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Nine Alternatives For Transit To Be Considered

Study Shows Richmond Hill Transportation Costs Taxpayer Less Than Similar Towns

By MARY DAWSON

Only one member of the public responded to an invitation issued by Chairman Louis Wainwright of Richmond Hill Council's recently appointed committee on transportation, to hear the first report of a transit study being undertaken by the town. The firm of Kates, Peat, Marwick & Co., Commerce Court West, Toronto, engaged to conduct a transit study in the town, presented its first progress report to the committee on the afternoon of July 17 and to the public in the evening. It had been hoped that members of the public would have taken this opportunity to advance their criticisms and suggestions for the improvement of public transportation in the town.

The firm has outlined nine alternatives which they will analyze thoroughly before bringing in any recommendations to the

committee and will be making interim reports once a month.

The first report states that the Town of Richmond Hill achieves a similar level of transit ridership as other towns of a similar size with a lower cost to the taxpayer. However, Richmond Hill ridership is only one-sixth that of Metro indicating that, when the attractions of transit for trips to downtown Toronto are considered, there is considerable scope for increased transit ridership from Richmond Hill.

This first report from the consultants indicates that great changes in the public transportation of Richmond Hill may take place in the future. Purpose of the study is to determine which of nine suggested alternatives will be the best for the town and for its people.

The report indicates that the town bus Route 4 which serves the Richvale-Langstaff

area competes with the TTC and Route 3 which serves the Oak Ridges area conflicts with the Gray Coach GO bus service. These town routes presently incur a deficit of approximately 60¢ per passenger.

PRESENT SERVICE

At present four different agencies provide transit services. The TTC operates the Yonge Street service to Toronto on behalf of the Towns of Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan. Richmond Hill also sponsors a bus service within the town operated by Travelways.

Gray Coach Lines operates a through service to Toronto on Yonge Street diverting to the GO-Transit station on Newkirk Road. The Travelways service to Toronto on Bayview Avenue also starts at the GO station.

TTC BUSES

A total of 42 trips are operated each

weekday in each direction on Yonge Street between the Eglinton subway station and Levedale Road. It operates at 40-minute intervals mid-day and evenings and every 20 minutes during peak periods. The last northbound bus leaves Eglinton station at 12:50 am.

In 1971, the deficit for the portion of this route north of Steeles Avenue (which is owned by the three neighboring towns mentioned) was \$22,795. Richmond Hill's share of this deficit was \$13,969. A fare increase on July 1 should substantially reduce the deficit for the second half of 1972. The new fare is 12½¢ (15¢ cash) within the town north of Carville Road and 77½¢ with tickets (\$1.05 cash) to downtown Toronto.

