

E. G. ARENA MAY BE CASUALTY OF REGIONAL GOV'T.

SHARON — East Gwillimbury Township's proposed artificial ice arena may be the first casualty of York regional government.

The Arena Committee last week awarded a contract for construction of the arena to N. Burling Builders Ltd., ... with strings attached.

The strings are: "that final Ontario Municipal Board approval be obtained."

This may not be possible under York regional government.

East Gwillimbury will lose 40 per cent of its population and more than 38 per cent of its assessment under regional consolidation.

Some East Gwillimbury officials fear that with the reduced population and lower tax assessment, the remaining residents cannot afford to pay the estimated \$250,000 cost of the arena.

And there may not be enough children left in East Gwillimbury to make economical use of the arena.

There is also a move for total amalgamation of East Gwillimbury with Newmarket.

If this happens will Newmarket residents want to contribute towards what in effect will be a second arena for the town?

Newmarket already has an arena

which is receiving extensive renovations and which covers the needs of the present population.

If total amalgamation takes place, and the arena receives Municipal Board approval, present Newmarket residents will be contributing towards an arena which will be used mainly by the present residents of East Gwillimbury.

On the other hand, with the inclusion of East Gwillimbury Heights and

other large subdivisions to the east under McKeough's plan, the present arena might not be enough to serve the increased population.

The site for the East Gwillimbury arena is located on 10 acres of land six-tenths of a mile east of Sharon on the Mount Albert Sideroad.

If Municipal Board approval is given soon, the arena could be open for business this October. There is a 16-week

completion date clause in the Burling contract.

The arena will have a 180 by 80-foot ice surface, a second floor auditorium and four dressing rooms.

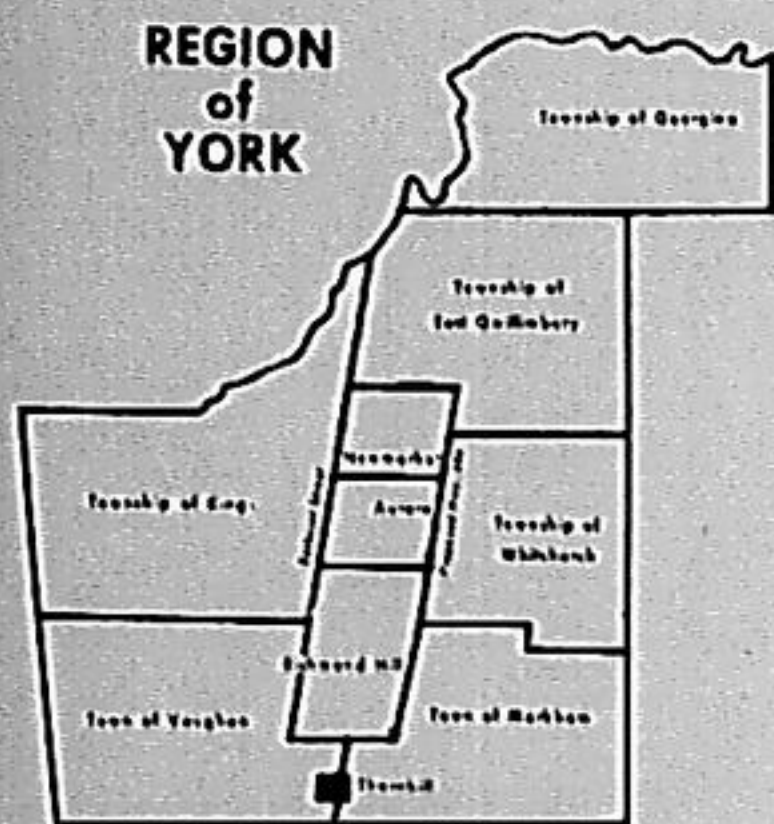
Future plans call for a softball diamond, parking lot with the remaining space taken up by a park and recreation area.

(see PHOTO, page 2)

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT Approval, relief first reactions of politicians

By JOHN LOTT
Era Staff Reporter

NEWMARKET — Approval, relief and a degree of caution were the general sentiments exuded by county political leaders after last week's announcement of plans to establish the York Regional Government next Jan. 1.



HIGHLIGHTS

NEWMARKET — Guidelines for new government and new growth in York County were spelled out in two major policy papers unveiled by Premier John Roberts and Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough last week.

Here are the major Ontario government decisions spelled out in those two papers:

● York County will remain intact until 1972, but its 14 municipalities will be reorganized into eight or nine.

● A new two-tier form of municipal government with a strong regional component will come into power next Jan. 1.

● The new York Region will be part of a greenbelt area — farms and recreation areas — separating two much heavier urbanized areas to its north and south.

● Newmarket, Aurora and Richmond Hill all expand in area and will be allowed to grow to 25,000 people during the next 30 years. They will become heads on a development string up the middle of the York Region.

● In 1972, Metro Toronto will gobble up a rich 50-square mile area on the southern end of the region.

