

ENVIRONMENT: Stouffville's lifestyle will deteriorate if the Pickering Airport is built, VOCAL tells council

Keep us up on airport, council asks feds

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Stouffville will be in the flight path if an international airport is built on government lands in Clarendon, local council has been told.

Stephen Frederick, president of Voters Organized to Cancel the Airport Lands (VOCAL), is seeking council support in fighting the fed-

eral government's plans to build an international airport on lands in Pickering. The public has been getting conflicting reports on the plans, Frederick said.

Because some federal officials claim the land won't be developed for more than 20 years, it's adding to the confusion, he said. One thing is certain: A major airport would have a detrimental effect on

the quality of life in Stouffville, Frederick said.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson said an international airport would not be welcomed by the residents of Stouffville.

"But we need a regional airport," Emmerson said.

VOCAL, a newly-formed grass roots non-profit organization is dedicated to stopping the airport

from becoming a reality.

"We believe that the citizens of Stouffville have everything to lose and nothing to gain by supporting the designation process," Frederick said.

A door-to-door canvass carried out in Stouffville, has revealed considerable opposition to the airport designation, he said.

"We have found that once peo-

ple are aware of the facts related to the airport designation process, they oppose it."

Council directed staff to write to the federal government and ask for information regarding the local federal-owned lands and ask that Stouffville be included when major decisions are made.

"We need to ask where and when," Emmerson said.

Ontario pledges cash to region's long-term care

Province announces 420 long-term beds across the region

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
STAFF WRITER

Four long-term care facilities, with a total of 420 beds, will be built in York Region, the province announced this week.

Minister Responsible for Seniors Cam Jackson made the announcement at Markham's Bethany Lodge Wednesday, following up on his government's April pledge to inject \$1.2 billion for 20,000 new beds into Ontario's long-term health care system.

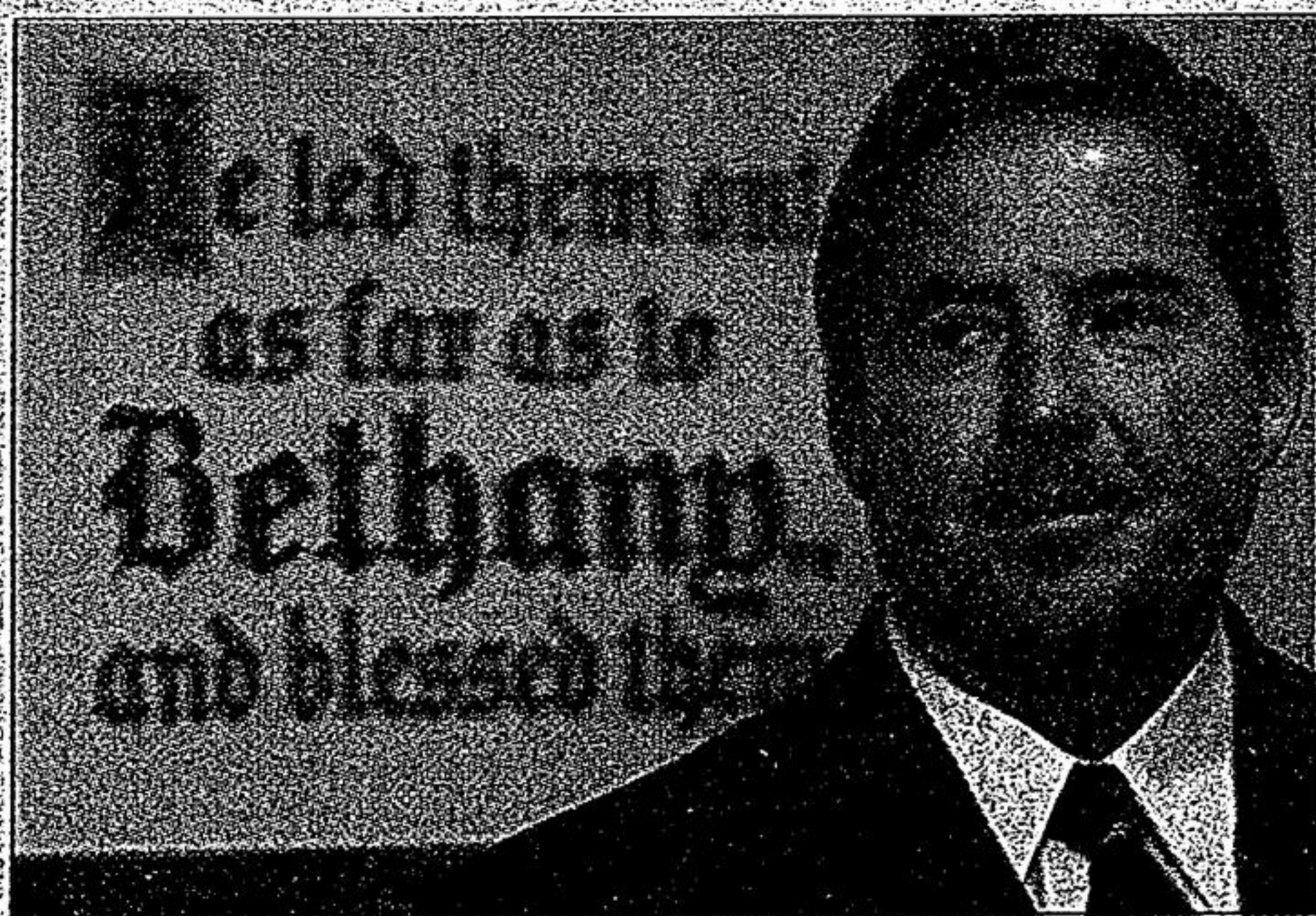
Over the next seven years — if the government stays in power, that is — York should receive \$45 million in funding for 1,523 new long-term beds and another \$42 million for expanded community care services, Jackson said.

