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said Jongeneel. "There should be a new traffic

count and the report up-

The "one to five" rating would

put a road in the "now" cate-

Markham Mayor Anthony

Roman, chairman of the region's

engineering committee said that

as soon as the report is adopted

said, there should be immed-

gory, Rettie assured him.

dated quickly."





To All Our Readers - from Management and Staff

Welfare Destroys Incentive

Some people would be beter off on welfare than to be working. In some instances people in York Region have even been advised to quit their jobs and seek public as-

This was brought to light at a meeting of York Regional Council on December 9 when Richmond Hill Councillor Donald Plaxton cited the case of a man in his municipality who is suffering from emphysema and unable to work. He needs a constant companion, but because his wife works he is not entitled to public assistance to pay for a companion, nor is he eligible for a disability pension that would meet the cost.

He hated to bring the matter up in open council, said Plaxton, but efforts to get help through welfare or social service departments had been unsuccessful. The best suggestion he could get was that the man be put in a nursing home. Or his wife could quit work and look after him. This would mean the family would have to go on welfare.

The man in question, he said, had been paying taxes in the region for about 25 years. His family is almost grown and his home almost paid for. He does not need nursing care - just someone to be in the house with him while the family are at work and at school.

His condition is such, said Plaxton, that sudden shortness of breath could prove fatal before he could get aid. He could get someone to stay in the house, to make an emergency phone call if necessary, at a cost of \$5 a day, but this was more than he could afford. It was not a matter of a fulltime housekeeper, just an "adult baby-

As things are, he said, it is possible that the man's wife could come home one day and find him dead on the

The man has been kicked around from pillar to post, said Plaxton. "Surely something can be done." * * * *

Georgina Mayor Dr. George Burrows, chairman of the region's health and social service committee admitted it is a very difficult situation. A provincial disability pension is based on the family earnings. A husband and wife are assessed as a team. "It is often cheaper for the wife to stop work.'

The same applies for recipients of mothers' allowance. he said. If a mother who is sole support of the family earns more than the maximum allowed by legislation her allowance is reduced.

uation," Dr. Burrows admitted. "It destroys incentive."

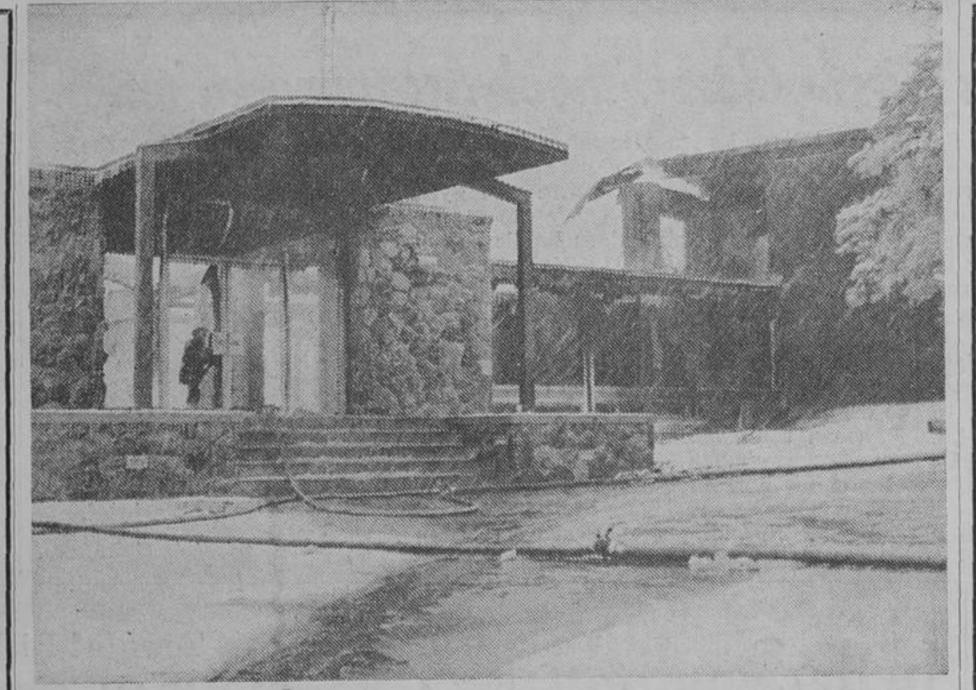
to his attention. It con- big blaze. cerned a man who has become critical.

