



(Photo by Susan Samila)

Red Cross Honors 2 Blood Donors

York Central Hospital here in Richmond Hill gets 1,500 units of blood each year from the Red Cross. Yet last year Richmond Hill resident blood donors totalled only 880. So the town isn't doing its share and more donors are badly needed at the Red Cross clinic today at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Hall from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 9 pm.

Two local nurses who have really been doing their part as blood donors were honored last week by the Red Cross for giving more than 35 units. Shown (left to right) during presentation of certificates at the home of local Red Cross Chairman Mrs. Betty Armstrong at 48 Bridgeport Street are 35-unit donor Mrs. Jean Lavender of Richmond Hill,

56-unit donor Mrs. Trix Bryce of 2448 Rutherford Road, Maple and Red Cross Area "A" Supervisor Miss Ann Murray.

Hoping local residents will be inspired by the example of the above two ladies, local Red Cross workers are aiming for the 300-donor mark at the clinic today. Giving blood takes only a short time and as always, coffee and doughnuts are provided for all who come. As 56-unit donor Mrs. Bryce commented when asked how she felt about donating blood over the years, "It makes a nice half-hour out of a busy day. So think of it that way while helping someone to live because you give." Regional Taxi provides free transportation service to the clinic if you telephone 884-9191.

Say Won't Pay School Taxes

Two Richmond Hill citizens have informed town council by letter that they will either withhold some of their tax money for education, or ask for a rebate if the current strike of York secondary school teachers continues.

Eric Handbury, 59 Centre Street West, said that he would take off 1/26th of his taxes for the two weeks that the strike has gone on, and 1/52nd of them for each week thereafter. He said he felt teaching was an "irretrievable service," like firefighting, if either service were withheld, what was lost couldn't be regained.

As a result, any attempt by the board of education to collect taxes "on their behalf is extortion," Mr. Handbury told "The Liberal."

He said he wasn't concerned with who was to blame in the strike, but with getting his two children back to school.

John Dobrzynski, 32 Richmond Street, told council that, if the taxpayers weren't getting a service, they shouldn't pay for it.

He said he would ask for a rebate for every day the strike continues. And if his son failed his year, he would ask for a complete rebate.

Deacon Submits Five-Point Plan To End Prolonged Teacher Strike

By JIM IRVING

"The final offer selection principle is the best way under the circumstances for the public interest to be upheld and for the more reasonable party to win its case," Donald Deacon MLA York Centre, told a public meeting of about 600 people at Markham District High School Sunday night. Mr. Deacon's proposal, one of five he submitted to the meeting, called for both parties to agree to voluntary arbitration, with the arbitrator selecting which of the two final offer contracts he considers the more reasonable; that would be the final contract for the current year.

York County Board of Education agreed to voluntary binding arbitration two weeks ago, but the teachers have continually refused to commit themselves to any such agreement.

Both the trustees and the teacher representatives from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, were scheduled to meet again Monday in an effort to settle their dispute, which emptied secondary school classes in York three weeks ago. During the weekend, Jack

agree on a choice within one week, an arbitrator will be appointed by Mr. Wells. The arbitrator would hold a public meeting, where each side would state its case.

Another public meeting was scheduled for Vandorf Community Hall tonight (Thursday).

William Hodgson MLA York North, a government Member in a report to "The Liberal" outlined the background for Bill 275 — "an act to amend the schools administration act" — saying that it had grown out of the Toronto teachers strike of 1970.

First reading was given December 10, 1973. At that time, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation "decided that Bill 275 met nine and a half out of thirteen conditions which they felt vital to future negotiations," Mr. Hodgson said.

He said the bill contained two features considered of paramount importance by both teachers and trustees. The first was the teachers right to negotiate terms and conditions of work; the second would be a five-step negotiations process between the two parties.

This would include four-and-a-half months of free collective bargaining, followed by two months of mediation.

Compulsory arbitration would be used only as a last resort, Mr. Hodgson said.

In addition, an Education Relations Commission is proposed, which would appoint mediators and chairmen of arbitration boards where teachers and board are unable to agree on an appointment.

The bill also requires school boards to establish a teacher-board relations committee, which would provide for regular meetings between the two factions.

