

Name Richmond Hill, Newmarket Possible Sites Regional Centre

Richmond Hill and Newmarket have been listed as top choices for the site of the proposed York Region administrative complex.

Last week, York Regional Council approved without comment a preliminary planning department study on the search for a site, which recommended the old York Manor Farm in Newmarket and an area just west of Yonge Street in Richmond Hill.

The report said that a location in Richmond Hill would be "representative of different over-all land use, and would be a development magnet of a different order" from Newmarket.

Because of its urban setting, the centre and accompanying development would have less of an effect on Richmond Hill than Newmarket, because of the sizes of the two towns.

CLOSER TO PEOPLE
However, as a service centre, a complex in Richmond Hill would be closer to "a very large population" of regional residents, the report said.

Speaking of the proposed York Manor location, the report said a centre there would be able to service as

a development catalyst for the immediate area, the land being open, slightly treed and abutting Yonge Street and the municipal services.

"The relative accessibility, while good, is not the best in the Region, being the most removed with the longest travel time from urban centres in Southern York Region, and from Metro Toronto," the report said.

PRICE HIGH
"While this location could work as a development catalyst, it would not be as distinctive as other possible locations for a small-scale centre and would give rise to further development pressure west of Yonge Street," the report continued.

It said also that the price of land in Richmond Hill would be "among the highest of considered locations." The region already owns the Newmarket property.

Included in the new centre will Regional Council chambers, offices for regional departments, and offices frequently used by the public.

In addition, the following might be included: provincial courtroom and court offices, provincial ministries with responsibilities within the

region, such as Natural Resources; other governmental bodies dealing with the region — board of education, etc.; various professional groups; services, such as restaurants and shops.

OAK RIDGES POSSIBLE
Ruled out from present planning were sites in Aurora, Vaughan, Markham and Oak Ridges, although the latter could be considered if council allowed time for "serious site and design studies," the report said.

The planning department will now examine specific sites in Richmond Hill and Newmarket and report to council on the feasibility of each site as a final location for the centre.

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Teachers Protest Docking

School Board Reserves Decision On Appeal

York County Board of Education January 28 reserved its decision on an appeal by York County Elementary Teachers Association Federation on the board's recent decision to deduct one day's credit to the retirement gratuity accounts from those teachers who boycotted classes December 18, 1973 to protest the introduction of Bill 274.

Making the presentation on behalf of YCETAF, was Susan Shepe, president. She was accompanied by Signe Snary, president of York County Women's Teachers Federation, and Stewart Bell, president, Ontario Public School Men's Teachers Federation, District 22.

Mrs. Shepe said it wasn't the intention of the group to "re-fight the battle of Bill 274" — the government bill outlawing mass resignations — nor did they expect payment for the day they had missed.

However, "we don't expect to lose two day's pay," she said.

She described the action as a "punitive" one, in which older teachers, "who could qualify as your most faithful employees," were penalized.

The action seemed a poor one at a time when both teachers and trustees admitted to deteriorating relationships, Mrs. Shepe said. Groups whose positions were polarized by resentment, couldn't work together in any way when faced with that type of conflict.

She asked the board to reconsider its actions.

Trustee Don Sim of Markham said the board received advice from a wide variety of people, so it welcomed the delegation of teacher representatives. However, the majority of calls received recently from taxpayers was that the board had been too

lenient with the teachers, whose action they considered a "breach of conduct."

"They said the teachers should have been penalized even more," he said.

He said the "most faithful" teachers "that Mrs. Shepe had referred to were in school on the day of the walkout. This brought a few hoots from the packed audience of teachers."

Mr. Sim said he had heard nothing from Mrs. Shepe to offset the reasoning that the board was too lenient.

"I don't think I could interpret that as a question," said Mrs. Shepe, who had asked for questions after her presentation.

Trustee Margaret Coburn of King wondered if the teachers were equating the matter with sick leave.

Mrs. Shepe said they weren't asking it to be considered as a sick day. "If you don't work, you don't get paid," she said.

Trustee Marvin Hunter said that on sick leave, one day was charged against the teacher's sick pay, and one against the retirement gratuity fund for the first three days. After the third day, there was no charge.

Trustee Doreen Quirk of Markham said that on the day of the walkout, there had been some teachers who had been off sick legitimately. Those people lost a day from their retirement fund. "Can you tell me why we should reward you?" she asked.

Mrs. Shepe said she couldn't "follow the logic" of those who were sick with those who stayed away to protest.

With the discussion limited to 15 minutes—a recent rule of the board's to cover delegations — Chairman Merna Colbourne of Mount Albert at that point ended the discussion and said the board would be getting in touch with the group.

