

Hunting continues in west end of town

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cillor Ivanka Bradley said she would back a call for a "town-wide ban on using guns.

Over the years, residents in many areas of Whitchurch-Stouffville have asked that something be done to stop the hunting, Bradley pointed out.

"We can't expect people to live in places where the bullets whiz by," said Bradley. "When it's duck hunting, the kids can't play street hockey."

Council should not permit development in areas where discharging firearms is permitted, said Bradley. Elm Street resident Kathy Duprey agrees: "Would anyone, especially people with a family, buy these homes if they knew the situation?" said Duprey. "The town should look at the bylaws and make amendments before new developments start." Duprey and her neighbors know first-hand the dangers of hunting near a residential area.

Last week, the Elm Street neighborhood was shocked to learn that a shotgun shell came from a field abutting the street, passed between two houses, crossed the street, passed between Kathy Duprey and her little girl and struck Duprey's front door.

Even after the near-miss was published by the local media, the hunting continued.

"It's still going on," said Kathy Duprey. "We're hearing gun shots after 6:15 p.m. all week long. The police are now telling us not to call them anymore."

Duprey said the police did suggest that she call a game warden at the Ministry of Natural Resources.

"To our disappointment, we could not get hold of anyone after trying several telephone numbers," said Duprey. "Although it was the weekend, this is the middle of hunting season."

When a municipal bylaw permits discharging firearms in an area, the police's hands are indeed tied, said York Regional Police inspector Bruce Herridge.

Herridge said while he fully understands why residents of Elm Street are upset, no laws are being broken.

"If it's not against the law, it's difficult for us to do anything," Herridge stressed.

Bill McKittrick of the Ministry of Natural Resources said duck hunting can carry on into December. McKittrick said hunters are, however, asked to show the "utmost respect" for property owners.

Duprey has also appealed to Durham York MPP Julia Munro for help.

"It saddens me when I see my neighbors outside playing a game of street hockey on their driveway with their children and these shots go off and then everyone runs for their front door," said Duprey.

Munro told *The Tribune* that while she respects the fact that the issue falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality, Whitchurch-Stouffville council might consider revisiting its bylaw applying to where people can discharge firearms.

"Council might want to take another look at this," said Munro.

Neighbor has full ban on hunting

We don't have to travel too far to find a town that has banned all hunting.

The Town of Markham, with a rural-urban mix, does not allow any firearms to be discharged at any time within its boundaries.

Tracy Smith, York Region's supervisor for the Ministry of Natural Resources, said a number of municipalities, including Stouffville's southern neighbor, has a town-wide bylaw prohibiting the discharging of guns.

On Nov. 7, Whitchurch-Stouffville council is expected to begin a process to re-write its firearm bylaw. Council will be asked to ban hunting in the town's hamlets.

As areas change from rural to urban, municipalities are encouraged to "update" their bylaws, said Smith.

While a municipality determines where somewhere can hunt, the province determines when—water fowl, including duck hunting, in York Region runs from Sept. 25 to Dec. 20.

Also, hunting is only allowed "a half hour before sun rise and a half hour after sun set," Smith pointed out.

"It's illegal if it's at other times," said Smith.

In Georgia, a community to the south of Stouffville, hunting is permitted in rural areas and prohibited in most urban areas, said Smith.

When it comes to firearms, the ministry encourages legal, safe, ethical hunting, said Smith.

—Joan Ransberry



Helping the United Way

Stouffville trustee Harry Bowes displays one of the raffle prizes donated by Schell Lumber with Chris Collins, superintendent of schools for the York Region Board of Education after the board employees raised \$1,530 from their annual fundraiser barbecue last week.

United Nations

Birthday party marks 50th year

A United Nations celebration, complete with birthday cake, music and a lineup of global thinkers will be held in Stouffville on Tuesday.

Local residents are invited to mark the United Nations' 50th anniversary on Oct. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. at Parkview Village, located on the Ninth Line.

The party is free, compliments of the Stouffville Baha'i community.

The birthday party cake will fly the flags of many United Nations member countries.

The celebration offers music and a five-member panel, including an international speaker.

Marking the United Nation's golden anniversary has been endorsed by Whitchurch-Stouffville council.

As well as hosting the party on Tuesday, the Baha'is visited Stouffville's schools and asked that the students be given information about the UN.

Tuesday's party is planned to attract the individual as well as the family.

Local Baha'i spokesman Dr. Farzad Katirai stressed that there is much in the United Nations that is relevant and vital to our well being and future.

"There is much in the legacy of the last 50 years with which we can take exception. However, the only way to correct the failures and short comings is for people all over the world to exercise their democratic rights in expressing

their will in matters which pertain not only to the local level, the provincial level, and the federal level, but also to the international level. But it all begins here in Stouffville," said Katirai.

Included on the panel will be Jijan Ghadimi, a lecturer on international issues. He'll discuss world peace. Ghadimi has addressed audiences in Iran, Uganda, Luxembourg, Lebanon, England and Japan.

Kerry Stirton, a Rhodes scholar, will deal with the emergence of a world consciousness. Meanwhile,

Judy Filson, assistant to the secretary general of the Baha'i community of Canada, will outline the UN's various institutions.

Panelist Igor Kouzine, a native of Ukraine and a student of the University of Chicago, will talk about eliminating poverty, including answering the question: what can we do?

The concept of a global village was given special recognition in 1945 when the United Nations was founded.

"Advances in the physical sciences and technology, in commerce and industry and most notably in communications give credence, beyond dispute, to the concept of the global village," said Katirai.

Anyone wishing more information on the anniversary party, call 640-9684 or 881-6200.

—Joan Ransberry

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