Bill 275 will be referred to the Social Development Committee when the Legis-

lature convenes, Mr. Hodgson said.

At that time, anyone wishing to make his views known will be given an opportunity to.

Individual Aid For Grade 13s

Course outlines and general assignments on all subjects are being prepared for grade 13 students in York County schools, it was stated at a chairman's meeting of the Board of Education Monday night.

The board scrapped its regular agenda for the evening in favor of matters dealing with the current teacher strike.

It also announced that it would ask the Ministry of Education to expedite the processing of applications for correspondence courses, which have been taking from 10 days to two weeks to process.

Students wishing more information on the courses may call 965-2657, or visit the correspondence course services building at 1152 Bay Street in Toronto.

The students are also being advised to get in touch with their teachers if they wish individual coaching in their subjects. The board said that teachers had expressed a willingness to help on this basis.

So far as night school courses are concerned, the board ruled them out as not being feasible. It was felt that the switch back and forth between teachers would be too difficult for some students. Also, there seemed to be a reluctance on the part of some of the night school teachers, who were members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, but not from York County, to conduct the classes during the strike.

Misrepresented Facts On Arbitration?

Teacher's Letter Is Disputed

Richmond Hill High School teacher, Roy Clifton, owes "Liberal" newspaper readers an apology for "misrepresenting" facts about the current secondary school teachers strike in York, John Honsberger, chairman of the York County Board of Education trustees' negotiating committee, has charged in a letter to "The Liberal."

Mr. Honsberger was commenting on remarks made by Mr. Clifton in this paper last week, in which he claimed the voluntary binding arbitration agreement the board signed, "committed them to very little."

Mr. Clifton wrote that the agreement, which the teachers did not sign, didn't commit the board to arbitrating any specific item in dispute.

"The terms of reference were not agreed on, and it would have been open to the board later to refuse to submit any of the items to arbitration which up to now they have declined to discuss," he said.

The teachers had taken the "sensible view that signing any agreement which did not specify the items to be submitted to arbitration would not have advanced the settlement of the dispute beyond where it stood for the moment..." Mr. Clifton said.

WITHHOLDING INFORMATION?

In his reply, Mr. Honsberger said the letter "nicely illustrates the point I have made before, which is that negotiators for the teachers are either withholding from the teachers the actual position taken by the board's negotiators and the matters on which they have agreed to bargain, or they have deliberately misrepresented the position of the board for their own purposes."

Mr. Clifton's charge that the board refused to consider such matters as class size, payment by category, grievance procedures, and so on, was "simply not the case," he said.

Mr. Honsberger outlined the agreement in question, which he stated as follows: Issues arbitrable pertaining

to proposed amendments to the expired agreement between the board and its secondary school teachers; salary grid, fringe benefits, utilization of category, tenure, board policies affecting teachers benefits (reference thereto in agreement), grievance procedure, arbitration, management rights and sanctions, terms and conditions of work and pupil-teacher ratio.

He said the board intended the list to be "all-inclusive" of outstanding issues between the two parties, and no additional items, deletions or corrections in the list were proposed by the teachers negotiating committee.

APOLOGY NEEDED

After the teachers refused

to sign the agreement, a compromise plan, which had the teachers returning to their schools, lifting their sanctions against the board and agreeing to the terms of an arbitration agreement, was proposed by Education Minister Thomas Wells, Mr. Honsberger said.

"The trustees agreed at once to this proposal. The teachers again refused."

"It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Clifton was misinformed in respect of the matters he writes about with such certainty, or has he deliberately misrepresented them?"

"In either event, he owes an apology to my readers," the letter concluded.

Honsberger Queries Lengthy Negotiations

York County Board of Education is actively continuing to seek arbitration as a means of settling the current secondary school teachers strike, in place of negotiations, which could prolong the strike even more, John Honsberger, chairman of the trustees' negotiating committee, said Tuesday.

Mr. Honsberger was replying to a release from Vince Mathewson, chairman of the teacher negotiating team, in which he stated negotiators for the board refused to co-sign a statement Monday night agreeing that a mutually-negotiated settlement was preferable to an imposed arbitration settlement.

Mr. Mathewson said the same statement urged joint progress reports to keep the public informed on negotiations.

Mr. Honsberger said the statement had been handed to him at 11 o'clock Monday night, and at one point he was given a three-minute deadline to consider it.

