



(Photo by Angela Nori)

School Trustee Mrs. Merna Colbourne of Mount Albert has moved up from her vice-chairman's post to that of public school board chairman, succeeding Marvin Hunter of King, who did not seek re-election this year. The new board officers are shown at the York County Board of Education's inaugural meeting Monday night at Aurora. Taking over from Mrs. Colbourne as vice-chairman, was Tom Johnston of Keswick (right).

## York County Board Inaugural

BY JIM IRVING

Spending ceilings and the proposed Bill 275 are foremost among the things that York County Board of Education will have to deal with during 1974, retiring Chairman Marvin Hunter said Monday night at the inaugural meeting of the board.

Hunter was succeeded by Vice-Chairman, Merna Colbourne of Mount Albert.

He said that while York County had remained within its ceilings, it was becoming increasingly difficult. One of the first tasks in 1974 would be to finalize the budget. But salary negotiations with both elementary and secondary school teachers still weren't complete.

"If ceilings are to continue in force, they will have to be realistic and take into consideration the new situation in which both board and teachers find themselves," Hunter said.

**DIFFICULT YEAR**

1973 had been a difficult year for the teachers, and the '70s were producing many more problems, such as declining enrolments, redundancy and more extensive training requirements.

There were many loyal, dedicated professional teachers, who continued to put the interests of the students first.

"With the continued pressure of unionism, however, conflict will no doubt increase," Hunter said.

"We will all, trustees and teachers alike, find ourselves in a situation never experienced before and we must work together to devise ways to cope with it."

### Yes Sir!

Newly-elected chairman, of York County Board of Education, Merna Colbourne of Mount Albert, made it clear at Monday night's inaugural meeting just what her title will be.

During a discussion of the Thornhill area's Bayview Summit school complex Trustee Donald Sim of Markham, addressed Mrs. Colbourne — although somewhat facetiously — as "Madame Chairperson."

Replied Mrs. Colbourne: "You shall be allowed that once and then you've had it."

So it's Madame Chairperson from now on.

### AUTONOMY ERODED

He said Bill 275, with its concern with working conditions and compulsory binding arbitration, along with expenditure ceilings, produced the feeling the autonomy of the trustees would be completely eroded.

"Board members will have to consider carefully whether they have any value as representatives of the taxpayers," Hunter said.

He suggested the board and teachers get together to make representation to the province on the bill.

### NEED BETTER WAYS

He said also there was a

### Greatest Problem Board Faces Is Communication

Trustee Mrs. Merna Colbourne of Mount Albert was elected chairman of York County Board of Education at the inaugural meeting of the board Monday night.

Mrs. Colbourne, who served as vice-chairman last year, succeeds Marvin Hunter of King, who did not seek re-election.

Elected vice-chairman was Trustee Tom Johnston of Keswick.

In her inaugural address, Mrs. Colbourne said she felt the greatest problem faced by the board was one of communication.

Besides strengthening communications between trustees and staff, the board "must seek ways to communicate at all levels within our system and with the public," she said.

Several happenings, both inside and outside the board's jurisdiction had undermined confidence and trust and a determined effort must be made to rebuild in 1974, she said.

### MUST STUDY BILL

The provincial government's bill 274, which would have made the mass resignations by the school teachers illegal, "gave more or took away more of our trusteeship, depending on your point of view. It is dead or dying, but we have Bill 275 to debate. We need to study it at an early date and have some input for the Ministry. I hope our collective reaction will be of a constructive nature," Mrs. Colbourne said.

Bill 275, the follow up to Bill 274, is still being considered.

### 667 TEACHERS QUIT

A total of 667 secondary

deterioration in board-staff relationships during the year. Better ways of communicating must be found. There was a need for a teacher-board-administrative committee, apart from the negotiating teams, to sit down and work out their problems in the best interests of the students.

"I would suggest that each trustee seriously examine what they consider should be the role of the trustee in the light of the changing situation. Remember, we are the ones who are accountable to the public," Hunter said.

school teachers from York submitted their resignations last month, effective December 31. However, a compromise solution proposed by the board's salary negotiating committee, that would delay the resignations until January 31, was accepted by the teachers.

Mrs. Colbourne said the Education Act also needed consideration. Many changes were overdue, but there were some amendments she couldn't support.

"There was a busy year in store for the board, and more committees would have to be named. The co-operation of all would be needed to accomplish the many things that had to be done," she said.

**MILLIKEN** — A part of the past was lost September 3 when a former dance hall once operated by "Cap Adams" on Steeles Avenue west of the CNR tracks at Milliken was destroyed by fire. The hall was a popular haunt of the teen crowd when Billy Hole and his orchestra kept the joint jumping 25 years ago.

**NEWMARKET:** Campaign spending ceilings should be imposed in municipal elections, town councillors believe. The ceilings suggested are 15c per potential voter for each candidate for town councillor, 20c for regional councillor candidates and 25c for mayoralty candidates. They also suggest that every candidate be required to post a \$200 bond, subject to the same rules of forfeiture imposed on federal and provincial candidates.

