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(Photo by Susan Samila)

Daybreak Residents To Spend Easter At Canterbury

Residents of Daybreak House for the Retarded received the blessings of Rev. Earl Gerber at St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson, Sunday, along with pictures of the 126 year-old church where many of them worship regularly, bells and letters to the Dean of Canterbury. The residents of Daybreak, Yonge Street North, along with other retarded adults from across the country, left Monday on an Easter Pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral in England. A few years ago they, in company with hundreds of retardates from all over the world, made a pilgrimage to the Shrine at Lourdes in France.

Daybreak, was opened in 1969 by Dr. Jean Vanier, son of the late Governor-General Georges Vanier, and founder of the L'Arche community for the retarded in France. Directors are Stephen and Ann Newroth who had spent a year as volunteer workers at L'Arche. There are now 24 handicapped adults in residence, ranging from 18 to 55, but there is no upper age limit at Daybreak. The average age at present is 24, says Mr. Newroth. The majority live in the large main house, which includes administrative

and recreational facilities. Eight are housed in a new cottage-style house on the farm property, and another similar building is being constructed.

The pilgrims will be accompanied by a number of friends of the retarded, including Rev. Keith Gleed, an Anglican priest from Hamilton who will serve as their spiritual leader. Arrangements for the visit were made by Dr. Therese Vanier, a medical doctor and sister of Jean, who heads the L'Arche program in England.

The Canadian pilgrims will be ringing their bells through the streets of Canterbury, (as pilgrims have done for 400 years) on the way to the cathedral where they will attend the service Easter morning.

The party will then go on to France to meet 550 residents of mentally retarded centres there and will spend two days in a castle in Aumale, returning to Canada April 23.

Parishioners of St. John's joined the Daybreak residents before the altar on Sunday as Rev. Gerber commissioned the pilgrims.

Like Vaughan, Like Us: Council Hill Clamors For Region Water

If Vaughan Town can stand up and clamor for more water from the Region of York so can Richmond Hill.

That was the general attitude at town council Monday night of this week when it voted unanimously to support Vaughan's request for an additional water supply.

"We all need more water so let's get up and throw our weight behind Vaughan and get Markham to support us too," stated Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe who is vice-chairman of the region's engineering committee.

Councillor Rowe said it was time "to get moving" as he acknowledged that he had had little success with his pleas to the region to date.

"We just don't seem to be getting the co-operation from either the region or the provincial powers that be," he said.

He pointed out that negotiations had been underway for some time to buy water from Metro but he also wondered why it was necessary to even do so.

"We have enough water in Richmond Hill as it is if we only tap it. I have the suspicion that the powers-that-be just don't want us to do it."

SCHEME FIZZLED

He said that the region had come up with a scheme to tap resources at Bond Lake "two or three years ago which would have given up enough water to flood the whole town. The scheme was talked about and just seemed to die. Maybe the province is afraid too much."

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Mayor Lazenby Is Soaked As BAIF Flood Hits Richvale Again

Heavy rainstorm flooding struck again Wednesday night of last week in the Wedrick Road area of Richvale. The flooding occurs behind road grading done recently in connection with the big BAIF subdivision. There residents are still recovering from thousands of dollars in damage suffered March 4.

But this time Richmond Hill town staff led by a water-soaked Mayor William Lazenby arrived in time to stave off the worst of the damage.

"They looked like a bunch of kids playing in water. I never realized the kind of mayor we have. He's very helpful. He tries hard. Now it is up to BAIF to settle the damage and right the situation," Peter Falconi of 46 Wedrick Road told this newspaper.

SOUNDED ALARM

It was Falconi who saved the day this time when he arrived home late while everybody else was sleeping.

He sounded the alarm to town staff. He arrived home from bowling at about 11 pm and the water was lapping at his basement window sills.

Town Tax Credit Not Property Lien

Bill Rice, treasurer of the Town of Richmond Hill, said that a story in "The Liberal" last week on tax grants to senior citizens implied that the \$100 credit given to them by the town was a lien against their property.

The latter was referred to in a story, in which the City of Brampton had asked York Regional Council to endorse a resolution calling for the provincial government to boost the grant under the Municipal and School Tax Credit Assistance Act to \$300, up \$150 from the original grant.

The grant is given to assist people on a fixed income to remain in their own homes by reducing for them by way of grant or credit, their annual real property tax payment. It becomes a lien against the property, payable to the government on the sale of the property, or death of the property owner.