● Newmarket and the remaining rural portion of East Gwillimbury must decide within two weeks if they will amalgamate. Within the next 10 years, Aurora and Newmarket must also make that decision.

Towns to win in regional land 'stakes

By TERRY CARTER

RICHMOND HILL — Newmarket, Aurora and Richmond Hill made the major territorial gains in the consolidation of York County municipalities to nine or maybe eight under a regional government which will take over next Jan. 1.

The county's external boundaries will remain intact when the new regional administration is formed by legislation next October, Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough told about 500 county political leaders at a meeting here last Wednesday. But he indicated about 50 square miles south of the proposed Highway 407 — roughly a line south of Highway 7 — will join Metro Toronto, probably in time for the 1972 municipal elections.

Mr. McKeough also told East Gwillimbury Township council it must decide within two weeks if the township will remain a rural municipality — all of East Gwillimbury Heights joins Newmarket — or if it will amalgamate with Newmarket.

Under the province's over-all scheme, York County will remain an open-space area of small cities and farmland, part of a greenbelt separating heavily urbanized belts to its north and south.

NEW BOUNDARIES

Newmarket, Aurora and Richmond Hill will expand west to Bathurst St. and east to the proposed Highway 404, and will absorb most of the population

(See REGIONAL, page 17)

With few exceptions, officials of the existing county municipalities supported the plans outlined by Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough, and many were openly pleased that after more than a year of local bickering, the decision on internal boundaries had finally been made at the provincial level.

The faces of politicians attending last Wednesday's announcement in Richmond Hill reflected general relief when a map showing the new internal boundaries was placed on the auditorium stage. The mood was epitomized by Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth, who observed that "most areas have kept some semblance of unit identity" — a direct reference to previous fears that some existing municipal units might vanish with the onset of regional government.

York politicians spoke guardedly about the implications of the region's first election scheduled for Oct. 5. With the abolition of the positions of reeve and deputy reeve, and several boundary changes which shift some politicians out of their present bailiwicks, about the most concrete comment on the election prospects came from King Township Reeve Gordon Cook, the present — and last — warden of York County.

"It will be very interesting to see what will happen in the fall election, as to who will run again and who won't," he said. This cautious reaction was typical.

(see REGIONAL REACTION, page 2)

Amalgamation: E.G. yes, Newmarket no

NEWMARKET — A majority of East Gwillimbury Township Council favor total amalgamation with Newmarket, according to Deputy Reeve Ray Twinney, but Newmarket Council is opposed to such a move.

Mr. Twinney said he and at least two other members of the five-seat township council will vote for amalgamation when the council meets at the Ontario Mayors and Reeves Convention in Windsor this week.

Newmarket Council discussed the same question in committee Monday night. The public and press were barred from the meeting.

After the meeting, however, The Era learned the councillors voted "to stay as we are." They also opted for a nine-member town council next year, although both the mayor and reeve favored a seven-man council, and they indicated they want the town's second regional council seat filled by direct election.

Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough last week gave the councils two weeks to make the amalgamation decision. He said unless firm requests to amalgamate are received from both councils, regional government legislation will be introduced.

(See AMALGAMATION, page 2)

Sterritt stays

NEWMARKET — Holland Valley Conservation Authority resources manager Derek Sterritt will remain at his post.

Last month, the province announced his transfer to Saugeen Authority in the Hanover area. He had been with the Holland Valley Authority two years.

There was a public outcry. HVCA members issued a strong protest, and received backing from Newmarket and Aurora town councils. The Era gave editorial support to the council resolutions.

As a result, Mr. Sterritt announced Monday, provincial authorities changed their minds.

"I will be retained in the Holland Authority," he said.

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It looks painful, but it was really a prize-winner. Newmarket High School track star Dave Jenkin won the senior boys championship with this 19 foot, 11 inch jump, despite it being two inches short of the record. The jump gave Jenkin three firsts and the individual honors at the school's annual track and field day last Thursday. For more photos and results of the meet, see the sports section.

White photo

No rebate on \$1M bill

NEWMARKET — York County will not be reimbursed the one million dollars it spent on reassessment, even though the province is footing the reassessment bill in the rest of Ontario, York County Council was told last week.

York started its reassessment program almost five years ago, and became the first municipality to be completely reassessed. Last January, Ontario took over assessment departments all over the province, and provincial employees are completing reassessments.

County councillors maintained Ontario pushed York County into the early reassessment, then raided the county assessment department for experienced staff. They asked the province to foot the million dollar bill.

However, Provincial Treasurer Charles MacNaughton told Warden Gordon Cook in a letter last week Ontario won't pay the bill. The minister said 21 other areas were partially reassessed when the province took over, "and it would be impossible to sort out expenses."

Vandorf fire probe goes on

VANDORF — There were two separate fires in a blaze that destroyed many of Whitchurch Township's tax rolls and financial records.

