



The number "30" in newspaper parlance means the end, and so it's probably only appropriate that Richmond Hill Firefighter Bill Wilds, No. 30, sprays down the wall as a finishing touch to a fire in a garage at the

It's "30" For Garage Fire

Richmond Hill firefighters had their work spread out for them — literally — on the weekend.

Besides battling a garage fire July 20, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gavan McKenna, 272 Gretel Drive in Richmond Hill, that for awhile endangered nearby houses, two crews from the local department, spent a total of 10 hours assisting the Markham squad and two other departments in putting out an early-morning inferno at Philmar Lumber, RR 2, Markham, July 21.

Damage at the latter fire, which swept through vast

Yonge St. Trees, Plants Die

The owners of a new group of stores on Yonge Street South in Richmond Hill believed that if you plant some flowers and they don't grow you plant them again.

They didn't grow. Hence a letter to Richmond Hill Town Council pertaining to what didn't happen. It was written by Bernard Cooper and Associates, owners of the stores.

The letter noted that "upon completion of the premises (at 10133 Yonge Street and formerly 33 Yonge Street South), and in a desire to tie-in with the existing landscaping in the area, we, at our own expense, installed four aggregate planters and planted four new trees.

"These did not survive one season so we replaced them with new ones. We now find that the replacements also have not prospered.

"In the light of this experience, and since this is for the benefit of the Town of Richmond Hill, we are petitioning that the municipality accept responsibility and maintenance of planting suitable plants or annual flowers. "We are prepared to make a nominal one time payment, should the municipality require us to do so. Since the planting season is now on, we would appreciate if this matter could be dealt with expeditiously."

Council referred the letter to committee for consideration.

home of Gavan McKenna, 272 Gretel Drive, Saturday evening. Besides destroying the garage, the fire destroyed a quantity of carpeting, glue and stripping stored in the building. Grant Smith assists his fellow fireman.

also was called out to extinguish a fire at a barn owned by the Ontario Ministry of Housing, Concession 10.

The fire, which occurred about 8:40 p.m. July 16, caused an estimated \$200,000 damage to the building and two adjoining sheds.

A fire that started on the premises of Moon Furniture Company, 678 Rivermeade Road, Concord, July 17, caused extensive smoke and water damage to two adjoining buildings as well.

Victims were Cross Tube Products, 668 Rivermeade Road and Rescoe Hardware, 674 Rivermeade.

Damage to Moon Furniture was \$7,000. Vaughan Fire Department, which put out the fire, said the latter was thought to have started in a supply of foam rubber at the furniture company.

A fire that started on the southeast corner of Markham Road and Bayview Avenue on a three-acre pie-shaped lot adjacent to the courthouse, failed to gain approval July 9 at the meeting of Richmond Hill Council's planning committee.

The proposal, presented by Architect Tom Brown, was for an A-frame type of structure 10-12 stories high with a foyer extending about a third of the length and reaching up to the top of the building. Some of the apartments would be two storeys and some one storey and access from one leg of the building to the other would be by bridges.

Councillor Andy Chateaubert pointed out that a number of applications for development in that area (the east side of Bayview) have been turned down recently because they have been considered premature because of lack of services.

"I am not sure we will want apartments on the east side of Bayview until we have a look at that whole area from Highway 7 north. This information may not be available for some time."

Councillor Jack Major agreed with these remarks. "Would it be possible for council to indicate what it would like to see on that site?" asked Mr. Brown.

The answer was no, because the planning staff is loaded down with so much other work at present. "It would be very remiss of us to indicate we would consider that type of development and very wrong for us to ask our planning staff to add this to their load. It would be unfair to mislead you," said Mr. Chateaubert as he

moved that the committee recommend to council that the application is premature, with which the committee agreed.

Chairman David Stephenson told Mr. Brown that he liked the concept and hoped it would not be too long before something like it could be built in Richmond Hill. "I am quite impressed by the architectural concept and believe that it is about time Richmond Hill got some architecturally pleasing buildings."

