

# Future school needs spark debate in Essa

By Richard Blanchard

A meeting last week in Alliston set to look at future needs for school construction in local South Simcoe schools ended up focusing on the need for a new high school for Essa Township and on immediate improvements required at Tosorontio Public School.

The meeting, held by the Simcoe County District School Board, was designed to give the public input on their preferred suggestions for new school construction in the area. But the meeting, which attracted about 50 people, saw few questions about the future of the present

schools, or the construction of new facilities in New Tecumseth, instead focusing on the

current overcrowding at the Tosorontio school, and the need for a new secondary institution in Angus.

Board staff, including Kathi Wallace, Area Six superintendent, and Dave Few, property and planning manager, emphasized the board's planning process for capital projects was

just beginning. They also say public input is necessary, for the development of a future action plan.

Everett resident Leo Losereit angrily accused the board of delaying needed work at Tosorontio school.

"You're sucking wind. As far as I can see, there's an ongoing process for either a new school in Tosorontio or upgrades which shouldn't be delayed for a new capital

needs plan," he said. "Don't be sucking wind. Tell us the plan."

Essa mayor Dave Guergis told the audience that he had been lobbying for a high school for the Angus area for almost 20 years.

"Back in 1991, before I was on council, I meet with public school officials and was told that a high school was likely to be constructed in Angus in seven or eight years. I'm still waiting," he said. "We now have 7,500 people in Angus and we're busing a lot of people to Bear Creek (Secondary School). We're seeing a lot of local students bused to Barrie and I'd like to see them stay in the community."

Guergis said that the township was already in

negotiations with Simcoe County to obtain 53 acres along Highway 90, a portion of which it would like used for a new high school.

Essa councillor Sandie Macdonald said she would like to see both the public and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board look at a joint facility in Angus, to serve all the village's students.

"It has worked for other boards, such as in Pickering. I think that it would help our sense of community by having both board's students together," she said.

Adjala-Tosorontio Township councillor Joy Webster told the board officials there will likely be 800 homes constructed in Everett, and another 500 in Colgan, over the next 20

years. Those homes would also require new schools.

Some residents accused the school boards of not keeping abreast of future development proposals in municipalities. However, Adjala-Tosorontio mayor Tom Walsh said the boards comment on every development proposal.

Guergis said he felt the audience's anger should be directed at the provincial government.

"The third partner is not here tonight, the province. They write the checks for school construction. We need new hospitals and schools to accommodate growth in this county, but we're not seeing the province investing the dollars," he said. "I think that we're not getting

our share of those taxes."

Local trustee Robert North told residents that his promise of a new school for Tosorontio had been derailed by the changes in government.

"I did promise that I would help in getting a new school for Tosorontio but things changed and plans changed with changes in provincial government policy. I wanted to see the school either rebuilt in its present location or a new school in Everett," he said. "I wish what I said had happened and a new school had come to place."

Area residents can submit their comments on the public board's future capital spending to few@scdsb.on.ca by Nov. 12.

# Tim Hortons customers smile for Essa library fundraising initiative

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign was a sweet success with \$1,650 being raised for the Essa Public Library's Thornton branch.

Over 600 of the tasty double-sized chocolate chip cookies were sold between Oct. 1 and 7 at the Tim Hortons in Thornton. A check was presented to the

library branch yesterday.

"I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's campaign such an overwhelming success," said Tim Hortons store owner Randy Robinson.

"Raising awareness for the library's branch through the cookie campaign opens the door to

more community involvement and ensures that the funds raised in our community stays in our community. I think that's something we can all smile about."

Each cookie sold for \$1, with all proceeds donated to the library branch. The branch completed a renovation and expansion of

its facility this spring, adding the new Thornton Community Meeting Room. The space was used for children's programming over the summer. It is also available to non-profit community groups for monthly or occasional meetings of up to 45 people. To make it a perfect place for small meetings the library now needs more chairs, good folding tables, and a white board for presentations.

The cookie program originally began in Hamilton in 1996, to help raise funds for the city's children's hospital. Since then, it has expanded across Canada helping a variety of children's charities, hospitals and community programs.

