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HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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Services for 170,000 homes in 2 regions

An expected 170,000 new homes for the Regions of York and Durham are predicted with the announcement of the agreement between Metro Toronto and the Provincial Ministry of the Environment on the "Big Pipe," or the Central York Servicing Scheme, as it is officially known.

The announcement was made Monday at a press conference in Queen's Park by Environment Minister William Newman and Housing Minister Donald Irvine.

"With more than 80 miles of sewage and water mains alone, this is the most comprehensive servicing system ever launched by the Ministry of the Environment," Newman said.

"The construction of these systems will be staged over the next 20 years to provide an environmentally sound basis for extensive development in an area

from Woodbridge to Ajax and north to Newmarket," he said.

The scheme will also serve the province's North Pickering Project where the first new residential development will be ready

for occupancy in the fall of 1977.

Interim service
Irvine said interim sewer connections to the Metro system at Bayview Avenue, Dufferin and Leslie Streets,

would enable accelerated servicing and construction of 20,000 housing units in south York by late 1976.

"Another 17,000 units can be serviced in the short term with the planned interim expansion of sewage

treatment plants in Ajax, Aurora, Newmarket, Oak Ridges, Pickering, Richmond Hill and Unionville," he said.

Over the next 20 years, the scheme would open up for land for as many as 170,000

units in York and Durham, subject to regional and area municipal planning policies, Irvine said.

He said the Ministry of Housing was making \$31.5 million available through (Continued on Page 3)



(Photo by Susan Samila)

Hail to the King!

Rascal, King of Household Pets, proudly displays his ribbons and finery following the third annual York Cheshire Cat Club show at George Brown College, Casa Loma Campus. There were 175 cats in the show, 15 in the household pet division.

A three-year-old silver and white tabby, Rascal, makes his home with Patricia Broome, 7, Brightway Crescent, Hillcrest Village in Richvale, and her family. He was officially crowned following scoring by four judges.

Vaughan wants study before garbage deluge

By Fred Simpson
Vaughan Town Council is wrestling with a 5,000-acre migraine headache located just north of Maple.

The headache may prove to be incurable. Most people call it garbage.

The headache may prove to be incurable. But members of council and some 30 ratepayers met Thursday night of last week to devise some anesthetic formula.

Result:
A decision to draft a letter to the Ontario Ministry of Environment calling for an over-all comprehensive study to be made of the 5,000-acre gravel-pit studded area before any major steps are taken to

open the flood gates for waste disposal operations.

Prompting the meeting was a recently released study of the Metro Conservation Authority which outlines the advantages and disadvantages of the area for the dumping of waste.

Two applications involving over 900 acres are already before the provincial Environmental Hearing Board with the major one from Garbage Disposal Services Limited, a firm headed by former North York politician Norman Goodhead.

Council unanimous
Council was unanimous in calling for the comprehensive planning study although certain members

differed in the particular route to be taken.

Councillor Jim Cameron called for the study to be undertaken and completed by the municipality before any further "approvals are given for any applications for waste disposal operations in the pit areas". The study would involve the truck traffic problem, ground water pollution, etc.

Regional Councillor John Gilbert thought the municipality should "take a more reasonable position in our approach to the ministry of environment".

He felt the municipality was obliged to consider applications coming before it. (Continued on Page 2)

Insiders' index

Something new being tried in "The Liberal" this week is an editorial cartoon on Page 4 by southern York Region artist and Ontario College of Art graduate John Styga. This will be the first such cartoon by invited local artists and will, we hope, become a regular feature.

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Hill staff pay hike

All full-time employees of the Town of Richmond Hill have been granted an increase in pay of 8.4 percent retroactive to September 1 to keep pace with the increase in the Consumer Price Index from December 31, 1973 to August 31, 1974. The decision was reached at a meeting of council as a personnel committee of the whole held October 17 and ratified by council October 21.

Members of Local 1957 of the Fire Fighters Association will receive the 8.4 percent increase less the 4.5 percent increase granted July 1, 1974.

This increase does not apply to the council remuneration policy on motion of Councillor Andy Chateaubert.



(Photo by the Studio That Comes to Your Home)

First puck drop at Thornhill community centre

Thornhill Community Hockey League got off to an early start at 7 pm Saturday with a puck-dropping ceremony. Regional Councillor Bob Adams dropped the puck with Novices Dean Willems and Andrew Mihalik ready to scramble for it. Looking on are referee Jeff Ehrenworth on the left and President Bob Sherwood of the Thornhill Community Hockey League on the right.

This league provides hockey for approximately 900 boys from the 5 and 6-year-olds right through to 21-year-olds. About 80 young men between the ages of 17 and 21 are playing on six teams in the house league and will also play an interlocking schedule with Unionville and Markham teams.

Region public school students score low

While no one was saying that Newfie jokes may soon be replaced by jokes about York Region students, concern verging on alarm was expressed by a meeting of York County Board of Education last week. This was following presentation of a report on a standardized testing program in grades 2, 4, 6 and 8 in region schools.

The program was authorized by the board for 1973-74. It tested for reading and mathematical skills, with results varying from average, above average and "slightly below" average. It was this latter result that worried some members of the board.

Noting grade 8 pupils performed less well in modern math in grade 8 than in grade 7, Trustee Margaret Coburn of King wondered why. "Should they be worried?" she asked.

Testing co-ordinator Joe Murphy said the achievement level of the grade 7 children reached a percentile of 41, in grade 8 it was 37 — a slight decrease. However, in other areas, they showed a slight increase. These were compared with students tested seven years ago.

Next year there would be more up-to-date scoring methods, which should result in higher scores, he said. Trustee Doreen Quirk of Markham said she was bothered by the report showing reading skills in grade 4 below the average level, while math scores were above. What plans were being made to achieve a better balance?

