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RICHMOND HILL

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HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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Noon School Hashish Arrest

A 17-year-old boy was arrested Tuesday of last week during noon hour at Bayview Secondary School in Richmond Hill with what police allege to be a cube of hashish (marijuana) and a pipe to smoke it with.

A resident of Harding Boulevard, Richmond Hill he faces in Richmond Hill Court a charge of hashish possession. His trial date is yet to be set.

Two other local young men were arrested Thursday of last week for possession of marijuana after their car was stopped due to erratic driving at 11:15 pm on Markham Road in Richmond Hill.

York Region Police said a 1½-foot marijuana plant was found in the trunk of the car. A 25-year-old man who resides on Bayview Avenue, was found to have what is alleged to be an ounce of marijuana.

The other youth in the car was a 18-year-old resident of Lynett Crescent, YRP said.

Both were released on appearance notices to face trial at a future date in Richmond Hill Provincial Court.

Approve No Parking Essex And Industrial

Parking on the east side of Essex Avenue between Palmer and Elmwood Avenues and on the south side of Industrial Road, will be prohibited by an amendment to the town's traffic bylaw, following a decision by Richmond Hill Council at its September 11 meeting.

The parking ban on Industrial Road from Enford Road to the CNR tracks was requested by businesses on that section of the street. Signing the petition were representatives of 4-F Foods Limited, ARC Industries, Windsor Thompson Canada Ltd., Stran-Steel Division Westeel Rosco Limited and Amac Equipment Limited. The accompanying letter pointed out that large transport and trailer trucks serving these industries, have great difficulty in negotiating driveways due to vehicles parked on both sides of the roadway. Winter months aggravate the hazards and delays of dispatch and delivery.

The Essex Avenue ban on parking will include both sides of that road with the new restriction, made at the request of the majority of residents.

This Fall Busy Time For Area Politicians

Richmond Hill residents who are confused about elections at present—with the federal election called for October 30 and the municipal elections for December 4, with two enumerations overlapping and changes in the election acts being encountered for the first time—are not alone in their confusion.

At a committee meeting of Richmond Hill Council Monday evening Mayor William Lazenby also appeared confused about the dates and procedures.

Assistant Clerk Mrs. Jean Holman, with the help of Councillor Lois Hancey, finally set him straight.

There will be no nomination meeting this year for municipal officers. Instead candidates will file nomination papers with the town clerk (returning officer) during normal office hours (9 am to 5 pm) from November 9 to 13. Since the town officers are not open Saturdays or Sundays, this means that these nomination papers will be received on November 9, 10 and 13 only during normal office hours. Each nomination paper must bear the signatures of at least 10 qualified voters in the municipality, Mrs. Holman explained.

Too Many Service Stations In The Hill Is Claim

Opposition to a proposed Sunoco Station at Bayview and Markham Road (on the island on the east side) was expressed to Richmond Hill Council's Planning Committee September 12 by Bruce Leggett, a solicitor representing the Ontario Retailer Gasoline Association and by Bob Donald president and the local branch of this association. He estimated that more than 20% of the local retailers are members of the association but that the association is working for the benefit of all service station operators in the municipality.

In his presentation Mr. Leggett reported that there are now 34 service stations with 132 pumps in Richmond Hill. He told the committee

Thornhill Hides 25 Death-Trap Swimming Pools

Inquest Into Drowning Of Unionville Baby Reveals Lurking Markham Danger



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

They Want A Boy

Megan and Kelly Duffin, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Duffin at 162 Millpond Court, Richmond Hill, raised \$135 by holding a home sale Friday and Saturday, September 8 and 9. Now they are applying to financially adopt a needy child in South America through Foster Parents Plan of Canada. They want a boy.

After people read about the girls' plans in "Life in the Hill" last week, even perfect strangers called or visited to offer help. Some gave household items, others produce from their gardens and home-made preserves. The girls showed the newspaper clipping to Kresge's Manager Don Douglas and Cole's Book Store Manager Mrs. Peggy Duffield at Richmond Heights Centre, and that was enough to add a couple of armfuls of books and toys to the sale.

Customers arrived on bicycles, on foot and in cars from as far away as Islington, one of them a nine-year foster parent. Kelly and Megan found it all a heart warming experience.

