

# The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity; in Non-Essentials Liberty; in all things Charity"

**SUMMER SHOWING OF 1971 CORVETTES**

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RICHMOND HILL  
Where Cars Cost Less!



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

When roads become rivers, sanitary sewers turn into fountains, ditches make good swimming holes, basements turn into pools of raw sewage, and the placid Mill Pond overflows its banks and pours across the road, Richmond Hill residents can be justified in believing the weatherman doesn't like them. All of these things happened in the town during and after Monday's six-hour deluge.

The town staff reports more than 750 phone calls about basement and road floodings were handled and the town works staff was kept on to work throughout the night to give assistance where it was needed. All town equipment was in use but it proved inadequate to handle the magnitude of the emergency situation.

The above picture was taken on Alvena Avenue in Beverley Acres, looking south from Lynett Crescent to North Taylor Mills Drive, at the height of the storm — with the worst yet to come.

## Monday's Downpour Floods Richmond Hill Residents

The worst flood since Hurricane Hazel hit Richmond Hill Monday when torrential rain deluged the area from 10:30 am to 4 pm with the most intense period being between noon and 3 pm. Basements which had never flooded were knee-deep in water and basements which have flooded repeatedly after flash storms were almost completely filled.

A conservative estimate of calls about residential and roadway flooding received in the town offices was more than 750. For hours the two incoming lines were jammed with calls. Mayor William Lazenby told council Monday evening.

**RAW SEWAGE**  
He also noted that in some areas raw sewage was contained in the water which backed up in the sanitary sewage lines. Although the hardest hit portions of town were those which

have experienced flooding in the past. Browndale Crescent, Gentry Crescent, and other areas on the east side of town, calls for assistance came from all areas from Carville Road North to Elgin Mills Road.

**MILL POND OVERFLOWS**  
The public library and the Canadian Tire Store experienced flooding. The Mill Pond overflowed its banks and poured across Mill Street, washing out the fill on the southeast corner near the bridge. The parks crew soon had the situation in hand but traffic over the bridge is restricted to a single lane and drivers and pedestrians are urged to exercise caution at that point. Basements in Pleasantville were on the list of calls answered by the works department.

**EARTH SLIDE**  
Behind the property at 437 North Taylor Mills Drive, the flood waters caused an earth slide which dammed Murphy Creek causing the water to back up and cause even more flooding.

**BRIDGES, FENCES**  
The mayor also reported that the new holding tank at the sewage treatment plant seemed to function well in retaining solids while allowing the water to pass into the German Mills Creek. "The volume was so great, however, that the twin outlets there were ejecting water only four inches below the top of the pipes. This great flow of water ravaged the private properties south of Markham Road, tearing out bridges and fences," the mayor reported. Geysers leaped up to four feet in the air in various locations, giving the impression that water mains had been ruptured. These, however, were caused by the pressure created by the

flood waters in the sanitary sewage lines which were stressed beyond endurance and blew up.

On Browndale Crescent, where basements were flooded with sewage backup only two weeks ago, water was a foot and a half deep at the front doors of the houses and basements were filled to the top step.

On Wyndhurst Gate water a foot deep was streaming westward from Bayview Avenue and around the corner onto Lynett Crescent.

Children swam in the ditches on Fauna and Fernleigh Circle, according to reports.

A resident of Richmond Hill phoned a Toronto radio station to report that she had spent several years in China, had experienced several monsoon seasons, and had never seen anything like the severity of Monday's downpour.

**ALL NIGHT DUTY**  
Mayor Lazenby reported that the town's works department prepared during the morning for a flood and soon had every available piece of equipment in action, pumping out basements and repairing washouts, "but it wasn't enough. I have instructed the construction engineer and works superintendent to bring back all available men for duty tonight to cope with the appeals for assistance," the mayor told council.

**NOT ASSUMING LIABILITY**  
He went on to note, "The Town of Richmond Hill is not acknowledging liability in all cases of assistance but is providing this assistance on a public relation basis. Where just reasons can be established that this municipality is at fault then such claims will be handled by our insurance adjuster."

