



GO FETCH: Dale Bull holds up a stick for his dog Sady as Duke and Ozark (with ball) mill around during quality pet time last week.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Expect seniors complex construction in summer

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Despite having difficulty getting financial backing, construction of a four-storey, 90-unit apartment seniors building is expected to get under way in Stouffville very soon.

Local developer Gino Testa said he's confident that the multi-million dollar complex, slated for the Duffin's Creek and Main Street area, will be built

this summer.

The banks have been less than cooperative, Testa said.

Securing financing for a rental project is "very very" difficult, said Testa.

"If it's a condominium, I can get 95 per cent financing. But, if it's for rentals which is for the people need it, it's a different story. You can get about five per cent of it financed. But, think I've got it."

At the present time, the project

DEVELOPMENT

site is being cleared of building and debris in readiness for construction.

"It should be cleared up soon," said Testa.

The residential complex will include a common room, a recreation room, a small cafeteria and possible a beauty saloon and a chapel.

Municipal hall's condition has been debated for years

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"a long time," he said.

Last week, town administrator Merlin Dewing told council safety issues cause serious concern for the well-being of staff and the public.

Still, a decision on a plan to build a \$3.4 million town hall/library complex was put

on hold for two weeks.

Council will vote on the issue on May 27.

Council delayed making a decision in order to give the local library board a chance to reaffirm its desire to have the library expanded.

If the town hall operation moves to the new library complex, the existing hall could be converted to a concert hall.

The state of the building could make it difficult to lease

or sell, Ward 2 Councillor Mike Watson pointed out.

Dewing stressed that the issue of the town hall has been debated for years.

"Never have so many people discussed so many options in so many ways and accomplished so little," he said.

Ballantrae resident Carol Davies wants a referendum on the issue to be held during the November municipal elections.

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— Merlin Dewing

Noise, trash on Elm St. investigated

Garbage and noise from motorcycles linked to a Stouffville apartment building are making life difficult for area residents, local council was told Tuesday.

In an address to Whitchurch-Stouffville Council, Chris Good of Elm Road said overflowing garbage bins at 105 Winlande Dr. are causing odors and attracting rodents, while noise from motorcycles is

disturbing the neighbors.

"The residents on Elm Road are at their wits end to find a solution to the garbage smell and motorcycle noise in our backyard," said Good.

Town staff was directed to investigate the problems and put the wheels in motion to find solutions.

—Joan Ransberry

Liberal Wilfert believes in 'more tolerant' society

This is the second in a series of profiles on the local candidates in this year's federal election. Today, we look at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Riding of Oak Ridges and Liberal candidate Bryon Wilfert.

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

As a young university student in 1972, Bryon Wilfert went to Miami to work on Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign. Twenty five years later, Wilfert still thinks of Humphrey as a "role model politician," a decent human being "who told it like it is," and who had an excellent reputation.

"I don't think there's anything more important to a politician," Wilfert, the Liberal candidate for the new riding of Oak Ridges, said this week.

A Richmond Hill town councillor since 1985, he said he has a reputation as someone who does

n't forget his constituents.

No matter what the issue, Wilfert, 44, pledged this week, "everybody gets a phone call from me, everybody gets a letter."

He still holds regular meetings to hear from people in his ward and said he will set up community councils — one in the town, another in Stouffville and a third

in an area including north Markham — if he's elected.

"I'm going to work hard and I'm going to communicate," he said at his Yonge St. campaign office. "Other than that, I'm not going to promise you anything."

An "only child of professional

ELECTION '97

parents, he earned a Master's in political economy and then a Bachelor of Education at the University of Toronto.

He has taught history and politics to girls at Havergal College, a Toronto private school, for 19 years.

A conservatively-dressed man who favors plain white shirts and muted ties, he takes pride in having been made president of two national organizations, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, a post he currently holds.

"It's an extremely high honor because you're carrying the weight of municipal governments across Canada," he said.

Election posters on the walls show a beaming Wilfert with



BRYON WILFERT

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