Hydro Corridor Hearing On Friday At Don Head

Richmond Hill Town Council will present a strong argument to the Solandt Commission against transfer of the hydro transmission high voltage lines to pass through this municipality. The commission is meeting tomorrow evening (Friday) at 8 pm in Don Head Secondary School to hear submissions.

The Richmond Hill brief approved by council at its September 11 meeting states that, "Should the selection of the middle route (through King and Whitechurch - Stouffville Townships) be reversed at this time, a major land severance will be created from Brampton to Highway 404, parallel to and only five miles north of the proposed Parkway Belt."

The brief also notes that the "Status Report on the Toronto-Centred Region", dated August 1971, makes specific reference to the 500 KV transmission line. "We considered the possibility of using the Parkway Belt for Ontario Hydro's 500 KV transmission line between the Nanticoke and Pickering Generating Stations. Unfortunately this possibility was ruled out for technical reasons related mainly to the problems of underground transmission in the vicinity of the airport."

However, Ontario Hydro will be placing most of its lower voltage systems and feeder facilities within the Parkway Belt. The 500 KV line will be located in Zone 2 of the region crossing the Townships of Nassagaweya, Eramosa, Erin, Chinguacousy, Albion, King, Whitechurch, Uxbridge and Pickering. The precise location will be discussed with the various municipalities before any final decisions are made."

It is also noted that of these nine municipalities in the middle route, six have agreed that the Hydro corridor does not conflict with their planned development, one has requested more information, one has declined comment and one left it with the hydro expert.

In the case of farmland, Hydro offers to lease the land back to the vendor for continuing farm purposes at a rate of \$1 per year plus tax. In the case of Richmond Hill, however, where some 145 property owners in a 4,000 foot corridor will be affected, the proposed right-of-way, adjacent to the Trans-Canada pipeline, runs parallel to the farm properties and is nearly as wide as the lots

themselves. In most cases almost the entire property will be involved as well as the buildings so it is unlikely present owners could continue farming their lands. This matter goes beyond personal compensations or municipal tax returns. It might irreversibly affect the diminishing amount of arable land under cultivation in this area.

The Richmond Hill brief also points out that the topographic undulation of the land, its elevations and proximity to the height-of-land, do not readily lend themselves to the proposed facility. The visual impact may be quite staggering, with the total number of towers within the town limits as high as 140 and ranging in height from 121 to 160 feet. Most other objects, both natural and man-made will be diminished by comparison. It will protrude over the horizon when viewed from the south and will destroy the aesthetic pleasure when confronted from the north.

Ontario Hydro has carefully examined a number of alternative routes, the brief states, and compared them by means of a sophisticated system of criteria and variable components adjusted to each alternative. Based on this research, Hydro recommended the middle route as the most suitable from every point of view.

In support of the Town of Richmond Hill's endorsement of the findings of Ontario Hydro in selecting the middle route for the 500 KV transmission line, and strong opposition to any deviation from this preferred route until sufficient evidence has proven it incorrect, a list of some 80 residents, who attended a hastily called mid-summer public meeting and voiced their opposition, is included. A brief resume of some of the comments of these people is also attached to the submission.



JOSEPH PICKARD

Markham Clerk

Joseph Pickard, 41, has taken over his new duties as clerk of Markham Town, the 20-month-old local York Region municipality recently formed by amalgamation of the former Markham Town and Markham Township. The new town includes that part of the Thornhill and Willowdale postal districts north of Steeles Avenue and East of Yonge Street.

Harry Crisp of Thornhill, clerk of the former township, served as clerk of the new town for a time but resigned several months ago for health reasons.

The new clerk previously served from 1966 to 1972 as deputy-clerk of the Southern Ontario city of St. Thomas. He was an elected member of the Strathroy Municipal Council before becoming clerk-treasurer there and serving in that job for five years.

After graduating from grade 12 he worked for Downham Nursery Company Limited for 11 years, progressing from office clerk to treasurer of the company which had its head office in Strathroy.

A graduate of the municipal clerks and treasurers training course at Queens University, he is a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. He is a Jaycee past president and former Kiwanian. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and camping.

Mr. Pickard and wife Bernadette have three children: Theresa 11, Michael 9 and Martha 6.

