

## Report Threats, Violence In Illegal Drug Traffic Here

By HAROLD BLAINE

Threats and violence are being used to force young people to sell illegal drugs in the Richmond Hill and Newmarket area, Lawyer Ronald Charlebois of 133 Richmond Street West, Toronto, alleged in Richmond Hill Criminal Division Court June 8.

He told Judge Sydney Roebuck that beatings, death threats and house burning threats had been made against area teenagers and their families.

Involved was a gang of young people and an older "enforcer". Young people were being terrorized, Mr. Charlebois said.

Asked by "The Liberal" about the statements made in court by Lawyer Charlebois, Richmond Hill Police Chief Robert Robbins said he believes the statements are true.

Chief Robbins says he cannot make any extensive statement on the situation at this time because this might jeopardize subsequent investigations and court action.

"We have been well aware of this for some time now. But I can't say anything more at this time," Chief Robbins said.

The lawyer was making a submission on behalf of a Newmarket teenager who pleaded guilty to three charges of break, enter and theft. The offences took place in Richmond Hill last year.

Lawyer Charlebois said the break-ins were committed to obtain money to pay off the drug pushers.

Paul Engler, 17, of 579 Gorham Road, Newmarket, admitted break, enter and theft at the following locations: VCA Manufacturing Limited, 95 Newkirk Road, August 2; Ziebart Auto Truck Rustproofing Limited, 59 Newkirk Road, September 12; EV of Canada Limited, 359 Enford Road, November 19.

Two other charges against Engler were withdrawn by the Crown.

"In the Richmond Hill and Newmarket

area there are certain individuals who are involved in the trafficking of drugs. These individuals physically force younger people of this community to assist them in the dispersal of these drugs," said Mr. Charlebois.

"One of these young lads would be given a certain quantity of drugs... say \$20 worth... and he would be given two days to dispose of these items and to pay back the money.

"Now because many of these lads were hesitant and were fearful of getting involved in this, many of them didn't peddle the drugs. Some used them for their own purposes.

"And when the two days were up, they didn't have the money. Like any businessman, the pusher added interest. But it wasn't 10 percent, it was more like 100% or 200%.

"He was given two weeks to pay, and he

now owed \$50. The amount grew over a period of time. If he didn't pay, then he was simply beaten.

"This boy's mother verifies that these people came to the door making threats and that there is such a group of young people in the community," said Mr. Charlebois.

He went on to allege that other drug charges are pending in the area, and that on another day his story of threats and violence will be verified.

Mr. Charlebois said the young men forced into drug trafficking were only 16 or 17 years of age and were young to have to face such a situation.

"They were so scared they didn't know what to do, apart from the fact that they had to get the money. They were not only threatened with violence, but with their very life.

"A youth confronted by someone older,

someone he has seen terrorize other people, just falls in with the crowd and is terrorized too," the lawyer said.

He alleged there was one drug dealer who had an enforcer, or muscle man, and this enforcer would go around assuring that money for drugs was paid.

Mr. Charlebois said he knew of one man in Aurora who had sent his boy away to safety. Then other boys came and threatened to burn the man's house down. Big boys came to the house in the night time, Carlods of them. And the police verified this story, he said.

The lawyer added that several boys were thus involved in drug trafficking. His guilty client, Engler, he said, had a father who was an invalid and a younger sister who had recently lost an eye in an accident unrelated to the drug traffic threats, Mr. Charlebois said.

See editorial on Page 2.

## Reeve Charges Scare Tactics Used On Regional Government

"These are scare tactics, an attempt to frighten our people into opposing the introduction of regional government in 1971," charged Reeve Donald Plaxton at Monday night's meeting of Richmond Hill Town Council.

He was commenting on a resolution presented to council and later carried on a 5-2 vote, which asked that Bill 102 (to establish The Regional Municipality of York), introduced in the Legislature June 8 and given first reading the same day, be referred forthwith to the Legal and Municipal Bills Committee to enable municipal councils to comment adequately on the effect of an undetermined southern boundary for the region of York.

The reeve referred to a leaflet distributed last week by Donald Deacon, Liberal MLA for York Centre, which indicated that under regional government taxes could rise 25%, 50%, 75% or 100%.

"This is a political move to embarrass the government. With the majority the Roberts Government has in the Legislature, there is little hope of success in this move, except to enhance the political laurels of the person introducing it. I am not sitting on this council to enhance anybody's political stature. These statements can not be proven. I challenge anybody to verify them."

Mr. Plaxton also suggested that the reason that cost studies have not been done in York is probably because in other regions where government has been restructured they have proved to be of little value. "An increase in taxes will depend on how much services are increased. I believe it would be impossible for the Minister to forecast the cost to us of regional government."

