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County Board, Teachers Stalemate On Salary Talks - Meet Again Saturday

Secondary school teachers' demands for an increase of \$1,100 or more over what they now receive have resulted in a breakdown in negotiations between committees of York County Board of Education and teacher representatives.

A spokesman for the teachers says the latest offer from the board, (which ranges from \$400 to \$1,000 in addition to the \$400 annual increment built into last year's contract), would give teachers with the least qualifications an increase of 9.03 percent and only 6.93 percent increase to those with the highest academic qualifications.

They are asking for an increase of about 17 percent for teachers at all levels, plus an increment of \$460 for every year of teaching experience up to the maxima for each category.

After nine meetings of teachers and trustees, negotiations were temporarily broken off February 21, and the decision of their committee was upheld at a mass meeting of the 728 secondary school teaching membership at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora on February 23.

On the same night at a meeting of the board, Whitechurch Trustee Arthur Starr, chairman of the board's negotiating committee, reported that there will be further meetings of the joint committee again on Saturday.

Beginning teachers are now getting \$6,800 a year. The board is offering them \$7,200. They want \$7,820. Teachers who remain in the first category — a pass arts degree plus a year of teacher training — can now work up to a maximum salary of \$11,200. The board has offered to increase this to \$11,700. The teachers are asking for \$12,420.

Those with an honors degree now start at \$7,200. The board is offering \$7,600. They want \$8,260. With experience they can work up to \$12,000. The board committee has recommended this be raised to \$12,500. The teachers committee is demanding \$13,340.

Teachers with higher qualifications come in category three and have a starting salary of \$8,000. The increase recommended would give them \$8,400 for the 1970-71 school year, but they are asking for \$9,200. Maximum in this category is \$13,500 and the board is prepared to raise it to \$14,000. The teachers are holding out for \$14,720.

Most highly qualified teachers in secondary schools begin at \$8,600 a year. They are being offered \$9,000. The top salary in this category is \$14,400 and the board is offering \$14,900, but the teachers are asking for \$15,640.

Originally, said Mr. Starr, the committee had agreed to negotiate and not to report to the public until an agreement had been reached, but at the meeting on February 20 it was agreed that the teachers' negotiating group would inform all teachers.

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(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Honor Eleven Staff Members

Eleven members of the nursing, housekeeping and dietary departments of York County Hospital were honored with the presentation of their five year pins at the annual meeting of the association held February 24.

Making the presentation on behalf of the board of directors was Vice-Chairman John Griffin. Seen above with Mrs. Margaret Steadman RN (left) and Miss Mary Weddel RN, two of the recipients. The presentations were made following a dinner held in the hospital cafeteria.

Other staff members receiving the pins included Mrs. Evelyn Shier RN, Mrs. Margaret Pearson RN, Mrs. Pauline Morse RN, Mrs. Mary Lou Diceman RN, Mrs. Ursula Lewandowski RN, Mrs. Mrs. Flanigan, Mrs. Violet Lawrie, Mrs. Ethel Bartlett and Mrs. Clara Munro.

Free Rabies Clinic March 25

The Federal Department of Agriculture will establish free rabies clinics in York County at the request of county council, Richmond Hill Town Council and the request of county council, Richmond Hill Town Council Monday night meeting.

A free rabies vaccination clinic for domestic animals, in an effort to control the increase in the incidence of rabies, will be held in Richmond Hill March 25 from 1-7 p.m. Council granted the use of the town's works building on Pugsley Avenue for the clinic. This was the site of a similar clinic in 1966.

Councillor Eric George recalled that at that time he had had to stand in line with his family's pet dog for the free service. "A lot of people took advantage of it," he reported. "Otherwise the immunization would cost \$5."

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Council Turns Down Name Change No Decision Yet On Arnold St.

A street name is a street name until someone attempts to change it and then it becomes a headache, Richmond Hill Town Council is learning once again.

Last Monday a bylaw changing the name of Arnold Street to Arnold Crescent was heard before a judge in Toronto. At that night's meeting of town council, Clerk Russell Lynett reported that the judge had reserved his decision in answer to a question by Councillor Shaun Beggs.

