

**SIMCOE-YORK
PRINTING &
PUBLISHING
LIMITED**

Publisher of the

Innisfil Scope
The Times
King Township Sentinel
P.O. Box 310
Beeton, Ontario
L0G 1A0
1-888-559-2287
Fax: 905-729-2541
thescope@rogers.com
www.innisfilscope.com

Publishers:

BRUCE HAIRE
JOHN ARCHIBALD

Editorial

Managing Editor
BILL REA

News Editor
CHRIS SIMON

Reporters

Richard Blanchard
Wendy Soloduik

Advertising

Director of Sales
JOHN ARCHIBALD

Sales Reps

Diann Gaston
Annette Derraugh
Nancy Stenhouse
Beth Wilson

Composing

Manager
KRISTEN HAIRE

Ad Designers

Penny Gilbertson
Joanne Radyk-Carrick
Lisa Rosati
Brian Valdock

Business

Jaquie Archibald
Janice Coté
Sylvia DeShane

Subscription rates:

Within 65 km except
towns with letter carriers -
\$28.00 + G.S.T.

Beyond 65 km and towns
with letter carriers -
\$41.00 + G.S.T.

Single copies 71¢ + G.S.T.
or 75¢ (includes G.S.T.)

Published every
Wednesday

Copyright
The Scope 2008

The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP) toward our mailing costs.

Canada



PM40036642 R09319
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
SIMCOE-YORK PRINTING &
PUBLISHING LIMITED
34 MAIN ST W
BEETON ON L0G1A0

Town hall was built for future growth

Last week, town council held its first meeting in its new chambers.

And the week before that, the new \$10 million hall officially opened, as moving crews and staff successfully relocated operations from the old administration building to the new site. After receiving a guided tour of both buildings days before the new hall opened, it's easy to see why council approved the construction of a new office building during their last term. Quite honestly, the old building was cramped.

Walking through the old building, and stopping to chat with several staff members who were packing up their belongings and preparing for the move, this editor watched as an overwhelming sense of relief appeared to have come across their faces.

Over the past few years, several staff members have been forced to share cubicles, or work in portables stationed outside of the old administration building. One department manager, who had only recently been hired, had been working out of a board room since his tenure began.

Town council had been forced to work out of one small office, hidden in the back of the building.

Of course, there were several issues for the



Comment

by Chris Simon

public as well. The building was difficult for physically impaired residents to navigate. Paying off a bylaw infraction required a walk up a deep set of stairs, while the washroom was located in the basement, another stumbling block for the handicapped.

Perhaps councillor Lynn Dollin summed it up best several weeks ago, when she said the old building actually prevented several residents from running for council during the last election, simply because they didn't want to deal with the staircases.

By contrast, the new town should help break down barriers.

The entrance to the hall features automatic doors, and an open concept design. There's an easily accessible information desk, and council chambers are a short walk from the entrance. Every part of the council chambers is wheelchair accessible, while the 150 person spectator gallery will fit most large delegations. The

chambers can even be easily expanded to 300 people, if need be.

Staff should be pleased, since most will finally have their own cubicles and office space, all under one roof. Even council has a lounge.

The site isn't perfect, and there are some excesses that probably could have been done without. Several kinks also still need to be worked out, specifically in the council chamber, where large viewing screens still needed to be set up, and construction on a wheelchair ramp that connects the council table to the main portion of the chambers is still ongoing. But perhaps those finishing touches add an aura of symbolism around the new hall.

The new hall is huge, probably larger than the town needs at the moment. But this building was constructed, not for today, but instead with the next few decades in mind. South Simcoe, and specifically the Innisfil area, will be among the fastest growing regions in Ontario. And with growth comes more town employees, and more stress placed on the municipal infrastructure.

The administration, like the town itself, needs room to grow.

Residents need to give the new administration building some time, to see just how useful it can be.

Big Bay Point editorial missed the boat

Letters From Our Readers

Chris Simon's editorial of March 12 mischaracterizes the Ontario Municipal Board's findings regarding Big Bay Point.

