



THE LONG HAUL: Nicole Wilkinson, 16, pulls Emma Colpitts, 3, and Taylor Colpitts, 4, across Hwy. 47 in Goodwood last week after a trip to pick up some dogfood.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Hamlet dwellers asked to cap wells

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2 Councillor Mike Watson.

Exposure to chlorine triggers respiratory difficulty, Dziedzic wrote.

After 90 minutes of discussion, council agreed to delay sending the 850 area residents a letter stating that the water hook-up is not optional.

Under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' mandatory connection bylaw, the notice will tell homeowners they have nine months to get connected to the new communal water system. The final deadline will be next July.

In order to get a hefty grant to subsidize the cost of the multi-million dollar water system, a "mandatory" ruling had to be included, town engineer Tom Parry said.

The provincial grant was a case of "use it or lose it," said Ward 4 Councillor Cliff Dunkeld.

Staff was directed to look into including health reasons under the exemption section of the plan.

Dunkeld reminded everyone, including about 20 residents of Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae who attended the meeting, that the town has worked for more than 10 years to provide healthy water to the hamlets.

Some existing wells are in poor shape and do, in fact, pose a health threat to the community at large, said Ward 5 Councillor Judy Scala. "The wells are contaminated. It had to be addressed," Scala said.

Parry reported that provisions are in place for hardship cases. Also, loans can be arranged.

Ward 6 Councillor Mark Kostandoff

said council should focus on leniency as well as making loan provisions fair. This does not, however, impress area residents Don Quarles or Cindy Ross. While each told council that they have good wells and have no need for communal water, Ross questioned the loan offer. The loan offer is "not satisfactory," said Ross. "I'm concerned that people will end up selling their homes." Watson said he's worried that some people will lose their homes.

If a resident of the hamlets refuses to cooperate, the town will take action. It could eventually result in a power of sale situation, reported town administrator Merlin Dewing.

So far, about 150 homeowners are connected to the system. No one has applied for an exemption, council was told. Because of concerns for contamination residents are encouraged to abandon their wells.

Ward 1 Councillor Ivanka Bradley said the water system is being put in to enhance development potential and not to address a health concern. "This whole thing stinks to me."

Bradley also questioned why the (seasonal) trailers at Cedar Beach aren't being forced to connect to the new system. "I'm confused. If this is such a health issue, why isn't Cedar Beach included," said Bradley.

Vern Davies, owner of the 600-trailer park, told *The Tribune* that a number of years ago he wrote to the council of the day and asked to be excluded, and stated that his well was very healthy and that he didn't need to be hooked up.

The council agreed to the exclusion.

Whitchurch-Stouffville 'priceless'

What's a town worth?

On Tuesday, a Whitchurch-Stouffville councillor failed in a bid to get municipal officials to open the books, listing the gross worth of the town.

Ward 1 Councillor Ivanka Bradley said the provincial climate in the Greater Toronto Area is such that the taxpayers in Whitchurch-Stouffville should be told their collective worth.

Since the provincial government is in the throws of changing the face of Ontario, there's "increasing uncertainty" about the future of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Bradley said.

It's time to open the books, including bank account

figures and a list of the value of town-owned assets and property, said Bradley.

In keeping with provincial laws, the financial aspects of the town are published in local newspapers, other members of council stressed.

Also, Ward 4 Councillor Cliff Dunkeld said it would not be to Whitchurch-Stouffville's advantage to show its financial cards in the event that the town is forced to sit down at the negotiating table.

On a lighter note, Mayor Wayne Emmerson said Bradley's idea isn't warranted. "I think Whitchurch-Stouffville is priceless," said Emmerson.

~Joan Ransberry

Crossing guards hang up stop sign after 30 years

JORDAN H. GREEN
Staff Reporter

A Goodwood couple has hung up their stop signs for the last time.

Crossing guards Dora and Rienk Monsma have been helping children cross the street safely for the last 30 years.

Dora helped children cross the busy intersection of Hwy. 47 and Front Street.

"Cars are the worst for stopping, not trucks," said Dora. "The cars go as far as your heels. I have been on the hood of a car, but I've never lost a child."

Being a crossing guard in many ways is like being a parent.

"The kids were excellent, but you have to stay on top of them," said Dora. "You have to let them know who's boss."

In all the years they worked as crossing guards, the only problems that ever occurred involved some teenagers not following directions.

"The worst incident I had, two teenagers were stopping cars by themselves to cross," said Dora.

"Even the police got involved."

The best part about being a crossing guard was seeing the happy little faces every day and then there are those unexpected extras.

"At Christmas time we'd always get bath oils, chocolates and candies," said Dora about gifts the children would give them.

"I used to work at Comcore in Uxbridge," said Dora. "It didn't agree with (my) kids, so this job was open for tender, so I applied."

Dora "crossed" kids for 28 years and only due to illness had to stop. However, her husband Rienk wanted to see Dora reach the big three-oh, so he took the bright orange vest and stop sign and took on Dora's crossing duties.

"He's always been my support, and he's done it the last two years," said Dora.

"I had to have a pacemaker put in; I figured it wasn't safe," said Dora of working.

The Monsmas were crossing guards for so long, they were helping the progeny of some of the children cross the street.

