

The Liberal

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

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Citizens Want To Participate In Town Planning Ratepayers Complain Of Failure Of Council-Planners To Communicate With Public

By MARGARET LADE
A group of some 60 ratepayers met in Richmond Hill High School October 10 and unanimously agreed that there is urgent need for more citizen participation in planning in the Richmond Hill area. The meeting was called by a special citizen participation committee set up by Richmond Hill Social Planning Council. The problem set before the meeting by the committee was that of lack of communication between citizens and politicians with respect to development planning in Richmond Hill. In the report presented by Chairman Buster Vermeulen the committee said: "As it stands now, studies and input which affect decisions concerning planning and development are made primarily by the developer and politicians. The public are asked to register objections.

This invites reaction, and the public sets about changing these decisions through pressure groups, resulting too often in confrontation.

"Promotion of ideas by the public instead of reaction to ideas would help solve the problem greatly."

As a solution to the problem, the committee recommended increase in participation of the public in the area of planning, both at the official plan level and at the day-to-day level.

The committee recommended that an advisory board on planning be set up based on each neighborhood selecting a representative, that these representatives be members of such a board.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey, after hearing the proposals and discussion asked, "Is the point of representation of each

area so important at this point in time? Here is a group of concerned, interested citizens who are acknowledging their responsibility as citizens. Isn't this sufficient to approach (Richmond Hill) council to be recognized as a group?"

Following the introduction, representatives of groups in the Lake Wilcox area and the Town of Vaughan described the problems in their respective areas and told how they are meeting them.

Speaking for the 19-member Lake Wilcox Study Committee, Dick Evans said all residents of the area are invited to participate in preparing presentations to council, but that the "decisions are made behind closed doors."

He advised the citizens' group to have faith in their councillors, that when his committee had approached councillors they found that their views were very

well received.

In order to get good planning at the municipal level, said Evans, "You have to have a councillor you have faith in".

Aided by a study undertaken by university students, the local community group had come to the conclusion that Lake Wilcox has something unique that is worth preserving, and that with the backing of the municipal council it intends to bring it to the regional council, which has authority over all planning in York.

Lake Wilcox has been the "dog's tail" in the region for years, said Evans. It has been used and thrown around, not just by Richmond Hill, but by the region, and as a result all have suffered, including the children.

"We want to live this down," he said. "We have a feeling of community. If one person is in trouble we all get together to

help. I have lived there for many years, and it is a unique situation."

A member of the special SPC committee, David Schiller, wished the Lake Wilcox people success, adding that he hoped that other neighborhoods got half as much support from their representatives as Evans' committee had from theirs. Physical and social planning must go together, he said. Need for roads and sewers were no more important than need for social services.

A report from the Vaughan group was presented by Mrs. Marylo Graham. Problems in Thornhill and Maple areas, she said, focussed on established residents of the area who were concerned about the lack of progress in acquiring sewers, septic tanks, etc., to meet increasing needs.

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School Board Sets Position In Memo

While the wage war between the teachers and the trustees of York County Board of Education rages on, John Honsberger, chairman of the trustees' salary negotiation committee, this week released a statement to the secondary school teachers stating the board's position up to the moment.

Among its points: The trustees have agreed to accept mass resignations on 30 days' notice at any time in order not to have November 30, the deadline for January resignations, dominate meetings and "to prove they were not trying to outmanoeuvre the teachers by getting past that date."

The trustees requested that negotiations continue through the summer in spite of the fact that teachers made no request to begin until late in March. The trustees are also prepared to meet and negotiate.

INCREASE ALREADY
The board gave the teachers a 7.02 percent increase, but this was "not to be interpreted as indicating the board is unwilling to negotiate." However, the teachers' negotiating committee stated firmly it would not budge from its 14.5 percent demand. Honsberger said.

He said that since January, 1969, only one secondary teacher declared surplus was unable to be placed in a school (September, 1972) and

he was kept on as a supply teacher for one year at full salary in the hope some position he could legally fill would open up.

PLACED ALL TEACHERS
As a result of a meeting of superintendents and principals called by the director of education in the spring, all 17 surplus teachers on staff were placed. Observing these meetings were the president and executive secretary of District 11 of the OSSTF.

Honsberger said the board agreed to pay all teachers in the same (or higher) category in 1973-74 as they were paid in 1972-73 if a committee jointly appointed by District 11 and the board were established to make recommendations for 1974-75.