Raymond Wallace, 18, of RR 1, Gormley, was killed in a two-car collision Sunday, in which two Richmond Hill residents were hospitalized.

In the intensive care unit at Toronto General Hospital, is Albine Noel, 160 Essex Street, who was transferred there from York County Hospital.

His wife, Eileen Noel, who was a passenger in her husband's car, was treated at York County Hospital for injuries and then released.

Kevin Mulholland, 55 Davis Drive, Aurora, was also taken to York County Hospital for treatment.

York Regional Police said they still had few details of the accident, which occurred about 6:55 p.m. on Concession 2, Aurora Sideroad.

The Wallace vehicle was proceeding north and Noel vehicle south when the accident occurred.

Ex-Councillor Threatens Withhold School Taxes

A Richmond Hill man's threat to withhold a portion of his taxes as a result of last spring's strike of secondary school teachers in York Region came up before town council Monday night of last week.

Former Councillor Eric Handbury, of 59 Centre Street West, had earlier indicated that he would "deduct 1/26th part of educational taxes payable to secondary school boards from my tax assessment for the first two weeks of the strike and 1/52nd part for every week following that the service is withheld."

"Any attempt to retrieve these funds I shall construe as extortion and will take whatever legal action necessary to uphold my actions."

Mr. Handbury's most recent missive was dated May 17 and further explained his reluctance to be billed for a service that he hadn't received.

Councillor David Stephenson, who represents Mr. Handbury's ward, brought the letter to council's attention. It was received and turned over to the municipality's solicitor for comment.

The letter points out that "I sincerely believe that you have a distinct obligation to any ratepayer to inform them, should any service be withheld, that they have a legal right to withhold part of the levy during the delinquent period.

"It seems to me common sense that the town is only obligated to make these payments provided the Board of Education lives up to the contractual agreements which make necessary the payment of a 25 percent school levy."

Mr. Handbury said that it was his opinion that "any citizen has the right to withhold payment of a tax when the service that tax makes possible is not carried out.

"We should not be considered as an undeniable source of money, paying taxes without complaint when the Board of Education or any of its employees is negligent in providing a utility that our money makes possible.

"We are not robots or automatic cash dispensers, and you as our municipal representatives, are expected, not compelled to respect this attitude.

"As my municipal representatives, I instruct you to research thoroughly the Board of Education's responsibility to the ratepayers of Richmond Hill and advise me if the service they provide is a necessary adjunct to the payment they receive, and I want to know as quickly as possible, if the service is the dominant feature, why the town cannot withhold from its 25 percent levy an amount of money in proportion to the time that the Board of Education and its duties were not effective in our municipality."

Mr. Handbury concludes by saying that "your position in the community is to concern yourself about the interest of the ratepayers and not some provincial organization.

"I want to hear no more about your financial commitments, obligations or troubles with the Board of Education. I only want to hear whether the council upholds my right as a ratepayer to withhold payment for a vital and irreplaceable service not provided."

Mr. Handbury's letter was in reply to one sent to him by Councillor Stephenson.

Mr. Stephenson told "The Liberal" that the letter in question had been originally addressed to council and had just recently come to his attention.

This was the reason he brought the matter before council Monday night.

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DEACON DISTRESSED
The York Centre MLA says he's distressed to find the Transportation Ministry isn't changing its plan for Highway 404 north of Steeles Avenue. For the time being

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"Nothing less is sufficient to begin the process of devising a new Official Plan contemplated to guide the municipality to the year 2000."

Airport Appeal
The OMB Hearing on the appeal by Toronto Airways Ltd. for extension of the Buttonville Airport will be held in the Town of Markham Council Chamber Monday at 10 a.m. it has been learned.

The council chamber is located in the town's office building located on Don Mills Road.