There are probably about 25 death trap wading or swimming pools built unsafely and illegally in the Thornhill and Willowdale areas of Markham Town. Nothing can be done about them unless residents or neighbors report the existence of these illegal and unsafe pools to town authorities.

This was the situation described to a coroner's jury September 7 during an inquest into the June 19 pool drowning of 2½-year-old John Foster of 17 Emily Carr Street, Unionville.

There are probably 25 more death-trap pools in the Markham Town area east of Woodbine Avenue (Don Mills Road), Markham Town Bylaws Officer William Shearn told the jury. He estimates there are at least 50 death trap pools in the whole town.

DROWNING ACCIDENTAL
The jury found the little boy's death was accidental due to drowning in an improperly constructed pool the town authorities knew nothing about. The jury recommended that Markham Town Council should make it necessary for everyone to get a permit before building wading or swimming pools. Then bylaws officers would have a record of all pools and could make sure they were properly constructed and safe.

The jury also said York Regional assessment officers should be required to check all properties for pools at the time of making their inspection for tax assessment. The jury said the assessors should report the location of all pools to the town bylaws office so unknown existing pools can be inspected.

NEED TIGHTER LAW
In addition the jury suggested the town should tighten its 1971 swimming pool bylaw to end the practice of allowing swimming pools out in the middle of large but fenced yards. The jury called for fences around pools to be erected within three feet of the edge of the water. A revised swimming pool bylaw is scheduled to be submitted to Markham Town Council for consideration soon.

The inquest was conducted by Markham Coroner Dr. Robert Seaver of 111 Main Street. The jury was all drawn from Unionville and included Forensic Lucille McBeth of 11 Ryecroft Drive, Theresa Jeffery of 28 Seiberris Road, Donald McDowell of 46 Seiberris Road, Clifford Moss of Seiberris Road and William Durward of 148 Fitzgerald Road. The investigating York Region Police officer was Constable David Knowles.

MOTHER TESTIFIES
Mrs. Betty Foster, mother of the drowned child, was the first to testify at the inquest held at the Provincial Court, 207 Main Street, Markham. She said her son John who drowned couldn't swim and was so terrified of the pool he wouldn't go in. His five-year-old brother Randy and a friend were playing at the back of the house. John asked for cookies for himself and his friend and she went to wash the kitchen floor in a small area. The boy was alone at most for 10 minutes.

FLOATING FACE DOWN
When she came outside again, there he was in the pool floating face down with arms spread wide. She called her neighbor Mrs. McRobbie of 19 Emily Carr Street and she examined the boy.

Mrs. Foster said there wasn't a lock on the yard gate. Mrs. Carol Moser of 21 Emily Carr Street said she was down in her basement doing laundry when she heard someone calling her name. She found Mrs. Foster in the hall saying John was dead.

NO RESUSCITATION
She thought of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but thought it might hurt the baby. So she tried raising his head, moving his arms and pressing his ribs. Then a youth came over the fence and took over the attempt to revive the little boy.

Mrs. McRobbie testified it was about 11 am while she was hanging out clothes that she heard her neighbor Betty calling her for help. "She gave me the baby. She already had him out of the pool. I guess I panicked, I put him on the ground."

CALLED NEIGHBOR
"I thought of artificial respiration and called neighbor Gordon Barefoot (across the road at 18 Emily Carr Street) to get help," Mrs. McRobbie said.

Youth Harold Green of 24 Linwood Avenue, Agincourt, told the coroner's jury how he happened to try to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the drowned child.

He testified he was with Phil Colley's child on Wimbley Avenue painting a room when he heard screams and stuck his head out the window. He ran downstairs and then really heard screaming. He started

jumping fences and found a lady working on a baby. **TRIED RESUSCITATION**
Gordon said he started mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but encountered resistance. So he turned the baby over and got the water out. Then he started his mouth-to-mouth reviving attempt. He was only working a short while when somebody came in a car and took the boy to a doctor.

The youth said he didn't detect any response or heartbeat or anything in the child. He had taken a life saving course but had stopped short of taking the test for his medal.

Gordon Barefoot said he was at home with his wife when Mrs. McRobbie knocked on the door and asked him if he knew anything about artificial respiration. He ran across the road and looked at the boy and ran back to see if his wife had been successful in calling an emergency number. She hadn't.