A spokesman for the Ontario Fire Marshal's office said that one fire was in the vault and another was nearby. The spokesman said that inflammable liquid was found in the municipal offices and ashes are being tested at the provincial forensic laboratory in Toronto. The fires were the deliberate work of an arsonist, he said.

Meanwhile an OPP inspector from the Criminal Investigation Bureau is trying to determine if more than \$900 is involved in a discrepancy in the township financial records.

Police have interviewed every member of council and members of the township office staff. There were no signs of forcible entry into the building.

Asked last week if he thought there was a definite connection between the fire and the \$900 error on the township's tax books, Reeve Stewart Burnett replied:

"Well, it sort of points that way, doesn't it?"

Reeve Burnett said the next step was to "try to pin down" the approximate time the discrepancy occurred. But the fire precluded that step.

The reeve said the township had collected the correct amount of tax monies last year, but for some as yet unexplained reason, "we were \$900 short going into the bank." He said "it could

have been anything — an error at the bank, a clerical error, just anything."

He said the procedure followed by the township "were the steps we were told to follow by the Department of Municipal Affairs" after former Deputy Reeve Lawrence Hennessey disclosed the error following his defeat in last December's election.

FIREWORKS

NEWMARKET — There will be fireworks at the Newmarket Fairgrounds next Monday — real ones.

The fireworks display is being put on by the Chancellors Car Club, a group of Newmarket-area auto enthusiasts as a public service. It will start at dusk.

Prior to the fireworks, there will be a baseball game and a band concert. The Tack and Dwellers Car Club have challenged the Eliminators Car Club to the ball game.

At 8.30, the Newmarket Town Band will entertain.

Disc jockey Hal Beach will also be on hand to play records for dancing.

POLICE SEEK PUBLIC'S HELP

Housewife murdered in her Whitchurch home

VANDORF — Doreen Moorby was at home one day last week, waiting for her husband to return from work. While playing with her 21-month-old son, Mrs. Moorby was shot to death.

The 34-year-old Whitchurch Township housewife was shot twice in the back and several times in the head by .22 calibre bullets, police said.

Her blood-spattered body was found by her husband Albert, 35, when he returned home from his job as a physical education teacher at a Richmond Hill high school.

Pinned underneath his mother's body, smeared in blood and crying, was her little son Brent.

Police said the grief-stricken husband picked up his tiny son by the armpits, pulled his legs from beneath his mother's body and ran to the home of

a neighbor 300 yards away, where he called police.

Whitchurch police, when told of the incident, asked Mr. Moorby to return to his pleasant two-storey home and apply mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in an effort to bring his wife back to life.

Leaving his only child with the neighbors, Mr. Moorby, now distraught to the point of hysteria and covered in blood from trying to comfort Brent, returned to his once happy Bethesda Sideroad home.

When police arrived, Mr. Moorby was cradling his wife in his arms and moaning softly.

In the words of OPP Inspector Ray Williams, the murder was the most "callous and cold-blooded that we'll ever come across."

Here's how Insp. Williams, Chief Inspector Archie Ferguson and Whitchurch Police Staff Sergeant Dave Fellows reconstruct the crime:

The murderer arrived at the isolated Moorby house between 3 and 4 p.m. last Wednesday. Mr. Moorby arrived home from work at 5.40 and police scientists estimate his wife had been dead approximately two hours — her son Brent pinned beneath her, crying all the time.

They do not know whether the murderer was known to the dead woman. When Mr. Moorby came home the front door was locked and he let himself in with his key.

The murderer could have knocked at the front door with Mrs. Moorby letting him in, or he could have entered by the unlocked back kitchen door.

Investigation has been unable to determine how the murderer entered, but they theorize that he must have left by the front door, locking it after himself, because the kitchen door had a cupboard door jammed against it. If the back door had been opened to allow the murderer to escape, police say, the cupboard door would not have been open.

Police are not sure what took place during the early minutes the murderer was in the house. But one thing they feel is certain:

Mrs. Moorby fled with her son in her arms as she was gunned down.

She was shot twice in the back, toppled over on her face, pinning little Brent's legs underneath her body. Then the murderer fired several shots into the back of her head.

Insp. Williams said that "sexual assault was intended, but never took place," the autopsy showed, but there "was a certain disarrangement of her clothes."

He said there was no sign of forced entry and no evidence of ransacking, robbery or struggle.

"She might have known the murderer or he could have been an unknown person who got into the house under one pretext or another," said Insp. Williams.

Police won't say whether or not they have fingerprints, but tire tracks could not be determined because the home is set well back off the road at the end of a hard, gravelled driveway.

The home is on the Bethesda Sideroad, east off Don Mills Road and almost opposite the Rolling Hills Golf Course.

"The woman was killed," said Insp. Williams, "when she saw someone with a gun, and being a mother, her first concern was for her son. She fled with him in her arms and was brutally shot."

Police ask that ANYONE with ANY information which might lead to the apprehension of the murderer to call the Whitchurch Police at 727-9043.