

# Arena Parking Criticized By The Principal Users

The recent changes in parking and traffic control around the arena in the town park came under severe criticism by a delegation headed by Tom Graham of Mill Pond Court at the March 2 meeting of Richmond Hill Town Council.

Mr. Graham was spokesman for a delegation representing the Richmond Hill Hockey Association, the figure skating club, the Rams Hockey Team and Minor Athletic Tournaments Inc.

The spokesman pointed out the midget hockey club is now in the provincial finals and should attract large crowds to the local games. He also noted that the Legion Midget Tournament coming up during the winter school holiday would tax parking facilities in the park and claimed that utter confusion would result from the new regulations.

Mr. Graham first criticized the location of the bus bays beside the old arena. "These can be used only if the buses back into them," he reported. "I understand that bus companies instruct their drivers not to back into parking spaces if there is any alternative. It would be

very easy for a young child to wander behind a backing vehicle and not be seen by the driver. Since bus drivers are paid to wait for their passengers, they don't rate prime parking at the expense of local people. It wouldn't matter to them if the bus bay was moved into the regular parking area," he contended.

The second area for criticism was the arena staff parking in the prime parking area. It was suggested that, with the exception of the arena manager and his assistant, the staff do not require a prime location and their parking should also be shifted.

Also criticized was the one-way entrance from Church Street, with one-way traffic to east of the arenas, where it runs into two-way traffic without benefit of a sign to indicate the change.

It was felt that two-way traffic would be quite possible by widening the Church Street entrance and installing a centre island to force one-way traffic on either side.

"We tried to go through proper channels but due to the time element, we have had to come to council,"

stated Mr. Graham as he pointed out that an appeal had been made to the parks and recreation committee and to the arena board on February 4. "The parks board referred the matter to the arena board."

Chairman Shaun Beggs of the council-appointed parks and recreation committee, in reply, noted his committee had taken no action pending a request from the arena board for changes. The new regulations which came into effect in January were introduced at the request of the arena board, he stated.

"The overall design for the park calls for a gate at the Church Street entrance which will allow one-way traffic. It also calls for a one-way street to run all the way through the park from Church Street to Pugsley Avenue. This is to allow easier access to the parking area," the Ward 4 councillor explained. He also pointed out the changes had been backed by the fire department, police department, ambulance people and all safety people in the interests of getting emergency vehicles to the arena.

He recalled that earlier this season when a spectator

at a hockey game suffered a heart attack, the ambulance was not able to get near the building and the ailing man had to be carried at least 600 yards to the vehicle.

"I admit the two-way area is not well marked. The Pugsley entrance should be widened and there is also the problem of lighting. This will be done when finances are available. The overall concept is not to add concrete. We would like to get rid of some we have and are contemplating enlarging the parkette which is used a great deal in the summer," he continued.

Mr. Beggs also pointed out that the Pugsley Avenue exit makes things easier for the police and easier for the crossing guard at Church Street and Lorne Avenue.

"The arena board is the one who should move the buses and employee parking. You are their best customers. But I believe they would take up more parking space than where they are," Mr. Beggs told the delegation.

"I feel one-way is not the answer," stated Deputy-revee Ivan Mansbridge. "The main problem is parking which ac-

cumulates in front of the arena. All that's really needed is an island in that area to prevent parking. That would solve everybody's problem."

Reeve Donald Plaxton felt there was not enough time to make the changes requested in the time stated as he described former conditions in the park as "utter confusion at the end of a game". "I can see merit in moving buses and employee parking but that's up to the arena board," he said. "As far as I am concerned there should be an entrance from Church Street and an exit on Pugsley. For this council to make a decision without hearing from the arena board would be usurping the board's duties," he concluded.

"Do you feel a quick meeting with the arena board to give you people, their best customers, a chance to discuss this, would be helpful?" asked Mayor Bill Lazenby.

"It's perfectly logical to acquaint the arena board of the urgency of their decision," said Councillor Lois Hancey as she suggested board members be asked to meet with the parks board as soon as possible. This was council's decision.

