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

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York Region To Get \$850,000 Provincial Aid Must Cut Budget \$300,000 Says Bales, But York Grants Are Up \$7 Million

BY MARGARET LADE

York Region will be getting \$850,000 in special provincial assistance to help defer costs of transition from county to regional government.

Municipal and educational grants from the province have also been increased by \$7,212,139 over the total received in 1970.

In announcing the grants on his first official visit to the region, the new Minister of Municipal Affairs Dalton Bales told regional council last Thursday that the grants, however, are conditional. First the region must pare \$300,000 from its \$18.6 million preliminary budget.

Area municipalities will be required to limit increase in net expenditures in 1971 to 15 percent over the 1970 operating costs, and the department is asking municipalities to submit budget projections for the next three years.

The special grant of \$850,000, said Mr. Bales, will help stabilize municipal levies in each area municipality. There will also be an increase of about \$510,000 in tax reductions to residential property and in rent rebates to tenants.

The minister warned the mayors and councillors that, although the department is authorized to provide assistance for five years, they should not anticipate the same assistance each year.

been able to bill property owners for the full amount of taxes due because budgets have not yet been approved by the province, there will be a grant of \$400,000 to help pay temporary borrowing charges. Municipalities must, however, show that they have made fullest use of interim levies.

\$7 Million Increase

In setting the 15 percent increase in municipal budgets, the province will not include cost of services which in the past were not part of the general levy.

Some municipalities, said Mr. Bales, have included such items as street lighting, garbage collection and sanitary sewers in their general levy in 1971, but in 1970 had picked up the money for these through special charges or levies.

In addition to the special grant, the region will receive grants of \$15,941,795 for municipal purposes in 1971 compared with \$11,516,564 in 1970, and grants of \$21,645,108 for education compared with \$18,858,200 last year for a total of \$37,586,903, an increase of \$7,212,139 over 1970.

Town Will Get A Real Bargain Two Snow Plows At No Cost

Two snow plows for the two five-ton trucks being purchased for Richmond Hill's Works Department can be secured at no cost to the town, it was learned at the August 9 meeting of town council. By buying the snow plows with the trucks there will be no federal sales tax on trucks or plows. Councillor Shaun Beggs, a member of the works committee, explained that the tax on the trucks would amount to enough to pay for the plows.

ted to know if the works committee had made a study of the advantages and disadvantages of contracting for the winter maintenance as compared to purchasing equipment. Mrs. Hancey warned that more equipment means more staff. Councillor David Schiller, chairman of council's works committee, admitted that the committee had not done such a study, but that the staff was of the opinion that doing the work by the department was the more economical of the two alternatives. Councillor Stewart Bell, also a member of the committee, stated he could support this contention, "because I have seen the figures. It will be to our financial advantage to do our own thing. We will be much better off putting our money in our own pockets and equipping our own works department to do as much work as possible. There's no need to panic, we will just take staff from areas where they are not needed and put them to work where they are needed."



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Is Everybody Happy? Yes, Indeed!

Alfred Hitchcock couldn't have put it any better than did this group of youngsters who enjoyed every minute of the five-week Richmond Hill playground program at Beverley Acres Public School this summer. The boys and girls greeted their parents and friends at an open house August 12 with this warm welcome, as the program marked the end of another successful and happy year.

Front row (left to right) are Eric Lea 9, Marcy Hubbard 7, Laurie Hubbard 9, Glenn Lea 12, Carol Graham 8, Ruth Armstrong 9 and Monica Helmig 11. The "good" children in the rear row are (same order) Lora Casement 6, John Struther 8, Dianne McErlain 8 and Karen Taskinen 8.

End Of Summer Sale At Canadian Tire

Make the most of what is left of summer to paint up, clean up, fix home, cottage, boat, pool. In a special insert in this week's copy of "The Liberal" Canadian Tire at 70 Yonge Street North is offering bargains to assist the handyman, including chain saws, soldering and caulking guns, and wood care finishes for any purpose. Home appliances, sports equipment and tape recorders are also offered at a substantial saving. A highlight of the sale, which ends August 30, is the special offering of tires at factory door prices and other motoring accessories. A number of specially purchased items will be offered at sale prices while they last.

Council Agrees To Rezone

Hotel, Library Part Of BAIF Civic Centre

A civic centre in an integral part of Phase II of the BAIF Development to be located between Carville Road and Vaughan Road and Yonge and Bathurst Streets. The centre will be located on the southwest corner of Vaughan Road and Yonge Street. At its meeting August 9, Richmond Hill Council agreed to rezone the land for commercial-industrial use and put on a holding category.

When development is ready to begin, all that will be necessary is to lift the holding category and this will eliminate what could otherwise be a great deal of delay. Town Planner Hessie Rimon explained. An architect's sketch, prepared for BAIF by Allen Brown, Sherriff, was described by Mayor William Lazenby as the first concrete presentation for the centre. "It is tremendously exciting, challenging and stimulating," commented Councillor Stewart Bell.

The sketch plan suggests a hotel, town hall, courts, board of education, professional and business offices, medical centre, auditorium, library, recreation centre with attached separate quarters for senior citizens, a nursing home, community college or other educational buildings and two churches with ample parking located in close proximity to each building.

"We still haven't committed ourselves to anything," pointed out Regional Councillor Donald Plaxton. "And we still have to negotiate about services," Mrs. Hancey noted, as she went on to name other uses to which the buildings could be put. "There is a real move to decentralize provincial government departments," she said. The mayor also suggested that establishment of one professional building on the site would "automatically bring other professional businesses to locate there. There is a real move underway to decentralize and there is no really large financial complex and no really large professional centre to the north of Metro. This is something we could make provision for."