"I am not going to vote to have regional government shelved," continued the reeve. "Referring it to a committee is an obvious attempt to shelve it. I am opposed to the loss of the area south of Highway 7 but I am not opposed to regional government. I think the status quo is hopeless and the minister has undertaken to give us reconstruction. I don't want to see it dropped or delayed."

Coroner Dr. Bernard Granton says a decision on whether or not to hold an inquest may not be made for two weeks.

William Oakley, 39, of 30 Bedford Park Avenue, Richmond Hill, died on the afternoon of June 8 several hours after he was crushed by a piece of machinery at Seneca Wire of Canada Limited, 254 Centre Street East.

Police began their investigation of the accident at 11:15 am. Mr. Oakley was the plant superintendent and was with the firm about six years in Richmond Hill.

He was first taken to York Central Hospital, and then to Toronto General Hospital, where he died.

Funeral service and interment took place Thursday of last week.

He is survived by his wife Helen; two children, Karen and David; his mother Mrs. Jean Oakley of Toronto; a sister Betty and a brother Donald.

Interment was at Highland Memory Gardens.

Investigation of a fatal accident June 8 at a Richmond Hill industrial plant is continuing, says Deputy-Chief of Police Joseph Rainey.

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## All Taps Ran Dry In Hill Will Enforce New Bylaw

No water in your taps, Wednesday night of last week? The whole west side of Richmond Hill, as usual, suffered from the long, hot, dry spell as lawn watering grabbed all the available supply.

Although town council has passed a bylaw restricting lawn watering in all areas of town to two night a week on a staggered schedule, many residents continue to water on other nights as well. The new bylaw carries a penalty of up to \$300 for infractions.

So that residents may not plead ignorance of the regulations, copies of the bylaw have been delivered to every household. The last areas to be covered received their notification last Thursday and Works Commissioner Otto Whalen has stated that the restrictions will be enforced rigidly.

He pointed out that until a reserve is built up, which can occur quickly if everyone observes the lawn watering restrictions, and if the weatherman co-operates by providing showers, the problem may recur.

Wednesday night, in all the area west of Yonge Street, mothers were unable to bathe their youngsters, dishes remained unwashed and laundromat patrons were unable to do their laundry, as the taps dried up shortly after seven o'clock and remained dry until well after 10 pm. Even then only a thin trickle was available.

It may be of some small comfort to Hill residents to know that they are not alone in their waterless predicament. More than 10,000 apartment dwellers in the Sheppard - Don Mills - Finch area went without for five hours Tuesday night and Wednesday night in North York, sound trucks were patrolling the

borough streets, urging residents to turn off their lawn sprinklers, a very rare sound we are told.

Water discoloration on the east side of town has also been a problem recently. We are informed the cause of this is pressure from securing an additional supply of water from Vaughan Township to insure that the south east portion of town will have enough to relieve the demand on the town's supply.

The Ontario Humane Society June 11 raided a southern Vaughan Township farm and either destroyed or removed dozens of dogs.

It was the third raid in several years involving the occupant of the property, Mrs. Rose Misener, according to the Humane Society. The last time was late last summer.

Local Canine Control Officer James Ryan was notified and was also present during the raid.

The Humane Society said 27 dogs were ordered destroyed and 40 dogs were removed to the Humane Society's shelter at Aurora. The 27 destroyed were suffering from emaciation and external parasites, said society official Wally Kogler, who received the veterinarian's report on the dogs.

Four adult dogs and 10 puppies were left on the farm.

After a man on the property threatened society workers and a reporter, four Vaughan Township Police officers were sent to the farm.

The farm is on the west side of Jane Street, south of the Sherwood Road.

## Hospital Shortage Serious

# Help Needed For Chronically Ill

Since a program for expansion of York Central Hospital on Vaughan Road in Richmond Hill was first put forward in 1966, estimated cost of the project has risen from \$8,700,000 to \$13,010,700.

At a meeting of York County Council in Newmarket on June 3, York Central Hospital and York County Hospital in Newmarket made a joint submission asking for county council support for plans to improve hospital services to local residents.

Speaking for York Central Hospital's Board of Directors, John Griffin of Richmond Hill said the provincial average for hospital accommodation is 6.4 beds per 1,000 population. In York County it is 2.5 beds per 1,000 population.

York Central Hospital, which has 126 beds, has been authorized by the Ontario Hospital Services Commissioner to proceed with the preparation of sketch plans which would bring the total to about 300 beds, but said Mr. Griffin, "When these plans are submitted, we are required to show that we are able to finance our share of the capital expenditures."

He explained that in 1966 the cost of the building program was estimated at \$8,700,000, and at that time the County of York agreed to provide one-third of this amount, or \$2,900,000.

