

York County Board Of Education Briefs

At a meeting on June 15, York County Board of Education approved the appointment of Jan deLaat as principal of Fairmead School for the Trainable Retarded in Newmarket effective September 1.

Mr. deLaat has had five years experience in education and is now on staff at the Sand Junior School (formerly Woodland Junior School) as a teacher in a special education class.

He is working toward his bachelor of arts degree at York University and also towards a specialist certificate in special education which includes administrative and supervisory roles.

Mrs. Ethel Warden, present principal at Fairmead, has submitted her resignation, from position, but will continue on staff as a full time teacher at the school.

Teachers in secondary schools in York County will have an impressive list of text books to choose from in addition to those prescribed by the Department of Education.

At a recent meeting of the York County Board of Education, trustees approved a list of nearly eight pages, chiefly in the areas of English literature and occupations.

Authors range from Shakespeare to Shaw to Steinbeck and include Canadian writers Connor, Mowat, MacLennan and many more. Sophocles, Sheridan, Ibsen and Miller are also on the list.

Automotive servicing, Basic Blueprint Reading, Child Care, Practical Retailing, Teen Home Nursing Manual, and Trouble Shooting Math Skills will help prepare the student for the "real world".

Most of these books, said Education Director Sam Chapman, have been in use in the schools, but because they do not appear in the department's "Circular 14" they must be approved by the board.

As most books and other materials in school libraries are curriculum oriented and required in the schools for day to day use by students, year-round integration of school and public libraries is not practical.

School oriented organizations will be encouraged to hold conferences on education, as the county board feels that conferences organized by such groups will be more likely to focus on items of current concern to ratepayers than similar meetings organized by trustees and staff.

In adopting policy on conferences, the board agreed to make suitable meeting places available without costs, make small grants to defray incidental costs, supply reasonable administrative assistance such as duplicating notices and programs, and at the request of the organization, supply planning assistance by trustees or staff.

The board's communications committee will be responsible for making and approving such arrangements as may be necessary for these conferences or meetings. The policy does not cover local home and school or parent-teacher association meetings.

One Health Unit Effective June 30

In session June 3, York County Council agreed to dissolution of the York-Oshawa Health Unit effective June 30, and the formation of an independent York County Health Unit.

Speaking to a resolution presented by Woodbridge Reeve John McLean, East Gwillimbury Councillor Garfield Wright, a member of York County Board of Health, explained that the present unit has been in existence for two years but there has been little communication between the York and Oshawa offices due to geographical distance.

"There has been little liaison, the only link has been at the senior administrative level, the Medical Officer of Health and supervisors."

Joint capital assets are relatively insignificant, said Mr. Wright, and 75 percent of the budget comes from the province.

Both Health Minister Thomas Wells and Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough have agreed that health units should follow municipal boundaries, he said, and grants are paid on a quarterly basis. June 30, Mr. Wright pointed out, is the end of the second quarter.

"The board recommends that a new board of health be appointed by York County Council and that Dr. Owen Slingerland be retained as Chief Medical Officer of Health."

The board also recommended that present staff now employed by the York County section of the unit be retained.

"The transition should be very smooth. We can carry on with the present staff to the end of 1970."

In reply to a protest from Deputy-reeve Anthony Roman of Markham Township that it seemed a little premature to dissolve the York-Oshawa unit before the end of the year, County Solicitor Douglas Lucas said the county would have to pass a bylaw dissolving the present unit, but either party can withdraw from the agreement on receipt of written notice.

Appointed to the new board of health for York County were Mr. Wright, Reeve Albert Laidlaw of the Town of Markham, Reeve Stewart Rumble of Markham Township, Reeve McLean and Dr. Slingerland.

The new unit will continue to operate from the main office in Newmarket and the area offices in Richmond Hill and Sutton.

Welfare Budget Overspent In First 5 Months

York County's Welfare Committee is running into problems, with more than 50 percent of its budget for 1970 spent in less than five months.