Now, said Rowe, although they are in "dire straits," for public assistance.

income which will make it possible for people to receive sufficient assistance to tide them over family emergencies and yet earn enough to maintain their dignity as individuals.

Provincial rules and regulations govern the conditions and amounts of welfare assistance, said Burrows.

* * * * Councillor Plaxton agreed that it was beyond the jurisdiction of the region. He said there are many cases of hardship, however, because rules cannot be bent, people are discouraged from trying to help themselves. He asked for a more humane approach to welfare.



The Thornhill Golf and Country Club building at 7994 Yonge Street is shown early Sunday morning as firefighters battled a \$1,000,000 blaze. The curling rink at the south end of the building and the lower floor of lockers at the north end were saved. The business offices weren't heavily damaged.

A firefighter is shown at the door of the main entrance working in snow and sleet. The other photograph taken through a window beside the entrance shows firemen working inside and the beams of the building still standing.



(Photos by Dave Barbour)

\$1,000,000 Thornhill Club Fire

trucks did a good job and to records were salvaged, since By HAL BLAINE a large extent were responsible firemen were also able to save The Thornhill Golf and Coun- for the saving of part of the the office area at the front of try Club main building at 7994 building. Ithe building from complete de-Yonge Street in the Thornhill struction. Golf on the club's area of Vaughan Town was de-

The fire was far advanced 130-acre course is expected to stroyed early Sunday morning and well established when continue as usual next year. "It is an unfortunate sit- in a \$1,000,000 fire. Vaughan firefighters arrived. This was the club's second In October a \$2,000,000 fire The kitchen, main lounge, cof- fire. The golf pro shop burned destroyed the Tam O'Shanter fee shop, foyer and the top in 1953. About 70 employees Councillor Gordon Rowe, club in Scarboro. The Ontario storey above the lockers in the lost their place of work just also of Richmond Hill, spoke Fire Marshall has been called northern wing were all burn- before Christmas in the big

of a situation that had come in to investigate this second ing when the fire trucks ar-blaze. rived. A watchman on duty The club's membership in-Club Manager George Barber gave the alarm. cludes Municipal Affairs Minbeen operating a successful estimated fire damage to the Firemen stopped the blaze in ister Dalton Bales, Toronto business. When he was hos- Thornhill Club at \$1,000,000 time to save the curling rink at Mayor William Dennison, York pitalized for open heart sur- Vaughan Fire Chief James Dav- the south end from destruc- Regional Councillors Donald gery his wife went to work, idson said damage was in extion. But it suffered heavily Plaxton and James Jongeneel, deminimum but the family income was cess of \$250,000. He said no from heat damage as even the and CFRB Radio Station Oper-

drastically reduced. During official insurance appraisal is handles were melted off curling ations Manager William Baker the man's long convalescence | yet available. The building was stones. the financial situation had fully insured, according to Large heavy wooden beams from the club. over the lounge remained MARKHAM ALARM Club President Donald Cat-standing while steel beams in Markham Town Fire Chief alano said there is no doubt other areas softened and fell Myrl Smith said his department the family is still not eligible the club will be rebuilt. The in the heat. At the north end received an alarm from a Bell 12-man board of directors of of the building the top storey Telephone operator and his

Dr. Burrows suggested that the 1,470-member curling, golf was burned off, but the fire was men were first at the fire, comthe only answer to such a sit- and social club were scheduled kept out of the locker area un- ing from the new Markham uation is a guaranteed annual to meet Monday night to make derneath. This area suffered Thornhill Fire Hall just opened plans for rebuilding the club, only smoke and water damage, on John Street east of Bayview although firemen had to pull Avenue. He said the alarm was Fire Chief Davidson said five the ceiling tile off because they turned in by the golf club's pumper trucks, two aerial lad- were starting to smoke in the course superintendent and ice

der trucks and a rescue truck heat from above. maker Dave Gourlay at 5 am. were on hand as 50 firefighters The club complex was mainly Fire Chief Smith felt the fire by council in November when fought the blaze to a standstill of frame construction, beauti- had been burning unseen for and saved part of the building, fully decorated and furnished, three or four hours, since A Markham Town fire truck with masonry facing. It was flames were coming through from the new Thornhill station constructed nine years ago al- the roof when his men arrived. served at the fire for the first though the club organization Yonge Street is the boundary tario. itself dates back 50 years. line between the town of