He said the board was willing to have all mutually acceptable items arbitrated rather than negotiated and asked for a clear decision, but the teachers chose to negotiate.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE
The trustees also agreed to a grievance procedure in principle, but felt that the writing of such a procedure in advance of an agreement would inhibit writing.

Honsberger said the trustees drafted an agreement in response to a request from the teachers for a legally binding agreement between the board and the OSSTF, but the teachers then withdrew the request.

Neighborhood Deterioration Threatens

Industrial Zoning Infractions Hit Thornhill

An outbreak of industrial zoning infractions by retail and quasi-retail establishments in Markham Town threatens to undermine years of community planning and frustrate the purpose of large amounts of money spent on special industrial area works and services.

Among the hardest hit are the Doncaster Avenue and Glencameron Road area in south Thornhill. Even the still unfinished Don Mills industrial area east of Thornhill is in trouble as the number of infractions threatens to grow and spread like an epidemic.

Residential areas in Thornhill and other parts of the town are threatened with unexpected retail shopping traffic, illegal outdoor storage, neighborhood deterioration and other related bad effects.

PLANNERS ALARMED
Presented with a planning department report on the surprising extent and number of infractions, Markham Town Council (in planning committee) asked Clerk Administrator Joseph Pickard to report as soon as possible on measures to stop and combat the apparently fast-spreading problem.

In prospect is an extensive public information program, backed up with bylaw enforcement notices and legal action where necessary, according to council discussion Tuesday of last week.

Planning Director William Power warned council an increased legal facility would be required to handle the number of court cases

necessary if the infractions are to be eliminated. The new regional Town of Markham is expected to have a population close to 75,000 by the year's end and still has no permanent full time legal staff.

DESIGN DIFFERENT
Power said industrial park streets are designed for slow traffic and for vehicles requiring larger than normal turning space. Industrial subdivisions have far less than the amount of parking space required for retail and commercial areas. Retail uses introduce problems, such as unsuitable signs and traffic, that can reduce the desirability of industrial subdivisions, said the planning director.

The planning department report on industrial area zoning bylaw infractions obviously took the members of council by surprise. The planners said they had no idea of the real number of infractions now existing in the town, but provided maps and color slides of a large number of illegal operations.

The areas covered included the Doncaster Avenue-Glencameron Road Industrial Zone, the Heritage Road-Laidlaw Boulevard Industrial Zone, and the South Don Mills Industrial Zone.

CREATE PROBLEMS
"Retail, service commercial and nonconforming industrial uses in industrial areas create planning problems. These problems relate directly to development and zoning standards," said the planning department report.

"Commercial uses create different servicing demands than industrial uses. The primary servicing problem relates to parking and traffic problems. Commercial traffic has a different pattern than industrial traffic. It has a greater volume, long peak periods and generally moves faster when compared to industrial traffic. Commercial uses require more visitor parking because of the greater amounts of customer oriented traffic. These retail and service commercial uses create traffic congestion and traffic safety hazards in industrial areas.

"Commercial uses have different parking demands than industrial uses. This is a problem, especially in areas that have specific industrial bylaws that weren't designed to accommodate commercial uses of any kind. **FOR LARGE VEHICLES**
"Industrial areas are designed to allow for large turning radii. Commercial traffic is basically related to the private automobile and doesn't require these high development standards.

"Different sign regulations have been developed for industrial areas and these regulations don't relate to commercial advertising signs, which are different in quality, size and type," said the report.

"Non-conforming industrial uses may lower the quality of new industrial areas designed for industrial parks. These uses weren't contemplated when the bylaw was developed. And as a result, they look out of place. They are a special problem when these non-conforming uses abut residential areas.

The conclusions of the report were as follows: **FLAGRANT ABUSES**
"There have been some flagrant abuses of the zoning bylaw in the past. These abuses aren't conducive to good planning. The strict control of certain types of development is paramount if the interests of existing conforming uses in any area and the residents of the town are to be protected.

Possible solutions are outlined thus: **Change the bylaws to permit these non-conforming uses.**
Prosecute the offenders and seek injunctions to remove them.

The board is seeking an agreement that would downgrade the salaries of teachers teaching outside of the subject specialization because of shifting subject enrollments.

The board, say the teachers, refuses to go to arbitration on grievances lodged under the former agreement.

Finally the teachers are concerned with the general salary schedule. Highly qualified staff in York are being paid hundreds of dollars below teachers in adjoining counties, the teachers say.

MASS RESIGNATIONS
Although the mood of the meeting was calm, only about 20 of the teachers at the meeting dissented when a standing vote was taken on the motion "That if the provincial executive of OSSTF are not able to obtain a settlement satisfactory to the teachers of York County prior to November 19, 1973, then the provincial executive contact teachers to collect resignations."

