

OMB approves administration building

The need for "improved and expanded facilities" for York County Board of Education is "unmistakable," Municipal Board Chairman Barry Smith, ruled at a two-day hearing of the provincial board in Aurora last week.

The meeting was called to hear objections to the school board's proposed administrative centre in Fleury Park on Wellington Street in Aurora. The public school board is to share facilities with the

town in the new centre. Main objection to the centre has been that it was in flood plain lands and only met two of three criteria necessary to make it safe during any possible flooding.

Facilities obsolete

Chairman Smith said the board's present accommodation — an old school on Church Street in Aurora — was "physically and functionally obsolete".

He said also that, while he appreciated

hearing the briefs of the opposition, they were not up to the testimony of the applicant's. The former was also overlooking "the lengthy study (by the board) undertaken over the last two years".

George Ford, superintendent of business for the school board, who gave the bulk of evidence on its behalf, described the design of the building and how it met the three essential criteria.

Necessary criteria

These stated that: the first floor openings must be one foot higher than the highest water (as in Hurricane Hazel) they could expect:

The hydraulics of the site must remain the same, so the flow of water can not be impeded:

The third criterion called for stage storage between the two flood banks to be the same. That is, the area must be able to retain the same amount of water as before.

Although the first two criteria were easily approved, the third was in doubt until Trustee Norm Weller, an Aurora parks superintendent, testified that gabions — metal nets — had been installed last year, thus making the matter possible.

Horton objects

Objections by Joy Horton, a newly-elected trustee, were that: new board members — some of whom had campaigned against the building — must be able

to give instructions to the solicitor as to its validity.

She said the acceptance tender had been rushed through at the last board meeting. Also, a study on the administrative set-up by P.S. Ross and Company, due in March, might have an impact on the design and suitability of the building.

Smith said the OMB's approval was not an order to proceed, but it is not expected that there will be any more delays now to the project.

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Richmond Hill Public Library
 24 Wright St.
 Richmond Hill, Ont.

The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity; in Non-Essentials Liberty; in all things Charity"

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(Photo by Elbert)

In the seats they will occupy during the next two years, members of Richmond Hill Town Council are seen above (left to right): Ward 1 Councillor Andre Chateauvert, Ward 2 Councillor Al Duffy (hidden), Ward 3 Councillor John Birchall, Regional Councillor Lois Hancey, Mayor David Schiller, Regional Coun-

ty Councillor Gordon Rowe, Ward 4 Councillor Marylo Graham, Ward 5 Councillor William Corcoran and Ward 6 Councillor Mike Burnie. Seated with their backs to the camera are Town Treasurer William Rice, Acting Clerk Jean Holman and Justice of the Peace Mack Clement.

Hill council rejects low library bid

By Mary Dawson

The tender of Jas. A. Rice Construction Company in the amount of \$240,827, for the extension of the main branch of the Richmond Hill Public Library on Wright Street was accepted by the 1975-76 council in a brief business session following the inaugural meeting Monday morning.

The Rice tender was the second lowest of those received, but was recommended by Architect Philip Brook of Brook-Carruthers-Shaw. Construction will thus cost the town an extra \$16,723.

The motion to award the contract to the local firm was made by Regional Councillor Mrs. Lois Hancey and seconded by Councillor Andy Chateauvert. An amendment was moved by Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe that the contract be awarded to Shar-dee Contracting Limited at \$243,541, less \$19,448 or \$224,093. This was seconded by Councillor William Corcoran.

"There are no trees in Richmond Hill growing that kind of money," stated Rowe, referring to the cost difference to the town of \$16,723, which he described as of prime importance. He recalled the architect's representative said the architect firm would have no objection if Shar-dee got the contract. Rowe argued the grants

will apply no matter which firm gets the contract, that Shar-dee's documents were all in order and that the financial conditions had been met.

Rowe charged that if the motion carried it would be destroying the town's credibility with contractors.

"I feel this is of such importance. I ask for a recorded vote," he concluded.