"There hasn't been a single long-term care bed built in Ontario in the last 10 years," Jackson said. "Now we're the government and things have changed."

He said Premier Mike Harris made the tough decision to close some Toronto hospitals and now those funds are being re-distributed to those areas who have not received their fair share in the past.

The province will contribute \$10.2 million in operating funds every year for the new beds as well as \$1.6 million a year in capital funding to help with construction costs, Jackson said.

Two of the four centres, providing more than half of the total beds at 260, will be "culturally sensitive," geared towards specific ethnic groups in the region.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Minister Responsible for Seniors Cam Jackson was in Markham Wednesday to announce permanent long-term care beds in York Region.

Baycrest York Region will be building a 120-bed facility in Vaughan focussing on programs for the Jewish community. It will offer respite care, short-stay palliative care and community outreach programs.

The Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care will open a 140-bed centre in Markham for the growing Chinese and South Asian communities, offering specialized programs for those with cognitive impairments as well as community outreach. It will be located within the Cornell development at Ninth Line and Hwy. 7.

Jackson said in a later interview the rapid growth of York's ethnic communities warranted specialized care facilities.

"With the second round we will be distributing beds more

evenly," he said. "This round we had to put them in areas that have been really underserved."

The next announcement is scheduled for April, 1999, he added.

Richmond Hill seniors will benefit from a new 64-bed facility built by the Central Care Corporation for those with cognitive impairments, as well as those needing respite and post-operative care.

Jackson said his ministry received 32 proposals for the funding from across the region, but only the best, with the most modern design standards, were chosen after a rigorous screening process.

Shovels should be in the ground by next spring with completion expected sometime during the year 2000.

COMMUNITY: Residents discuss ways to curb vandalism

Time to take back our town, lawyer says

FROM PAGE 1

rash of vandalism triggered the 'Take Back the Town' approach to tackling problems.

Stouffville has had its share of trouble of late. More than 40 cemetery grave stones were toppled and smashed, school portables were ransacked, windows were smashed, flower pots were overturned, paint was splashed on a wall at the Legion hall, poles and signs and hanging plants were ripped from the ground at the Stouffville train station and baseball bats were taken to mailboxes.

A month ago, four Main Street businesses were broken into. "Something must be done before it gets worse many people suggest."

"A program will work well, but it takes a commitment from the folks," Powley said.

"The eyes and ears of the community are needed. It'll take a whole community effort."

A police station in downtown Stouffville, hefty fines for speeders, a three-way citizen's "snitch" program, a drop-in spot for youth and a Crime Stoppers telephone system in the schools were a few of the ideas bounced around.

Emmerson wants the community watch program to reach such areas as Vandorf, Gormley, Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake. "It's not just for downtown Stouffville," Emmerson said.

Adopting a Road Watch program and extending it to include criminal acts was proposed by Ward 4 Councillor Cliff Dunkeld.

A citizen report form can be filled out and dropped off at the town office if a resident spots a speeder or someone involved in a crime.

From there, the form will be handed over to the police, Dunkeld explained. In the case of the speeder, the police notify the vehicle owner pointing out the offense. "It's an 'eyes are on you'

reminder," Dunkeld said.

The letter from the police can state that "aggressive driving" has been noted, Emmerson said.

"This simple approach can also apply to (animal) stoop and scoop (laws) or to graffiti," he added.

Other communities have had success with Road Watch, Dunkeld said. "It's doing very well in Caledon."

Police presence should be increased, Ward 1 councillor Steve Pliakes said. "Whatever happened to the cop on the beat?" Pliakes said.

Putting a police station in the Stouffville train station is a viable idea, Emmerson said. "I'm going to talk to the (police) chief about it," Emmerson said.

Increasing the fines for illegal parking in school zones from \$60 to \$120 as well as beefing up police traffic patrols are other options to explore, Emmerson added.

Meanwhile, promoting Crime Stoppers is a valid idea, Powley said. "We solve a lot of crime over the telephone."

Lawyer Eric Button suggested the snitch program gives people the chance to remain anonymous. "People are afraid of it being traced back to them. But, I agree, it is time we took back our town," Button said.

Grade 13 student Clare Gilderdale appealed to the group not to take a dim view of youth in general.

"Yes, there are a few bad apples. But most young people are wonderful people who think vandalism is rude and ignorant," Gilderdale said.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this program, call the mayor's office at 640-1900.



DET. SGT. BRUCE POWLEY

Program needs eyes and ears of community

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