In reporting to the June session of York County Council, East Gwillimbury Reeve Gladys Rolling, chairman of the welfare committee, said there were four factors involved in attributing to this condition.

The budget proposed by the committee at the beginning of the year was cut by \$78,000; the welfare case load had increased due to unemployment in the county; the cost of nursing home care for indigent patients has increased from \$9.50 to \$10.50 per day; and welfare rates have increased 12 percent effective May 1.

On March 4 the Social and Family Services Department

was notified by the province that an increase in nursing home care rates had been enacted and would be grantable retroactive to January 1, said Mrs. Rolling, but since York County budgets for the calendar year and the province works on a fiscal year, the welfare committee decided to grant the increase retroactive to March 1 only.

The change in welfare rates involved compiling of new budgets for all welfare recipients in the county, the report stated, and this necessitated considerable overtime work for staff and hiring of additional part-time help, adding to the salary portion of the committee's budget. Although the period of recession appears likely to continue, said Mrs. Rolling, York County is not as badly off as many Ontario municipalities.

"It is interesting to note that the statistics recently received from the Ontario Department of Social and Family Services which compares general welfare assistance accounts from January to October 1969 to the same period in 1968 show York County with an increase of 2.1 percent, while other increases were Hamilton 4.6 percent, London 13.6 percent, Metro 2.4 percent, Mississauga 24.3 percent, Ottawa-Carleton 2.3 percent, Simcoe County 8.3 percent, St. Catharines 9.1 percent and Windsor 3.2 percent."

With the exception of Welland, all Ontario municipalities reflected the same trend.

In the area of new business, the committee responded to a request from David Porter, chairman of the board of directors of the Richmond Hill Day Care

Centre, the York County Department of Social and Family Services investigated and documented applications for indigent parents desiring day care service in order that the centre could qualify for provincial subsidy.

At present the centre is subsidized by the province under the auspices of the Town of Richmond Hill and there is a charge of \$15 per week for each child.

The report, which was approved by council on June 3, outlined reasons for a transfer of a \$5,000 grant to the Victorian Order of Nurses, York County Branch, from the general fund to the welfare budget.

In February council removed the \$5,000 from the welfare committee budget and at the same session approved a \$20,000 grant to the VON from the county

budget.

Mrs. Rolling pointed out that a provincial subsidy of 80 percent is available on VON services to indigent families if approved and paid through the county's Department of Social and Family Services, but as presently allocated, the county will lose approximately \$4,000 in subsidies.

Council agreed, therefore, that \$5,000 be paid to the VON through the Department of Social and Family Services, and the balance of \$15,000 be a direct grant to the VON.

"There will be no change in the amount received by the VON," Warden Gordon Cook assured council, "It is just a transfer of funds on our books. The difference is that we can then pick up \$4,000 in welfare grants from the province."

Approval of sketch plan and working drawings for an addition to Crosby Heights Senior School have been received from the Department of Education, and three quotations were received for completion of the project which involves enclosure of a courtyard and included enlarged library and resources centre for the school.

At its meeting on May 11, the Board of Education accepted the lowest bid, \$49,800, and a request for final approval from the department has been submitted.

This project is to be financed from current funds set apart as "work in progress" in the 1969 budget. Total cost, including architect fees is \$54,731.

Instead of gathering dust through the summer months, books in the schools of York County will be available on request to local public libraries during the months of July and August.

At its regular meeting June 8, the Board of Education agreed to a policy that will give county residents maximum use of books which would not otherwise be available during the school vacation period.

Preamble to the new policy notes that school libraries normally cannot be kept open during the summer as staff are not available. It also points out that

The contract for construction of a new secondary school in Aurora has been awarded to Konvey Construction Company of the Town of Markham.

The tender price, \$3,844,470, is about \$300,000 over the amount budgeted for the project, however, and trustees agreed that architects and staff should go over the tender and investigate alternatives which could reduce the total price.