The clerk also reported that two persons had appeared in objection to the plan and written objections had also been received and were considered.

One of those making a personal appearance had suggested that the problem of confusion on the thoroughfare, which is designated Arnold Street at its beginning on Yonge Street and develops into Arnold Crescent as it curves around to Vaughan Road, was simple, the clerk reported. It would mean only installation of a signpost at the juncture with the names designated.

"Even if the judge's decision is favorable to the change," the clerk pointed out, "council does not have to give the bylaw the third reading which would implement it."

The clerk also pointed out that council had no control over the location of the hearing. Mayor William Lazenby recalled that the bylaw had been requested last year by Rev. David McGuire of St. Mary's Anglican Church, who lives in the rectory at 100 Arnold Crescent. Mr. McGuire told council he was concerned with his friends who had difficulty locating him because of the confusion of names on the one street. His

Delegation Asks Snowmobile Ban In Mill Pond Park Area

"Something has to be done about the nuisance of snowmobiles in the Mill Pond and Polish Park areas," James McCrae said as he marshalled his evidence.

He reported phoning the police department who stated there was no governing bylaw in the town, so there was nothing they could do. The spokesman then expressed concern about the conversion kits now being turned out which will make these vehicles usable in the summer months. "If you allow them, you will have to allow motorcycles and the pond area would make an ideal spot for a gang headquarters," he charged.

Police Chief Robert Robbins admitted that motorized vehicles are causing his problems. "But I am not alone in this and my men are coming up with other problems. One of the big things they have pointed out is that trails have been set up in certain areas. How do we police them? We approach them in a cruiser and they take off across the fields to the golf course."

Richmond Hill is operating with a 28 man police force, Mayor William Lazenby pointed out. "With a 40 hour week, days off, holidays, etc. this means there is an average of 3.2 officers on a shift. In deference to the police department it doesn't have the necessary manpower."

Mr. McCrae agreed. "We are not criticizing the police force, in fact we found them quite sympathetic. We are here to see if we can't have a bylaw which will give us protection." "I understand that the parks bylaw does give us that protection. Has anyone been charged? Has any snowmobile operator been taken to court to see if the bylaw will stand up?" he asked. The answer was "No."

Mr. McCrae said motor vehicles are allowed in parks only where roads are marked," stated Councillor Shaun Beggs, chairman of the parks and recreation committee. "I was against banning snowmobiles from parks in Richmond Hill because I felt the place for them was in the parks, but I don't allow a child under 16 to operate them on the road, I pay insurance, I pay for a license and I feel I have the right to use the sides of the road. I agree that 2 am is much too late."

Mr. Beggs pointed out that most of the thoughtless operators are not residents of the town, but come from outside. Chief Robbins felt that the present bylaw could be made

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Danson's Stand On White Paper

Federal Finance Minister Edgar Benson's White Paper on tax changes is a very controversial document and has been the subject of many debates by Canadians in every walk of life.

Barney Danson MP, York North (Liberal) is a member of the finance committee of the House of Commons which is studying the proposals. In a feature article found on Page 17 of this issue Mr. Danson explains his feelings towards the legislation.

"If you get income, you should pay tax on it," was the stand of Vaughan Township Trustee Morley Kinne, also of Vaughan Township, and was carried with only one dissenting vote.

York County Council, on the other hand, accepted the one-third exemption when it agreed to an annual increment of \$1,500 for each member of council.

At a special budget meeting in Newmarket on February 20 the council, which is made up of reeves and deputy-reeves of the 14 municipalities in York County, agreed to change their policy of reimbursement of its members.

In the past, members have received a per diem allowance of \$20 for each meeting of council or committee attended. The county warden received \$3,500 a year, and

for each additional absence. Members of council and commissioners will also receive 10 cents a mile for travelling to and from meetings of council and committees. Committee chairman will get \$2,000 a year plus mileage and the warden will get a flat \$2,500 for travel and other expenses.

If, however, a member of council happens to be a member of two committees which meet on the same day, absence from one of these meetings will not be penalized.

Board of education trustees received the same travel allowance — 10 cents a mile as decreed by provincial legislation, for travelling on board business.