Councillor Chateauvert said the consultants felt Shar-dee did not have the forces to carry out the work.

"There's not much point in having consultants if we ignore their recommendations," he said.

Not unionized Ward 6 Councillor Mike Burnie said the Shar-dee firm was not unionized and if union trouble arose it could mean work stoppages.

Ward 3 Councillor John Birchall also recalled the architects pointed out that Shar-dee is a new company, not experienced in this type of construction, that it has no employees as yet although it had indications key personnel would be available.

Ward 4 Councillor Marylo Graham said the Rice firm will undertake to finish the job within the winterworks period, so the town will derive as much benefit as possible from the grants. She said the lowest tenderer could not give that guarantee.

"Indications are, considering this," she said, "that the two amounts would come out to about the same figure."

(Continued on Page 2)

Schiller warns of hectic 2 years ahead

In his first official act as a full time Justice of the Peace in York Region, Mack Clement, former clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill, administered the oath of allegiance to the members of the town's 1975-76 council Monday morning.

The declaration of office was given by Mrs. Jean Holman, acting clerk. She also presented Mayor David Schiller with the chain of office. He will wear it on official occasions during his term of office.

The new mayor noted Region of York Chairman Garfield Wright and Donald Deacon MLA, York Centre, were present for the

inaugural. He read telegrams of regret from Minister of Urban Affairs Barney Danson who is out of the country and William Hodgson MLA, York North, who had a prior commitment.

The blessing of God on the deliberations of council was asked by Rev. Bernard Barrett of St. Mary's Anglican Church and the closing benediction was said by Rev. Dana Lamb of St. John's Baptist Church.

In his speech the new mayor said one of the objectives of council must be to make the newer residents of the municipality equal members of the community.

His worship noted a hectic two years of work lies ahead of the new council with a number of things requiring extensive work on the part of staff and council in order to do the work the community has asked it to do.

Mayor Schiller said the community's interdependence on the success and failure of other governments and other people must be recognized. He said this council has been given the power and told to operate openly and fairly. He announced committee appointments would be finalized January 20.

Regional Councillor Hancey reiterated the promise she has made repeatedly throughout the years she has sat on council — "that in all conscience, and all dedication, I will devote myself to the people of Richmond Hill. I intend to make this government as good as the people are entitled to."

Regional Councillor Rowe assured his colleagues of his co-operation as he paid tribute to former members of council and to the town staff "one of the finest". He said he was no miracle man and could not promise taxes would not increase in view of escalating inflation. But he promised to meet each crisis with sincerity, honesty and dedication.

Councillor Chateauvert expressed his deep pride and humility at having received the only acclamation to this council, "as a representative of the people of Ward 1 and working for the people of the

whole municipality. I hope council will not try to maintain the tax line by cutting back on essential services."

Stresses challenge Councillor Birchall said the catchword in November was concern and it is now "challenge". "We must work together using everybody in town as a

resource," he said. Councillor Graham said she had a feeling of pride in the job of serving the community — a community worth serving — and promised to study and assess the affect of all proposals on the quality of life of those living here now and those who will live here in the future.

Sim heads school board

Markham lawyer Donald Sim was elected chairman of York County Board of Education at its inaugural meeting in Aurora High School Tuesday night. Sim, who was named on the first ballot, beat out fellow Trustees Margaret Coburn of King and Warren Baillie of Richmond Hill.

Elected vice-chairman, also on the first ballot, was

Trustee Craig Cribar of Newmarket who won over Trustee Douglas Allen of Richmond Hill.

Chairman Sim's nomination was moved by Trustee Norm Weller of Aurora, and seconded by Trustee Robert Houghton of Richmond Hill. Cribar's nomination was moved by Sim and Trustee Joy Horton of East Gwillimbury.

Markham's Adams may seek region chair

Markham Regional Councillor Bob Adams wants someone to oppose York Regional Chairman Garfield Wright when council meets Thursday.

