

March



King City area resident Tom Atkins celebrated his 84th birthday by accepting an Ontario Senior Achievement Award from Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman and Jim Bradley, provincial minister responsible for seniors.

He was one of 22 recipients, and was recognized as the founding president of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, and for having turned a volunteer grassroots group into one of Canada's leading environmental organizations.



Lisa Clapp of Pottageville and her children Will, 2, Hailey, 3, and Carley, 5, found a friendly horse to meet at Fieldstone Farms on the 17th Sideroad. The farm was one of the stops on the tour of local farms where champion race horses are raised and trained, hosted in March by the Schomberg Agricultural Society.

Township council called a special meeting for the morning of March 17 to discuss what could be done to save the old Masonic Hall in Nobleton from demolition.

The meeting ended up being called off, because the wreckers' ball had fallen on the 118-year-old structure early the previous morning, leaving no building to discuss.

"One swipe, and it just fell down," commented Domenic Di Biase, owner of Tor-Con Construction, the company that handled the job. "It wasn't holding very well."

He added his company was lined up to do the job about three weeks before. They were delayed while they waited for utilities to be cut.

Piero Basile, owner of the house, said there had been talks about preserving the structure, but nothing concrete had been presented. He added the house couldn't be insured, it was in such bad shape, and worrying about that had become a burden. "I couldn't sleep at night," he said.



Officials at Holland Marsh District Christian School were anxious to move to a property in the northeast corner of the Township, but it became obvious in March there were some in that area who did not want such a facility in their neighbourhood.

Several of them raised concerns at a public information meeting held before council, including impacts on local wells, the inconvenience of having to live next to a school and the possible impacts on local property values.

But councillors eventually accepted the recommendation from planners that the matter be referred back to staff so they could review expected comments from various agencies, as well as those offered at the meeting.



BC Instruments in Schomberg threw a party to celebrate 35 years of serving customers in the aerospace, medical,

injections molding and power generation industries.



MP Lui Temelkovski hosted a series of receptions throughout the riding to mark the Queen's 80th birthday.



Canada Post was appealing the ruling that has cost many residents their rural mail delivery, but there wasn't a lot of hope being expressed that things would go back to the way they were.

That was the message for about 150 people who attended a town hall meeting in Ballantrae hosted in part by MP Lui Temelkovski.

Temelkovski tried opening with a joke. "We want to hear some bitching and complaining, but not too much," he quipped.

But many of the people there were not impressed with what they were hearing.

"We're here tonight and we're listening to a snow job," one man complained.

The crowd was told employees have the legal right to refuse work if there are safety concerns.

"What's our right?" one man in the audience shouted out, while another exclaimed that garbage collectors don't seem to have troubles on these routes.

The explanations from Canada Post didn't satisfy many in the room.

"I see you hearing, but I don't see you listening," commented a Kettleby woman, who also commented on how difficult it had been to get information on what was going on. She had made phone calls, and they weren't returned, adding there was little communication, apart from "one stupid little letter."

"You guys have made the decision. We're not getting our home delivery back," she added.

Another man said he had delivered mail in Willowdale during Hurricane Hazel. "You're getting too bloody soft!" he exclaimed.

April

Councillors got the chance to experience life from a firefighter's point of view.

Several of them suited up in firefighting gear to take part in training exercise hosted by King Fire and Emergency Services. They actually had to enter the smoke-filled house, and Councillor Bill Cober had to help bring out a couple of dummies in a mock rescue.

"You can't see," he declared. "It's pitch black."

"I think every little boy dreams of being a firefighter at some point," he added. "After this experience today, you certainly have to understand that it's more than a uniform."

"What a great opportunity," Councillor Pellegrini remarked. "First-hand experience to actually see what they go through."



The annual National Home Show attracted plenty of visitors to that National Trade Centre at Exhibition Place, and one of the main attractions was the Dream House, built by King City's Funrooms.ca Inc.,

which specializes in building energy efficient homes.

Family owned and operated, Funrooms.ca presented 2,500 square feet of creative inspiration designed by Modulex Inc., an award-winning Canadian manufacturer of pre-engineered, panelized homes.



Efforts were progressing to raise the funds to buy 170 Nobleton-area acres that Slokker Canada was prepared to part with.

Township council agreed to have municipal staff look for another \$15,000 to support the effort. Councillor Rupke suggested the money could be raised from the sale of road allowances that council had approved in closed session.

Councillor Underhill didn't like the idea of buying property from developers, arguing the land should have been protected under the Oak Ridges Moraine legislation, but wasn't. Councillor Grandilli indicated the Township should be putting up more money.

The idea was for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) acquire the land from Slokker, with the Oak Ridges Moraine land trust having easements.

Mayor Black told councillors the acquisition is slated to cost \$2.9 million. There was still about \$500,000 outstanding, but Black said there would be plenty of opportunities to raise it.



King City resident Liina Peacock decided she would take another shot at getting elected as Ward 1 representative on Township council.

Councillor Grandilli announced he was seeking a second term in the Ward 2 council seat.

He had company by the end of the month. Long-time community activist Jeff Laidlaw announced he would be challenging Grandilli.



The Schomberg Cougars handed out awards at their annual season-end banquet, with goal-tending ace Calum McCulloch taking home most of the hardware. And then Head Coach Colin Stewart dropped a bombshell by announcing he was stepping down from his post behind the bench.



The King Cavalry Girls' Hockey Association completed their first season by securing a spot to compete in the provincial championships.



Ground was broken on the new gazebo in Nobleton. Councillor Grandilli, who had been pushing the project for a couple of years, said it would cost roughly \$120,000, with contributions coming from a number of sources, including local businesses and service clubs.



The Township finally set a base rate of \$12,541 per dwelling for assessing costs for the new King City sewer system.

The figure was based on a residential equivalent basis, establishing rates for other properties based on their water use in

comparison with the average house. It was stressed that this figure did not include the costs of connecting individual homes to the system. Estimates were that would amount to about \$3,300 per property. As well, council agreed to have staff work on a policy for dealing with people who might have trouble with these payments because of financial hardships. Councillor Pabst proposed that. "No one should be threatened to lose their home," she commented.

The bylaw had also contained provisions for a \$75 permit fee for connections to individual properties, but councillors went along with a call from Councillor Pellegrini to wave that. "That just adds insult to injury," he remarked.

Upwards of 200 people were on hand for the session, and many of them were not happy with what they were hearing.

"That's total, total bulls...", one man loudly charged as he walked out of the room.

But there were also people in the room pleased that a figure had been nailed down, and there was also satisfaction that it was a low as it was.



King received some good news from the Canada Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF), to the tune that it had approved a grant of \$952,666 to help fund the replacement of four culverts in the municipality.

"This grant is significant for our Township as it will greatly assist us with much needed capital works," Mayor Black declared. "I extend my sincere thanks to all of our staff for their efforts in ensuring a flawless COMRIF application and our governments are to be commended for their continued commitment to improving rural infrastructure."

This grant covered provincial and federal shares of the funding. The Township was still on the hook for about \$476,000 as its share.



Councillors Steve Pellegrini, Linda Pabst and Bill Cober took part in this firefighting demonstration in April.

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