Richmond Hill at present allows senior citizens an extra \$100 in tax credit, giving them a total of \$250.

Mr. Rice stressed that the additional \$100 was not a lien against the property, but an outright tax credit from the municipality.

Parents Study Strike Threat

The steering committee of the newly-formed Parents' Council of Thornhill held its first meeting Sunday to draw up a constitution, but a threatened strike of York County school maintenance workers changed the format somewhat.

Thelma Sues, who was elected communications director, said that instead the meeting concerned itself with what action the parents would take if the education of the students was curtailed because of a strike.

The meeting approved a motion by Art Fowler, vice-chairman, calling for a public meeting within five days of such an event, and the joining of forces with other areas in York Region for a "combined effort for action."

The meeting also agreed to look into the issues involved in the contract dispute with the maintenance workers.

Mrs. Sues said the Parents' Council would welcome inquiries from parents in the area.

The maintenance men voted on the weekend to strike if their demands aren't met, and set April 22 as the strike date.

They currently earn \$3.50 to \$3.90 an hour, depending on job classification, and are seeking a 25 percent pay increase and an 18-month contract.

Their two-year contract expired December 31.

Buck Seeks Figures Day Care Costs

An attempt by Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora to even up the costs of day care centres throughout the region, was turned down by a meeting of York Regional Council last week.

Mrs. Buck's motion stated that, while salaries for day care staff had been increased, and council's policy was that users who could afford to pay the full cost of care should do so, the maximum fee should be increased to reflect accurate costs of care in the Newmarket, Aurora and Richmond Hill day care centres.

She said she thought costs in Newmarket were more for keeping babies and retarded children than at the other centres.

Mayor Buck will present a motion at the next meeting calling for figures showing actual costs in each centre in relation to present charges.

Domed Stadium: Mixed Reviews

By FRED SIMPSON

One ratepayer thought it was a "fabulous plan, let's get on with it."

Another wondered "what's it going to cost us, developers don't give you anything for nothing."

Opinions ran the gamut from "it'll make Richmond Hill world-famous" to "who wants to be world-famous?"

What's it all about?

It was Parmata Holdings first public unveiling of its much-talked-about Richmond Hill "dome stadium" proposal before 160 ratepayers at Bayview Secondary School Wednesday night of last week. Richmond Hill Mayor William Lazenby explained that the purpose of the meeting was to "hear reactions to the plan from the public. Your reactions will be assessed by members of council in helping them to decide the merits of this proposal by Parmata."

Parmata's proposal envisages a combined residential-commercial-industrial complex on the 640 acre Langstaff Farm at Highway 7 and Yonge Street in Richmond Hill. The domed stadium would be the hub of the whole project. The farm is owned by the City of Toronto.

MIXED FEELINGS

The general reaction of those in attendance appeared to be mixed with some all for the stadium, some against, and others wanting to know more about it.

A considerable number hadn't made up their minds.

Richmond Hill Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe, who admitted to being an "avid sports fan" and all for the stadium, urged everyone to get behind the project.

He listed a number of the merits to having a domed stadium adding that the present 640 acres is "very valuable and all we get from the City of Toronto is \$6,500 a year in taxes."

WHY SUBSIDIZE TORONTO

He contended that the taxpayers of Richmond Hill were actually subsidizing the City of Toronto because "if that land was being farmed we would stand to bring in \$22,000 a year in taxes. I for one, don't want to subsidize Toronto any longer."

Councillor Rowe said that approval of the project and subsequent purchase of the jail site would "mean no financial burden on the taxpayers of Richmond Hill."

Mr. Rowe urged the ratepayers to support the proposal stating that "unless we become united now, we are again going to be number two to Montreal and lose this stadium concept that will stagger the imagination."

One of the major concerns expressed by individuals in the audience centred around the availability of services for the project and whether the residents of Richmond Hill would suffer as a result.

Both Mayor William Lazenby and Councillor Rowe assured them that no domed-stadium project would go ahead until water and sewer services were available.

Mr. Rowe agreed that water service "is a problem and I don't know all the answers to what's happening at the moment. It's a regional matter. But I can assure you that there will be no stadium until we have the services. It would be stupid to build a stadium-complex without water or other services."

There were queries as to why the town was approaching the City of Toronto to purchase the site rather than Parmata.

PARMATA'S MONEY

Mayor Lazenby said that the town would be just acting as an "agent" for Parmata in purchasing the property for a reported \$10,000,000 or up figure. "By acting as agents I feel we would have more control over the site. Parmata would give us the money and we would give it to the City of Toronto."

