

Schiller, Lazenby at loggerheads over Hill council's record

By Jim Irving
How do the two mayoral candidates view Richmond Hill Town Council over the past two years?

With the election just a ballot box or so away, The Liberal asked Mayor William Lazenby what he thought were council's accomplishments during his 1973-74 term. His opponent Dave Schiller was also asked what he thought of council's performance during that time.

Mayor Lazenby listed what he felt were council's accomplishments without comment. Projects completed were as follows:

Local
Weldrick Road — construction in association with

BAIF;
Sidewalk — North side of Vaughan Road (Yonge to Trench);
Four lighted tennis courts in Crosby Park;
Opening of Palmer Avenue, from Cedar to Lennox Avenue;
Complete reconstruction of Carrville Road in conjunction with Hillcrest Mall;
Roads Needs Study, conducted by McCormack, Rankin & Assoc., subsidized by the province;
Maintenance Management System which has led to a more efficient and effective internal work systems procedure;
Installation of a mini-computer which has upgraded the financial administration of

the municipal treasury department; provided us with a more efficient method of tax distribution and billing; and, a line control budgeting operation;
Reconstruction of Elizabeth Street;
Crosby Park Change House — dressing room and kitchen and storage facilities for tennis, softball and soccer.

Regional
Maple Sideroad (Yonge to Keele) construction and expropriating.

Provincial
New addition to York Central Hospital (123 to 400 beds).

Industrial
Consumers' Gas Company

office and storage area;
Sears main warehouse on Shelly Street;
Marpat Holdings — ARC Industries, Supreme Welding, Sovereign Water Conditioners;
Dow Pharmaceutical Company;
Reynolds Aluminum Extension.

Mayor Lazenby said the following projects are initiated, approved or under way:

Local
Extension to Richmond Hill Library;
Richvale Community Centre;
Library Branch, Richvale Community Centre;
Swimming Pool, Richvale Community Centre;

Library Branch, Oak Ridges area, Fire Hall, Oak Ridges area; Community facilities at Lake Wilcox;
Acquisition of land for works department and fairgrounds;
Fire Department Elevating Platform ("Snorkel").

Regional
Bathurst Street (Elgin Mills Sideroad to King Sideroad) construction - expropriation;
Railway underpass on Markham Road pre-engineering;
Day Care Centre, Richvale Community Centre.

Provincial
Pre-engineering and construction of Yonge Street (Highway 11) from

Markham Road to Highway 7;
Regional sewage and water facilities (from Lake Ontario);
Third senior citizen apartment building.

Minus report
If candidate Schiller had been handing out marks when he evaluated council's performance over the past two years, there wouldn't have been enough to get council entry into the beginner's class in civic administration at the nearest public school.

It was strictly a minus report from start to finish, with his main concern not the development of the past two years, but what was coming up.

Council, he said, had been "orientated" toward development and he foresaw an eventual quarter of a million people by the year 2000.

He was also disturbed about the bloc voting, "which makes council predictable and is not in the interests of running the community."

Unresponsive
Another thing that "disturbed" him was the "unresponsiveness" of council in the way it handled citizens' suggestions to changes.

For example the Citizens Advisory Group presented several briefs, including ones on the rate of growth, zoning bylaws and methods

of getting citizen contribution into the Official Plan. However, council had "done nothing, simply received them," Schiller said.

He said council held meetings on the Parkata development, but hadn't taken any of their suggestions into account. It also invited suggestions on the mobile home policy, but had taken no note of them, drafting the staff policy, instead.

Has council done anything commendable?
"Hmmm, you got me there," Schiller said.

Then he said council tried to put across the impression of wanting citizens' views, and the idea was com-

mendable.
However, council hadn't bothered to listen.

He said there were two instances where citizen information was recognized. But it was recognized through a consulting firm, not by council.

One was in the south Yonge corridor study and the other had been in the M.M. Dillon study of Lake Wilcox. In both cases, the consultants stressed the need for citizens to have their say, Schiller said.

He said also he hoped council would have reformed its methods of making committee appointments; that they would be more open.

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Clergy blasts lack of small, cheap housing

A committee of the Richmond Hill Ministerial Association composed of

Hospital numbers changing

York Central Hospital is installing a new direct dial system.

Starting December 1, the hospital departments may be reached by dialing the following numbers:

Patient inquiry 883-2320, emergency department 883-2240, Mental Health Clinic 883-2290, patient scheduling 883-2010, personnel services 883-2250, purchasing services 883-2150, physical therapy and rehabilitation services 883-2000.

