

# Kids hold McKechnie to his word

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*Peel Boy McKECHNIE, Frank*

By SANDY MCLEAN  
Special

Several Nahani Way Public School students reminded a visiting city councillor of an old campaign promise last week.

The students greeted veteran councillor Frank McKechnie by waving old campaign posters that listed his promise to preserve the woodlot located at Kennedy Rd. and Matheson Rd.

McKechnie was at the school to talk to the Kindergarten-Grade 6 children regarding their concerns about cutting down trees in the woodlot situated north of the school.

The City wants to build a community centre, tennis courts, a softball field, a baseball field and parking lot — at the expense of some of the trees.

Community services department planner John Spencer told the gathering in the school's gymnasium the original plans also included a soccer field, but that was deleted to save more vegetation.

City officials are considering two other possible sites for the community centre, including the Britannia

Farm land between Hurontario St. and McLaughlin Rd. on the north side of Bristol Rd., currently owned by the Peel Board Of Education.

The third location, owned by the City, is at the northeast corner of Hurontario St. and Eglinton Ave., an area that has been designated by the local sports council for a possible sports complex.

"We aren't going to cut down the trees — certainly not all of them, anyway," McKechnie told the students. "I'm not in favor of cutting the trees down. None of the City officials are interested in cutting down any trees that are living. I don't believe a single tree will be cut down, unless it's dead."

One student asked Spencer, "Why can't we leave the forest as it is?"

The planner replied that the City would be forced to relocate all the facilities and that isn't possible. It would cost the City money to buy land elsewhere, if any is even available. "This is our best foot forward, so to speak," Spencer said.

McKechnie told the students that if they wanted to give up a baseball diamond to save the trees, he would work to find another location.



Staff photo by Rob Beintema

The environmental club at Nahani Way Public School took Ward 5 councillor Frank McKechnie for a walk in the woods behind the school to impress upon him why students want the woodlot preserved. Shown with some of the students are, from left, teacher Paul Vander Helm, John Spencer of the Peel Board community services department and councillor McKechnie.

McKechnie, Frank  
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Peel Biography Book