He noted also that major-trunk-line services would be coming through the present property as a regional project in any case and any "internal services on the development would be paid for by the developers."

As to the possibility that the developer could possibly go broke?

REPUTABLE COMPANY

Parmata Spokesman Norman Similas assured the audience that "we are a very reputable company that has been in business for 20 years and intend to stay in for another 300."

Mr. Lazenby commented that the company had been thoroughly investigated by town officials as to financial capabilities and felt that any concern in this direction was groundless.

"In any case," he said, "if such an eventuality occurred the property would revert to the town and it would still be a very valuable piece of land."

Former Richmond Hill Councillor David Schiller questioned whether the inheriting of the property in case Parmata went "b belly up" would be such a boom to the municipality.

He suggested that if Parmata should mortgage the cost of such a project in part and did go broke the "municipality could be left with having to pay the mortgage operating costs. I suggest it could turn out to be absolutely disastrous to a municipality the size of ours."

(Continued on page 16)

Approve Budget But Hold Back Projects

York Regional Council last week approved a budget of \$3,318,000 for roadway expenditures in the 1974 budget for the engineering department, but didn't quite agree with Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora and Councillor Robert Adams of Markham that their own special projects be moved up a notch in the proceedings.

First off was Mayor Buck, who asked that \$50,000 of the budget be included for work on Wellington Street in Aurora.

However, Robert Hodgson, commissioner of engineering, said that, while Wellington was in need of repairs, it was considered a back-up project to be undertaken if other projects fell through.

Mrs. Buck said she didn't see why it should be considered in that category, seeing as how long they had waited for any work to be done on it.

Mr. Hodgson said there was still some property to be expropriated and some construction drawings to be finalized. They hoped to do the work on Wellington Street in one year instead of spreading it over two.

Councillor Adams said he couldn't see how they could spend another year and not "let Bayview Avenue go through." They had been "playing around" with Bayview since the region began, he said.

The region's 1974 construction program calls for the grading, graveling and paving of Bayview from Steeles Avenue to the CNR crossing at Thornlea to reconstruct the existing roadway to a basic four-lane roadway.

Mr. Hodgson said the department planned to stay with two lanes at present. If they put in four lanes now and then covered up with a grade separation in 1975, it would be poor economy.

"Has the engineering committee considered putting a four-lane easement around, instead of two during the construction period?" asked Mr. Adams, who would like to see four lanes north of Highway 7.

Mr. Hodgson said it hadn't; a separate lane was needed for the Royal Orchard exit.

What was the criterion need to make a road four lanes?" asked Mr. Adams.

Mr. Hodgson said it was based on traffic projection; a two-lane roadway carried some 18,000 vehicles.

"Are you saying we don't need four lanes north of Highway 7," said Mr. Adams.

"We don't need it today, but will over a 20-year period," said Mr. Hodgson.

Mr. Adams said that if council had wanted to, it could have had the grade separation started by now.

Said Councillor Gordon Rowe of Richmond Hill: "We have done everything in our power. Let's not start the election now."

A motion by Councillor Ray Tinney of Newmarket that council investigate the possibility of taking \$50,000 from the property acquisition budget for the work on Wellington Street in Aurora, was approved by council.

Communication Still Presents Problem School Board, OSSTF

Communication still seems to be a problem between York County Board of Education and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation; at least if Monday's board meeting was any indication.

That there just may be some gaps in the system was amply illustrated when two spokesmen for WEB (Watchers of Educational Bureaucracy) a citizens' group, appeared before the board to remind it that it was keeping a watchful eye on it, with the tacit declaration that it couldn't let the schools close again.

Caretakers for York County's school have set April 22 as a strike date, and the elementary teachers are also engaged in a wage dispute with the board.

It was the latest news of Thornhill on this latter segment supplied by the WEB pair, Chris McMonagle, Thornhill, and Joy Horton, Stouffville, that jolted the board.

A salary package was to be presented to the teachers' negotiating team on April 16, they said, and in turn it would be presented to a mass meeting of the teachers on April 22.

"How do you know?" asked Trustee Conrad Thompson of Richmond Hill. It was news to him, he said.

Mrs. McMonagle said the information was easily obtained. They had just gone to the schools and talked to the teachers.

Mr. Thompson termed it a "poor show." The board had kept confidence with the OSSTF, and now it was being told they were breaking that confidence.