Why panic?
Education Director Sam Chapman said it was "wrong to panic at this moment. We need to see where we are for

a year or two."

"Am I reading into this?" asked Trustee John MacKay of Markham. He had been on the board six years, but was still being told to wait.

"I wonder what is the value of our testing," Mr. MacKay said. "Are we still trying to find the right way?"

Mr. Chapman said the main idea was to help individual schools and teachers in finding any flat spots, and there was evidence they were succeeding.

When they were dealing with percentiles, "we get something that looks worse... I think we could over react," he said. "I think we are getting good value in specific results. I don't think we should cut our throats." Said Trustee Mariane Gillan to Mr. Murphy: "In layman's language, how do

you see this? "I'd like to know where we're heading."

Mr. Murphy said the results showed the students fell in the 40-60 group, which was the centre of things. "I think we're now where we'd expect students to be in the basic skills."

Mrs. Gillan wondered what comparison was made. It wasn't with the general efficiency of students of 10 to 20 years ago. Her own granddaughter was considered to be very bright, but was unable to spell.

Mr. Murphy said the scores indicated the students of seven years ago scored better.

Ask teachers
Trustee Ross Jolliffe of Vaughan said he would like to see some constructive action taken by the board. Teaching the three 'r's didn't cost any more than anything else they were teaching, so it

wasn't a budget matter.

Steven Bacsalmasi, superintendent of planning and development, said it would help to have a discussion with the program with the teachers at one of the chairman's meetings, to see what they would do as a result of the testing problems.

Trustee Donald Sim of Markham found considerable cause for alarm in the results, despite Mr. Chapman's caution on the subject.

"What it says is that, on a nationwide basis... from Vancouver to Halifax, and that includes Newfoundland, our students score below average."

Despite all the advantages in York — from staff psychologists to master teachers — they were still below average.

Mayor Lazenby running

Mayor William Lazenby will seek re-election in the December 2 election. He announced his decision to run again to Richmond Hill Council at its Monday meeting. In his prepared statement, the mayor said: "I would like to officially declare my candidacy for the office of mayor for the Town of Richmond Hill for

the term 1975-1976. I believe this municipality, under the direction of the council with which I serve, has dealt efficiently and sincerely with the business which has been placed before it, and has initiated projects for the benefit of this community. This council has also provided, and upgraded, services where necessary, services needed to maintain the way of life of this municipality.

"Regional projects and services vital to the community have been completed, with others now underway, with the liaison of various municipal departments. A summary of projects anticipated at the beginning of the term could be documented, and their present position reviewed as to progress and completion.

Raps opponent
"In the past, I believe, I never criticized competition and my feeling was a candidate must stand on his own two feet. This I will always do. However, I must take umbrage with the insinuation made by the other

declared candidate with regard to the candidate's investment in the community.

"I may be a newcomer to this area, but I have 17 years of my life invested in this community, so does my wife. My children have their total lives of 17, 13½ and 9½ years in this community, all being born while Evelyn and I were Richmond Hill residents. We still have the investment of our original home in this community, in which my father-in-law and mother-in-law presently reside.

We also have our present home, at 24 Knollside Drive, as a fully paid investment in my, and your, municipality. I also have the investment of my present professional business, Allencourt Pharmacy Limited, in leased premises at 417 Markham Road where I, and my staff, have provided professional community pharmacy attention for over 15 years. I have recently increased the business investment of my corporation by entering partnership

with Top Drug Mart Company Limited in leased premises at Hillcrest Mall.

Sport sponsor
"Through my profession, and personally, I have my largest investment in the people of the Town of Richmond Hill. My business sponsors two soccer teams: Lazenby's Leaders, a house league squirt team, and Lazenby's Lassies, a municipal young girls' team; two hockey teams: Allencourt Pharmacy, a house league team, and Lazenby's Pillrollers town representative tyke team, and a young ladies' softball team, Lazenby's Ladies in the local house league.

"Former sponsorships have included a men's and ladies' bowling team, and assistance to a young men's football team, the Richmond Hill Indians. I have invested myself personally, and have attempted to continue such, in my past position as a church warden, chairman of the executive committee of the Order of St. John's, York Central Branch, as well as

(Continued on Page 2)



Mayor Bill Lazenby Seeking re-election

Basement fire fatal

Smoking in bed was blamed for an early-morning fire which took the life of a north Richmond Hill man Sunday.

Donald Breen, 45, of Concession 1, was pronounced dead by Coroner Dr. Bernard Granton, about an hour after the fire was discovered from the former's basement room by another resident of

the dwelling at 5 am. A post-mortem showed Breen died of asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

Fire Chief Robert Kennedy, whose department received the call at 5:10 am, said rescue attempts had been made by the manager of the farm prior to the call being turned in. He said the deceased was a resident of

the dwelling for farm employees. It was away from the main farm-house.

However, the fire managed to burn out overhead wiring, so the farm manager was unable to call the fire department from his home. He had to drive to the Oak Ridges detachment of the OPP to make the call. The fire was well un-

derway by the time the firemen arrived.

King fire
In King City, Kathleen McCoppen, of 86 Keele Street North, was treated for shock and smoke inhalation, following a fire at her home October 18.

Cause of the fire, which was extinguished by King Fire Department, was

unknown. Damage was \$5,000.

Hot thaw
Trying to thaw out a frozen brake line — in his truck, resulted in a fire for Chesel Nesbitt of Minden, at the Sunoco Garage, Don Mills Road in Buttonville, about 6:45 am, October 18.

Extensive damage to the engine compartment and cab were done in the blaze.