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YDHRA

Railway group wins grant extension

By **KATE GILDERDALE**
 Correspondent

The York-Durham Heritage Railway has won an extension for the remainder of its \$230,000 JobsOntario grant.

The unspent portion of the grant, \$37,500, had been set aside for building the Stouffville station.

However, under the terms of the agreement set out by the provincial government, the outstanding funds would no longer be available if the project were not completed by March 31, 1997.

Two weeks ago, after it became apparent that the deadline could not be met, the town's administrative officer, Merlin Dewing, met with Jim Hobbs from the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and YDHRA president Rob Paré to try and work out a compromise.

Hobbs attended Tuesday's council meeting and

announced that the government had agreed to extend its deadline to Sept. 1, 1997. Dewing was pleased with the decision, noting that the architects can now proceed with creating the final design for the building.

At the same meeting, Paré said the YDHRA board would agree to the town's request to release the sum of \$5,700 for the payment of architect's fees, provided that the town would make a written commitment to the board that the station would be completed by Sept. 1.

Because negotiations with GO Transit are still being finalized, Mayor Wayne Emmerson said council would consider Paré's request and announce its decision in two weeks.

Among the outstanding issues still under discussion are commission on ticket sales, removal of the Mediacom billboard beside the railway tracks and the provision of a

back entrance in the new station for the use of CN workers. In an interview after the

meeting, Paré expressed his appreciation for the town's continuing support for the rail-

way and said he was delighted that the deadline for the grant had been extended.



Whatcha got?

Dog Misty waits patiently for a bite of the snack that Renee Rivers is eating, while friend Ali Wells looks on. They were among many enjoying outdoor activities at the Winterfest '97 at Cedar Breach. Photo: LORI EMMERSON

Official list motion goes down in flames

A call to have Whitchurch-Stouffville officials list what the town owes and owns went down to defeat at town council last Tuesday.

Councillor Ivanka Bradley lost her bid to have town staff present a report listing the full financial status of the town.

The Ward 1 councillor said that in the wake of possible major changes being orchestrated by the provincial government a "full financial disclosure" is in order.

"Since these changes are in our near future, it's imperative to know the state of affairs," said Bradley.

"Whether we are taken over by Markham or York Region becomes a city, I want to know where we stand."

Others on council suggested that such a request would undermine town staff and that the town's assets and liabilities will be listed in the upcoming budget to be prepared in the spring.

Community

Block Parent group saved

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

The 200-member Whitchurch Block Parent group has been saved.

Two weeks ago, a plea was issued for volunteers to come forward to keep the local Block Parent Association afloat.

The town rallied to the need to keep the association going after the core group dwindled so low it looked as if the group would fold, association spokesperson Maryanne McManus said.

"People responded. Interest has been

shown. It looks as if we'll continue to have our Block Parents in Stouffville," said McManus.

A Block Parent public information meeting has been slated for Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Recreation Complex.

"We expect a good turnout and we'll get things under way," said McManus.

Volunteers are needed to deliver Block Parent signs, and to handle the mail, stressed McManus.

Also, any other volunteers are welcome to help out in a variety of tasks, and anyone interested is asked to please phone 640-4506.

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