

Volume 1,
Issue 15

THE NORFOLK informer

Thursday Dec. 18, 1975



Serving Delhi, Langton, Port Rowan, Courtland, Waterford and rural areas.

Regional planners want guidelines in January

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Area municipal councillors will have to do some work over Christmas if they want to have any say in the future of the region.

A small booklet containing the interim guidelines of planning policy for the region was presented to regional councillors last Thursday.

The guidelines, presented by Dennis Durrant, manager of the policy division of the planning department, are a spin-off from the official plan, which is designed for long-term planning, and are made to govern the next six years of regional development.

Though Mr. Durrant insisted that he had made full use of comments submitted to him from municipal councils in the region earlier in the year, regional councillor Jerome Van De Slyke also Mayor of the county of Norfolk, complained that certain points that the Norfolk council had made were omitted.



Jerome Van De Slyke
'accuses'

Ideally the guidelines should be put into practice by Jan. 1, but it is unlikely that all the area councillors will have had time to peruse and discuss them by then.

"They will have to devote two separate sessions to the guidelines alone," said Mr. Durrant.

Mr. Durrant had to admit that it was unlikely that the councils would meet over the Christmas holidays but hoped that some sort of decision will be reached before the end of January.

"That is perhaps more realistic. But if they leave it too long and stretch it into February everything in the guidelines will have to be reconsidered. As it is, the ministry of housing is anxious to receive the decision," he added.

If area municipal councillors are dissatisfied with the contents of the guidelines, feeling perhaps, that their recommendations weren't given sufficient prominence, there will definitely be some delay.

Councillor Van De Slyke feels that the presentation of the guidelines is "an exercise in futility if the recommendations aren't taken.

Mr. Durrant admitted that some recommendations were rejected because they weren't technically feasible.

"We've accepted more than not, believe me." He felt Mayor Van De Slyke's inference was unjust and totally unfounded.

A circular to area municipal councils was sent out in May or June asking members to submit recommendations to the regional planning department.

Mr. Durrant said some of the comments came back as late as early November and the planning committee was asking for a presentation of the interim guidelines before the end of the year.



United Way doubles funds

The Norfolk and area district United Way has total of \$91,738 - which is twice as much as two years ago this time. Reverend Cliffe Waite, president and campaign chairman of the United Way, said Tuesday, December 16.

Mr. Waite attributed this year's success on better organization and on a new

awareness (on the part of the contributors) of the real needs of those being helped through United Way.

The United Way appeal (now also known as Uniway - an abbreviation for unit-way) met with a neighborly attribute in the Jarvis area. The Delhi area surpassed its objective.

Sharon Morrison (who was involved with the high schools - in particular, the rent-a-kid program) did a marvellous job, said Mr. Waite.

The Uniway president gave specific mention to the key persons who participated in making this year's drive a success and said that over

600 persons worked in the campaign.

But the main reason for the tremendous success said Mr. Waite, is that "we had person-to-person contact" this year.

He concluded by saying that he enjoyed working with Uniway and that "you meet so many interesting people through doing so."

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS