

Seneca opens doors to vocational graduates

By Margaret Lade
The opportunity of a college education after leaving high school will now be open to students graduating from special vocational schools or occupational training programs in Ontario.

The new course, College Vocational Program, begins in January at Seneca College's King Campus, Dufferin Street north of King Sideroad. It is being launched as a pilot program with a maximum of 20 students.

In developing the new course, Seneca worked closely with an advisory committee which included the principals of Don Head Secondary School in Richmond Hill, plus L. S. Beattie and Yorkdale Secondary Schools in North York.

The new program is founded upon the concept of universal accessibility to post-secondary education which was adopted as a first principle by Ontario's commission on post-secondary education in its final report published in 1972, says Seneca King's Dean Roy McCutcheon.

In the past there have been no full-time post-secondary courses available to graduates from special vocational schools or occupational programs, although educators feel many of these young people could benefit from further education and training in a college environment.

Program considerations

In setting up the program consideration has been given to the interests and learning abilities of the students, giving them an alternative to the direct school-to-job situation in which they have found themselves, providing opportunities to students seriously interested in extending their education in a college setting.

Many of the 15 and 16-year-olds graduating from the three-year vocational courses are not ready to go to work, says Principal Charles Seath of Don Head, and in the college setting they will have time to mature as they upgrade their skills.

"It is a great opportunity for our students," Seath points out. "Not all will benefit from it, but for those who can handle the situation and want to go it should be a very good program."

Since community college first opened in 1967, those going directly from school to college have needed a high school graduation diploma to qualify for admission — that is a grade 12 graduation. But, Seath points out, students in vocational and occupations courses normally graduate at the end of three years.

No college opening

"We have been very concerned for some time that there was nothing for them at any college. Many of them are too young to be thrown into the work force."

He and some of his staff discussed the problem with Dean McCutcheon, he said, and occupations head William McVicar of Huron Heights Secondary in Newmarket had also been involved. The result was formation of the advisory committee and formulation of the program that is now being offered.

Unique in Canada

The only one of its kind in Canada, Seneca's college vocational program has recently been approved by the Ontario Council of Regents which governs the province's community college system.

The course will emphasize personal development and the acquisition of additional vocational skills in actual work situations as well as academic upgrading.

Designed to attract students who will benefit from the college environment, courses in the program are a maximum of six semesters in length.

With its 696 acres of wooded hills, open farmland and large lake, Seneca King is able to offer students a choice of 29 work experience areas right on campus. These include office skills, food services, general store operation, child care, housekeeping services, wood-working, stable operations and grooming, farm operations, small engine repair, grounds

and security services, greenhouse operations, stock room and shipping services.

Off-campus experience

The vocational students will also have opportunities for off-campus work experiences in a carefully planned field placement program in co-operation with employers in the area.

The students will also take part in Seneca's campus involvement plan — a plan which requires participation for all full-time students at the college's King campus.

To ensure students will be able to find suitable employment on completion of the program, close liaison with employers in the community served by King Campus is being developed. Seneca believes employer acceptance of the students will be enhanced because the program is designed to provide greater confidence, increased maturity and additional vocational skills.

Information service

For information about the program students, parents and teachers may contact the principals on the advisory committee or call the counselling service at Seneca's King Campus, 884-9901.

Students under 18 must apply through their principals, says Seath, as the grant structure for community colleges was not set up to accommodate younger students.



(Photo by Elbert)

What do you want for Christmas Alison?

Santa Claus was a most welcome guest at the Richmond Hill Rotary Club's annual Christmas Party for their children held at the Park Hawk December 17. Four-year-old Alison Kenzie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kenzie of Highland Lane, climbed on

Santa's knee to thank him for her gift as the camera clicked.

The Rotarians will be at York Central Hospital Christmas Eve to sing carols for the patients who will be hospitalized over the holiday.

Library addition, BAIF area centre stalled completely

All members of the 1975-76 Richmond Hill Council and six members of the 1973-74 council shared the accommodation on the podium of the council chambers Friday afternoon.

It was a special meeting called to consider tenders for the construction of an addition to the main branch of the town's public library on Wright Street.

There was also a report by

the town staff on negotiations with the low bidder on the BAIF recreation complex. These negotiations are an attempt to salvage as much as possible of those plans.

At the end of the 1½ hour session the only firm decision reached was that the present council would take no action on the staff's BAIF recommendation. In the case of the addition

to the main library, five tenders had been received: Shar-dee Contracting Limited \$243,541, Jas. A. Rice Limited \$260,275. The others ranged upward to \$272,400.