The Ward 3 representative won the support of Councillors Andy Chateauvert, David Schiller and Louis Wainwright. Voting against her motion were Regional Councillors Don Plaxton and Gordon Rowe. Councillors Shaun Beggs and Stewart Bell and Mayor William Lazenby.

"How much more milk are we going to get out of the cow?" asked Mr. Rowe.

"After hearing Mr. Chateauvert's report (that the department is considering setting the mill rate at last year's level, with a transitional grant, which will cover extra costs caused by regional government) I believe interest charges will be included in these transitional grants," stated Mayor Lazenby. "I fear that this resolution could throw a wrench into the works and upset the applicant."

"I would rather withhold my fire until all costs are known," stated Regional Councillor Don Plaxton. "I think it is probably a legal function of this council at some time to ask the province to pay transitional costs. It seems reasonable that the province, having brought about the problem, should assume the cost, but this resolution may be only hitting at one of the cost factors."

"Why didn't we put out another tax bill. Vaughan did," queried Councillor Louis Wainwright. It was explained that all York municipalities were limited to a total of a little more than nine mills in interim levies. Another Richmond Hill interim bill could collect only two mills

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There are many circumstances besides the deluge that have caused these floodings and responsibility will have to be shared, or in many cases, be accepted fully by the individual home owner.

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## Face Health Minister In Aurora York Doctors Criticize Lawrence Statements

By HAL BLAINE

The doctors of York Region went after Ontario Health Minister Bert Lawrence's hide.

But he came and met them on their own ground on Thursday of last week and showed the doctors he was a pretty tough cat to skin.

Termed a dialogue by the chairman, York Region Medical Society President Peter Young MD, the meeting was held at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club in Aurora.

In their brief the doctors accused the health minister of a generalized attack on the medical profession. They said the attack was one that would seem to have been made for political gain, and one that has left many doctors disheartened, fearful, resentful and hostile.

The doctors alleged an aura of avariciousness was being cast upon the medical profession.

In their brief the regions doctors did admit, however, that their profession must certainly bear some blame for lack of a watchdog procedure over doctors' collections from the government medical insurance plan.

But they accused Health Minister Lawrence with raising issues in a distorted manner, making accusations before they were warranted, and remediation that would seem to go beyond what the situation warrants.

**LAWRENCE CONCILIATORY**  
Lawrence was conciliatory to the point of admitting that conferences around the province with doctors' groups had shown him where certain changes had to be made in his planned reform of polling doctors' billings and of billing procedures.

The Health Minister also backed off from the issue of government controlling doctors' incomes or putting them on salary. He assured them this wouldn't happen under any Conservative Government.

But Lawrence stuck to his guns on the issue of the necessity for a procedure to audit the bills doctors submit to Medicare for payment.

Lawrence told the York Region doctors he couldn't understand how the Ontario Medical Services Insurance Plan had been drafted without any provision for an audit of the bills submitted by doctors.

Previous insurance plans had an audit procedure, he said, pointing out this had been true even of the previous insurance plan operated by doctors themselves.

The Health Minister did say he has recently been convinced there could be infringement in the area of professionalism and confidentiality if he went ahead with the proposal to have civil servants do the audit.

For this reason he had switched to a procedure under which the profession itself would nominate an audit committee, he said.

He agreed with the York Region medicos that the whole profession shouldn't be blamed for the fraudulent antics of a few.

**DOCTORS DISTURBED**  
"The members of this society are greatly concerned and deeply disturbed about statements attributed to you, which have appeared in the major newspapers in recent months, and about the course of action your government is preparing to take," said the York Region Medical Society brief to the Minister.

"We believe your assertions lack credibility when you say that you aren't attempting to indict the entire medical profession, that you aren't going to interfere with the practice of medicine, and that it's the government's role to build up and not to tear down. They lack credibility when considered in juxtaposition to your other comments and to your proposed legislation."

"The picture that has emerged is one of a generalized attack on the medical profession, one that would seem to be made for political gain, and one that has left many doctors disheartened, fearful, resentful and hostile."