Vaughan Fire Department re- CURLING MAY CONTINUE Vaughan and Markham. ceived the alarm from the Manager Barber was hopeful The Vaughan Fire Depart- nedy, chairman of the Un-York Regional Police at 5:02 the ice-making machinery might ment has been protecting the ionville Home Society. The am. The fire was under con- be in usable condition so that Markham side of Thornhill un- front part of the seven-acre trol in an hour. Firefighters the club's curling schedule til the recent opening of a new site on Highway 7 is ocleft the scene at 1:36 pm after could be kept going. Other Markham Fire Hall in Thorn- cupied by Union Villa Home working for 81/2 hours in fairly club events are being sched-hill. Vaughan's fire protection for the Aged. frosty weather.

uled for other locations, includ- for the Markham side of When the society started to not be necessary to build a The fire chief said the de-ing the New Year's gathering. Thornhill is scheduled to term- plan, said Kennedy, it did partment's two aerial ladder Most of the club's business inate at the end of the year. I not intend that the land be

Consider Estimates Oak Ridges Fire Hall

Hill may become a reality next year if it can be built cil's fire, traffic, transport- fire truck to pass. tee (Chairman Louis Wain- reported that this fire hall council December 13 that Fire Chief Alf Stong subfire hall to the treasurer for consideration by council's finance committee

tive program provides a subsidy of 79% on labor costs on site up to May 3,

When Councillor Andy Chateauvert charged that the portion of town east of the railway track needed a fire hall because of the constant threat of it in staff."

wright) recommended and it is in council's five-year led that the fire chief said that he could provide mit estimated costs for a as good if not better service from the central fire hall for the north end of the town as it was receiving The winter works incen- from the volunteer department in Aurora, but could improve the service considerably by having a fire hall located in the area.

Regional Councillor Donald Plaxton, although agreeing to look at the estimated cost, said, "I won't buy the built-in escalation

Iravelways Buses Join In GO Transit Service

Two of the three commuter and out of Toronto won't transit services connecting the change, but there will be better ministrator John Rettie. "We are Richmond Hill area to down- service and greater conveni- adopting priorities established dangerous to humans as it is to animals," says town Metro are being united ence for the public, next year to provide a combin- He also said the combination in the system.

Richmond Hill and Toronto will muters will have more buses

ed service with the same tic- with GO Transit will help keep "These are technical, not poli-

become part of the GO Transit to choose from at shorter intersystem January 3. As of that date only the To- Needler says the frequency ronto Transit Commission's of the Travelways service won't buses will continue to be oper- be changed. Travelways operated separately from GO Trans- ates 15 return trips daily, including one express bus via

it out of Richmond Hill. The present Travelways buses the Don Valley Parkway. connecting Richmond Hill and However, Travelways buses Toronto via Bayview Avenue will end their morning rush on January 3 will start using hour runs at the same Union the Richmond Hill GO Transit Station location on Front Street as do the GO Transit

GO Transit Director Howard buses at present. But Travelsays this change will mean ways buses will continue to the number of bus trips be- start their northward runs from tween the Richmond Hill GO Trailways terminal at Bay and station and Toronto will be in- Edwards Streets in Toronto, creased by almost 50 percent, making pickups when waved Trailways (Travelways) Pres- down as they proceed north on ident Larry Needler told "The Yonge Street from Hayter Liberal" this week the number Street. of buses actually operating in combination with Travelways

Few GO Buses December 27

Regular GO Transit bus service will be maintained through Richmond Hill on Christmas Eve but holiday schedules will be in effect on the Monday after Christ-

Regular schedules will be maintained on the Monday following New Year's Day, says GO Transit in a press release this week.

New timetables showing minor adjustments in GO Transit-Gray Coach schedules will be available before the end of the month at all GO bus terminals.

being cut off by a stationary train from fire service from the present hall, Mayor William Lazenby reported that the fire chief has

Councillor Lois Hancey capital forecast. She recal-

Doubles Region's Roads five year category on the A year old report that will more than double plan of construction needs. the number of miles under regional jurisdiction was "Bayview should be a 'now' received and approved by York Regional Council on project. It is impossible to pass going either way."

Report Waits For Year

December 9. There were objections from some members

about the order of priority given to some roads and to the fact that traffic counts on which the report is based had been made several years ago.

