government experience under his belt, including four years as a chief administrative officer in the township near Cornwall.

Dewing replaces former CAO Bob Panizza who left his three-year stint with the town on Feb. 15 to pursue a career with the Town of Markham.



DEWING

Panizza said he left Stouffville because of planning roadblocks imposed on Stouffville from higher levels of government.

Dewing's job will be to operate, co-ordinate and oversee town staff and their departmental functions and duties. Dewing will also act as communications spokesman to potential developers, etc.

## Ball hockey returns to Strawberry Festival

Ball hockey is making a welcome return to this year's Strawberry Festival.

Organized by the Playsafe Ball Hockey League, which has more than doubled its number of players from last year, the showdown skills competition is expected to attract an excellent turnout at this year's festival, said league vice-president Bruno DeRocchis.

"The league had 120 players registered last year. This year there are approximately 300 players, including a new women's division. The expansion in one year has been excellent, but not really surprising. It's popular all over Toronto, so why not Stouffville?" The competition takes place Wednesday, June 30 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Recreation Centre,

and will feature the top players from the junior, women's and men's divisions of the league. Thursday, July 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. is when the Playsafe Ball Hockey League invites members of the public to take part in a showdown and skills contest which is open to everyone in the community. Look out for location details in *The Tribune*.

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