



Last week's heavy rainfall spelt disaster for Mr. and Mrs. David McAllister, pictured above with household furnishings ruined by muddy water when their basement apartment was flooded.

The McAllisters moved into the apartment in the home of Gordon O'Hara, 72 Hillside Drive, in February. A second basement apartment in the house has been occupied since April by Mr. O'Hara's mother and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Richards.

The McAllisters were at work and the O'Hara's at the cottage when the storm broke on July 26 and the basement flooded to within 18 inches of the ceiling. Damage has been estimated at about \$10,000.

The legality of the apartments may be a complicating factor in claiming for damages. Up to the introduction of regional government last January, Hillside Drive was in Markham Township which passed a bylaw in 1968 prohibiting multiple occupancy of single family dwellings. Hillside is now in Richmond Hill which passed a similar bylaw in 1961.

Town Seeks Federal, Provincial Aid For Flood Victims

By MARGARET LADE

The Town of Richmond Hill is seeking provincial and federal aid for residents whose homes and property were damaged by the flood that came with nearly six hours of torrential rain on July 26.

The heaviest downpour was concentrated over the older part of the town where population density is greatest, and at the peak of the storm more than three and a half inches of rain fell in three hours in the area between Carville Road and Elgin Mills Road reports Roy Amodeo, chief operator of the Ontario Water Resources Commission's water pollution control plant on Markham Road.

Homes along Murphy Creek, south of Markham Road which had never flooded before had basements filled with water before the storm abated. Water was up to within 18 inches of the ceiling in the basement of the new \$50,000 home of Gordon O'Hara, 72 Hillside Drive. Furniture and clothing belonging to occupants of two basement apartments in the house were ruined. Hardwood and floor tiles warped and wall pan-

elling was damaged beyond repair.

In an interview, Mr. O'Hara said he felt that discharge from the OWRC plant a short distance upstream had aggravated the situation. A resident of Richmond Hill for 28 years, he said, "That poor little stream just can't take it any more. There used to be fish in the stream, but now there are just rats."

NEW TANK FILLED
Mr. Amodeo, however, attributes the flooding to storm runoff. A new holding tank completed just that morning was put into use and filled to its 350,000 gallon capacity. Another million gallons was held back until the rain stopped.

Once the rain had stopped, Mr. Amodeo pointed out, the water disappeared very quickly. He pointed out that the O'Hara house is on low lying ground. "I can't understand how he got a building permit."

A rumor that floodgates at the plant had been opened during the storm are false, said Mr. Amodeo. On a visit to the O'Hara home he drew attention to various contributing factors which could help to explain the

flooding of the O'Hara basement.

Debris from gardens and footbridges washed away from the back of a row of attractively landscaped new houses on Cedar Avenue was added to other debris from further upstream as the creek pushed south of Markham Road.

He pointed to a hairpin curve in the creek as it passed under a farm fence north of the O'Hara property. These, Mr. Amodeo explained, would dam up the creek as logs and lumber piled up until the force of the water broke the dam.

Mr. O'Hara feels, however, that the town could have taken action to prevent such a situation, deepening the channel and clearing debris away from the banks of the creek.

WORST IN 50 YEARS
Ward 3 Councillor Lois Hancey, who represents the area on council, protested that the creek was cleaned out earlier this year, adding that the private footbridges were not built to withstand such a deluge.

"The storm was so darned unusual," said Mrs. Hancey. "I am not trying to minimize the situation — it is a real disaster when your basement is flooded — but there hasn't been a storm like that in 50 years. It would cost a fortune to build for this situation."

More rain fell over Richmond Hill during the storm than fell

on the day of Hurricane Hazel in October, 1954.

It would have been much worse without the new holding tank, said Mrs. Hancey after a visit to the scene. The tank has been designed to improve effluent discharged into the stream, to improve the efficiency of the plant and to increase its capacity.