"While granted that the profession must certainly bear some of the responsibility for the current state of affairs, when one examines closely the specifics of the issues you have raised, one sees distortions, accusations before the fact, and remediation that would seem to go beyond what the situation warrants," the York Region doctors told Lawrence.

The doctors' brief continued as follows: "Let us consider in chronological order the various questions you have brought forward."

**CHOICE OF BILLING**  
"On April 22 you announced in the Legislature your intention to implement practice streaming. Doctors would have to make a choice with regard to their patients, whether to bill OHSIP directly and accept 90 percent of the new Ontario Medical Association fee schedule as payment in full, or to bill their patients directly and try and collect 100 percent of whatever they felt their services were worth."

"You felt this legislation would eliminate extra billing, or double billing."

"While we accept the government's right to set the level of its insurance benefits and to require that any payment from OHSIP to a doctor be accepted by him as payment in full, we do object to your usage of the terms extra billing and double billing," said the doctors.

"The former (extra billing) implies that the doctor is charging more than the OMA fee schedule, which is obviously not the case when he bills for an outstanding balance of 10 percent. The latter intimates that the doctor is receiving a 90 percent payment from OHSIP and a 100 percent payment from the patient."

A term such as balance billing would have been less misleading and less apt to contribute to the aura of avariciousness being cast upon the medical profession.

**BELIES THE FACTS**  
"As part of your announcement at that time you told reporters that the doctors were

investigations were incomplete, that you had no idea of the degree to which misuse was occurring, or of the severity of the problem... and that your department had started to squeeze the fat and fraud out of the medical insurance program.

"Now the use of the word fraud in describing the billing practices of some doctors (while your investigations were still incomplete and while there was still no determination that any doctor had, in fact, committed any fraud) would seem to be irresponsible."

**CONVICTED BEFORE TRIAL**  
"These doctors have been convicted, not only before the trial, but before the investigation. It would also seem that there might be good reasons for many of these cases of large bills, the most obvious being the case of group practice in which one doctor bills the plan on behalf of his associates."

"Be that as it may, your remarks — taken in the context in which they were given — tended to brand the medical profession as a group of fraudulent individuals. It only comes later, in the course of stating your views more clearly, that you doubted that more than one percent of the total medical profession had committed any abuse, and that you believed 99 percent of doctors had acted responsibly," said the local doctors' brief.

"More recently you have stated that OHSIP has received

many false claims, either for services that weren't performed, or for unnecessary operations. Now a claim is certainly false if the service wasn't performed, and such situations are deplored by everyone, and should be dealt with severely.

"But if a doctor performed an operation which in his medical judgement was considered necessary, and then billed OHSIP for it, even though OHSIP officials might feel the procedure unwarranted, this does not make the claim false. To use such a word implies an intent to deceive and casts an unwarranted barb at the profession. Rather the situation is really one of clinical opinion."

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**BERT LAWRENCE**  
More State Socialism

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### Councillor Lois Hancey

## Loses Bid For Interest Free Money

An attempt by Councillor Lois Hancey to have Richmond Hill Council appeal to the Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs to provide sufficient interest free money to enable the municipality to carry on its business until further tax monies are available without putting an additional burden of paying high interest rates on borrowed money, was defeated at the July 19 meeting.

In her presentation, Mrs. Hancey pointed out that the town's estimated budgets for this year had been sent to the department in early spring. The municipality sent out an interim tax bill for seven mills (a quarter of the former town's 1970 tax rate), to provide funds for municipal business until the department provided figures for the final tax levy.

However, latest word from Queen's Park is that these figures will not be available until the end of this month. The municipality's staff will need more time to arrive at final figures, council needs time to pare

the budgets if necessary and in the meantime payments of the school board's levy and other expenses of government must be met. To obviate the payment of heavy penalties on overdue monies, the town's only recourse is to borrow money, Mrs. Hancey stated.

The Ward 3 representative won the support of Councillors Andy Chateauvert, David Schiller and Louis Wainwright. Voting against her motion were Regional Councillors Don Plaxton and Gordon Rowe. Councillors Shaun Beggs and Stewart Bell and Mayor William Lazenby.