Not low bid Architect Phillip Brook of Brook-Carruthers-Shaw, who won a Massey Award for Design for the original building, recommended the Rice bid be accepted.

He said the low bidder was a new firm with no experience in this type of construction and the two-week earlier Rice Limited completion date would bring the town a greater amount under the winter works program.

The principals of the low bidder were present to plead their case, noting every company is new at some time and its reputation depends on the individuals involved in it.

They recounted their business experience — one having worked in heavy construction, particularly in water purification plants — the other having been with the Foundation Company for 23 years and his work has included the prestigious CN Tower in Toronto. They

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The Liberal

In Essentials Unity. In Non-Essentials Liberty. In all things Charity.



(Photo by Daw)

Christmas concert with a difference

It wasn't all the standard Christmas fare but it was all fun, when Ellis McIntock, music director at Thornlea Secondary School, Thornhill, took his group of musicians, singers and dancers to Maple Thursday. Besides a wide selection of Christmas music,

students at George Bailey Public School got to hear portions of "Fiddler On The Roof". Students in costume sang and danced to the music of the Thornlea band.

Needy families helped Christmas and all year

Twenty-one baskets of food, clothing and toys were delivered Saturday to needy families in Richmond Hill by the Co-ordinated Welfare Services, reports the service's chairman, Grant Marshall.

The service got an unexpected boost this year. In addition to donations from service clubs, schools, churches and individuals, they received a quantity of new toys from Hillcrest Mall which will help make Christmas merry for a number of children.

The service, which operates all year round helping people in need, was set up several years ago by local service clubs to ensure no one would be overlooked and that there would be no duplications in distribution of Christmas baskets.

Mr. Marshall says urgent last-minute requests can still be met. They want to be sure Santa visits every home. He can be reached at 884-1062.

Similar services are provided annually by the Lions of Richvale and Oak Ridges.

View RC junior high building plans

A floor plan and a site plan for the permanent school which will replace the relocatable unit and portables at St. Peter's School in Woodbridge, was presented by Architect William Saccoccio of West Hill to the trustees of the York Region Roman

Catholic School Board December 14. The permanent school will have 12 basic classrooms located in three classroom clusters in the four corners of the almost square building. These clusters can be completely open or completely segregated with

separate access to the corridors. Also included will be an art room, a science room, a 2,500 square foot library resource centre (which will overlook the ravine area), physical education office, change rooms and shower rooms and administration

block around a 4,000 square foot general purpose room which can be divided by means of an electrically operated movable wall.

The stage will also serve as a lunch room area and the music room which will be used for dressing rooms. It will have seats arranged in three tiers.

Central core

The general purpose room will form the central core of the building and will have corridors on all four sides, with provision being made so that the remainder of the school can be locked up when the facility is being used for community purposes after school hours.

Washroom facilities will be provided in all four corners of the building.

There will also be a special education room and a home economics room which will serve as a kitchen facility for the general purpose room when needed. An industrial arts room and double kindergarten space are also included as well as storage space.

Close to road

The school will be located as close to the road as possible which will enable the whole building to be kept to the high ground, Mr. Saccoccio explained. The large site will permit establishment of a large parking area on the southwest of the building.

In all, the proposed building will contain 47,000 square feet of enclosed space with eight points of entry.

This concept was accepted on motion of

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Markham appeals judge's 'frozen' lands decision

Markham council voted last week to appeal a precedent-setting judge's decision it is worried could exempt landowners in almost two-thirds of the town from paying local improvement taxes.

Judge F.J. Cornish ruled December 6 property owners on Highway 48 in the area frozen from development because of the proposed Pickering Airport need not help to pay for a recently installed water-

man. He agreed with the lawyer for Maude Mingay, Dennis Stazynski, that this local improvement "does not and will not in the foreseeable future benefit" her land.

"The result of the minister's freezing order is to prevent any building or development until the order is lifted," he writes in his six-page decision. "Why then should those whose use of their land is so restricted pay for a local improvement during the years of the 'freeze'?"

Judge Cornish also ruled the town must pay Mrs. Mingay's legal costs.

As a result of this decision, the municipality's share of the debt charges for the watermain will be increased from 35 percent to 65 percent — or approximately \$5,000 a year for the next 20 years, Town Treasurer Alex Barton said.

This is not a lot for the rest of the town's taxpayers to pick up, but there is a principle to be upheld, Barton explained.