A residential development in Vaughan that will eventually see an additional two people per acre, for a maximum of 520 people, will be considered by York Regional Council this week.

Approval of an amendment to the Official Plan of Vaughan, which would change the lands involved from rural to residential, thus permitting the development at the north-west intersection of Bathurst and Teston Streets, was given by York Regional Planning Committee last week.

Vaughan Town Council first approved the amendment in November of 1973, four years after application was made by Millview Investments Limited.

BASIC CHANGES
Following that, however, the regional planning department recommended two basic changes to the amendment: a more

Rhodes Promises Public Meeting, Yonge Street

BY HAL BLAINE

The real barrier to finding a limited access through highway alternative to the widening of Yonge Street to seven lanes across Thornhill is a construction problem at the north end of the Don Valley Parkway in Metro,

says Donald Deacon MLA York Centre, of Markham Town. Deacon was interviewed this past week by "The Liberal" via telephone.

Deacon had just come from a meeting with Transportation and Communications Minister John Rhodes. Also attending were Markham Mayor Anthony Roman and South Thornhill Ratepayers' Association Executive Member Nick Belak of 5 Henderon Avenue. Protesting Thornhill citizens sought consolation on the Yonge Street widening proposal for which plans are practically finalized in the provincial department and have been exhibited at local information sessions.

The local MLA said the widening proposal was discussed with the Minister responsible for highways and an attempt is to be made to readjust the plans to see if the department can meet the objections of the ratepayers. One of the questions is whether or not there is going to be parking on both sides of Yonge Street (Queen's Highway 11) through Thornhill.

PUBLIC MEETING
Minister Rhodes will be calling a public meeting before anything as to Yonge Street widening is approved again, says Deacon. Rhodes previously promised to stop the widening proposal.

The public meeting will allow York Region, local municipal councils and ratepayers to have a say in the planning to handle north-south traffic between York Region and Metro.

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"To be meaningful, the town should allow time for residents to view the Region's Official Plan proposals, schedule meetings for input during the fall or early in the new year, perhaps conduct surveys to refine views, and establish procedures for reporting back to residents.

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Two separate applications for land splits ran afoul of municipality zoning bylaws Monday night of last week at Richmond Hill Council.

The first one involved Jack Jacobsen Construction Limited of Pickering requesting relief from a zoning by-law to split a lot for the purpose of constructing two single family dwellings.

A representative for the firm, D. J. Plitz, told council that the whole land area on Naughton Drive, north of Elgin Mills Sideroad West, comprised 2.51 acres. The splitting of the lot would leave insufficient frontage although the bylaw does permit the company to construct one dwelling. There were also a (RP) number of other violations.

Mr. Plitz claimed that he had been unaware of the zoning violation and had been assured of a permit when his application was approved by a committee of adjustment.

He stated the company had poured \$2,700 into the property to improve it and thought that this should

it is to be built like a normal arterial road, not like Highway 400. This is because the engineers can't find a way to get a clover leaf or other grade separation intersection put in at Sheppard Avenue and Highway 401.

Deacon says Minister Rhodes reports there's insufficient distance there to connect Highway 404, as many believed was proposed, to the Don Valley Parkway.

Because of the travel distance available, traffic couldn't sort itself out on such a freeway if it were built. Thus there isn't any reason right now to make Highway 404 into an expressway until after east-west Highway 407 (along the present Highway 7 alignment) is built many years hence. This is since there won't be the necessary traffic volume to use a Highway 404 expressway.

WAS ONLY DREAM
Thus the whole concept of Highway 404 as a traffic relief artery north-south across this area and into Metro apparently has been a figment of the imagination all along. But Deacon isn't ready to give up on this yet.

"We have a big problem with north-south traffic now, it really distresses me to think we're not going to get



JOHN RHODES
Highways Minister

relief. I'm arranging another meeting with Minister Rhodes. We want to get the traffic off Bayview Avenue, Don Mills Road (Woodbine Avenue), Yonge Street and Steeles Avenue. Right now it appears there is no solution in sight. The highways builders will just have to keep on desecrating the local towns by widening streets," he said.