In summary the teachers authorized the negotiating committee to turn negotiations over to the provincial OSSTF for possible further negotiations to agreement, or the teachers become provincial OSSTF employees and the secondary schools of York will close.

• Institute a program of occupancy permits to prevent further abuses.

"It is suggested that a solution combining (all three methods) would be practical," says the report.

The planners think bylaw changes should be considered for the Heritage-Laidlaw area because there a number of non-conforming uses have existed for some time and the statute of limitation may be in effect. The existing situation could be improved with more adequate bylaw standards and, in some cases, site plan bylaws and agreements, they say.

BYLAW CHANGES
"Bylaw changes should be considered for a review of the Glencameron area in order to improve the parking standards to reflect the sales and service commercial uses in the area. Some consideration should be given to allowing no further commercial uses.

"Prosecutions should be used for flagrant violations (which are those uses which are prohibited by the bylaw) and for bylaw violations that have occurred in the Don Mills industrial area. If businesses don't wish to improve their premises (when bylaw revisions are offered), then prosecution should be used," says the report.

"Occupancy permits are a very costly solution in terms of administration costs. However, it seems to be the only way of controlling the use of multiple tenancy buildings. A possible alternative is a strict bylaw enforcement program which would entail high legal costs in terms of a full time town solicitor to handle bylaw prosecutions.

STRICT ENFORCEMENT
"The strict bylaw enforcement program would be the basis of a public education program that would eventually reduce bylaw violations. The public would know that bylaws must be obeyed, and as a result, more people would be concerned about being in conformity with the bylaw," said the Markham planning office report on illegal land use.

The report deals with the Thornhill situation around Doncaster Avenue and Glencameron Road as follows:

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H. J. Mills Florists Moving Will Remain In Richmond Hill

Announcement was made last week by President Harold Mills Senior, that H. J. Mills Limited, local rose growing firm, has sold its present location between Centre Street East and Dufferin Lane and is in the process of lining up a whole new glass range of 150,000 square feet. The new site of this company will be still within Richmond Hill's town limits — on Bayview Avenue north of the Elgin Mills Sideroad East.

The transfer of operations to this new location will be phased over a two or three year period, so that production of high quality roses will not suffer or have to be curtailed, Mr. Mills said.

It was Mr. Mills' father, another Harold Mills, who brought the company to the Hill in 1911. Although he started rose growing on a small scale, it was not long until his establishment had grown greatly in size and he became a large employer of labor. He also found time to be active in the commun-

ity in many capacities and at the time of his sudden and untimely death at the age of 50 in 1939 he was serving as a member of Richmond Hill Village Council and as chief of Richmond Hill Fire Brigade. With his blessing many of his employers served as volunteer firemen and under his direction became a very efficient fire-fighting unit.

Present manager of H. J. Mills Limited, rose growers, who ship beautiful roses throughout Canada, and who are still generous in their support of all local organizations and activities, is Tom Nolan, who this month celebrates his 25th year with the company. He started in as a boy of 15 and has become one of Canada's top marketing experts in the flower industry. Along with Mr. Mills he will continue to help keep Richmond Hill Canada's largest exclusive rose growing centre. This fact is reflected in the town's motto, "En La Rose Je Fleur".



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

A sculptured cross in memory of well known 19th Century Thornhill resident Ann Preston, a long-lived domestic noted for her religious devotion, was dedicated by Rev. Alf McAlister Sunday during the 107th anniversary service at Thornhill United Church. The Holy Ann Memorial Cross was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Clark who occupied the now demolished former Reid home Annswell at 16 Elgin Street from 1951 to 1967. Holy Ann, subject of a widely read book translated into several languages, was employed by the Reid family in Thornhill for the majority of her 96 years.

Dedicate Holy Ann Cross

The Holy Ann Memorial Cross was designed as a tribute to Ann Preston, an early Methodist member of what is now the congregation of Thornhill United Church. She became renowned for her life-long demonstration of the power of an exuberant Christian Faith.

The Cross contains seven panels, six of which portray in visual images the various stages and events in the life of Ann, from her arrival in Canada as a young girl with the family of Dr. John Reid, to her declining years when she was free to enjoy the seclusion of her prayer house. The seventh panel briefly outlines the life story of this remarkable woman who, first with derision and later with respect, was called Holy Ann.