ASK FOR FEDERAL AID
Councillor David Schiller, who also represents Ward 3, advised victims of the storm to pick up claims forms at the town office. The town, he said, is applying to the provincial and federal governments for assistance, but to date has no assurance that it will be forthcoming.

A lot of water, he said, bypassed the holding tanks because they were already filled to capacity.

The problems of drainage in the older parts of town is aggravated, said Mr. Schiller, because the storm sewers flow into the sanitary sewers and a lot of rain water passes through the sewage treatment plant.

It is standard practice now to separate storm from sanitary sewers. The systems have been separated in the reconstruction of Yonge Street and in new developments.

And no matter where it comes from, he pointed out, the only place it can go is into the streams that flow through the town. The only way to prevent flooding would be to reconstruct the creek beds and this is a major job.

This has been done by the conservation authority in many areas around Metro, said Mr. Schiller, but Richmond Hill creeks do not rate very high on the priority list for flood control.

FLOODING ON BROWDALE
To the north of the treatment plant homeowners feel that their plight is even more serious. In the past month several basements in Beverley Acres

have been flooded twice with untreated sewage. Residents of Browdale Crescent have appeared before council asking for relief.

Mrs. Gloria McIndless of 269 Browdale Crescent reports that, following the July 26 storm, they had 12 inches of water containing raw sewage in their basement. Furnishings and clothing in her teenage daughter's bedroom and in the recreation room were completely ruined and wall panelling installed just six months ago had to be torn out.

They have lived in the house for 15 years, she said, and until 18 months ago drainage seemed satisfactory.

Both the O'Hara's and the McIndless have been advised by their insurance companies that the town should be held responsible. Both are considering legal action against the town, and Mr. O'Hara intends to organize a public meeting to bring pressure to bear on the municipality to take action in improving methods of sewage disposal.

The town, said Mrs. McIndless, is planning to put in storm sewers to relieve the pressure on the sanitary sewage system, but it could be three years before they are completed. Meanwhile the situation is getting progressively worse.

AURORA: Manager John Walden of the local swimming pool, was taken to York County Hospital after he received a dose of chlorine gas trying to fix a leak at the swimming pool. Life guards smelled the gas July 25, cleared the pool, and called the 19-year-old manager. Using a small air pack he entered the small room where the tanks are kept and didn't realize the mask wasn't sealed to his face. It is speculated his beard may have prevented the sealing. It is believed that when the tanks were changed the valves were not completely tightened. John spent the night in hospital.

Thornlea Students Excel In Math Contests

A mathematics program that began in a small way eight years ago has mushroomed beyond the wildest dreams of the original organizers.

In 1963 four secondary teachers in the old Ontario Education District 10, which ran from Orangeville to Goderich, set up a junior mathematics contest which involved 300 students from 20 schools.

In 1971, 19,000 students from 884 schools across Canada wrote the last contest.

One of the original organizers is Donald Attridge, chairman of mathematics at Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill. The University of Waterloo agreed to co-operate in setting up the contest, and students from grades 9, 10 and 11 were invited to participate. Papers were marked by hand.

The University offered a shield to the top school in each OSSTF District — there are now 39 of them. The shield is awarded to the top school, totaling scores from the best three students in the school.

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction to Mr. Attridge that this year Thornlea won the District 11 (York County)

shield. The top three students were Dave Woodburn, Grant Davis and John Kim. Thornlea was 60th in Ontario out of 461 and 120th in Canada out of 884. The contest consists of about 30 questions, and students are given one hour to write it.

Dave Woodburn's score was 66th in Canada (out of 19,123) and 31st in Ontario out of more than 12,000.

In recent years the contest organizers have been offering a week's seminar to the best 40 or so students in the province at the University of Waterloo where they stay in residence, take lectures, use the computer, and participate in various recreational activities, including a visit to Stratford.

Dave Woodburn was at Waterloo for the third week in June, and he reports, "It was really great. We worked hard but we learned a lot."

It was a pretty challenging week, he says, but there was time for fun. In addition to an evening in Stratford he went bowling, and swimming, and found that there was plenty of activity on campus to keep the visiting students occupied and interested.