"But I still hope some solution can be found. Minister Rhodes is a pretty sensible guy, so I hope I can persuade him," concluded local MLA Deacon.

Finally 4½ Years Later Federal Tax \$43,221

Some relentless pursuit by the staff of York County Board of Education over the past 4½ years has finally paid off.

That's the time spent by the staff and a tax consultant in going after a federal sales tax rebate of \$43,221.45, which Ottawa at first refused to recognize.

It all started when the last addition to Huron Heights Secondary School in Newmarket was approved by the former Newmarket District High School Board, but built by the county board.

At that time, Ontario Municipal Board approvals were delayed and the federal sales tax rebate formula for new construction was reduced from 4.5 percent to 3 percent of the contract price.

This resulted in an under financing of the Huron Heights project of about \$35,000, which was taken from the current funds in 1970. Government tax auditors wouldn't recognize the higher rate, because they argued that construction on the project had not started before the date the formula changed.

However, staff didn't feel that a fair decision had been made and continued to pursue the case through 1969 with little success.

The services of tax consultant R. G. McLean were then obtained, and a subsequent rebate of \$43,221.45 was received in May.

Mr. McLean and staff are now pursuing a similar claim for Sutton High School in the amount of \$10,000.

In announcing the top Ontario Scholar — Peter Barabash of King City Secondary School, 95.8 percent average — the board also reviewed some of the background necessary to becoming an Ontario Scholar. To achieve this distinction (Continued on page 8)

Two Firsts In Britain
Jane Haist of Thornhill took two firsts last Saturday in the British Women's National Athletics Track and Field Championships.

She took the shot put with a heave of 49 feet 3 3/4 inches and won the discus with a toss of 185 feet.

Carol Martin of Thornhill was third in the discus with mark of 164 feet 3 1/2 inches.

Vaughan Wants Rural Land For Luxury Homes

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Vaughan Town Council first approved the amendment in November of 1973, four years after application was made by Millview Investments Limited.

BASIC CHANGES
Following that, however, the regional planning department recommended two basic changes to the amendment: a more

detailed land use plan, listing open space, agricultural and residential categories; replacement of policies in Vaughan's Official Plan by a new set of policies from the region.

Vaughan agreed to the first recommendation, but not to the second, resulting in another look at the amendment by the region.

In a subsequent report, the planning department listed the area as being in "an arm of the Oak Ridges moraine, consisting of irregular topography and sandy soils, augmented by extensive woodland tracts."

A small light industry and four houses have access to the west side of Bathurst Street, with several houses on the east side of the street, within the Richmond Hill planning area.

Maple Downs Golf Club adjoins the western boundary and a trans-Canada pipeline is in

the northern part of the quadrant.

Lands to the south of Elgin Mills Road are used for farming purposes.

The amended area would be served by a piped communal water supply and individual sewage disposal systems.

OBJECTORS
Objections to the plan were received from Maple Downs Golf Club, the Ministry of Natural Resources and members of the public.

The golf club said the proposed development was not compatible with surrounding land uses, and the water supply might be insufficient to satisfy the needs of both the golf course and the subdivision.

The Ministry of Natural Resources objected on the basis that development would inevitably damage and perhaps

destroy the quality and quantity of water flowing downstream.

At a public meeting three years ago, concern was expressed about the loss of rural atmosphere, urban sprawl, pollution, plus a "drawdown" of underground water supplies in the area to the detriment of existing properties.

Warning was also given to keeping the density of any development along the Oak Ridges moraine, low enough to prevent the possibility of any concentrated amounts of chloride, etc. from septic tanks affecting the quality of water supply to wells in the area.

In making its report, the department took into consideration the various objections, incorporating their concerns into a list of recommendations for consideration by regional council.

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