The board did reject the version of the facts presented by the losing side. Of course it did; that's why they lost.

The board thought an

expert based his opinion on mistaken facts.

This is hardly unusual, if true.

However, Simon wrongly asserts that this rejection was accompanied by harsh criticism that might justify a costs award.

Far from it.

Nothing in the judgment amounts to more than an ordinary decision where one side's evidence is accepted over the other's.

The board's rules and

commentary require something quite different before a party will be forced to pay costs, like real misconduct such as failing to appear for a hearing date, refusing to comply with a direction from the board, or to make reasonable efforts to cooperate with the other parties.

The commentary states explicitly that costs will be awarded only in the most unusual of circumstances. In fact, the Big Bay Point

decision goes so far as to commend all the parties, including those Kimvar is now pursuing for costs-for agreements for making the hearing a great deal shorter than it otherwise would have been.

Kimvar's planned costs application will raise issues that matter to everyone in Ontario, like the importance of public participation in land-use planning, the threat of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation

(SLAPP suits) and the risk of a chilling effect that could deter citizens from seeking their turn to be heard before the OMB.

My organization, Environmental Defence, will intervene not to argue the merits of the costs claim but to assist the board in protecting everyone's opportunity to be heard, without fear of reprisal.

Dr. Rick Smith,
Executive director of
Environmental Defence

Parents should have better clothing taste

Letters From Our Readers

I'm writing in response to the "Poor dress code" letter from one of your readers.

No, its not stated in the school agenda what kids can wear in public schools, because its assumed that responsible parents will have the good sense to dress their children in good taste (by the way, good taste does not mean expensive).

Pictures of fire depicting hell, and skulls and cross bones are not in good taste

and they are scary, not only to small children but I find it scary to see children and teenagers wearing this garbage on their attire. Nazi's used skulls, crossbones and fire to represent their beliefs, and look at what they did. Simply put, its not a positive and good thing to wear on a t-shirt, period, no matter what age, but especially for children.

The problem is that nowadays it's considered cool to be bad, thanks to our accepting what the media shows on television, lyrics in music, video games and

online garbage. Parents that are too busy to properly supervise what their children wear, see and do are parents that actually defend their child's bad choices, which does not help their child and society in general. A child does eventually become an adult in society.

We can only hope that they turn out well, and being raised with conscientious parents helps better your child's chance at turning out to be a good person.

Everyone's become so self-righteous, believing they have the right to act

anyway they please, even if they don't see its bad for them and those around them.

Notice the electronic signage on the highways now that remind people to be courteous drivers, to not cut people off, etc.?

People have become so arrogant, believing the road belongs only to them and driving as if no one else is on it; as if their time is more important than everyone else's.

People seemed to have forgotten the difference between what is right and wrong and now have to have

it spelled out for them.

The only right and absolute responsibility each human being has is to spread positive energy; to be kind to one another, respectful, compassionate, polite and to instill these values on to our children.

Leaving this world a better place than when we came into it is everyone's responsibility. Everything we do, good or bad, no matter how big or small, creates a chain reaction. Better to spread good rather than bad.

Deborah Savard,
Innisfil

Council should be treated with more respect from readers

I was quite surprised that The Scope would print one of the letters in the Feb. 6 edition. To me, it was very rude and degrading to our men and women who sit on town council and run the business of the municipality.

Sure they get some remuneration, but most people that I know of who have been on council know the headaches and abuse they receive. It would appear that the Lindsey's will not get a lot of use out of the new

Innisfil Recreation Complex. Neither will I, but a lot of the younger people will get a lot of entertainment from this venture.

Many more people are living in Innisfil than there were 10 years ago. More

people, more paperwork, more people to handle the bookwork. It appeared the old town hall was too small to accommodate everyone. Our council elected to construct a building big enough to handle the distant

future. Our council does not deserve to be ridiculed the way they have been. It's a lot of money, but what isn't? Remember; at election time, it's open house for everyone.

Vernon Ayres,
Innisfil