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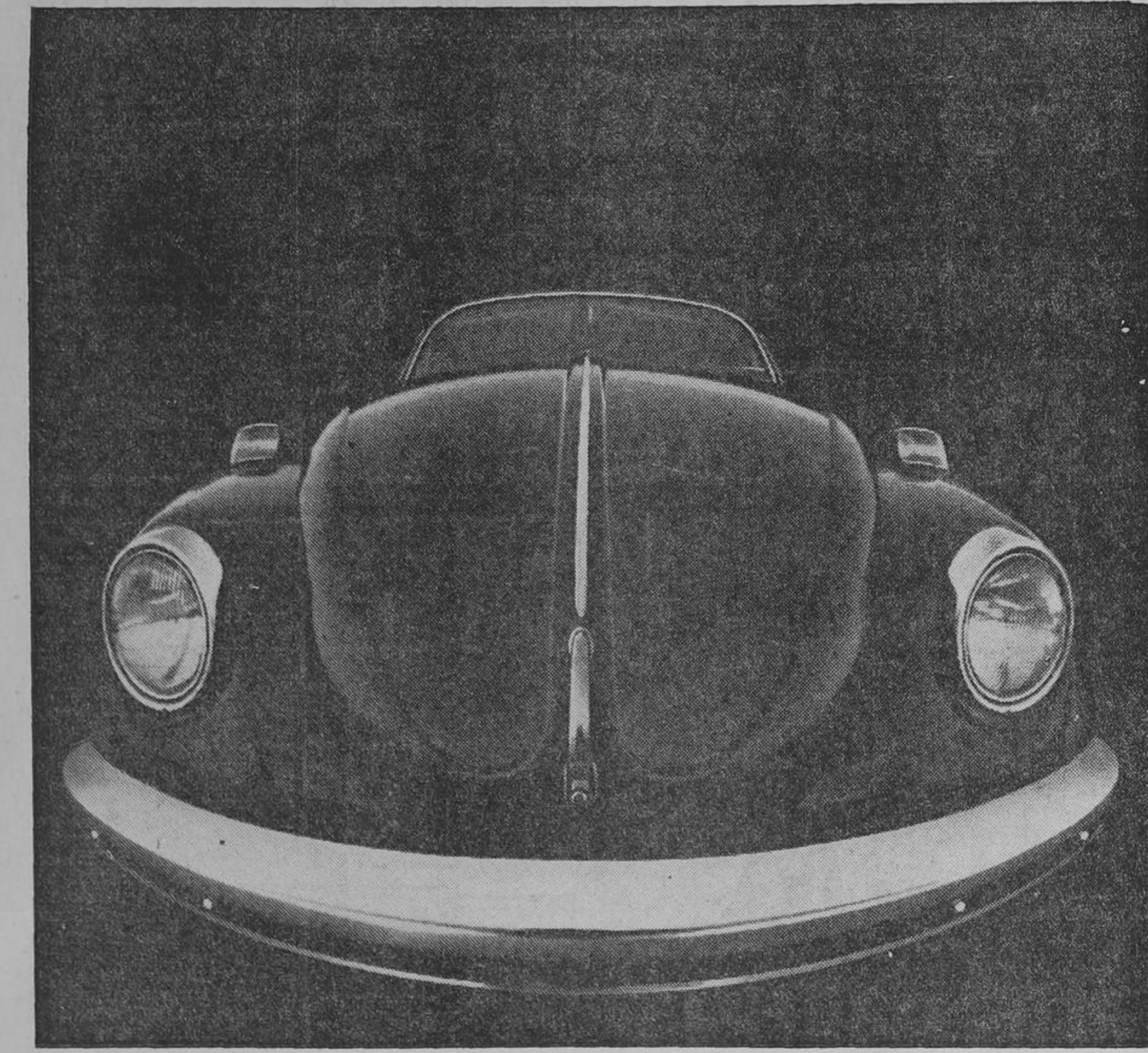
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