He said Tuesday he has been trying to persuade both Markham Mayor Tony Roman and Newmarket Mayor Bob Forhan to try for the chairman's job.

But he said he does not think he has been successful and may run himself "just to show there has to be some changes."

If he runs it will not be with the hope of winning, he said. Wright was appointed as chairman by the province in 1971. This will be the first time there has been an election for post.

Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams has said he is interested in the job but has not announced his intention to run.

Cindy Davis buried

Funeral service for Cindy Davis, 17, of 216 Essex Avenue, Richmond Hill, was held January 2 at Marshall Funeral Home. Interment followed at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Cemetery.

She was killed in a car accident December 29.

Acting as pallbearers were six of her school chums. According to York Regional Police, Miss Davis was eastbound on Stouffville Sideroad, a mile east of Bayview Avenue about 4:50 pm, when she lost control of

her car and rolled into a ditch.

She was thrown from the car and pronounced dead on arrival at York Central Hospital.

Miss Davis was alone in the vehicle at the time. Police said driving conditions were good and the road was dry.

The deceased is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morton Davis; two sisters, Debbie and Sherrie; and five brothers, Jeff, Brian, Glen, Aubrey and Ian.

Inside The Liberal

New column starts today

This week on Page 7 see the story of the big local traffic mishaps of August, 1888, in the new column Yesterdays. This new frequent feature in The Liberal is written from the news paper files of the past century by veteran news staffer Miss Mary Dawson. Reporter Dawson is well known locally for her knowledge of Thornhill-Richmond Hill history.

The fourth annual Richmond Hill Lions Rosetown Invitational Tournament last week saw Thornhill and Thunder Bay hook up in the grand championship finale with Thornhill falling 4-1. For complete picture and story coverage of this big local sports event turn to Page 17.

The index for the regular news and advertising on the inside is as follows:

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Snedker NDP's York Centre candidate

Tony Snedker, an active member of the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Association, will probably be the NDP candidate for York Centre in the next provincial election.

Though a public nomination meeting has not been held because the province may change the boundaries of the riding, Snedker said Monday he has the full support of the new riding association executive.

A languages teacher at Thornhill Secondary School for the past three years and a teacher in York Region for the past seven, Snedker, 43, heads the External Policies Implementation Committee of the Ontario Secondary



Tony Snedker
Probable NDP Candidate

School Teachers' Federation here in York County.

His home is in Thornhill, at 184 Bayview Fairways Drive, where he lives with his wife Judy and two of his four children.

Snedker is immediate past president of the Thornhill Lions Club and chairman of Zone 7 North of the Lions in Ontario.

Educated in England where he was born, he received his bachelor and master of arts degree from Oxford. He emigrated to Canada in 1962.

In the last provincial election the NDP candidate was Roy Clifton of Richmond Hill, the librarian at Richmond Hill High School.

Riding boundaries in Ontario are now being reviewed by a provincial commission. Under its most recent recommendation, York Centre would lose the portion of Vaughan west of Bathurst Street to the York North riding.

Once the final boundaries are determined the NDP will hold its formal public nominations meeting. Nominations from the floor will of course be possible, but it is assumed the executive's recommendation will carry considerable weight.

The present provincial member for York Centre is Liberal Don Deacon.



(Photo by Ron Fawn)

Instant TV blamed in wee hour fire

Richmond Hill Firefighter Terry Haviland looks at what's left of a TV set shortly after it burst into flame at the home of James McLain, 242 Axminster Drive, Richmond Hill. The fire started just after 5 am, demolishing the TV set, and then setting fire to the walls, woodwork and carpet in the room. The set, which is one of those which starts immediately when turned

on, remains on at a low voltage at all times to effect this instantaneous action. Fire Chief Robert Kennedy said.

Damage to the house and contents was estimated at \$8,000. The local firefighters also put out a fire in a clothes closet at the home of Ralph Crabb, 216 Essex Avenue, about 4:25 pm.