He said the board reserved its right to continue to seek arbitration. Negotiations were fine, but not if they were going to keep the students out of school for another two weeks.

He said he didn't think all the teachers were aware of what the board was willing to negotiate.

Mr. Honsberger said the board would agree to the proposal to issue joint progress reports on deliberations.

Mr. Mathewson had this to say about negotiations: "Successful negotiation will lead to an agreement between the parties, whereas arbitration would impose a settlement that either or both parties might find highly unsatisfactory. The quality of education in the future would be better served by a mutual agreement than an imposed settlement (correction: solution). Therefore, in view of the progress of negotiations at this time, no further consideration of arbitration is being contemplated."

90 Irate South Thornhillers Oppose 108-Unit Townhouse Project Near CNR

About 90 civilly disobedient South Thornhill residents, variously angry and determined, Monday night of last week gave the members of their Markham Town Council what must have been the roughest verbal tearing to pieces any local government body has received for years here in southern York Region.

The citizens were out to a public hearing in support of a 400-signature petition previously submitted against a 9-acre 108-unit townhouse project. The townhouses are proposed between Clark Avenue and the CN rail line, east of Henderson Avenue and opposite Vanwood Road and Johnson Street.

A demand for an investigation and a charge of "pay-off" flew from the assembly as citizens demanded to know how the town let a multiple housing density into this acreage. It is an area largely devoted to big, expensive single family dwellings. Residents demanded a zoning change to keep out the townhouses.

Councillors who previously worked with the development application for months appeared to be at a loss to know what to do to satisfy

This was in view of the Official Plan and zoning determined for the land in proceedings of previous councils during the 1960s.

DISTURBING FACTOR

One of the things that disturbed the residents most was that they recently were fairly sure the land would be used for semi-detached dwellings of much lower density. They told of the reasons for their belief. Hearings before previous councils made them feel they could be assured this land would be developed at a much lower density.

As recently as three years ago the municipality received

and approved a plan for a semi-detached housing development. But the land was subsequently sold. The plan for semis was abandoned and 162 townhouses was proposed by the new owner, Sole Development.

Recent new residents were aware of the approved plan for semis. They built and bought new homes believing they would be adjacent to semi-detached homes. They were shocked by the townhouse proposal.

HINDSIGHT BETTER

Town Planning Committee Chairman Robert Adams, a regional and Markham Councillor, said (Continued on Page 3)

Extend Lake Wilcox Study

Extension of the Lake Wilcox Study by M. M. Dillon Limited, consulting engineers and planners, to the north of the Bloomington Sideroad was approved by Richmond Hill Council Monday. The additional cost will be \$6,800 and another bill of \$1,573.35 for extra work in the Lake Wilcox area will bring the account to \$8,373.35. The motion by Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe was seconded by Ward 5 Councillor William Corcoran.

"For the benefit of the whole town I believe we should complete the whole section for the Official Plan," stated Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe, who heads the Lake Wilcox Study Committee. He estimated the complete report would be available by March 31.

Both Mayor William Lazenby and Regional Councillor Lois Hancey pointed out that they have favored having the whole area done before the contract was let last year, but council had decided to limit the boundaries to Lake Wilcox. However, it was pointed out that their proposal had been to extend the area westward right to Bathurst Street.

The aroused citizens. Town planning staff had been unable to advise of any way to keep out the townhouses.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey reported that both planning committee and council had approved the recommendations of the planning director that the severances not be granted. But when the C of A decision came before council the decision was not to deal with it, although the previous decision had been to recommend refusal.

She also recalled that in 1971 "the planning committee had a meeting with the chairman of the C of A and both parties agreed that any severance which would create three or more lots would be deemed to be a subdivision and should be subject to a subdivision agreement. This policy has been stated on several occasions," she said.

Planning Committee Chairman David Stephenson moved and Mrs. Hancey seconded the motion to appeal the decision which carried unanimously.

At five o'clock Committee of Adjustment Chairman A. John MacDiarmid and committee members William Ruttle, Tom Graham and Vern Plant arrived. Mr. MacDiarmid took exception to the minutes of the C of A being read at a planning committee meeting before they had been approved by the committee. He explained why he had adjourned his committee's meeting at the end of January when a decision could not be reached on an application

Will Appeal C of A Decision

Richmond Hill Council agreed to appeal a recent Committee of Adjustment approval of severance of four lots on the east side of Kelsey Crescent north of Werdwick Road, at its meeting Monday.