# Scuttlebutt

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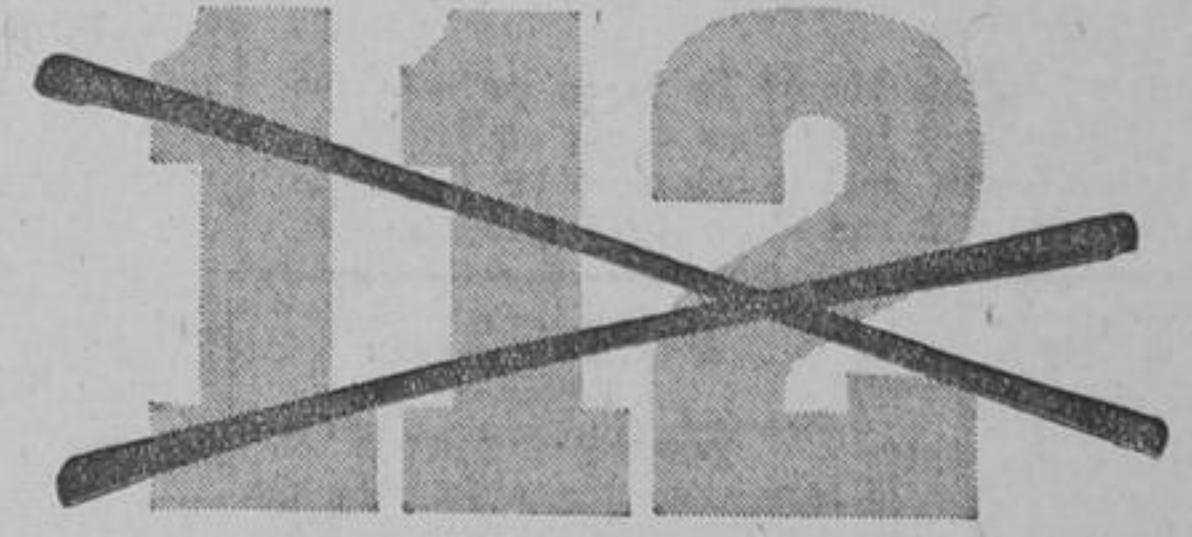
Richmond Hill has a navy, and its ship is named Patriot, sail with the three ships of Early last fall the Richmond Hill branch of the Navy League of Canada, commissioned Royal Canadian (Sea Cadet Corps) Patriot into the Richmond Hill Navy. Fear not local citizens, the pond shall remain secure. Since its commissioning Patriot, Lt. David Ellison, extends his personal welcome to the young men of Richmond Hill to come aboard, join Richmond Hill's navy and see the world.

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# Elgin Mills - Jefferson News

CORRESPONDENT: LEONARD LOMAS — Phone 884-3000

## Neighborhood Notes

The community and recreational association held its monthly meeting March 10 and was given to a public speaking contest for pupils from Jefferson School. There were 10 entries in the contest and first prize went to Andrea Goulding who received a camera and a plaque, second, Richard Thompson and third, Craig Gadsby who both received plaques. All contestants were awarded a school crest. Judges were Mrs. Gloria Morrison, Mrs. Joan Chubb, Mrs. Patricia Hart and Miss Rhonda Ford.

Friday, April 3 the association will hold a Caribbean Dance featuring the "Caribbean Melopones". Tickets will go on sale soon at \$3 each and proceeds will be donated to the student exchange programme. Films which were shown Friday evening and Saturday afternoon were a moderate success and thanks are extended to all who organized this event. Birthday greetings are extended to Craig Gadsby on March 19.

## Guides and Brownies

The Guides are planning a trip to Maple Leaf Gardens for the "Disney-on-Parade" show during the mid-winter school break. Brownies enjoyed a Japanese night at their regular weekly meeting Monday last to mark Japanese Doll Day and the opening of Expo 70. The girls presented a skit, dance and

song and brought Japanese artifacts to show. Japanese tea and treats were served to the mothers and friends present and they then viewed a film on doll making shown by Micky Gillett.

Recipients of the outdoor badge were Lucia Gillett, Cindy Heavener, Kerri Snider, Gillian Weyman, Dale McDowell, Lori McDowell, Carol Leith, Dianne Eldridge and Debbie Doig; writer's badges went to Sharon Workman and Beth Carson, artist's to Cindy Heavener and skater's to Sharon Workman. The golden bar was awarded to Sharon Workman and Dale McDowell.

On Saturday morning the pack enjoyed a most enlightening visit to Richmond Hill Police Station where they were shown samples of counterfeit money and other trial evidence, the communications network, had their fingerprints taken and viewed the cells. Equipment and explanations of drugs and their misuse were explained to the girls and in conclusion a movie on police operations in Canada and the U.S. rounded off this unusual learning experience.

## Cubs

First Jefferson Cubs enjoyed an afternoon's swimming at Slater's Pool at Vandorf March 7.

On Saturday a ramble has been planned for the boys on the Yonge Street property of Jack Passmore, which will conclude with a cookout. Twenty-one boys of the pack

participated in the recent York Summit Hobby Show held recently and out of 22 groups, 1st Jefferson placed sixth.