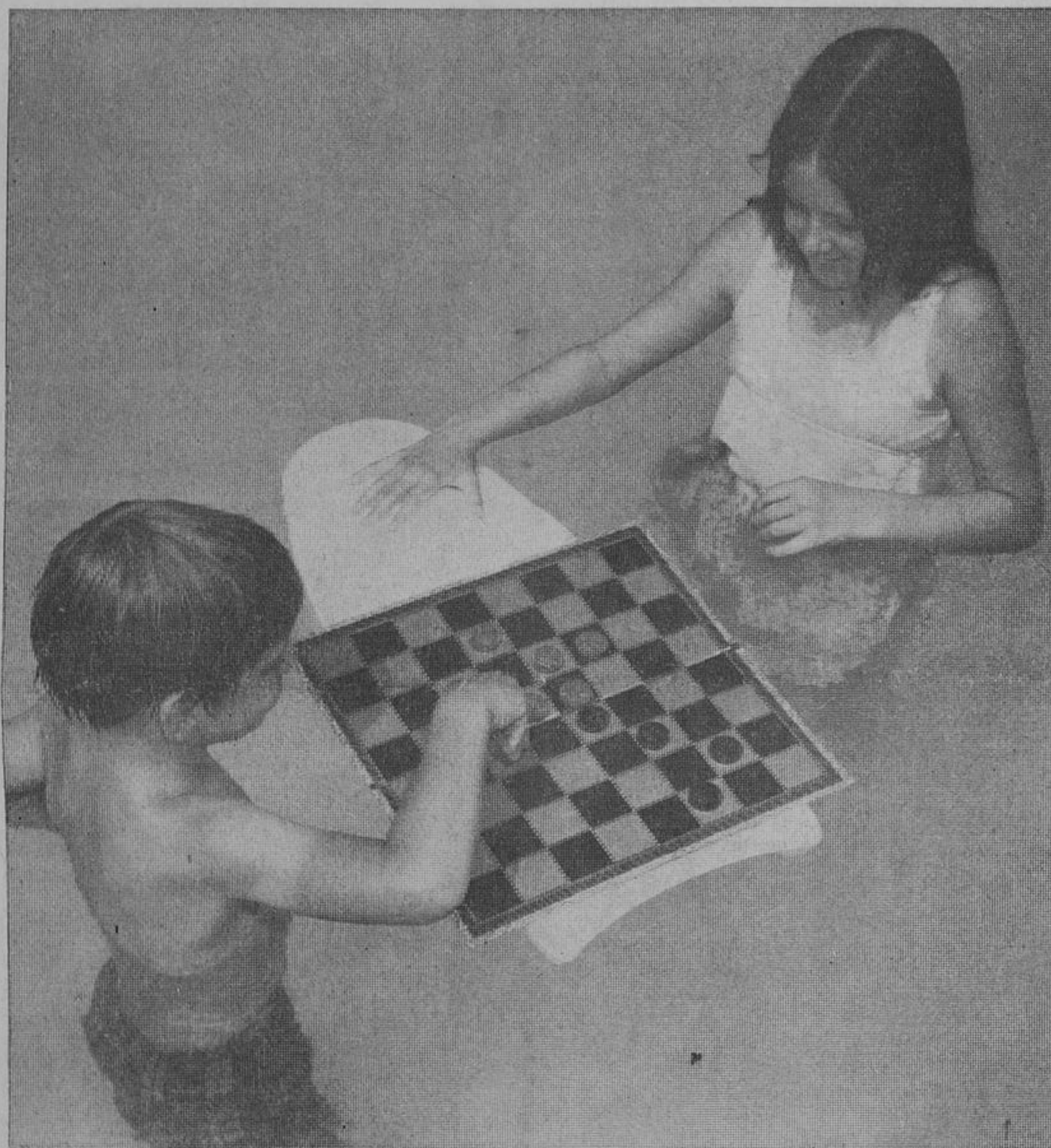
A TTC survey on April 22 this year showed 612 persons boarded southbound buses with 83 alighting in the town. Northbound buses dropped off 757 persons of

whom 78 also had boarded within the town. Using the yardstick of 300 times the average weekday this brings the total annual ridership to and from Richmond Hill to approximately 410,000. Each of these riders is being subsidized at approximately 3.4¢ per trip, although council hopes that the fare increase will bring in enough revenue to meet the cost of running the service.

The study also revealed that 27.1% of the southbound and 28.7% of the northbound passengers used the bus loop at Levedale Road, the northern terminus, indicating that perhaps the bus does not run far enough north for many passengers.

It is also pointed out that transfers between GO buses and the TTC cannot be made because the GO buses turn off Yonge Street one-half mile to the north at Elgin Mills.

(Continued on Page 15)



(Photos by Stuart's Studio)

How To Beat A Heat Wave

The sun shone, not a breeze was felt, and the humidity index soared and soared last week to make life miserable for man, woman, child and beast. But there were ways of beating the heat and Bradley and Laurie Powell came up with a

most novel one.

They are seen above in the pool in the backyard of their North Taylor Mills Drive home in Richmond Hill as they coolly enjoy a game of checkers on a float board.

Almost-Severed Arm Has Pulse, Movement

Success of an operation to reattach a female highway accident victim's almost-severed arm won't be finally determined for some time, but the arm is showing some pulse and some movement, a spokesman at York County Hospital in Newmarket told "The Liberal" at press time.

In satisfactory condition after being injured Wednesday last week on Highway 48 near Sutton in Georgia Township was Mrs. Phyllis Moore, 39, of Riverside Drive, Weston. Four surgeons worked four hours to save her left arm the morning after the late night accident.

Dr. Norman Mortimer began the operation almost immediately when he found one nerve, one blood vessel and some tissue still not severed. He was assisted by Dr. Sam Soriano, Dr. David Hill and Dr. Earl Faber a plastic surgeon.

Mrs. Moore was a passenger in a car driven by her husband Gerald, 41. The car left the highway on a curve, hit a light pole and flipped through the air, hurling her through the windshield into a field. He was treated at the hospital for cuts and later charged with careless driving.