Mrs. McMonagle also told the board that the WEB group was "recognized" by the OSSTF, Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Ontario Secondary School Students Federation, and was helping set up advisory councils in 15 area high schools to work with the parents,

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Name General Manager

Mr. K. J. Larone, president of Metroplan Limited announced the appointment of Mr. J. G. Van Kampen as general manager of the northern group of newspapers which include the Aurora Banner and the Richmond Hill Liberal. Metroplan Limited is a corporate management company for eleven community newspapers in and around Toronto.

Mr. Van Kampen is former director of sales of Metroplan Limited.

Mr. W. S. Cook, publisher of "The Liberal" and Mrs. Jean Baker-Pearse, publisher of "The Banner," will be responsible to Mr. Van Kampen for publishing the two newspapers in the communities of Richmond Hill and Aurora.

Mr. Van Kampen emigrated to Canada in 1958 and joined "The Mirror" newspapers in North York and Scarborough. In 1962 he became the assistant advertising manager for "The Mirror", while in 1967 he was appointed advertising manager. In 1971 he also filled the post of general sales manager of Metroplan, then a sales division of "The Mirror".

Mr. Van Kampen lives in northern Willowdale with his wife Patty and two children, Roger and Nicole.



J. G. VAN KAMPEN

Mayor Lazenby Answers His Critics

(The following statement was issued this week by Mayor William Lazenby of Richmond Hill. It is in response to criticism of him following news reports of a regional council meeting in which the matter of senior citizen housing was discussed.—Editor.)

Rarely do I comment on the accuracy of reporting of a newspaper, as I have found that criticism of misquoting by reporters only prolongs the inaccuracy and nothing is really accomplished. However, since your article on senior citizens in large homes being a tax burden has greatly upset a large number of this respected part of our society, I would like to set the record straight.

The motion received by the regional council for endorsement from the City of Brampton concerning the Municipal and School Tax Credit Assistance Act, was prefaced by the following whereas:

"Whereas it is desirable to assist people on a fixed income to remain in their own homes by reducing for them by way of grant or credit their annual realty property tax payment"

I was in support of the motion but my comments were to the effect that government should not promote older people remaining in three and four bedroom homes when their incomes are insufficient to cope with the high cost of taxes, maintenance and repairs, which are depriving these residents, on minimal incomes, of a proper way of life with regard to food, clothing and other amenities.

I stated that we should provide alternatives such as smaller low-cost housing units, more senior citizen apartments for senior citizens in these circumstances, and advocate the use of homes for the aged where necessary. The sale of the larger home could provide the resident with an annuity which would upgrade their annual income and thereby be beneficial to increasing the comfort of their way of life. A secondary benefit of such a sale would be to make housing stock available to families who need larger premises.

It is hard for me to comprehend that after 15 years service to this municipality, both professionally and publicly, and with my work in advocating assistance for senior citizens as my comments have been as misconstrued. Recently the Town of Richmond Hill approved a \$100 municipal tax credit for senior citizens, and several years ago was one of the first to implement the school tax credit assistance for these citizens. I believe it should be noted that my critic Regional Councillor Robert Adams represents the Town of Markham which recently, it is reported, turned down the \$100 municipal tax credit.

When Mr. Adams retorted to my explanation that did I want the older people thrown out of their homes, I frustratingly replied, "If that's the way you interpret my remarks — yes", since it looked like my explanation was incomprehensible. The only burden I had referred to in my comments was that which had low income senior resident had from the high cost of taxes, maintenance and repairs. For those who are able to afford the upkeep — fine, but for those who cannot I say we must provide alternatives, and their choice of such.

Family Life Centres Set Back On Funds

Mayor William Lazenby of Richmond Hill said it would be "ball game over" if the province didn't share in the cost of the four family life centres in the Region of York.

Last week, York Regional Council decided not to budget funds for the centres beyond May 31. Councillor Robert Adams of Markham had asked that a contingency budget be set aside that would carry financing through to December.

The proposed budget from the region provides for \$40,000 — half to be paid by the government — and half the amount needed by the centres, who asked for \$81,000.

Council, however, wants the government to promise to share equally before it will provide more.

"The centres know they're out of business if they don't get financing from the provincial government," said Mayor Lazenby who is chairman of the health and social services committee.

He said the province had to come back and tell the region how to finance the centres.

The centres are in Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Markham and Georgina Township.

All told, council has been asked for \$277,000 in grants to various organizations, but on the advice of Chief Administrator Jack Rettie, will probably trim the amount to \$136,000.