First prize winners were Gary Boyle with a wren birdhouse, Stephen Sayers, Frankenstein model, Mark Weyman, drop cookies, John Sayers, model airplane and Mike Orsatti, drop cookies. All other clubs with the exception of three were in the prize winning list, which meant they put up an excellent effort.

## Church News

On Palm Sunday at St. John's Anglican a family service will be combined with a service of dedication for the new pews, credence table, hymn boards and other church furnishings. Younger members of the congregation will be taking part in the service and the sermon will be geared to the Sunday school children who will attend with their parents. As in former years it is anticipated there will be palm crosses from Florida distributed.

On Maundy Thursday at 8 pm, to mark the institution of the Lord's Supper, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion. A short sermon will be delivered by Lay Reader Leonard Lomas.

On Good Friday at 11 am a service of morning prayer will be held with Lay Reader Leslie Eliot preaching.

There will be two celebrations of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday, a said service at 9 am and choral at 11 am.

# Vaughan Twp. Fire Calls Up 47.9% But Estimated Loss Fell \$73,110

Estimated fire losses in Vaughan Township in 1969 were down \$73,110 from the previous year, according to Fire Chief James Davidson's annual report to council.

This was in spite of a 47.9% increase in the number of fire alarms to a total of 691.

Fire losses in the area of Markham Township served by the department were \$165,200 in 1969. No 1968 figure is available for comparison.

"The increased industrial, manufacturing, commercial and housing development taking place in the township, and the increase in the area which is served by this department, have no doubt been reflected in the increase in the number of alarms answered. However, the optimistic side is that our fire losses are continuing to lessen and it is hoped they will continue to do so," said the fire chief in his report.

Estimated losses per capita dropped \$4.49 to \$8.87 in 1969. During the past year there were 25 suspicious fires in the department's area, with arson suspected in nine cases. There were 96 fire investigations and charges are pending in one case.

The largest number of 1969 calls were to grass and rubbish fires, and totalled 173. There were 122 calls for help, most of them from urban dwellings, barns and sheds, and manufacturing plants. There were 15 search and rescue calls, 39 calls due to defective electric wiring, 27 calls due to careless smoking.

# Effective Speaking Is YWCA Course April 1

Thousands of people attend meetings every week, take part in volunteer programs, are involved in business, but are afraid to accept office or to speak out because they do not know how to express themselves in words — out loud.

For the benefit of men and women who would like to be able to get on their feet with confidence, to make a motion or chair a meeting, the Richmond Hill YWCA is sponsoring a six-week course in effective speaking each Wednesday evening from 8 to 10 pm beginning April 1.

Heading the course will be Harold Harton of the community programs branch of the Department of Education who will give lectures and hold practical sessions followed by an informal coffee time.

Mr. Harton has been a consultant for a number of leadership training courses, and he will cover every area of public speaking from "saying a few words" in introducing or thanking a speaker, to the challenging job of selling your ideas in an important public relations situation.

There will be sessions on effective program planning, parliamentary procedure and the functions of a committee chairman.

The course is open to men and women. The fee is \$10 for the series, and sessions will take place at the YWCA office, 25 Yonge Street North.

and 66 calls involving dangerous combustibles. There were 69 false alarms.

Station One at Richvale had a total of 264 calls, Station Two at Sherwood had 344 calls, Station Three at Pine Grove had 49 calls, and Station Four at Kleinburg had 34 calls.

The department's personnel now includes the fire chief, four dispatchers, 19 full time firefighters and 62 volunteers.

In 1969, six more full time probationary firefighters were hired from the existing volunteer ranks. Examinations were set for these men, with a qualifying mark of 65% established. All of these men were successful in their exams and have advanced to their next grade.

A plant fire brigade was organized in 1969 at the Acme Paper Company, Keele Street and Highway 7. They were trained in the use of fire hose and first aid fire appliances.

They also learned a proper method of communication in order to alert key personnel in the plant and the fire department in the event of fire. This program is expected to continue one day a week for four months, each session lasting three hours.

A complete review and re-training program was started in 1969 at the Aerosol Packaging plant, 8001 Keele St. in the use of first aid fire equipment to be applied on hazardous chemicals.

Besides instruction for personnel in other plants and the regular firefighter training, the department plans to continue providing better fire protection by proper planning of fire prevention and quick response to calls by on-duty personnel, said Fire Chief Davidson in his annual report.

# 778 Squadron Air Cadets

By Ft. Sgt. Frank Jedlicsek

On March 5 the senior flight of 778 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets under Lieut. Stan Bendle enjoyed a quiz on aircraft. The juniors under Ken Madill studied the parts of a plane and their functions while in flight and the recruits had a drill period.