The interim report on road needs prepared by Don Mills Consulting Engineers A. D. Margison and Associates Limited was presented to York County Council in November, 1970 but was deferred for consideration by the new regional council.

Service rating was based on Rettie explained, as the Depart-updating will begin. the volume of traffic using the ment of Highways wants to Richmond Hill Councillor roads, alignment, type, width know how much provincial Donald Plaxton also objected and condition of the surface, money will be needed for main- to some of the priorities in the width of the shoulder, adequacy tenance construction and main-report. He wanted to know why CFRB Sideroad in Aurora of base and surface, operating tenance in York Region. speed, capacity and level of ser- This does not mean, said Ret- should be a "now" project. A

construction needs as determin-

Markham Councillor

James Jongeneel objected

that recommendations in the

report were based on 1968

traffic counts. Traffic pat-

terns and needs change in

three years, said Jongeneel.

"Are we adopting these

priorities if we adopt this

report?" he asked.

and no construction needs.

ed in 1969.

vice, drainage and maintenance tie, that roads will be built in road, said Plaxton, should go strict conformity to the priori- from somewhere to somewhere. The lengthy report included ties shown, "But they have to Richmond Hill Mayor William inventory and cost estimates, have some sort of meaningful Lazenby wanted Carrville Road construction needs, present and reports of a road building pro- given higher priority. With the projected costs of construction gram. The needs study serves BAIF Subdivision imminent, he and maintenance, inventory of as a guide."

Councillor Jongeneel pro- late plans to assume it as a machinery, and numerous tables tested the inclusion of Bay- regional road and to upand plates showing the existing road system in the region, 1968

(Continued on Page 3) view Avenue in the one to

classification plans and plan of Dangerous Rabies Situation Continuing

Ratings were for construction on the next five Owners Of Dogs Running Loose years, within the next ten years Will Be Taken Straight To Court

There is a bad, very dangerous rabies situation of serious proportions in Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham including Thornhill, King Township, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville, says James Ryan of Canine Control. Ryan is dog catcher and animal control officer for Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill. In effect, yes, said Chief Ad-

"People don't realize the danger. It's just as by examining every mile of road Ryan. "The easiest way to bring rabies into your home

the fares down. Commuters tical priorities," Rettie con-GO Transit Director William using the Travelways buses tinued. "It will be necessary to you can't watch it. Exposure to a sick animal Howard announced this week will be able to park their cars update the report each year." could mean your pet could develop rabies as much as that Trailways (Travelways) of at the GO Transit station park- It was necessary to deter- six months from now. There needn't be any notice-Canada bus services between ing lot and GO Transit com- mine some order of priority, able physical injury," says Ryan.

THORNHILL INCIDENTS |of dogs on the loose are being During the past week two summonsed on charges without skunks were shot in Thorn-the normal warnings. hill, and one of them was cer- OWNERS TO COURT

tainly rabid, says Ryan. On Bay- "We will take everybody view Avenue near Highway 7 (with a straying animal) we find at Briggs Avenue last week a to court until the danger subwolf was hit by a car and was sides," says Ryan. "This is for destroyed. It too was quite pos- their own good. With the rabies situation well known now, sibly rabid. A cow recently died of rabies letting dogs run at large is com-

on a farm right behind the pletely irresponsible. Our job Thornlea Secondary School in is to protect people, whether or the Thornhill area of Markham, not they own a dog. Altogether three or four cows, "Even if your pet has rega pony and some sheep have ular rabies shots, it isn't safe to

been destroyed because of ra- let the pet run loose. The vaccine isn't 100% effective. It There have been at least five only works in about nine cases

rabid cats and four dogs rabid out of 10. To think a vaccinin the immediate area in recent ated dog is safe is a mistaken weeks, mostly in Vaughan and idea. If it is exposed to rabies Markham but with two cases in it must be quarantined for Oak Ridges. A cat at Elgin three months," says Ryan, Pets Mills Road in Richmond Hill can be vaccinated by any veterrecently died of rabies. Fort- inarian. unately no humans were ex-Rabies is all around, really,

The situation hasn't reached says Ryan. One of the big epidemic proportions, but all problems this year is that sevin the northeast section of Rich- "Ghost" Christmas that's needed to start a panic is eral species of wild animal has for one human being to die of been hit. Usually only one type of animal is involved at any the disease, Ryan says. one time. The worst carriers

Canine Control is taking of rabies are foxes and skunks. strong measures to deal with "For every one wild animal the situation. Numbers of dogs you see die, there's another and cats possibly exposed to nine you don't see. People rabies have been destroyed should be extremely careful More are quarantined at Can- for the next two or three monine Control. One dog died rec- ths. It's going to take a long time for the rabies situation to ently in quarantine.