East Gwillimbury Reeve Gladys Rolling took exception to the five-day penalty-free exemption, although she agreed that the allowance was "more dignified" than the per diem rate.

Most reeves and deputy-reeves, she said, are self employed or have independent means, but the \$20 per diem rate was so low that it automatically eliminated the man who would lose wages because of absence from a salaried job. She suggested that the penalty should apply after two days absence.

Warden Gordon Cook agreed, stating that the allowance would, on the average, give members of council an honorarium of \$25 a day which is "a very good raise in salary."

He added, "If you are at a meeting you make a contribution to the normal three-day monthly sessions of council. Mr. Plaxton commented, 'If a person misses only five meetings in a year, he is working pretty hard.' He predicted 'drastic changes' in salary when regional government comes into effect and the honoraria could rise to \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year to compare with remuneration now received by elected representatives in Metro municipalities.

"Mr. Plaxton (a lawyer) added, 'I come here for fun. I enjoy it, although while I am here my 'independent means' are shrinking.' The majority of council approved the five-day exemption from penalty, and no one spoke out against the one-third exemption for income tax purposes.

County Budget Rejects Blue Hills, Union Villa

When York County Council brought in its \$5.76 million budget on February 20, controversy centred around allocations for welfare services, to the Children's Aid Society, The York-Oshawa Health Unit, Unionville Home For The Aged Society, and Blue Hills Academy For Emotionally Disturbed Children.

There were emotional protests from members of council when the finance committee struck \$17,600 from the Children's Aid Society budget, then council turned down recommendations from the committee for grants of \$10,000 each to the Unionville Society and the Blue Hills Academy.

Objecting to the proposed \$10,000 grant to the Union Villa, which is now under construction, Reeve Stewart Rumble of Markham Township protested that the Unionville Home for the Aged is a private society, that it has canvassed every home in his township and is now asking the county to tax the property owner.

The county is already in the "homes for the aged" business, declared Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton. In December it approved debentures of \$340,000 as York County's share of the cost for an addition to York Manor Home, for the Aged at Newmarket.

"If a group of private citizens make an effort," said Mr. Plaxton, "they are entitled to our support. We should issue a debenture for the Unionville home the same as for York Manor. We would get more value for our money."

The home, which will cost about \$2.2 million, is seeking \$300,000 from individuals and municipalities in York County. Grants have been approved by provincial and federal authorities, \$765,000 from the province and \$1,141,000 from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The home, said Mr. Plaxton, would serve all senior citizens in the southern part of the county as York Manor serves the north.

Aurora Reeve Evelyn Buck argued that the grants to Union Villa and Blue Hills Academy would be a "departure from the custom" of the council in paying up to 25 percent of the cost

of programs shared by senior government bodies, and her motion that the grant to Unionville Society be deleted was approved by a majority of council.

Finance Committee Chairman Reeve Sam Nesselroff of Sutton, who was opposed to the motion, said his committee would look into the validity of such grants.

When King Township Deputy-reeve Kenneth Mactaggart moved that the grant to Blue Hills Academy also be deleted, Reeve Plaxton bitterly suggested that grants to the Victorian Order of Nurses, parks and other areas of public service also be deleted.

"We don't want to break any new ground. We want to stick with the things we are familiar with. . . . We will sweep the problems of the aged and the disturbed children under the rug and pretend they don't exist."

Referring to a request from the board of directors of Blue Hills Academy for a grant of \$209,000 to be spread over a three year period, Mr. Plaxton said it would be better for the county to debenture the cost of the entire project.

He pointed out that the province has agreed to bear total operating costs of the project once it is in operation, adding that the county council, in refusing to support the projects will justify the condemnation of other levels of government.

"We are asking for more legislative power in regional government, but we don't use the powers we have."

Reeve Clare Salisbury of Newmarket supported Mr. Plaxton. "We have been told Union Villa will help the whole county. We have been told Blue Hills will serve the county, that 250 children a year get psychiatric help at York County Hospital, that the provincial government has been fit to assist them. We are asking for more responsibility in regional government. Now we say we don't want more."

North Gwillimbury Deputy-reeve Wallace Connell pointed out that when York County Hospital was created the people of the area canvassed the community and got the support of the churches. Now it has the full financial support of the county, "and we have a service that is second to none."