## Richmond Hill Ring Stolen U.S. Autos

York Regional Police last week arrested three people in the Richmond Hill area in connection with a stolen car ring, which operated between Richmond Hill and Tennessee.

Police said a 1974 Montego sedan, a pickup truck and a 1973 Chevrolet sedan, all stolen from Chattanooga, were recovered in the Hill.

**WRECK PLATES**

One of the vehicles, the Montego, bore license plates that had been stolen from a wrecked car.

Police said they also recovered license plates, which had been dumped into a sewer in Mississauga.

**3 CHARGES**

Charged with three counts of possession of stolen property over \$200 are Arnold Olmstead, 31, of 31 Muirhead Crescent and Arthur Watt, 25, of 60 Laverock Avenue, Richmond Hill.

Shirley Patry, Watt's common-law wife, is charged with one count of possession over \$200.

### J. G. Montgomery

## Thornhill Citizen Supports Trustees' Teacher Pay Stand

Approval of York County Board of Education's stand during recent salary negotiations with its secondary school teachers, was given by a Thornhill resident in a letter to the board this week.

J. G. Montgomery, 53 Longbridge Road, said he had read "with interest" the board's statement regarding the negotiations in "The Liberal."

"I approve the stand that you have taken and hope you are successful in your negotiations with the teachers," Mr. Montgomery wrote.

He said he had recently completed 40 years with a financial concern and during that time, "the general feeling among my friends has been that we have little hope of matching the salaries and other benefits enjoyed by the teachers and we have little patience for further demands from this group which appear to have consistently enjoyed a rather privileged position in our society."

He said he didn't think his own salary and pension level would appeal much to a teacher of 15 years' experience.

"I fully approve of Mr. (John) Honsberger's remarks (chairman of the trustees salary negotiating committee) that merit rather than qualifications should be the predominant factor in determining salary levels," Mr. Montgomery said.

The letter was received by the board.

## COMING EVENTS

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE** — 3 sessions, Mondays and Fridays 8 pm, Wednesdays 1 pm. Oak Ridges Plaza, Marie Cole, 773-4280. tcf13

**CLUB 6-5000**

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**STOUFFVILLE:** Mayor Gordon Ratcliff of Whitechurch-Stouffville says the federal public inquiry established recently to hear new evidence on the need for an international airport in the Markham-Pickering area is just a stall. Mayor Ratcliff said the issue has been discussed so much and so many briefs have been presented that it is questionable if anything new can be said.

**BALLANTRAE:** The Whitechurch-Stouffville Town planning committee has recommended approval of a 25-30 acre industrial site north of the Aurora Side-road here. The owner of 175 acres already zoned industrial had sought approval for phased development of the whole property. Mayor Gordon Ratcliff opposed approval of the whole thing and was supported by the committee members present.

**STOUFFVILLE:** Mayor Gordon Ratcliff of Whitechurch-Stouffville Town in his New Year statement has listed acquisition of a public library as the municipality's first priority. He hopes a site will be selected by spring.

**JANUARY 18, FRIDAY, 8 pm** — Richmond Hill Naturalist regular meeting in St. Mary's Anglican Church Hall. Mr. Hesse Rimon, planning director for the Town of Richmond Hill will be the speaker. Visitors are welcome. c1w29

**JANUARY 24, THURSDAY, 8 pm** — Richvale monthly euchre, 31 Spruce Avenue. Refreshments. Admission \$1.00. c2w29

**JANUARY 25, 1974 — 92nd Annual Vellore Old Boys' Dance & Euchre.** At Vellore Memorial Hall, Fergie Lawson's Orchestra. Lunch provided. Admission — \$2.00. President Fred Constable, Vice-President Henry Casely, Treasurer Jack Williams, Secretary Howard Plunkett. \*2w28

**TUESDAY, Jan. 29 at 8 pm** York Simcoe Progressive Conservative Association annual meeting to be held at the Newmarket Legion Hall, 707 Strigley St. c2w29

## Province Clamps Down

## Shopping Plazas On Outskirts Pose Big Problems For Cities

Official Plans and zoning bylaws consume a lot of the time and thought of municipal and regional councils in this area and of their planning staffs. The Official Plan is a broad statement of planning policy and zoning bylaws implement these policies in specific terms relating to specific areas and sections of the municipality.

When the Region of York was born three years ago, the provincial government set the end of this year (a four year period) for the region and its municipalities to prepare Official Plans.

In this area Official Plans have been in effect for some years and have been updated by amendments as the need arose. However, since the nine area municipalities in the region have been formed by adding areas from one or more municipalities to another, the need for an overall plan to set revised and uniform policies for the new municipality is pressing.

**NO PLANS**

But there are still many municipalities (mostly rural) which have yet to prepare and adopt their first official plan.

The Village of Beeton in Simcoe County left those ranks December 13, when its Official Plan received ministerial approval. The plan was begun four years ago when the village was informed by the Municipal Board that it would not approve any further development in the village unless it had an Official Plan.