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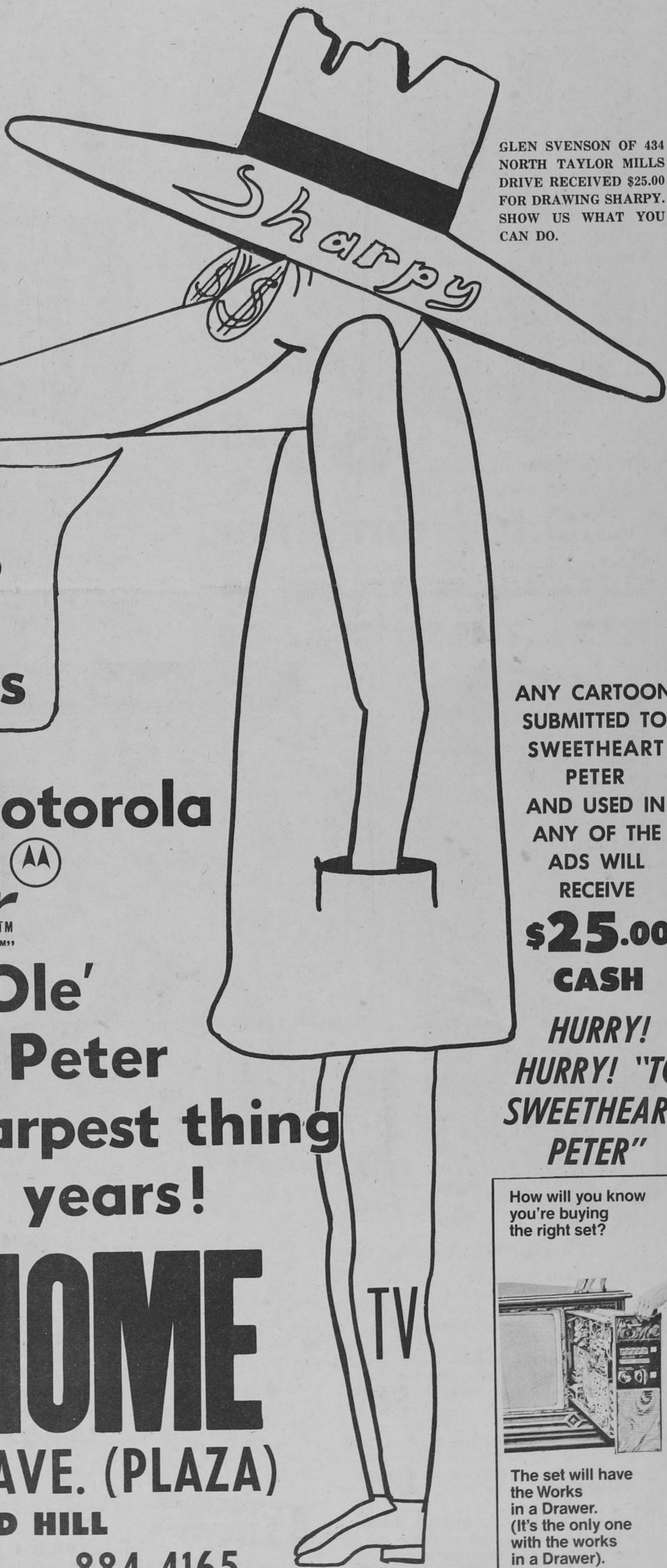
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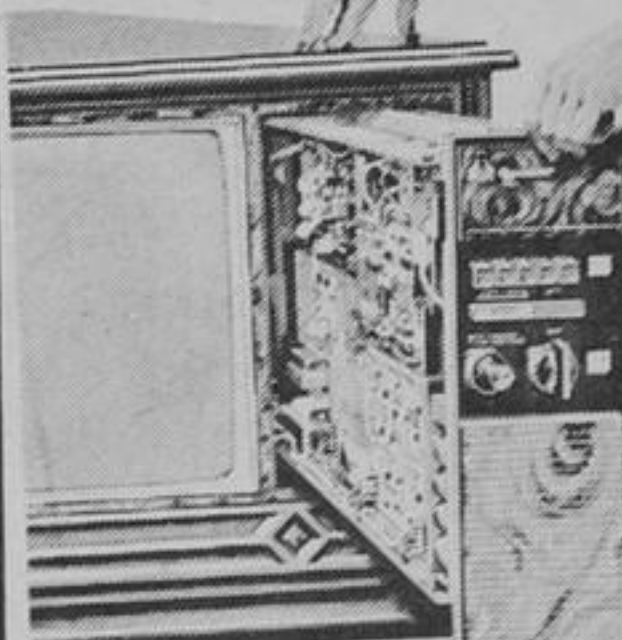


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