

Council considering radio broadcasting meetings

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Councillors want to explore broadcasting their meetings on WhistleRadio.

"I think it's about time we do have a further reach into the community," said Councillor Rob Hargrave during Tuesday night's meeting.

There is one problem. The radio station's signal currently only reaches urban Stouffville.

"All of this needs to be contingent on reaching the entire municipality," said Councillor Ken Ferdinands.

The station's current antenna is 20 feet too short to broadcast further afield, according to Ivan Harris, WhistleRadio's station manager.

"We still have a little trouble getting over the hill" at Bloomington Road, he told councillors.

However, the station is currently trying to gain approval from the CRTC to erect a 100-foot tower on the roof of Card's Appliances on Main Street. It would give the station a broader broadcast range, according to Mr. Harris.

"We should be able to cover not quite up to Davis Drive, but close," he told The Sun-Tribune.

Mr. Harris has no idea when the CRTC will make its decision.

The town plans on sending a letter of sup-

port to the CRTC.

"It may help, it may not. It may hinder it," Mr. Emmerson said during the council meeting.

The local radio station tried to increase its signal strength last year. It is currently on the roof of 34 Civic Ave.

At the suggestion of the CRTC, WhistleRadio provided alternate locations for the proposed new tower. The application was turned down.

"They felt it would interfere with Newmarket and would you believe, Caledon," Mr. Harris told The Sun-Tribune, adding the Caledon station reaches Yonge Street.

Among WhistleRadio's programming is all Stouffville Spirit home and away games.

Council asked town staff to report back to them in the first quarter of 2014 detailing the viability of having WhistleRadio broadcast the twice monthly council meetings live or on delay.

Five York Region municipalities currently broadcast their council and committee meetings in one form or another.

Aurora provides both live and on-demand video via Rogers and YouTube. Georgina broadcasts live video through Rogers; Markham provides a live audio feed; Newmarket has on-demand video archives on the Rogers' website and Richmond Hill provides on-demand audio recordings of its meetings.

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