

CREWS THROUGH TOWN



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Woodbine Avenue in Vandorf was closed to through traffic Tuesday while construction crews worked to build a culvert at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. The work is part of a regional road improvement program.

TOWN: Additional costs for station will come from reserve funds

Chief eyes operating budget to hire more firefighters

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than anywhere else in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Carroll said.

"Ballantrae will be the fastest-growing part of Stouffville in the next five years," he said.

And that forecast was a key factor in planning the new fire hall, Brown agreed.

'Hiring (additional firefighters) all depends on what (money) is available'

• Chief Bill Brown

"The growth in this area will be phenomenal. It'll be more than anyone realizes," he said.

Next year, the first phase of Ballantrae's mature adult community, made up of 900 homes, will be complete.

As well, an 80-home subdivision is being built close to the hall, Brown said.

While the new facility will not include an ambulance service, it will be equipped to accommodate an emergency operation centre,



MARK CARROLL
Ballantrae to have most growth

including an emergency standby power system.

In the event of a disaster, Whitchurch-Stouffville will be ready, Brown said.

The one-and-a-half-storey fire hall includes a 36-vehicle parking lot. Some furnishings will be moved in September, while the entire station should be up and running sometime in October, Carroll said.

The hall design includes a garage with equipment rooms, a two-storey administrative office and a training room, with a second-floor central emergency command centre.

Despite the cost, the project will not impact on taxes. Additional money will come from the town's reserve fund.

Council may have to look at

adding a few more volunteer firefighters, Brown said. "Hiring all depends on what (money) is available," he said.

The hall design includes a garage with equipment rooms, a two-storey administrative office and a training room, with a second-floor central emergency command centre.

While amalgamation is the way of the future for much of the Greater Toronto Area, fire stations in small municipalities are not about to close and be swallowed up by the largest departments, he said.

A recent York Region study suggests fire services be amalgamated in the region's larger municipalities including Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Aurora and Vaughan. Smaller towns, including Whitchurch-Stouffville, will continue to operate independent fire departments.

GROWTH: Ballantrae in midst of mini building boom

Plans stay on course

Purchasers buy into complete lifestyle

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

It's work in progress in Ballantrae this summer. Developer/builder Schickendanz Brothers is taking full advantage of the recent dry spell. It's weather fit for a builder.

And, when you're building a mature adult lifestyle community, every day counts. The over 50s are taking an interest.

As well as residents of the hamlet, potential buyers are keeping an eye on construction of the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club on Hwy. 48 at Aurora Road. It's well under way.

Any day now, the 18-hole, semi-private course will be seeded. "It'll be ready for play in the spring of 2000," said Bob Forhan Jr., spokesperson for the Forhan Group.

The championship-style golf course, managed by John McLellan, includes numerous storm water ponds.

"The ponds are huge. The water does not come from the communal well," Forhan said.

Construction of the project's sewage treatment plant will also get under way soon.

"It all seems to be happening now," Forhan said.

And, construction of phase I, made up of 250 homes, starts in the spring. Meanwhile, the marketing begins this fall. The first house should be occupied one year later. "People have been calling. Yes, there's interest," Forhan said.

The first of the planned 25,000 trees have been planted on the 422-acre site which includes walking trails.

The development, managed by The Forhan Group, will involve five phases spread over 15 years. About 90 cluster, condominium-style houses will be built each year.

"When we're finished, this will be the greatest thing that has ever happened to Whitchurch-Stouffville," co-owner Gus Schickendanz said.

Each of the housing units will be situated so that it backs onto a natural or recreational feature, leaving the impression of a seamless rear yard, he said.

Of the entire development, 75 per cent will be open space. Some existing woodlots will see minimum encroachment and the development of some golf course holes will occur on the edge areas so that the internal woodlots will remain fully intact, Forhan said.

Last year, Audubon International chose the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club as the first project in Canada to be accepted into the Signature Status program.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

John McLellan, manager golf operations for Ballantrae Golf and Country Club, now being built off Hwy. 48 and Aurora Sideroad, stands on a hillock which will be a parking lot at the new clubhouse. The site views the ninth and 18th green with and one pond.

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