TELLS HER STORY
Of Holy Ann (1810 to 1906) the panel recounts as follows:

"Ann Preston, a young illiterate servant girl, came from Ireland with Dr. Reid and his family about 1830. She attended Wesleyan Methodist, now Thornhill United Church. Ann's spiritual strength, vibrant faith and persuasive Christian witness were legendary. She talked constantly with her Heaven-

ly Father, confident that the miracle of the well and other remarkable events were direct answers to prayer. During her lifetime Holy Ann was honored and revered by those who knew her, and since her death by countless others in Canada and abroad."

"Ann was poor, illiterate and of humble origin. Her daily tasks were those of a household servant. Her religious training was meagre as her schooling, but through the depth of her convictions, her profound faith in prayer and her active Christian service, she made an incalculable impact on the religious life of her times," says the memorial folder prepared for the occasion of the Cross dedication.

MIRACLE OF WELL
"The best remembered event associated with Ann's life is the 'miracle of the well.' One hot summer day when taunted by the Reid boys about the inconvenience of a well gone dry, she prayed for water. And on the following morning she received an answer to her prayer when water returned to the well. Many years later, a gardener on the property helped perpetuate the memory of this event by

erecting a cement tablet bearing the inscription, 'Over Holy Ann's Well A.D. 1857 Placed Here A.D. 1925'. The tablet is still in existence and has been moved to the nearby Annswell Park," says the memorial folder.

"Ann's life spanned the greater part of the 19th Century. She lived in the Reid home at the northeast corner of Yonge and Elgin Streets, for well over 50 years. When the family no longer needed her services they provided her with a cottage (still standing on John Street) where she resided for a number of years. Subsequently she lived as a guest in the homes of several friends, and died in Toronto in 1906 at the age of 96. She is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.

FAMOUS SCULPTOR
"The Holy Ann Memorial Cross was designed and created by Adlai Hardin of Lyme, Connecticut, a sculptor distinguished for his sensitive portrayal of religious figures and events. He is a fellow and past president of the National Sculpture Society of America and his works are to be found in numerous religious institutions, museums and public

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Teachers Ask Provincial Body OSSTF To Negotiate Salaries

Teachers in the York County Board of Education system have now voted to put the salary negotiations in the hands of the provincial body of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

At a mass get together last week in Newmarket, the teachers were 98 percent in

Volunteers Aid Family Services

At a meeting of the board of Richmond Hill and Thornhill Family Services October 18, members learned that funds from the regional government have expired and the agency is now relying for the rest of the year on personal contributions and group grants.

The board also learned that 46 people had been interviewed in the preceding month, making the total to date for the year 621.

Family Services Director Dr. Frank Fidler reported on the great success of the selection conferences for the lay counsellor program. In addition to those who can be accommodated immediately, there is a considerable group of candidates who have been encouraged to look forward to acceptance in the training program at a later date.

So many people have shown interest in this program, they have crowded the courses offered by Seneca College in conjunction with the agency.

The board was also pleased to learn that many high school students have registered for the "Marriage and Parenting in the 70's" series which begins this week. There is a special student rate of \$3, and sessions will be held monthly through November, January and ending May 28.

Deadline for teachers wishing to resign by January 15 is November 30. Teachers wishing to resign at the end of the year have until March to submit their resignations

favor of relieving the local branch of the OSSTF of any further salary negotiations with the trustees' salary negotiating committee.

The latter and the teachers' negotiating committee have been locked in a wage dispute since May.

SURPRISE FOR BOARD
The October 17 Newmarket meeting caught the school board by surprise, so much so in fact that Chairman Marvin Hunter cut short the regular meeting of the board Monday night to discuss the teachers' action.

In a statement to the board at the start of the evening, Hunter said his first knowledge of the meeting came with a call from a Toronto reporter, who asked him if the board would be willing to negotiate with the provincial body of the OSSTF.

"That telephone call was the first intimation I had of the matter and, as of this moment, neither I nor anyone in this office has received official notice from either the District Federation nor the parent provincial group," Hunter said.

ONLY NEWS RELEASES
Margaret McLean, communications officer for the board, said her first contact of any kind from the teachers' group came this week when she received "a bagful of previous news releases," all of which had gone out to various of the media, but none to the school board.

Mrs. McLean said the October 17 meeting also agreed that, if the provincial OSSTF was unable to obtain a settlement by November 19 acceptable to the teachers, the provincial executive would instruct the teachers to collect resignations.

Deadline for teachers wishing to resign by January 15 is November 30. Teachers wishing to resign at the end of the year have until March to submit their resignations