In addition to the lands frozen in the noise zone of the proposed airport, there are those lands in the Parkway Belt, which cuts a wide swath through Markham, from just south of Highway 7 to 14th Avenue, east of Bayview Avenue.

Senior members of the planning department could not be reached Friday, but Markham Planning Committee Chairman Bob Adams estimated the lands

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Woman killed 4 others hurt

One person was killed and four others including a resident of Richmond Hill, at press time were in serious condition in York County Hospital, following a two-car collision on Yonge Street.

The crash occurred just south of the Aurora CNR subway, Sunday, about 1:35 am, according to Oak Ridges OPP.

Killed was Margaret Reid, 27 of 68 Cousins Drive, Aurora, a passenger in one of the cars.

Her husband, Alexander, 30, is one of the people in hospital.

The Reids were passengers in a car driven by Robert Small, 39, of 69 Devins Drive, Aurora, which was in collision with a car driven by Lorne Bell, 16, of 254 Weldrick Road, Richmond Hill.

Both Mr. Small and his wife, Jean, 33, were hospitalized as a result, as was Mr. Bell.

According to police who investigated the accident, it occurred when the Bell vehicle crossed over from the southbound lane into the northbound lane.

Charges are pending.

Sabiston 'made monkeys' of Markham council - - - Kay

By JAMES DAW

In a parting shot at the Sabiston Pits issue, retiring Markham Councillor Gary Kay told planning committee Thursday the owner of the 64-acre proposed park site has "made monkeys" of council.

A blistering attack against James Sabiston and the town's failure to enforce its agreements with him was prompted by an application to sever a portion of the property for sale to the Tri-bell Tennis Club of North York.

Kay, who is annoyed Sabiston is trying to sell the land privately when he knows the town is anxious to buy it, argued Sabiston is "trying to pull something over" on the council.

He said Sabiston's property is divided by the unopened road allowance for Leslie Street and therefore no permission is required to sever the easterly 33-acre parcel on John Street.

If the town commented on the application without mentioning this fact, Kay said, it might be considered later as a tacit acknowledgment of Sabiston's claim he owns the road allowance.

However Regional Councillor Harry Crisp, who is also retiring this year, said there is no question the road allowance is the property of the town. For many years Crisp was the clerk of Markham Township and dealt with the Sabiston Pits issue when excavation of sand first began there in the 1940s.

Planning committee decided to inform the York Regional Land Division Committee the

application is not necessary. "Why is he applying for a severance?" asked Kay. "Something here stinks and it's not just the garbage dump."

Citizens in the area have complained on numerous occasions Sabiston has not been dumping clean fill in the pit. In a telephone interview Saturday Kay said property owners have found garbage blowing onto their lawns from the pit.

Purchase option

Mayor Tony Roman, who was concerned Kay was implying town staff had been negligent in carrying out the wishes of council, pointed out Markham has an option to purchase the lands owned by Sabiston.

But Kay was skeptical. He said Sabiston has promised on several occasions he would stop dumping on the site, but is continuing to dump.

Councillor Kay said he noticed prior to the meeting a large patch of brown earth in a field of white snow at the pit, indicating there had been dumping that day.

He said Sabiston agreed in 1970 he would cease dumping at the end of 1972 and was critical of the council for not enforcing the agreement.

Leaving the committee table and pointing to a conceptual drawing of the pit area, Councillor Kay said the plan for tennis courts, public beach and ski hills prepared for the town by Johnson, Sustrunk and Weinstein is now out of date because of the amount of fill added by Sabiston.

Joke and shame

He pointed out Sabiston once agreed with

the town to fill according to the grade lines in the architect's plan but has ignored them.

"The whole thing is a big joke and a shame on this municipality," he said.

Mayor Roman, who has been a staunch defender of Sabiston, challenged Councillor Kay to suggest some form of action by council.

Councillor Kay moved that the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority be informed Sabiston is filling the Don River Valley there and that the authority should consider taking action immediately.

He asked the town lawyer be consulted to see if there is a way to bring dumping to halt. He suggested an injunction as a final measure.

Further, Kay requested Sabiston be contacted to ask why he has continued to dump despite agreements made during numerous meetings with town council.

Mayor Roman again asserted there should be no implication town staff has disregarded council requests for action in the past.

Too many friends

Later in a telephone interview, Kay said he is not blaming staff. "The problem is, Sabiston has too many friends and it is hard to do anything against him in Markham," he said.

He said Sabiston is continually being cited as a good Markham citizen, but in this particular area, his contribution is not appreciated.

"During the meeting Thursday, he said