

Tree cutting fine, penalty OK with city

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on the charges because "prosecuting on these individual charges is difficult", Mark Guinto, executive assistant to Mayor Dave Ryan, said in a written response Thursday to a submitted set of questions.

The city is satisfied that the fine and penalty forms "a strong deterrent" against illegal tree-cutting, the statement said.

"Combined with the \$10,000 fine, the mandated replanting and five-year maintenance of 1,000 trees will be a very significant cost."

The city is supporting a growth study, paid for by developers Silvio DeGasperi of Vaughan and Jerry Coughlin of Ajax, which recommends housing in the area, which is part of the former Duffin Rouge Agricultural Preserve. The province has moved to block development on Pickering's Duffin Rouge lands with a zoning order and proposes to include the Duffin Rouge in Pickering and Markham in its greenbelt.

Mr. Colucci is also president of Erosion Control Gabions Ltd., which shares a Concord address with Rosebank Farms. He was not available for comment.

Parkview asks region for help

Residents petitioned town council to waive fees for new home for aged

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

After being turned down by the town for a break on development fees, officials at Parkview Home for the Aged hope York Region will come through with a cheap loan to help pay for their new long-term care facility.

Joanna Reesor-McDowell, Parkview's director of resource development, is meeting today with the region's finance committee to ask for a bridging loan of around \$2 million to help with construction of a 128-bed facility anticipated to open in mid-2006.

The loan would be at 4 per cent interest for up to three years.

COST \$15 MILLION

The estimated cost of the new Parkview is between \$15 million and \$17 million. Ms Reesor-McDowell and Mayor Sue Sherban tried in vain last month to have the region waive its development charges of \$267,000. The region will only waive its fees if Whitchurch-Stouffville does so first.



SUE SHERBAN: Smaller municipalities have harder time waiving fees, mayor told regional council.

Despite a plea by Mayor Sherban to reconsider the decision, Whitchurch-Stouffville councillors voted not to waive charges of about \$328,000 at their Aug. 26 council meeting.

"I would implore you to at least look at what this project means to the community," she said.

Councillors refused to

waive the charges in part because of worries about finances. They were concerned infrastructure expenses relating to new development could cost the town millions of dollars in the future. Some were worried waiving these fees would set a precedent for other projects.

Markham waived development charges for the Markhaven and Union Villa facilities "and York Region was able to follow suit", Ms Reesor-McDowell said. "We either get relief from both levels (of government) or from no levels."

Markham, Union Villa and Parkview are among five non-profit, long-term care facilities in York Region.

EFFECT ON TAXES

Mayor Sherban told regional finance committee members smaller municipalities, such as Whitchurch-Stouffville, have greater difficulty waiving such fees without affecting taxes.

Constructing Parkview brings a lot more benefits that will outweigh any potential financial contribution (by

the region)," she said. Fundraisers for the new Parkview are trying to raise \$3 million toward the cost of construction.

When residents of the Parkview Village apartments heard about the town's decision, their council circulated a

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petition asking municipal politicians to reconsider the decision.

More than 200 residents, more than 90 per cent, signed the petition, which was delivered to the mayor and councillors.

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