

Council

# Town's rejection of cemetery may lead to OMB hearing

The decision to reject a cemetery for north Stouffville is being challenged at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Gary Carmichael, vice president of Memorial Gardens, said his company is asking the OMB to overturn council's decision.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is facing a costly hearing while it means a lot of time lost for Memorial Gardens.

If council doesn't opt for a "mind change" and rescinds a decision rejecting a cemetery for Gormley, it could result in a full OMB hearing.

said Carmichael. Memorial Gardens wants to build a \$15-million cemetery on 86 acres at 12492 Woodbine Ave. Council rejected the plan after area residents objected. Also, the town received a 46-name petition calling for the application to be rejected.

Those objecting claim a cemetery would be bad planning and hurt the municipality's chances of attracting industry to that part of town.

Some councillors have indicated that they'd review the previous decision for the plan which includes a

crematorium, columbaria, mausoleum, chapel and sales and service building. David Stewart, OMB's manager of hearings, said the OMB

will not be dealing with the application until at least the late fall booked. The OMB is booked until November. Also, the application for

Memorial Gardens must be classified to determine urgently. "It all takes time," said Stewart.

Joan Ransberry

## School 'family' reprieved

A solution has been found to keep the Whitchurch Highlands Public School family together.

The York Region Department of Health and the Ministry of the Environment have approved two portables for the school site.

The York Region Board of Education proposed a new septic plan to the ministry that would allow the school to accommodate more students than the current 450, but is still waiting for an answer. They (ministry officials) just need a little bit more time to look it over and check it out in detail, said Bob Stover, superintendent of schools.

Although the ministry is still mulling over the plan, it is allowing the board to increase the school population if improvements to the septic tile bed are carried out immediately.

The addition of two portables will bring the enrollment capacity of the Stouffville elementary school to 600 students.

"We will be able to accommodate all students at Whitchurch Highlands," Stover said. Parents lobbied against

the option of busing Kindergarten students to another school to ease the crowding at the 25-year-old school. Stover said all parents who would have been affected by this alternative will be contacted by mail and told that portables have been approved.

Stover said the board will take a long look at the demand for schools in Stouffville and projections for the next five years and compare this demand with the capacity of the five area elementary schools.

He said the gradual growth in town has slowed placed a stress on local schools. Additions are slated for two schools, Whitchurch Highlands and Orchard Park. Another solution being considered is to adjust attendance boundaries.

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