RUSHED TO DOCTOR
He got his car and a construction worker carried the baby to the car. He drove to Dr. Donald Chu's office at Varley Village Plaza. Nobody attempted to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in the car. It was about four or five minutes between the time he heard the knock on the door and his

arrival at the doctor's office, he said. **CORONER SEAVER**
Coroner Seaver read the case into the inquest record. Dr. Chu said he was in his office working at about 11:20 am when Mrs. Foster brought her son in and he pronounced him dead. He notified the coroner. An autopsy was performed at Scarborough Centenary Hospital Pathologist Dr. Allan Noble, who certified death was due to drowning.

CONSTABLE FAULDS
Constable Peter Fauids, YRP photographer, said he arrived at the Foster residence about noon and took a series of photographs of the property. **3 FEET DEEP**
He submitted to the coroner several pictures showing what he called a common type of raised pool sitting on the ground. Generally the water was two feet seven inches deep, up to a pool depth of three feet at most. There was a low 3½ foot fence around the property, but none around the pool.

Faulds showed a picture of what he called an open causeway (breezeway) between the garage and house. There wasn't any gate or door across it and it led to the backyard area where the pool was set into a raised wooden patio deck. He said anyone could walk out of the house through a main door onto the deck, or they could walk in off the street.

OVER BOY'S HEAD
Constable Knowles testified he was called to the Foster home about 11:10 am where he found a pool 11 feet 8 inches in diameter. The pool was 13 feet from rear house doors. The breezeway was open. The drowned boy was 36 inches tall and the water in the deepest part of the pool would have been over his head.

Markham Town Bylaws Officer Shearn testified the town's Bylaw 71-71 passed last year applies to swimming pools and would apply to the Foster pool. He said the town had no idea the pool was there.

Each pool in the town must have a fence at least four feet high, preferably of chain link construction, or the equivalent, according to a 1971 bylaw. A house wall may be used instead of a fence if there is no access to the pool from a house entrance. A yard boundary fence may also be used as the pool fence, but then the yard gate must be kept locked at all times. The mesh of the chain link fence must be 1½ inches or less, said the bylaws officer.

1½-FOOT LIMIT
Any pool having more than 1½ feet of water must be fenced, he said. Fences existing with larger meshes can be made to comply under town supervision. (Continued on Page 12)

Thornlea SS Here To Stay

Thornlea's controversial and experimental high school will be around for awhile yet, York County Board of Education Chairman Ross Joliffe, assured a meeting of the board September 11.

Joliffe's remarks were prompted by a recent news story on the school in a Toronto daily which stated that final decision on whether the school would remain its present character or go back to a more conventional style, would be taken in about a year.

Joliffe stated that he had been misunderstood. He was enthused by the program at Thornlea and would be opposed to changing it. He hoped the teachers at Thornlea wouldn't get the wrong idea.

Trustee John Honsberger of Thornhill, echoed the chairman's remarks. "Thornlea is here to stay," he said. "The staff shouldn't be under any misapprehension."

Thornlea, which was started in 1968, runs on the principle of participatory democracy. It is operated by a management committee of four with the principal as chairman.

Students enjoy a relative form of freedom, with each individual responsible for the direction of his own learning.

Markham Study On Boundaries

Markham Town Council last week approved the setting up of a three-man committee to look into the matter of realigning its ward boundaries.

Council also agreed to give the committee, which is composed of Mayor Anthony Roman and fellow York Regional Councillors James Longeneck and Harold Lawrie, 30 days, instead of seven as first proposed, to bring in the report.

Councillor Robert Adams said he was concerned about the imbalance of people. Ward Six had 10 percent of the population of Markham, or 3,500 people. This is the area north of 16th Avenue in Richvale.

It was necessary to see that those people, who because they were few in numbers, did have equal representation, he said.

Mayor Roman said that a great deal of study had gone into the establishment of the present boundaries. However, it was felt that some adjustments would have to be made as the population increased in certain areas.

He said the town could seek additional representation on York Regional Council if there was a change in boundaries. Under the present set up, Markham has six wards, with its largest ward having almost three times as many electors as its smallest.

The first suggestion to council that it redraw its wards was made in an editorial in "The Liberal" in July.