## High dollar helps drops electricity rates

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has announced that electricity prices are dropping approximately five per cent this winter, thanks partly to the soaring value of the Canadian dollar and provincial conservation efforts.

"The OEB sets the regulated electricity prices twice a year, based on the market price of electricity from the previous six months", said Mark Henderson, president and CEO of Barrie Hydro.

The price reduction only applies to residential, designated and small business customers who buy power directly from local distribution utilities such as Barrie Hydro. It doesn't apply to people who have signed long-term power contracts with electricity retailers.

During the past summer, a growing number of people

have started to reduce electricity use by directly participating in conservation programs offered by Barrie Hydro in association with the Ontario Power Authority and by making a conscience personal effort to reduce their consumption through minor lifestyle changes.

The province also benefited by the fact that more generating plants were connected into the provincial electricity grid. Unfortunately, when electricity peaked on hot days, expensive US power still had to be purchased, but our strong Canadian dollar helped reduce the impact.

"When the province peaks, electricity is purchased through grid ties with the US. The electricity is purchased in US funds and because of parity between the US and Canadian dollar, there's a reduced cost," said Henderson.

This also applies to the fuel required for coal, oil and natural gas fired generating plants used during peak.

As of Nov. 1, monthly regulated electricity prices change to five cents per kilowatt hour for the first 1,000 kilowatt-hours, then 5.9 cents per kilowatt-hour after that.

During the past summer, the monthly price was 5.3 cents per kilowatt-hour for the first 600 kilowatt-hours, then 6.2 cents a kilowatt-hour after that. The first tier in pricing varies between summer and winter to reduce the impact on customers.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TOWN OF INNISFIL DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Take Notice that on Wednesday, November 28th, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. the Council of the Town of Innisfil will hold a public meeting pursuant to The Development Charges Act, 1997, regarding proposed updates to the current Water, Wastewater and Roads Related development charge rates and certain policy issues that will be applied throughout the Town of Innisfil. It is proposed that enactment of a Development Charge By-law by Council would occur on a date subsequent to this public meeting.

Development Charges are levied against new development, and are a primary source of funding growth-related capital expenditures. Town of Innisfil capital services include water, wastewater, transportation, roads, parks & recreation, library, fire, police, public works and general government.

Town of Innisfil Council is required under The Development Charges Act, 1997, to hold at least one public meeting to allow the public the opportunity to review and provide comments on the 2007 Town of Innisfil Development Charge Study, related staff reports and the proposed Development Charges By-law.

All interested parties are invited to attend on:

Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.  
Administration Office, Council Chambers  
2147 Innisfil Beach Road

Copies of the Development Charges Background Study, related staff reports and the proposed Development Charges By-law will be available through Town of Innisfil Clerk's Office.

Written submissions are invited and should be directed to Mr. Paul G. Landry, Clerk no later than Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. Written comments received prior to the meeting and submissions made at the public meeting will be considered by Town of Innisfil Council prior to the enactment of a new Town of Innisfil Development Charges By-law.

Inquiries should be directed to Mr. Ian Goodfellow, Treasurer (705) 436-3710 or by e-mail igoodfellow@innisfil.ca.

Those wishing to address Town of Innisfil Council on the above-noted matters must advise Mr. Paul G. Landry in writing no later than Monday, November 19, 2007 at the above address by fax (705)436-7120 or e-mail plandry@innisfil.ca.



705-435-2828  
www.gibsoncentre.com

### November 17 at 7:30pm, Finding The Centre: Actors Workshop Production

Directed by Dora Mavor Moore Award Nominated,  
Alex Fallis - no charge, donations accepted.

**Jerry White & his Gentlemen of Swing,**  
Friday November 9 at 7 pm \$25\*

**Justin Hines, Saturday November 10** at 8 pm  
\$22\* Special 1/2 price tickets to members of  
CLASS and Big Brothers/Big Sisters

\*plus applicable taxes

Lottery Winner: October 30, Colleen Thibeault #421

The Gibson Centre is an 1889 heritage building that began its life as a factory. Located at 63 Tupper St. W., Alliston, it has been transformed into a Centre for community, arts & culture and offers a performance hall, banquet facilities, art gallery, cafe, studio spaces, Seniors centre and much, much more. Come and experience the transformation. From Factory...to Fabulous!!