

11th Hour Stand Fails To Stop Bloomington Widening

Despite an eleventh-hour stand by Richmond Hill Councillor Gordon Rowe on his behalf, and two subsequent recorded votes, a Bloomington Road widening failed in his bid to get York Regional Council to change its mind about slicing up his property for road-widening purposes.

Council voted 7-5 to accept a recommendation of the engineering committee to stick with its original expropriation proceedings, first authorized last March. When the bylaw to acquire the land was presented later in the meeting, council voted 7-6 for approval. The extra vote against was cast by Mayor William Lazenby of Richmond Hill, who was absent for the first vote.

The land in question is 10 acres at the south-east corner of Bloomington Road and Yonge Street, and belongs to John Stewart, who also appeared briefly before council to see if it would consider an alternate route.

As Mr. Stewart said then, and as he has pointed out on other occasions, he is not against some expropriation and feels the road widening is definitely necessary. However, as he told "The Liberal", he feels the road should only encroach so far on his property. After reaching the middle of his yard on Bloomington, he said it should swing across to the other side of the road to the property first expropriated for

that purpose at the corner, and then continue across Yonge Street through the Ontario Hospital grounds on the north side of Bloomington. An unused cesspool and some trees that have had their day are the only obstacles at this point, he says.

RIPOFF VICTIM

By sticking to Mr. Stewart's side of the fence, the region will also send the road across the front of the Stewart property on Yonge Street for a "daylight" or illumination corner.

Mr. Stewart feels that this is being done because of the high crest at the Ontario Hospital turn-in a little farther north up the road. In order to view the Bloomington intersection properly while proceeding south, the daylight corner has to be further down; in this case on Mr. Stewart's property.

In speaking on Mr. Stewart's behalf, Councillor Rowe termed him the "victim of a real ripoff."

Mr. Rowe said he, himself, had never been an obstructionist, but he had been opposed to the original report of the engineering committee recommending the expropriation.

He said that the first expropriation at the corner was a 22-foot strip on Yonge Street, followed by 7.5 feet more. The Department of Highways originally purchased a portion of the northeast corner of Bloom-

ington Road consisting of some 50 feet of frontage on Yonge and 60 feet on Bloomington Road for \$10,000.

This was to cover the widening of Highway 11 and daylighting requirements at the corner of Highway 11 and Bloomington.

The DOH also deeded back a portion of the property so the owner could erect an automobile showroom. Then on October 5, 1967, Mr. Rowe said, the DOH paid \$99,880 to buy the property in its entirety, "supposedly for daylighting the same corner and for widening Yonge Street." The showroom was demolished and the highway reconstructed.

BIG ERROR

In reconstructing the road, the DOH made a big error by the Aurora Hospital, Mr. Rowe said, making the road up from Bloomington veer to the east to accommodate the grade required for entrance to the hospital.

"Try making a left turn in morning rush hour for a real thrill," said Mr. Rowe.

He said that, after the DOH had spent a total of \$109,880 the Region's engineering department had decided to expropriate Mr. Stewart's property to move the intersection further south.

If the hill in front of Ontario Hospital had been lowered sufficiently, the Bloomington Road would stay where it is with no expense to the Region,

Mr. Rowe said.

"... The Region of York has to go out and expropriate property and spend the York taxpayers' money, knowing full well the Department of Highways owns the property on the opposite corner, bought and paid for with \$109,880 of public money," Mr. Rowe said.

Mr. Stewart's original holding of 10 acres becomes 6 1/2 acres — all prime land — "and to my mind (he) is being victimized," Mr. Rowe said.

Mr. Rowe, who is vice-chairman of the engineering committee, and he felt the committee and staff could have compromised with Mr. Stewart's engineers and worked out a solution satisfactory to all.

The issue had put him at odds with his own committee and in the meantime, the DOH sits back and says: "Argue all you want, but in the final analysis you are going to correct it and pay for it."

"BOTH SIDES"

This was wrong, Mr. Rowe said and council should meet with provincial government officials to try to rectify the situation.

Mayor Joe Dales of Georgina Township asked that the "findings of fact and resume for recommendations" made by David Vine, a government-appointed inquiry officer, be read into the record, so that "both sides" of the case could be presented.

In recommending the road

widening, Vine said the destruction of two dwellings, "with the resulting unsatisfactory entrances to all of the premises located on the north side of Bloomington Road would justify the service road as contemplated in this change."

Mr. Rowe, however, pointed out that the alternate plan, as suggested by Mr. Stewart, would not affect the two houses in any way.

The first recorded vote was as follows: For - Dales, Mayor Robert Forhan, Newmarket; Councillors Jack Gilbert, Vaughan; Robert Pollock, Georgina; Ray Twinney, Newmarket; Mayors Tony Roman, Markham and Garnet Williams, Vaughan.

Mayor Roman is chairman of the engineering committee.

Absent for the vote were Mayors Lazenby, Evelyn Buck of Aurora, and Gladys Rolling, East Gwillimbury; and Councillor Harry Crisp, Markham.

Voting against the recommendation to accept the report of the engineering committee were: Mayors Margaret Britnell of King and Gordon Ratcliffe of Whitchurch-Stouffville; and Councillors Robert Adams, Markham, Lois Hancey, and Gordon Rowe, Richmond Hill.

The second recorded vote on the bylaw, as requested by Mayor Britnell, was the same, except for the addition of Mayor Lazenby's vote against approving the bylaw.