For numbers not listed above, call 883-1212.

Horse Guard joins parade on Saturday

A mounted escort will be provided by the Governor General's Horse Guard in full uniform for the head of Saturday's Richmond Hill Santa Claus Parade, Fire Chief Bob Kennedy has announced this week.

Other additions to the 1½ mile long parade will be the Metropolitan Toronto Police Pipe Band, and more floats. Balloons for the kiddies will be distributed along the parade route.

The parade will start from Elgin Mills Road at 10:30 am and proceed south on Yonge Street to end at Hillcrest Mall — and will be the biggest and best Santa Claus Parade ever held in Richmond Hill.

Rev. Dana Lamb, Rev. Bernard Barrett and Rev. Robert McElhinney, recently submitted a comment on the New Official Plan Working Goals and Objectives, to the Richmond Hill Planning Department.

The ministerial association expressed deep concern over the lack of adequate provision of housing for lower income families and for young married couples. In their daily work the ministers are made aware of the young people who are getting married and would like to stay in this community. Many cannot stay here because no suitable housing is available. They also see the families who would like to move into more adequate quarters but who can find none, be it either as tenants or owners.

Earlier this year the association urged the town and the province to require definite plans for the provision of some housing for these persons in phase three of the BAIF development prior to approving it.

People needs
In their submission they asked that the goal of providing an adequate selection and choice of housing based on the "need" (cost and physical adequacy) of the population be given highest priority. This was so this need goal will not be compromised by other real economic and political pressures. The ministers want this all to be spelled out in terms of specific objectives. They also want a more definite planning process to provide for realization of the goals.

They want the Richmond Hill planning department to undertake a comprehensive review of housing needs in the town, with special attention being given to the needs of lower income families and young married couples. They also ask that



Schiller, Lazenby battle

Incumbent Richmond Hill Mayor William Lazenby is facing second time challenger David Schiller in debates at all-candidates meetings throughout the town as the December 2 voting day looms closer and closer. Here in the upper photograph Schiller (at left) talks to spectator Mac Kempton in the hall outside the Richmond Hill High School auditorium during the all-candidates meeting Monday night. In the lower photograph thrice-elected mayor Lazenby outside the same auditorium Friday night talks to citizen William Johnston (at left)



(Staff photos by Draper)

Citizens grill candidates in crowded hall

By Jim Irving

If the new Richmond Hill Town Council is as outspoken as the town ratepayers, it's going to be in for some stormy sessions next year.

Friday night at Richmond Hill High School, a packed auditorium let its candidates for the jobs of mayor, town councillors and regional councillors know it wasn't just there to see what they all looked like, or because the TV was on the fritz. The people were there because the wanted answers to a lot of questions.

Not that it was a hostile crowd, just a vocal one, which wanted no-nonsense replies to its no-nonsense queries.

For example, when Ward 4 Councillor Dave Stephenson, tried to bypass a question about how he would have handled the alleged bribery of a staff member, (as the questioner pointed out was recently reported in The Liberal) the audience let him have it.

Stephenson termed it a "loaded" question, "all in the past", and therefore not worthy of comment.

"It's a serious question," came the cry from the crowd. "Don't be frivolous," came another rumble. "That's all garbage; talk some common sense," came yet another voice, although it was difficult at that point to tell just whose side he was on.

Councillor Stephenson was resolute, however. "It's past history," he continued amidst the din. "I don't think anything could be gained from it. I couldn't improve the situation."

He got a small hand for his answer, and for a moment it

seemed to be the right one.

Rings gong
However, fellow Ward 4 candidate, Marylo Graham, rang the gong on the applause meter when she followed with her reply.

"The question deserves a specific answer," said Mrs. Graham, who is making her first bid for office. "I would hope if it occurred again, all the relevant facts and figures would be laid before the Crown attorney to see if there was a case. It is not sufficient to ask the town solicitor... to see if there is a case. I feel strongly that if there are members of staff who say they were offered bribes, the information should be laid before council."

"The public should have the right to know it happened."

(Continued on Page 2)

Stephenson also found himself facing the firing squad again without a kerchief later on in the evening when a questioner from the back of the room asked him how he could "reconcile your voting record of approving every development."

If the questioner was referring to a document put out by the Citizens' Advisory Group, detailing how council voted on development throughout the year, he didn't know how they could get an accurate assessment of votes, Stephenson said.

On hot seat
"What about approving every development?" the questioner asked again.