Union Villa and Blue Hills already have the support of the province, he declared. "Would it be cheaper to put indigents into secondary homes than in our own?" he asked. "I would hate to see anything taken out of the budget that shows we are prepared to share responsibility toward the aged and children with problems."

Mrs. Buck, although opposed to Union Villa, rallied to the support of Blue Hills. "There is much public waiting about vandalism and drugs. It would be much better to deal with these children early and perhaps we would not have the problems we now have in our high schools and jails. We are not ahead of ourselves. We are late. For God's sake, let us try to deal with it now!"

Mr. Plaxton agreed. "Blue Hills may reflect in a reduced police budget, and that would be a welcome relief. We should be concerned."

Vaughan Township Reeve Garnet Williams argued that the whole approach was wrong, that the county should develop a policy on grants and debentures for projects such as homes for the aged and the emotionally disturbed, that they should not have to come

with hands out looking for \$10,000 grants.

Developer Asks Half Million For School Site

York County Roman Catholic School Board is reeling over the prices it is being asked to pay for land for school sites.

The board is looking for land for a school to serve new housing developments on Concession 3 in the Township of Markham, and the developer is asking \$578,600 for an eight-acre site.

The price has been quoted a bid of \$68,100 an acre plus \$33,800 for services. Business Administrator Percy Lafontaine points out this would average out at \$72,325 an acre.

York County Board of Education is looking for a 25 acre site in the same area for a complex which would include a junior and senior public school and a secondary school.

The board has offered \$13,200 an acre for the land, which cost the developer \$7,000 an acre, but the developer is asking \$40,000.

Since the developments taking place in the area will include a number of town house and apartment units, both boards are anticipating a large influx of school-age children.

"The price quoted the public schools is staggering enough," declared Mr. Laframboise, "the price quoted the separate school is out of this world. Why the difference? Why the big prices to either board in the first instance?"

Sufficient pressure should be brought to bear upon vested interests to force them to sell land to school boards at reasonable cost, he says.

"Because the developer is creating the need for schools, he should be prepared to bear a larger portion of the cost involved."

The board of education has repeatedly urged that a per-unit levy be charged to developers for schools, just as they are forced to pay for sewers, roads and parkland.

Trustees of both boards are unanimously agreed that the people who create the need should pay for the cost of new schools. Under the present system the cost is spread over the entire county.

At the annual budget meeting of York County Council on February 20, Woodbridge Reeve John McLean issued a warning to his fellow reeves and deputy-reeves.

The shift in assessment introduced this year by the Department of Municipal Affairs, he said, will result in dramatic increases in property taxes on residential and farm land if municipalities are to bring in the money they will need for the year.

With property assessed at market value, said Mr. McLean, industrial taxes will drop by 18 percent. To make up the difference in his municipality there will be a 9.4 percent increase in residential taxes.

A sampling in Woodbridge, he told council, showed that his own taxes will be up by \$78.

He advised that other municipalities also calculate a few samples. "If your experience is the same as ours, I advise you to phone and to write to the Minister (Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough) to tell him that it is not politics to have this kind of a tax shift."

To operate services to the county, public works, welfare and health services, roads, etc., the council's finance committee estimates it will need \$3,018,221 in 1970 compared with \$2,822,190 in 1969. The mill rate for county operations will increase from 12.207 mills to 12.273 mills on an equalized assessment of \$245,920,859.

Councillors protested that they were obliged to operate on assessments for 1969 in calculating their budget, whereas the board of education will be using the assessments for 1969 as a basis for taxation in 1970.

Largest items on the county budget are \$1,323,592 for public works, with a road levy of \$1,132,400 plus road debenture levy of \$191,192, including family services, social hospitals and homes for the aged account for \$2,220,100 and education costs are estimated at \$1,038,515.50.

The total budget for 1970 is \$5,761,791. It was \$5,558,291 in 1969. Many projects, such as roads, hospitals, homes for the aged, health services, are subsidized by provincial and/or federal governments, and Metro bears a share of road work undertaken by Toronto and York Roads Commission. This brings York County's share for the budget to \$3,018,221.