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Exclusive

Cemetery in Gormley gets green light

By JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Reporter

A \$1.5 million cemetery will be built on 86 acres in Gormley, *The Tribune* has learned.

On Thursday, the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) presented its ruling on the appeal for a cemetery, confirmed Merlin Dewing, chief administrative officer for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Memorial Gardens filed an appeal to the OMB when council rejected its application. Some area residents have expressed opposition to the plan.

While Memorial Gardens can go ahead and build the cemetery at 12492 Woodbine Ave., the town is not getting stuck with all the hearing costs.

The OMB panel did not go along with the company's request that the town pick up the total cost of the hearing.

The taxpayers will, howev-

er, pay \$125,000 for the 10-day hearing.

Tom Parry, the town's engineer, had predicted it would cost the town about \$80,000.

"The OMB ruled in favor of Memorial Gardens but not in favor of the town picking up all the costs," said Dewing.

Memorial Gardens' tab was estimated at between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

Spokesperson for Memorial Gardens, Gary Carmichael, said construction of the cemetery will hopefully begin this year.

"We are pleased with the decision. We always felt the application had merit. I see this (OMB hearing) as a great expense for both the town and Memorial Gardens for no reason," Carmichael said.

The OMB did modify the proposed Official Plan amendment.

There has to be an open space designation, near the

creek running through the property.

There can be no burials within 30 feet of private

property lines.

And Memorial Gardens must not have buildings measuring more than 15 per

cent of the total site.

Carmichael said the company had planned to follow these guidelines.

Local hero

Stouffville bus driver rescues man trapped on train tracks

By JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Reporter

A bus full of children witnessed their driver turn into a hero on Tuesday.

It was a true life, breath-holding, nail-biting, edge-of-your-seat true drama — Guy Castonguay, a Stouffville resident and Stock Transportation bus driver, was stopped at a railway crossing on Green Lane Drive just east of Bayview Avenue in Markham.

On board were 29 students from Thornhill's Bayview Glen Public School.

The railway crossing arm was down; the signals were flashing indicating that a train was fast approaching.

In keeping with safety rules, Castonguay opened the bus door and looked down the track. He was shocked at what he saw. There in the middle of the track was an elderly man in a wheelchair. The man's head was down. He was struggling with the controls.

"He was trying to work the joy stick. He wasn't moving and the train was coming," said Castonguay.

The seriousness of the situation hit: this man was stuck on the railway track and thousands of tons of steel was



After rescuing a man who was stuck on the railway tracks in the path of a train Tuesday, Stouffville bus driver Guy Castonguay receives an Extra Mile pin by Stock Transportation's operations manager Joan Down.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

about to pass. The man was about to meet a sure death and 29 children would witness the tragedy.

"I don't even want to think about what the children would have seen," said Castonguay.

Castonguay had a split second to make a decision. He made it. He turned the bus off, asked a senior student to keep the children in their seats, jumped from the bus and ran towards the trapped man. Quick on his heels was another man who also came to help.

Castonguay grabbed hold of the wheelchair, lifted, and with all his might, he jumped. At that point, the freight train whizzed by. The force from the train blew over Castonguay, the man in the wheelchair, and the other Good Samaritan.

Wendy McChell, a Laidlaw bus driver, witnessed the whole thing. With 35 children on her bus, she was parked directly behind Castonguay.

"I screamed so loud my throat hurts. I was sure all three were going to die.

(Please see page 2)



Heart to heart

Maris Anderson, campaign chair for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Heart and Stroke Foundation, and Mayor Wayne Emerson put on their heart tags Wednesday as Heart and Stroke Month was officially launched.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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