Stevens Names Rowe Campaign Manager

Ted Rowe, of Oak Ridges, son of Richmond Hill Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe and Mrs. Rowe, has been named campaign manager for the Federal Progressive Conservative Candidate Sinclair Stevens. Mr. Stevens believes that Mr. Rowe is one of the young campaign managers in Canadian politics. "Yet he brings extensive experience to the campaign."

Ted has been campaign manager for his father since he entered municipal politics in King Township eight years ago.

He has spent all his life in the riding and attended King City Secondary School where he was student president and Humber College where he studied business administration. He is vice-president of Highlands of King Investment Group and was architectural representative for McFadden Hardwoods.

The Stevens' campaign headquarters will be located in the Newmarket Plaza, Suite 202, 92 Davis Drive. The phone number there is 895-1287.

Preston Lake Inquest Ordered

2 Drownings, Death In Stairs Fall

An inquest is likely to be held in at least one of three accidental deaths under investigation since last week here in Southern York Region, according to police.

A Thornhill housekeeper was found drowned in a swimming pool, a youth drowned at Preston Lake near his Toronto parent's cottage and an Aurora

Class "A" Roads York Region

York Regional Council will apply to the Minister of Transportation and Communications to designate all regional roads in York Region as Class "A" highways, with the exception of an area on Regional Road 49 from the west limits of Highway 11 to the east limits of Bathurst Woods.

In a report of the engineering committee, tabled by Chairman Anthony Roman, mayor of Markham, council was told that under the meaning of the Highway Traffic Act, all gravel roads in the regional system were class "B" roads. This meant that no vehicles could be operated on them where the weight upon one axle exceeded 18,000 pounds, or 12,000 pounds if the axles were spaced less than eight feet apart.

Enforcement of these regulations would have an "adverse effect" in the region on such vehicles as dump trucks, milk and fuel tankers, transporters, stock trucks and various other commercial vehicles, where they exceeded the prescribed weights, Mr. Roman said in his report.

Young People Propose Yonge Bicycle Path

A bicycle path along Yonge Street between centres of population is a great need of the present and future as more and more people are returning to the bicycle, a group of young people in Richmond Hill believe.

The four young people who have initiated a campaign to get a bicycle path installed along Yonge Street as a Centennial project are Robert and Maylon Morris and Allan Mayer of Demaine Crescent and John Grant of Brownland Crescent. Last Thursday they set out to determine the thinking of adult ratepayers on the subject and by Friday morning had more than 100 signatures on a petition. They will continue their survey with an objective of 2,000 signatures, which they plan to forward to the local Chamber of Commerce.

But they do not intend to stop there. It is their intent that the young people of the town will contribute to the realization of what they hope will be the beginning of a nation-wide network of bicycle paths, by raising money and contributing their labor. "Such a plan has worked in Europe and there's no reason we can't make it work here," Spokesman Robert Morris told "The Liberal". "Eventually we hope to see these paths installed alongside every major highway. They are better than hitch-hiking and much safer." If you agree with these young people and are willing to lend a helping hand in the project, please write Robert Morris at 257 Demaine Crescent, Richmond Hill, or phone 884-8432.

woman was found at the bottom of her basement stairs with a broken neck.

Staff Inspector Wally Harkness of York Regional Police said it is alleged there were about 5,000 people at the Preston Lake Beach with one female lifeguard when Giovanni Cicero, 17, of 164 Winona Drive, Toronto, went swimming about noon Sunday. He wasn't seen again until his body was dredged up from the bottom of the lake after a search started at 2:30 pm, YRP said.

No date for the inquest has been set. The coroner is Dr. Patrick Greaves of Newmarket.

BROKEN NECK
Mrs. Florence Pipe, 54, of 18 Murray Drive, Aurora was allegedly under the influence of beverage alcohol when she fell down her basement stairs at about 9 pm July 15.

A post mortem showed death was due to a broken neck. She

was found by one of her children while her husband was at a neighbor's house.

THORNHILL DROWNING
Mrs. Anita Simola, 31, was found fully clothed in six feet of water without her shoes in the swimming pool at the Carlisle residence, 60 Fairway Heights Drive, Thornhill. Her shoes were a short distance away in the kitchen. She was found by Mrs. Ruth Carlsen at about 3:35 pm and rushed to North York General Hospital. YRP detectives said there

was no sign of violence and that the housekeeper may have stepped out of air conditioned house, fainted in the 80-degree temperature and toppled into the pool. She'd been only minutes in the water before being found, police said.