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erect more than one dwelling in a residential zone on any lot in a registered plan unless a specific bylaw is passed to exempt the lot. Vaughan must have been requested to do that."

"Our interpretation was somewhat different," stated Mr. MacDiarmid. "But we always warn applicants they may run into other difficulties."

"The people here and others interested should then get together as a group or as several groups to apply for rezoning," suggested Mayor William Lazenby. "That would be the only way we can give them what you tried to give them."

Mrs. Hancey admitted that she had asked for the C of A minutes since she had been unable to attend the sitting and wanted to know the outcome, and that she had read the minutes at the planning committee meeting. "True, I didn't check to see if they had been approved. In my enthusiasm to make all committee members aware of the decision I read them in open meeting. I apologize to the C of A. I should at least have got approval of the chairman to take them to planning committee. My purpose was to indicate there had been a division of opinion."

She also quoted from a letter from Town Solicitor Tom Fraser who said, in reply to the question, "Should the decisions be appealed by council?" "In my opinion the decisions should be appealed."

A motion by Mrs. Hancey, seconded by Councillor Andy Chateauvert that the C of A decision in this case be appealed was lost.

Hill Council Refuses RC School Board Rebate

York County Roman Catholic School Board has sold 250 feet frontage on Dufferin Lane to the Ontario Housing Corporation for senior citizen housing, John LeClaire, the board's solicitor, told Richmond Hill Council at its February 18 meeting. This is five-eighths of the former Dunlop property purchased by the board in 1966 for an extension of Our Lady of Fatima School which was never built, and is immediately to the west of the first senior housing units built here.

In 1967 when Dufferin Lane was extended to serve the first senior citizen housing at 75 Dufferin, the board decided to the town a strip of land for road widening at no cost and signed an agreement dated June 6, 1967, that a local improvement levy of \$5,748 for services (watermain, sanitary and storm sewers) be paid by 1976 without interest or earlier if all or part of the land was sold or developed. Mr. LeClaire sought relief from this

part of the agreement and requested the town to waive payment of five-eighths of this levy (approximately \$3,600). After much deliberation council refused his application for the forgiveness.

He told council that when the board was deciding to sell the whole or part of the Dunlop property, it was put in touch with the OHC with the active encouragement and participation of Mayor William Lazenby. "In no way did the mayor hold out that any forgiveness such as we are asking for would be given. Nevertheless, as soon as the board was put in touch with OHC it discontinued any further efforts towards a sale to other parties. The mayor, I think, felt strongly that another senior citizens building was a social need in Richmond Hill."

Mr. LeClaire reported that the sales price was \$152,500 and that the board had expropriated the property from the Dunlop estate, paying \$43,000. He said

the property was zoned for single family residences and the current price for a 50 foot lot is \$30,000.

Mr. LeClaire based his appeal on the fact that the levy would fall on the separate school supporters across York.

Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe expressed concern about such a forgiveness setting a precedent, an argument backed up later by a Consultant Otto Whelan, who had supervised the drawing up of the agreement in 1967. Mr. LeClaire argued that since the sale was a matter of public benefit to the town, between one public body and another one not a sale to a private speculator that it would not set a precedent.

He also noted that the board will have to pay a substantial penalty to the Ministry of Education, estimated at between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey pointed out that the municipality had put in a side-

walk along the frontage and asked if this was not taken into consideration by the purchaser in the sale of the property. "In my opinion the agreement was signed in good faith and I don't think you really have a case. In 1967 the people of Richmond Hill had to absorb the cost of these services and were assured the money would be coming back."

"The municipality has picked up the interest for nine years amounting to about \$3,500 and put in the sidewalk," noted Mayor William Lazenby.

"You have another three lots?" asked Councillor Graeme Bales. "Yes, but they'll never be used for housing," was the answer.

"This is strictly a business agreement," commented Councillor William Corcoran.

Later Mr. LeClaire returned to the meeting with the school board's cheque for \$5,748 so that the sale to OHC could proceed.