Collector Road Designated

Residents Want Westwood Lane Retained At 66 Foot Width

Since the area around Westwood Lane is completely built up and existing roads are adequate to carry present traffic, the Northolt Property Owners' Association, through Vice-President Arthur Lee, asked Richmond Hill Council's Planning Committee December 12 to retain Westwood Lane at a width of 66 feet. In the Vaughan Official Plan, which is still in effect in that area, Westwood has been designated as a collector road with an ultimate width of 88 feet.

The delegation last Wednesday night was backed up a written request presented in May of this year.

HAZARDOUS

Since Carrville Road is to be widened to 86 feet from Yonge to Bathurst Streets, the people of the Westwood Lane area are concerned about the hazard to children on their way to Charles Howitt School, which would be created by widening Westwood. Many property owners would have to give up a strip of land from their lots and since their homes are less than 30 feet from the present roadway, this would create an undesirable situation. Mr. Lee also pointed out that more expense would be entailed if Westwood was continued through to Bathurst since a certain amount of bridgework would be necessary. "We don't want it extended," he stated. He also noted that part of it falls into the area designated green belt by the Ontario government.

WEST SCOTT AGREES

Stephen Zukotynski reported the West Scott Homeowners had, at a meeting held the previous evening, agreed unanimously to support the petition. He noted that similar situations exist on Denham Drive and Avenue Road, both of which are designated collector roads in the Vaughan Official Plan, "leading from nowhere to nowhere. They, too, should be brought back to 66 feet."

A 28-year-old resident of the area, Allan Peck, told the meeting that Vaughan had purchased a widening easement from him 20 years ago. "With proper ditching and fully utilizing the existing width of 66 feet, I believe the town would have a better road."

FUTURE LAND USE

Planning Director Hesse Rimon reported he had attended the West Scott Homeowners' meeting. He believes that the road pattern in the area bounded by Bathurst and Yonge, Hwy. 7 and Carrville Road should relate to future land use. "In this respect we already have some major changes—the Hillcrest Mall and the land use study now underway. There are several unknowns on the south, just where the parkway belt will go. It would probably be wise to analyze this request in reference to proposed developments in the



SPEND NEW YEARS EVE

IN A BRITISH HOTEL

TWO BIG GALA PARTIES

PARKWAY HOTEL

HIGHWAY NO. 7, 1 MILE EAST OF BAYVIEW. 881-2121


Old English Roast Beef Dining Room
Dancing — Six Course Gourmet Dinner \$38.00 Couple

The Kings Club Lounge
Dancing to the Carnaby Street Band. \$12.50 Couple.
Sandwiches and Cheese Trays Available

TWO GREAT BANDS
Favours - Party Hats - Balloons - Fun Things

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 881-2121
Tickets must be picked up in advance

WE MAKE IT EASY ON MORE THAN TIRES!




STORIES

RICHMOND HEIGHTS CENTRE
250 Yonge Street North
RICHMOND HILL • 884-4401
OPEN NIGHTLY 'TIL 9 • SAT. 'TIL 6

USE OUR
Firestone
REVOLVING
CHARGE
PLAN
AMERICAN
EXPRESS
or CHARGEX

Last minute inspirations


with big-volume pricing at our 173 Christmas Stores!



HOVER Deluxe Constellation

- Walks on air — no wheels — no rollers.
- Convenience toe switch.
- Lightweight.
- All steel construction.
- Wrap-around bumper guard.
- Large throw-away bag change in seconds.
- Powerful motor.
- Handy Trac-Rack.
- Double stretch ultraflex hose.
- Complete with attachments.

ONLY \$49.99



26" General Electric COLOR CONSOLE WITH 100% SOLID STATE RELIABILITY ONE TOUCH COLOR TUNING

This console features black matrix picture tube, automatic tint lock and fine tuning control (AFC) and slide volume control. Full base Mediterranean console in pecan finish.

\$659.95

No hidden extras — Price includes 1 year "Factory Approved" in-home service.

WE MAKE IT EASY AT Firestone STORES

JUST IN TIME for Holiday Entertaining



SURGICAL STEEL SLICER

- Slim 10" blade.
- An astonishing low price for so much quality.
- Blades are forged, honed, and polished.
- Dishwasher proof for years of helpful service.

YOUR CHOICE \$89 EACH



SURGICAL STEEL FRENCH GOURMET KNIFE

This versatile knife has a stout 9" blade for chopping or slicing. A must if you love cooking.

- Superb surgical-quality steel takes and holds a very sharp cutting edge.
- Blades can never loosen. Blade extends full length of handle. Solid brass rivets.
- Dishwasher proof.

Compare at \$5.69

06-22-064-9 (10" carving knife)

06-22-065-7 (9" Fr. Chef)

Loblaws



FROZEN CONCENTRATED
12 1/2 FL. OZ. TIN **39¢**



Old South

100% ORANGE JUICE

from **FLORIDA**

PRICE EFFECTIVE TIL WED. DEC. 26th

Hodgson Announces

Scarboro Firm To Rebuild Hwy. 7

A contract for grading, drainage, granular base, hot mix paving and construction of four bridges on Highway 7 from the junction of Highway 11 easterly for five miles has been awarded to Dagmar Construction Limited of Scarboro, it was announced last week by William Hodgson, MLA, York North, government spokesman in York Region.

The amount of the contract is \$3,907,753. Work is slated to commence in early May, 1974, with completion scheduled for mid-September, 1975.