Mrs. Simola resided at 2100 Keele Street, Apartment 606, and was the mother of two children.

Oak Ridges Family Wiped Out When Overloaded Boat Capsizes

An Oak Ridges family was almost completely wiped out in a boating tragedy on Georgian Bay Sunday night. Only two members of the Richard Contois family survived the accident. The Eugene Contois family of Holland Landing was completely wiped out. The 14-foot aluminum boat in which they were attempting to reach Snake Island foundered.

The boat was carrying 12 people, four adults and eight children, plus camping gear and food for a week's camping on the rocky, uninhabited island. It capsized in choppy waters after it had gone about two-thirds of the three-and-a-half miles to its destination. It is believed there were no life preservers on board.

Two members of the Richard Contois family survive — ten-year-old Monica, who was picked up by a motor cruiser after she had stayed afloat for more than two hours without a life preserver and Mrs. Contois, a non-swimmer, who managed to float to shore at Triple Bay

Park, after the waves tore her four-year-old daughter Nanette from her arms.

BODY FOUND
The body of Eugene's wife, Patricia, was found floating Monday about 500 feet offshore west of Midland.

Also recovered Monday were some luggage and a loaf of bread from the boat. Many boats and divers have been engaged in the search for bodies of the other members of the two families, but it is a slow process. OPP officers have said it could be three or four days yet before any of the missing bodies float and are recovered.

STILL MISSING

Still missing are Richard Contois and his children, Martin 9, Anthony 8, Nanette 4 and Sheila Ryan 2, a ward; Eugene Contois and his children, Karen 9, Michael 7 and Danny 4. Monica and her mother were released from hospital Monday afternoon and are staying with relatives in Midland.

Toddler Is Recovering From Burns And Smoke

A 2½-year-old Richmond Hill boy was still alive at press time due to the courage and quick action of a neighbor woman who snatched him from a basement gasoline blaze even though she was too frightened and upset afterwards at hospital to talk to anyone, even police or firefighters.

Curtis Nelson of 226 Zeldia Crescent, Richmond Hill, was in greatly improved but still in only fair to serious condition in isolation at Sick Children's Hospital five days after the 11:25 am fire on Thursday of last week. He had survived the smoke inhalation that was the most serious immediate threat and was being treated for burns to 25% of his body.

MOTHER FLED

He was rescued by Mrs. Terry Robinson of 211 Zeldia Crescent after his mother Mrs. Katherine Nelson fled from the burning house, unable to reach him, officials said. The boy and mother were residing at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Petronski. Fire Chief Alfred Stong estimated damage in the fire at \$2,000 to the house and \$6,000 to contents. The fire was blamed on fumes from two cans of outboard motorboat fuel reaching the pilot light of a gas fired water heater in the basement where the toddler was playing, the fire chief said.

Flames shooting from the broken control scorched the stove and a nearby wall causing about \$100 damage. Fire Chief Stong said.

An apartment superintendent trapped in an elevator Tuesday last week at about 10:30 pm was freed by Richmond Hill Firefighters called to 402 Markham Road.

Again on Wednesday at 11:56 pm a woman was trapped in an apartment elevator at 48 Laverock Avenue and firefighters were called to get her out.

Plan 5 Lot Subdivision Birch Ave. At Bathurst

A five-lot subdivision on the north side of Birch Avenue, Richvale, 175 feet east of Bathurst was described to Richmond Hill Council's Planning Committee July 18 by Steve Perzia, representing the owners. Under Vaughan's Official Plan and zoning bylaw which still control development in that area the site is residential, second density, with a required frontage of 60 feet. The proposed lots are 60.7 feet wide and 431.27 feet deep.

Mr. Perzia pointed out that the owners will also be the developers and a building permit for a one-family residence has already been received for one lot. The subdivision is located on a paved road and water is available. His clients had received approval from the committee of adjustment for severance of these lots, with some conditions attached. He stated that the owners are willing to accept any reasonable

conditions imposed by council or the health department.

Mr. Perzia showed the committee a report from an independent soil testing company and claimed the health department had indicated orally it had no objections. Application for the subdivision has already been made to the Department of Municipal Affairs. In fact, Planning Director Hesse Rimmon reminded committee members, the committee no longer considers subdivision applications until they have been presented to the department.

The applicants indicated that one house is under construction and the others will not be built for a year or two.

Mr. Rimmon was asked to prepare a report for consideration by the committee and council.