"In no circumstances what-recede to normal levels. Childever should people let pets out ren should be warned they alone, or out with small child-shouldn't touch any strange ren," says Ryan. Enforcement animal that doesn't run away, of animal control regulations or acts strangely, or appears has been increased and owners sick", says Ryan.

in such cases. elways buses. ations Manager William Baker Markham Day Care Centre Planned For Union Villa strom the club. Markham Day Care Centre Planned For Union Villa

COUNCILLOR JONGENEEL

Traffic Count Too Old

Cards

residents have been plagued

by persons selling "ghost"

Christmas cards, according

unidentified young woman

has been taking orders for

cards and obtaining a de-

posit. It is reported that

no cards are subsequently

to refuse to pay a deposit

Police advise all citizens

delivered.

Police reported that an

to York Regional Police.

Several Richmond Hill

incial subsidies to build a day care centre in Unionville. Meeting in committee on December 7, council approved a proposal from its special day care committee chaired by Thornhill Councillor Robert Adams. The proposal was for a centre to be built on

the Union Villa site. The committee was set up lion for building new day told "The Liberal" there are

The site was recommended by Councillor Keith Ken-

Markham Town Council is committed for facilities for drawn up more than five years ago also had included a day care centre, but funds have not been available to go ahead with this phase of the

GO Transit's Howard said the

will increase the Richmond Hill

50 per cent.

GO Transit service by almost

Travelways buses will con-

tinue making passenger pickups

mond Hill GO station before

After leaving the Richmond

Hill GO terminal in the morning

peak period Travelways buses

will run via Markham Road,

Bayview, Steeles and Yonge

Avenues, along Front Street

to the Royal York Hotel. From

10:15 am southbound Travel-

ways buses will proceed direct

to the Travelways terminal at

Tickets for trips between

Richmond Hill and Metro will

be interchangeable on GO

Transit, Gray Coach and Trav-

Bay and Edward Streets.

going south on Bayview

Questionnaires circulated in the area, said Kennedy, indicate that at least 55 children need day care, and as

care centres throughout On- many reasons for using the property in Newmarket. If furnishing each nursery, Union Villa site. The land is already owned by the municipality. It is located on a main artery where it will be convenient for many people outside the immediate community.

Cost can be reduced, said Kennedy, because it would large kitchen for meal preparation in the day care cen-

tre. A covered walkway could be built from the Villa to the centre and all food prepared in one location. The Villa kitchen is large enough to serve both buildings.

The two could share other major services, said Kennedy, but these will have to be worked out if the plan is approved at regional level. He said there is already a

preliminary design prepared by the regional health and construction of a day care centre on the York Manor construction, equipping and the same plan is adapted to the Unionville site, he said, cost will be reduced.

pared to pay 100 percent of cost for land acquisitioned, construction and furnishing of centres up to the end of May, 1972, said Kennedy, a lot of time can be saved if land and plans are ready to go. In his letter to municipal-

Wells said that the \$10 million will be available over the next year to create up to 150 day nurseries providing places for an additional 4,000 children. The 100 percent subsidy, however, is designed to serve a dual purpose, providing day care facilities and making work during the slack winter season. Work not completed by the end of May will be eligible for only 80 percent subsidy for land,

Newmarket was approved by the regional council Novem-While the province is pre- ber 25 and on December 9 was endorsed by the engineering committee. Estimated cost for the centre is \$231,-000. It would provide space for 115 children — 20 infants, 70 children from two children.

on a two-acre site west of York Manor Home for the Aged. Parents who can afford to pay for day care would be required to pay. Those who cannot would be subsidized by the region, and 80 percent of the subsidy will be recoverable from the

province. Councillor Kennedy said it is his understanding that the preliminary plan for the centre in Newmarket for modular design with removable or expandable units. could be used in Unionville. The York Manor plan at cutting overall costs for a building there.

> * * * * The first municipality operated day care centre in the region opened in Richmond Hill in 1969 and was subsidized by the town. With the advent of the regional

government in January, the to six years, and 20 retarded centre came under regional (Continued on Page 3)