York Towns, Townships Drop Tax Factor Appeal
(Continued from Page 1)

equalization factor, a formula which will provide fairer results.

Market value assessment went into effect in York in 1970 and this considerably upset the established pattern of grants and tax responsibility in the then county.

The tax burden is said to have shifted considerably to the shoulders of the northern York municipalities when, according to market value assessment, it was found the southern and urbanized municipalities were bearing an unfairly large share of the tax load.

APPEAL FUTILE

A spokesman for the administration of one local municipality told "The Liberal" last week that an examination of the OMB on equalization factor appeals convinced the York municipalities their OMB appeal was futile.

Previous rulings indicated the OMB would uphold the equalization factor calculations of the Department of Municipal Affairs. It was apparent the OMB in the past had steadfastly refused to consider the fairness and aptness of the actual formula used in the equalization factor calculations, he said.

He said the OMB in the past has indicated it doesn't necessarily agree with the formula, but that this complaint is a matter which falls within the jurisdiction of the politicians in the Legislature.

Members of the team were Ray Leivo, Calvin Harley and Tom Vockerth. All three graduated with an overall average of more than 80 percent in their top seven papers to qualify as Ontario Scholars, and Calvin Harley was top student in the county with an average of 96.1 percent.

Because of his fine showing in the senior competitions, Ray Leivo was invited to write a three hour problems paper set and operated by the Canadian

Mathematical Congress which annually sponsors the Canadian Olympiad. This paper is by invitation only, and a maximum of 50 students from any province is allowed to write. In this he placed 13th in Canada and 5th in Ontario.

Ray has been offered and has accepted a \$2,800 scholarship to the U of W. Calvin Harley will also be going to Waterloo, but Tom Vockerth plans to spend a year in travel before he goes on to university.

Police Accident Report

Stouffville Pair Feel Seat Belts Saved Lives As Car Struck Tree

A young Stouffville couple credit the wearing of seat belts for saving their lives Monday night when their car hit a tree on Markham Concession 10, three miles north of Highway 7 East.

The car went out of control and into a deep ditch after they met a car that kept its high beam bright lights on and blinded them, they told "The Liberal."

Driver Mrs. Joy Smith, 21, of 356 Main Street East, Stouffville, faces about two weeks in Scarborough Centenary Hospital recovering from one broken shoulder. Her other shoulder was cracked.

Her husband Ruben Smith, 26, suffered cuts, including one over the left eye, and bruises. He was treated at the hospital and released.

Mrs. Smith, a nurse, doesn't expect to be able to go back to work for two or three months.

Their car was a \$1,000 total wreck in the 10:30 pm crash, according to York Region Police.

A 14-year-old Richmond Hill girl was knocked down by a car driven by a 16-year-old girl at 9:55 pm Sunday on Yonge Street near Centre Street.

Pedestrian Isobelle Hannah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hannah, 5B Yonge Street South, a student at Don Head Secondary School, had a possible cracked left arm, sore back and bad bruises.

She was X-rayed at York Central Hospital and sent home to bed for two days.

Driver of the car was Nancy Fawn of 156 Sussex Avenue, Richmond Hill, according to YRP.

Mrs. Dori Stricker, 24, of 30 Romfield Circuit, Thornhill, suffered head cuts and bruises in a 4:40 pm July 26 two-car collision at Bayview Avenue and Royal Orchard Boulevard.

Her car had an estimated \$250 damage. The other car was driven by David Stock, 35, of 83 Lytton Boulevard, Toronto 310, and had about \$100 damage, police said.

Charged with failing to yield after stopping at 1:40 pm July 30 in a two-car collision at Wright and Hall Streets was Timothy McKenna, 48, of 396 Bluegrass Boulevard.

His car had an estimated \$100 damage, as did the other vehicle driven by Paul Barbour, 19, of 405 Mill Street, Richmond Hill, police said.

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