"What I call development and what you do, could be

Voter results from computer

The staff of the Town of Richmond Hill has set up an information service for election results on the evening of December 2.

This new service should provide results rapidly and make them easily available to the interested members of the public.

The town's computer has been programmed to handle the returns as they come in from the polling stations. The results will be available by means of a video display at the rear counter of the main floor offices (where you pay your taxes), where they will be flashed on a screen.

Switchboard open
The town's switchboard will also be open to give the results as soon as they start to come in, until the unofficial results are all tabulated from telephoned reports.

These unofficial results will have to be checked with the papers which come in to the returning officer. The actual returns are locked in the ballot boxes. Then the official results will be released.

If you are interested in getting this information firsthand, visit the town hall or telephone. The number is 884-8101.

Inside The Liberal

Expanding again this week

The strong, steady growth of this newspaper is evident again this week. Last week's record high 40 pages of regular broadsheet local news and advertising has already fallen. This week's Thornhill and Richmond Hill Editions have 44 local pages broadsheet plus a 24 page Canadian Tire Corporation Associate Store insert, for a total of 68 pages.

This is the final edition of your local newspaper before the December 2 municipal and school elections. Biographical stories of the last of the candidates appear on the inside pages, completing this year's series on all those seeking elected office in Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill Towns, plus King Township.

The index of the inside pages is as follows:

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400,000 people threaten moraine

An interim study on the Oak Ridges moraine shows that it is not a question of placing a moratorium on development, but a question of assessing the effect of development on the ground water supply, Planning Commissioner Murray Pound told a meeting of York Regional Council last week.

Mr. Pound made his comments while presenting his department's detailed study on the moraine. The study came about last January as a result of the following resolution: "That council adopt the policy of the planning committee to examine all applications in the Oak Ridges moraine against the interim policy on rural residential development and especially the possible detrimental effects to the environment and ecological impact within the area of the Oak Ridges moraine."

Mr. Pound said an additional 400,000 people are expected, and there had to be concern about how the moraine could be protected for an ultimate population of 600,000.

The study area comprises about 141 square miles or 90,000 acres (about 22 percent of the regional area) where the moraine covers the central portion of York for about 20 miles in length and varies in width from one to eight miles.

So far, 3,000 acres of the moraine have already been built on or are involved in applications for development, some of which have been approved.

The 3,000 acres are located in seven of the nine municipalities in the region. Only Markham Town and Georgina Township are excluded.

However, King City, Nobleton and Schomberg

draw ground water supplies from Markham. It was vital the flow of streams through this area, plus Aurora and Newmarket, be protected in respect to sewage systems.

Besides providing more detailed physical resource information on the moraine, the report is to assess the relative importance of the moraine "within a larger, regional context to accommodate certain types of outdoor recreational activities which require specific kinds of physical environments."

Pilot project
Mr. Pound said the study would be used as a pilot project by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The ministry would use a different financial approach, providing land acquisition was tied into a long-range plan.

sensitive areas, as they were low density.

The region had been forced to go along with a no-growth policy, even though some types of development would have been better, Mr. Pound said.

Vaughan unhappy
Somewhat disenchanted by it all was Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams.

"We've got our Official Plan made and might as well go home," he said. He said there was no leeway in the report and he was unable to approve it.

Richmond Hill Mayor, William Lazenby, said he was concerned about the application of the policy. Would they attempt to make it retroactive to any applications.

"Is this a guide, rather than a policy?" asked Councillor Gordon Rowe of Richmond Hill.

Mr. Pound said it was an interim policy towards development of the moraine, not a commitment. It was a guide for

\$1,646,690 schools centre

York County Board of Education last week approved working drawings for its new administration building, plus the calling of tenders for its construction.

The project will now go to the Municipal Board for approval at a hearing January 2 and 3.

The board was also told costs for the combined board-town centre had been pared down to \$1,646,690 to bring it within the combined construction budget of

\$1,650,000. Construction of the building is expected to begin January 15, which will permit the board to vacate its premises by March, 1976.

Money details
In presenting the final report of the users' committee, Chairman Tom Johnston of Keswick stressed the building costs did not reduce the money available for salaries, supplies or services for school operation. The costs

were not part of the ordinary expenditure ceilings, he said.

Also, the borrowing of \$1,500,000 for the centre, doesn't reduce capital funds available for school construction or renovation. In contrast, rental charges for the present building, or any other, come out of expenditure ceilings, thus reducing the amount of money available for classroom purposes, he said.