In 1968, just prior to the provincial government's cancelling all hospital construction, cost estimates for York Central had reached \$9,158,000 with the county's one-third reaching \$3,052,700. At that time the hospital agreed to provide the additional \$152,700 that would be needed for construction and furnishing of the addition.

Since 1968, however, costs have risen steeply due to 20 percent increase in construction wages, increases in materials, furnishings and equipment.

"With your support," the speaker continued, "we can start construction in 1970 or early 1971, which will overcome further increases."

Delays are costly, he pointed out, and further delay could result in the OHSC bypassing the York Central area until local differences concerning financing are resolved.

"We have been held up for three years now. Another year could cost another half million dollars."

Richmond Hill Reeve Donald Plaxton pointed out that much additional expense had been incurred because the OHSC had changed its requirements five or six times. "This kind of expense should not be a local cost."

Woodbridge Reeve John McLean pointed out that boundary changes proposed by Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough could result in considerable loss of assessment in the southern part of the county served by York Central Hospital.

"LOSE TAX REVENUE  
"We are trying only to provide reasonable hospital services, and at the same time we are faced with losing an equal amount in tax revenue. The future financial picture is not rosy. We should go to the province and say, 'Look, this may cost us our needed hospital services.'"

Mrs. Elton Armstrong, chairman of the County Hospital Committee, pointed out that the province has saved a great amount of money while the freeze on hospital construction was on. "This is our money," she said.

Mr. Plaxton commented, "If the province sticks by its boundary change there could be some negotiations, and the time of the change has not been specified. By that time we may have built up sufficient additional assessment in the area to compensate for the loss."

Remarking that there is no question of the need for hospitals, Finance Committee Chairman Sam Nasello, Reeve of Sutton, moved the hospital committee report be referred to the finance committee.

Warden Gordon Cook agreed, "Hospitals serve everyone from birth to the grave. We have to have them. It seems to me we have no choice but to sit down with the finance committee and study the picture. We may have to go to the province for more aid, to ask, 'How do we raise the money?'"

(Continued on Page 13)

## Krol, Principal Langstaff Secondary

York County Board of Education last week announced the appointment of Robert Krol as principal of Langstaff Secondary School effective September 1.

He will be replacing Principal Harry Gerber who is leaving Langstaff to take over as principal of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora, replacing the present Principal Arnold Miller who is retiring from the teaching profession.

Mr. Gerber was formerly vice-principal at Langstaff under Principal Arthur Murch, who moved to the new Thornlea Secondary when it opened in September, 1968.

Mr. Krol is an honors graduate in history with a specialist's certificate in physical and health education and a secondary school principal's certificate. He has had 19 years teaching experience, including one year as a vice-principal and four years as principal of J. L. Forster Collegiate Institute in Windsor.



## Students And Visitors Look To The Future At New Don Head Secondary School's First Open House

When Don Head Secondary School in Richmond Hill had its first Open House June 4, students proudly demonstrated the skills they have been learning since the school, which serves the entire County of York, was established in September.

Pictured far left Patrick McGurran and Peter Fraser put the finishing touches on a footstool in the upholstery workshop. Students are proud of their work and often buy the furniture they make, paying only for the cost of materials.

Second from left, Carson Thorn is shown at work in the auto body repair shop. In this class the boys gain experience by working on cars belonging to teachers and parents who pay for the cost of the materials.

Top centre, Joe Thebeau operates a driver simulator in a special classroom where students learn the rules of the road and the theory

of motor vehicle operations before getting behind the wheel of one of three cars donated to the school by local merchants for use in the driver training program at Don Head.

Lower centre Bob Bonnell is shown potting a tomato plant which will supply fresh tomatoes for the food services department in the fall. Plants grown in the school's greenhouse are being used in landscaping the grounds, and cut flowers grown by the horticultural students are made into decorative arrangements and sold in the Don Head retail merchandising store located in the school. Bob's performance in class earned him a summer job at the school — helping to keep the grounds in shape through the vacation season.

Second from right, Sharon Lindsay dresses a mannequin in the display window of the retail store. The school's 450 students and teaching staff of 36 provide a ready market for items turned out by the food

services, industrial sewing, art crafts and other departments at Don Head.

At far right, Holly Pike models an Indian silk pant dress with tassled sash while Martin Tripp looks on with admiration. Martin made his own suit of armour, including Roman helmet, kilt and javelin as part of a social science project.

The fashion show was staged in a garden setting in the large foyer. The artistic landscaping as well as the fashions displayed were created by the students of Don Head, the first school in the county to offer a full program of industrial and commercial skills for students who are not academically inclined.

The academic subjects are not neglected, however. The school has a well equipped library and resources centre, and programs in English, mathematics and physical and social sciences are also included in the curriculum.

(Photos by Student's Studio)