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## Truck Hits Hydro Pole Two Hill Firemen Hurt

Two fourth-class Richmond Hill firefighters were injured Monday shortly after 1 pm when the town's number three fire truck was answering a call to Yongehurst Road, and hit a pole.

The truck was proceeding south, with its siren blasting in the driving lane. Opposite the Dominion Store where a large puddle of water was encroaching on the pavement, the traffic was jammed up in that lane. Driver Kevin Izzard tried to move to the other lane, but was cut off by another vehicle. To avoid a collision he took to the boulevard, the truck tilted but came to rest against a hydro pole, and the two men on the rear were thrown to the ground. Firefighter David Bagley was unconscious and had cuts and bruises.

Firefighter Ronald Fawn suffered a broken nose, cuts and bruises. Both were treated at York Central Hospital with Mr. Fawn being released and Mr. Bagley being kept overnight for observation. The ladders on the right side of the truck absorbed the force of the impact.

The lightning had hit the Eric Davber residence and caused \$200 damage to the hi-fi set.

Mayor William Lazenby commended Driver Izzard at Monday night's council meeting for his quick action and efficiency in handling the situation. He asked that council's fire committee recognize this by a formal commendation.

Other fire calls were received at 2:02 and 2:05 pm. In the first case a hydro transformer was hit at the corner of Yonge Street and Harding Boulevard and in the second a furnace motor at 83 Pugsley Avenue was smoking at the Lorne Donofrio home.

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## Hill's Problem Is Shortage Of Water — Engineer Reports

Richmond Hill Town Council discussed a 10 year water supply forecast prepared by Engineer Bernard Toporowski in detail, in private, at the end of a finance committee of the whole meeting on the evening of July 19. Representatives of the press were asked to leave before the report was presented. Concern of the council is centred on the area of "Old Richmond Hill" where water shortage problems are evident.

The engineer's report recommends no servicing of major developments until such time as an additional supply of water is available.

According to the minutes of that meeting, adopted by council at its regular meeting July 26, the report was forwarded to the Region of York.

It was moved by Regional Councillor Donald Plaxton that council request the region to take immediate steps including, if necessary, joint representations of the town and region to the provincial Cabinet or Minister responsible, to ensure additional supplies of water for the town. This motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Andy Chateauvert that the works committee recommend to council that new construction be restricted to single family homes fronting on serviced streets with multiple residential, commercial and indus-

trial applications being processed with any approvals subject to future water supply services being available. All new subdivision proposals would have to provide for their own sources of water supply. However this motion was tabled on motion of Councillor Shaun Beggs.

Seven members of council made representation to the engineering committee of the Regional Municipality of York July 20 on the matter of supply of water and were well received. Regional Engineer Denne Bosworth stated he was well aware of the town's situation and was expecting to co-operate through his committee with the town's proposals, "The Liberal" has learned.

For several years when the hot summer weather has hit Richmond Hill lawn watering restrictions have been introduced after high demand caused some taps in the higher areas, particularly in the northwest corner to run dry. Officials always claimed there was no shortage of water, instead the failure was due to lack of pressure.

However, it has been learned from a reliable source, that this most recent report, after a careful and thorough study has revealed that the trouble is indeed a shortage of water.

A couple of years ago council underwrote a search for a sixth well for the local system and

one with a large gallonage per minute was located at the corner of the Maple Sideroad and Dufferin Street. However, it has yet to be tapped into the local system.

Bill 102 which brought into being the Region of York provides that the region will be responsible for the supply and storage of water with the local municipality responsible for internal distribution. Because of this the town council will have to seek the help of the region in solving its serious lack of water problem.

The southern area of town, formerly in Vaughan Township has sufficient water for its own immediate needs and in fact provides the southeast corner of the old town with up to 300,000 gallons of water daily.

The northern section of the new town, the Oak Ridges area, also has an abundance of water. Council has decided to rehabilitate the number one well in that area and the region has been asked to consider making surplus water there available to other areas. Concern has also been expressed that this water supply should be preserved for use in Richmond Hill and should not be piped out of the municipality.

Richmond Hill "Should Freeze Development". See Editorial on Page 2.