Mrs. Hancey told the applicants it would now be necessary for them to file an application for subdivision with the town. Then, the planning director will examine the plan and will consult with other departments in the town and region for their approval, requirements or suggestions. As soon as his investigation is completed, and his report prepared, he will bring it back to the committee which will deal with it and send it on to council.

Another Young Woman Assaulted On Street Hides Under Boxcars

Another young Richmond Hill woman has been assaulted on a dark Richmond Hill street, bringing to four the number of such incidents in recent weeks.

A 21-year-old housewife from Essex Avenue was walking westward on the north side of Centre Street East at 10:30 pm July 13. A young man came up behind her, put his hands on her shoulders, spun her around and pulled her towards him.

To divert his attention she suggested he take her to the Richmond Inn for a drink. The assailant agreed and left to get his car and wallet.

She ran and hid under the railway cars at the Richmond Hill Station, staying there for half an hour. Then she called a neighbor to come and get her, York Regional Police said.

YRP Ban "Playboy"

Alleging the current issue of "Playboy" contains obscene and exploitive material, York Regional Police have ordered bookstores and newsstands to remove the magazine from sales shelves.

Staff Inspector Wally Harkness said Monday store owners in Richmond Hill, Markham, Vaughan, Aurora, King, Whitchurch-Stouffville and the region's other townships have been warned of prosecution if they continue to sell the magazine.

Harkness said he has received numerous complaints regarding pictures and an article relating to the film Boxcar Bertha. He added that there haven't been any complaints about the decision to ban the magazine. The same issue of the magazine has been banned by a western province.

Lack Of Adequate Parking Blocks Norm Black's Plans For Body Shop

It was back to the drawing board July 18 for Realtor Norm Black, who appeared before Richmond Hill Council's Planning Committee with plans to convert a Yonge Street body shop to accommodate two stores and several offices with limited parking space.

Mr. Black represented the Eagle York Properties, which last year opened a plaza of six stores at 77-87 Yonge Street South. He reported that his company had an option to purchase the Kinnear body shop property at 75 Yonge Street South and it was the intent to improve the appearance of the main thoroughfare by redeveloping it for stores and office space. However, the problem was one of parking, room being available for only one quarter of the spaces required under the bylaw. He showed pictures of the proposed completely modern front and the sidewalk remodelled with large windows.

The applicant read a section of the town's Official Plan which dealt with existing buildings which he thought might allow the remodeling without additional parking spaces.

However, members of the planning committee, Chairman Lois Hancey, Regional Councillor Andy Chateauvert and Councillor Stewart Bell (serving as

the mayor's alternate) did not agree, since the use of the building was to be changed.

Mrs. Hancey noted that "to be deficient by three-quarters could not in any way be considered a minor variance. There is increasing pressure on the municipality to provide parking and the only way this can be accomplished is for this committee and council to insist on each development providing its own parking."

"The municipality has an obligation in some form to provide parking," stated Mr. Black. "Yes, where the services are publicly provided and publicly used," agreed Mrs. Hancey. "Where a developer expects to derive a profit from his development then he should provide the parking."

"I am not willing to create further parking problems on Yonge Street," said Councillor Chateauvert.

"We can't perpetuate a bad situation," stated Councillor Bell. "Could you provide parking within walking distance?" "We have been quite adamant in the past on minimum parking requirements," added Mrs. Hancey. "Council has been aware of applications to the Committee of Adjustment and has tried to be very vigilant in not permitting severances for developments which would lack proper parking facilities."

August 1 Meeting Markham Water

Metro Council is expected to meet with York Regional Council Commissioner of Engineering Denne Bosworth, August 1 to negotiate the extension of a waterline from Don Mills Road and Steeles Avenue east for the Town of Markham.

York Council sought out the meeting after approving a report of its engineering committee (Chairman Mayor Anthony Roman) July 13 recommending the negotiations.

The line would provide the town with another much-needed water connection west of Don Mills Road and would extend the existing 36-inch Metro watermain with 16-inch pipe 200 feet west to the town's watermain. Cost of extension would be about \$15,000, according to Markham Engineer Dipen Mukherjee.

At present, the town draws its water supply from the Dudley and Steeles Avenue connection in Metro at a cost of 25 cents per thousand gallons. However, the town is limited in the amount of water it can take from there because of pressure problems, Mr. Mukherjee said.

Metro was approached after the regional council had been unsuccessful in its dealings with North York to provide a connection.