Last Sunday, seven cadets of 778 Squadron RCAC enjoyed flying at Maple in 172 Cessnas. These included LAC Barrot, LAC Trow, LAC Derose, LAC Hunter, LAC Mills, LAC Rein-deers and Corporal Topham.

LAC Stephenson received his first year badge for being a member of the squadron for one year and identification cards were distributed to all cadets.

778 Squadron congratulates Mr. Bendle on receiving his commission as pilot officer (2nd Lieutenant). He has been teaching the flying scholarship course in the squadron.

Telephone book covers are still being sold by the cadets at the price of \$1.

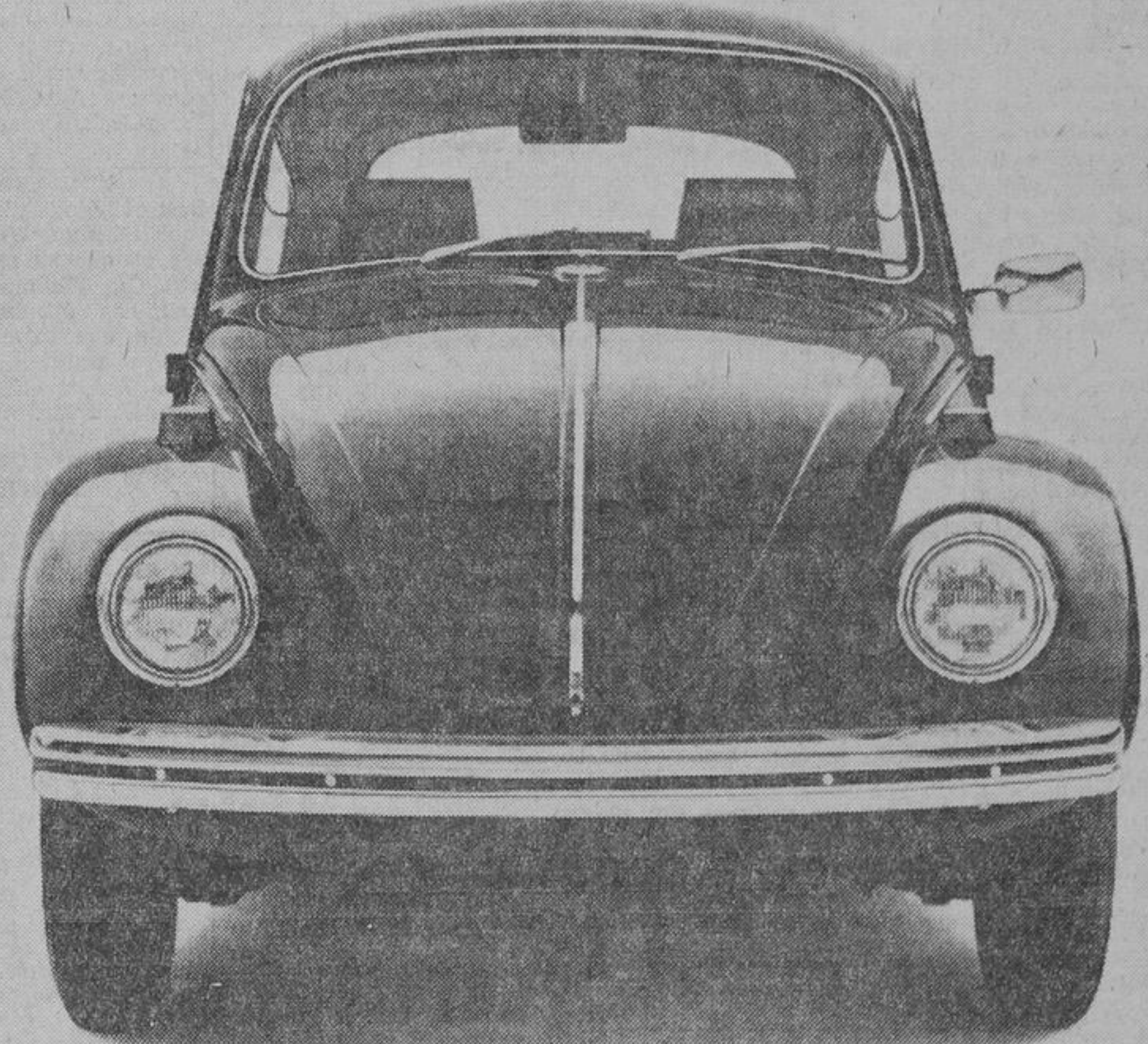
Say, lads, would you like to see how the squadron operates? Drop in any Thursday evening at 7:30 pm at the Legion hall.

# Richmond Hill Fire Dept. SKATES — SKATES — SKATES

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