Cadillac Partner BAIF Phase One In Spring

The first phase of the development of BAIF Subdivision between Yonge and Bathurst Streets south of Markham Road is due to get underway this fall.

Six Organizations In Markham Get Nod For Grants \$16,000 Budget

In its 1971 budget, Markham Township Council allocated \$16,000 for grants to various enterprises and organizations within the municipality, and at a meeting August 10 it received a report recommending allocations of \$2,350 to six such groups. It also recommended additional consideration be given to allocation of a further \$9,350. The budget amount was arrived at when financial statements for 1970 showed that the Township of Markham and the Town of Markham had spent a combined total of \$15,281.35 for such purposes.

The report submitted by Finance Committee Chairman Councillor Roy Muldrew showed that, since amalgamation of the two municipalities under regional government, some items in last year's budget now are taken care of by other departments. The Crosby Memorial Community Centre, Cedar Grove Community Centre and Junior "B" Hockey are now covered by the parks and recreation budget.

Recommendation included payment of \$900 to St. John's Ambulance, \$400 to Markham Fair Board, \$200 to East York Elbowmen's Association, \$650 to Buttonville Women's Institute, \$100 to the Salvation Army, and \$190 to the Richmond Hill Agricultural Society. A recommendation for consideration of a request for \$1,800 for the Markham Safety Council was included in the report, also requests for \$1,050 for repairs to Box Grove Community Centre, \$6,000 for paving the parking lot at Victoria

Hill Diver Killed In Search For Victim At Bruce's Mill

A Richmond Hill scuba diver lost his life Sunday evening while helping search for the body of a Metro man drowned at about 5 pm at the Bruce's Mill Conservation Area in Whitchurch - Stouffville.

Seneca Purchase Of Eaton Hall Estate Finalized - New Campus For York

Sale of the Eaton Hall Farm to Seneca College was completed last week, adding a third campus to the Seneca complex. Situated in King Township between Keele and Dufferin Streets, Eaton Hall Farm was assembled by the Eaton family in portions during the 1920's, the first purchase being made by the late Lady Eaton in 1920. The main building, Eaton Hall, was built in the late thirties, and for many years it was the home of Lady Eaton. The 696 acre property will become a third major campus for Seneca, which now operates on two locations in Willowdale - Sheppard Avenue at Yonge Street, and on Finch Avenue near Woodbine.

Aid To Tounships

Two municipalities in particular, the Townships of King and East Gwillimbury, have suffered serious loss of assessment due to boundary changes, said the Minister. The province will, therefore, make special grants of \$86,000 to East Gwillimbury and \$44,000 to King.

Aid To Markham-Vaughan

Under a "share the wealth" formula, the Town of Markham would be paying \$404,000 in tax money into the region for use in other areas. Markham, therefore, will receive this amount in transitional grants plus \$17,240 for costs accrued in merging the old Town of Markham and Township of Markham to form a new town. There will also be a grant of \$156,000 to compensate taxpayers in Vaughan for money spent outside the municipality and \$4,086 for internal use in amalgamating the former township of Vaughan and the Village of Woodbridge. East Gwillimbury will receive a grant of \$86,000 to help compensate for urban assessments lost due to boundary changes plus \$12,000 for costs that it has incurred as a result of introduction of regional government. Compensation to the Township of King for lost urban assessment comes to \$44,000. All other municipalities will also receive grants for internal costs, ranging from \$3,269 for Whitchurch - Stouffville to \$4,715 for Aurora, \$14,625 for Richmond Hill, \$18,927 for Georgina and \$43,138 for Newmarket.

Compensation For Borrowing

An additional \$40,000 has been designated to compensate area municipalities which can demonstrate that interest on (Continued on Page 3)

People Expect More

Since many problems have arisen as a result of the introduction of regional government in January, taxes will be based on assessment formulas used prior to the province-wide "market value" assessment program which got under way in 1970. This means that municipalities will not have to apply the complicated equalization factor which has created considerable confusion in the minds of municipal councils and administrators. Flexibility is essential, said Mr. Bales, as each newly organized municipality has unique features, and councils of the new areas and regional municipalities are subject to new pressures to extend and improve local services. Improvement is at least implied when a new organization is created, and the public expects more. "It takes time to develop a new system of establishing fiscal priorities."

Transition Grants Aid To Markham, Vaughan Towns

When members of York Regional Council assembled in the council chamber in Newmarket last Thursday evening to hear Municipal Affairs Minister Dalton Bales outline proposals for additional financial aid to the region, they expected to be told that they would be getting \$750,000 in special grants to help defray costs of implementing the regional form of government. Press reports had stated that the province had set aside \$2 million to help three regional governments - Niagara, Muskoka and York. On August 4 the Minister met with Niagara Regional Council and informed them that they would receive \$1 million, and on August 5 Mr. Bales told Muskoka that its share would be \$250,000. When he came to York, however, he told council that, after carefully assessing the needs of the municipality, his department had decided to transfer nearly \$850,000 additional funds from the province to the region. Since development is not unforeseen throughout the region, said Mr. Bales, some municipalities would be harder hit than others. There will therefore be special grants to these municipalities.

Assessors At Work Richmond Hill

Provincial assessors are in Richmond Hill inspecting properties as part of the Department of Municipal Affairs program for uniform assessment throughout the province. At their regular meeting Monday, Richmond Hill Town Council received a letter from the department informing them that reassessment in the town got underway on August 3. Assessors from the department, said the letter, carry a photo identity card which must be presented to the homeowner before he asks permission to inspect the house. Mayor William Lazenby commented, "If the photos are like those that the police carry they could be copied in ten seconds."