**DEVELOPMENT FREEZE**

About two years ago the provincial government put a freeze on all development in Chatham Township by means of a ministerial order, when that township issued a building permit for a large shopping mall on the outskirts of the City of Chatham. Similar orders were placed on neighboring Harwich and Raleigh Townships and 70 rural municipalities without planning controls.

It is expected that in the not too distant future, Barrie will annex this strip and will be stuck with the results of the lack of planning for years to come.

Effects of the Vespra strip on the city have been appalling. Half a dozen stores stand vacant and several others are reported to be on the verge of closing.

**SHOPPING CENTRES**

The key problem, which has developed recently, is location of large shopping centres on land without planning controls and without having municipal services available, just outside towns or cities which do have such controls and such services.

The initial problem is pressure brought to bear on the larger municipality for services. The end result, which may not be apparent immediately, is a falling off of custom from the central core of the municipality. This results in vacant stores as businesses fail, deterioration of the whole downtown shopping area, with owners reluctant to spend money in rehabilitating the buildings which may soon be vacant.

It is a vicious circle, the more neglected the retail outlets become, the fewer customers patronage them, the stocks run low and business continues to decrease, the whole downtown area becoming shabbier and shabbier.

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Help Keep Richmond Hill Beautiful

## Trying, Successful Vaughan Year Ahead

Vaughan Town Mayor Garnet Williams predicted that the Year 1974 would be "a year of trying but successful times."

His comments came at council's first meeting of the New Year Monday afternoon.

"We will no doubt have many pressures for development and it will be our obligation to design such in the best interest of the municipality," he said.

Mayor Williams speculated that York Regional Council will "no doubt be rather stable throughout the Year with new agreements with the province related to essential services such as water and sewers."

**WORD OF CAUTION**

He had a word of caution to members of his own council suggesting that they exercise care "in respect of relinquishing authority to the higher levels of government."

"I suggest that local municipal government should be held strong and to do this we should live up to our responsibilities and authority," he said.

In a brief preamble, Mayor Williams thanked his fellow

councillors and the members of staff of all departments for their contribution to a very successful 1973.

He concluded by saying that the municipality's boards and personnel "have also contributed immensely to our success, and our voluntary fire personnel, our library board, our advisory planning committee and our recreation committee have helped continuously to make 1973 an eventful year."



GARNET WILLIAMS

**PARENT'S NIGHT**

Richmond Hill School Auditorium

**Wednesday, January 23rd**

7:30 P.M.

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**PUBLIC MEETING**

DON HEAD SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

8:00 P.M.

- to elect your executive
- to establish the aims and purposes
- to look at the future

- if you think Richmond Hill citizens need greater participation in planning our Town's Future—

**COME AND BRING YOUR NEIGHBOURS!**



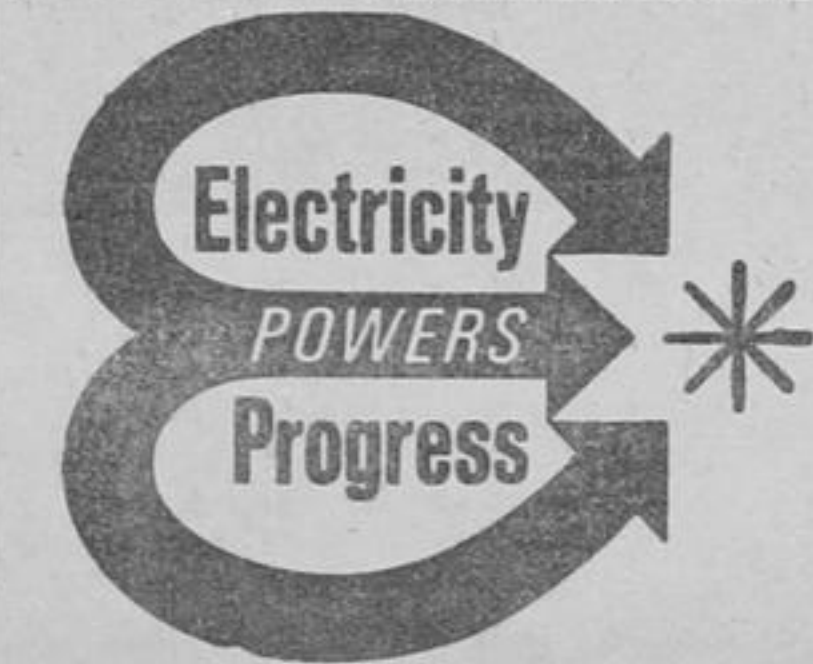
(Photo by Ron Fawn)

## \$20,000 Fire Damage

Fire of undetermined origin caused \$15,000 structural damage to the home of Mrs. Mary Mitchelitis, 89 Arnold Crescent, Richmond Hill Tuesday evening.

Another \$5,000 damage was done to the contents in the fire, which started around a chesterfield in a combination family room and kitchen area where Volunteer Firefighter Grant Wildes is shown amid smoke and sparks.

Richmond Hill firefighters answered the call at 6:54 pm and didn't check out again until more than two hours later.



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