"Some of them have kids and I've crossed their kids," said Dora.

Being a crossing guard is a full-time occupation.

"It's a job, you have to be there on time," said Dora. "If you go shopping, you look at the clock, you have to be there at a certain time. You always have to be there."

There are always backup guards in case the regular guard can't make it to work, but Dora was always there.

"I could phone a backup, but never did," she said.

The couple first met in their homeland of Holland. "I had to come with my mom and dad when they came over," said Dora, of her parents immigrating to Canada.

Rienk, on the other hand, at age 21, left Holland to make a new life for himself here in Canada.

"He came by himself, with two suitcases," laughed Dora. "We like Goodwood, it's always been our home."

Rienk worked for more than 30 years in the meat department of Miracle Foodmart.

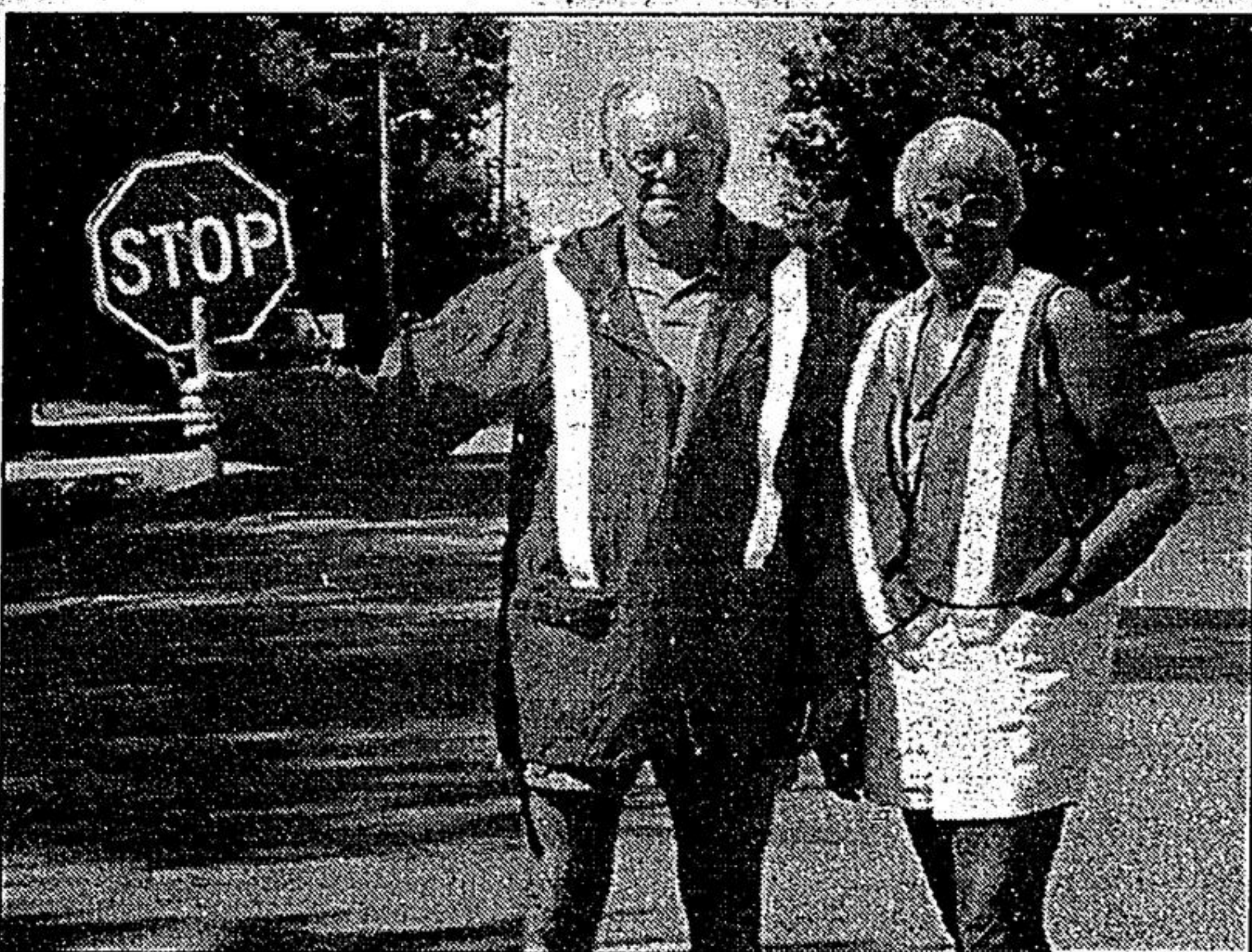
Dora was honoured by the town for her work, earning pins for 15 and 20

years of service.

Uxbridge is now looking for a crossing guard to fill the vacancy left by the Monsmas. Dora offers this advice to whoever takes on the posi-

tion.

"Stay on top and be strict with them (the kids)," said Dora. "And if the heavy trucks come, tell them (the trucks) to go first."



THE LAST STOP: Rienk and Dora Monsma of Goodwood guarded a Front Street crosswalk for a total of 30 years between them, helping two generations of school children to get home safely. Photo by JORDAN H. GREEN

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