

# Roman-Schiller group to bring in \$1,000 region council pay raise

Markham Mayor Tony Roman was named chairman of the administration committee of York Regional Council at a meeting of the committee Monday morning.

Named vice-chairman was Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Schiller.

Last year, Mayor Roman was chairman of the engineering committee. This is Mayor Schiller's first year on council.

One of the first moves to be made by the committee will be to send a motion to council this Thursday at its regular meeting, calling for pay increases for Regional Chairman Garfield Wright and members of the council.

**\$2,200 raise**

Wright's pay will go from about \$29,000 to \$31,200, if the motion is successful. Council members will go up \$1,000 to \$8,000.

The two pay packets also include fringe benefits, pension plans and mileage of 15 cents a mile.

Another project of the administration committee

will be to continue its study to increase membership of the council.

**Larger council**

Last year a committee composed of Mayors Roman, Bob Forhan of Newmarket and Joe Dales of Georgina Township, started the study.

This year, as Dales was defeated, his place will be taken on the committee by his successor, Dr. George Burrows.

Apropos of the study, Chief Administrative Officer Jack Rettie has sent out queries to united area municipalities, seeking their stand on the matter.

So far he has received five replies and is awaiting four more.

It is not known what position the municipalities have taken up to this point.

**Secret session**

Although the motion for the pay raise was made in secret session and not by a legally-constituted body, Solicitor Ted Oakes said there was nothing illegal

about the recommendations and they will stand.

In Richmond Hill it's two out of three for the proposed pay increase for members of York Regional Council.

Mayor Dave Schiller and Councillor Lois Hancey says "yes", while Councillor Gordon Rowe says "definitely no".

Mrs. Hancey and Mr. Rowe said they would back the proposed raise to Chairman Garfield Wright,

which would see him go from \$29,000 to \$31,500. The chairman's starting salary in 1971 was \$17,500.

Mayor Schiller said he felt the chairman's increase was "much too high" and didn't support it.

**Schiller position**

In supporting the raise for the councillors, the mayor said he wanted it tied in with the cost of living index, "so that we can get off this crazy bandwagon," which means

setting a different figure every year.

He said present salaries were set in 1973 and the cost of living increase over two years amounted to 15 percent.

In 1976 the raises could be tied in with the cost of living from that time on. That way, if council proposed a 12 percent raise, for example, and the cost of living was only up 10 percent, council would have to settle for the

latter.

**Rowe opposed**

Councillor Rowe said he thought it was wrong that, in the first meeting after the inaugural, council members should get together and argue for two hours about increasing their pay.

He also thought the increase was wrong and any discussion on the matter should be deferred until council negotiated first with staff.

"I don't think the average owner in Richmond Hill expects you to work for nothing," Rowe said.

However, members should be judged on their employees' pay.

"We went in knowing full well what we were going to get," he said. "The credibility of politicians has been eroded enough now as it is."

Rowe said he thought the present salary of \$7,000

"was fair" and he was against council "going in and grabbing \$1,000 here and \$1,000 there".

**Raise reasonable**

Councillor Hancey said she felt the \$1,000 raise was "reasonable", but she would like to see it tied into a policy for future councils.

She said council "held the line" and "kept its promise" not to raise salaries in 1973 and 1974.

If council planned to give

itself a raise, shouldn't individual councillors have mentioned that during the last election?

Mrs. Hancey said she was asked at the time and told her questioners she would agree to an increase.

She said she had been against a suggested raise of \$10,000 as sought by some members of council. However, she felt the pay should be such "that anyone can run".

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## Adams reveals secret session

A campaign by Markham Councillor Bob Adams to unseat York Regional Council Chairman Garfield Wright, missed for two reasons: it lacked a suitable challenger, and it was also too late in getting under way.

That, anyway, is apparently the post-election consensus of the behind the scenes battle for the top regional post, according to a recent story in the Newmarket Era.

Chairman Wright, who had just finished a four-year term to which he was appointed by the provincial government, was elected to a two-year term at the inaugural meeting of council in York two weeks ago. He was unopposed in the election.

However, according to The Era, there was a secret session beforehand, from which both the chairman and staff were excluded. There council did its best to come up with someone to try to unseat Wright.

**Caucus confirmed**

That there had been a "searching for other candidates" in caucus was confirmed for The Liberal by Councillor Lois Hancey of Richmond Hill.

But, Mrs. Hancey said, the members had all been sworn in prior to the meeting, so it couldn't be considered illegal.

She said the other motions discussed by the members calling for pay raises for both themselves and the

chairman, should have come up at the inaugural meeting.

"When I asked: 'Where are the other motions?' I was told my Mayor (Bob) Forhan (of Newmarket) the inaugural wasn't the place for such things," Mrs. Hancey said.

The pay increases call for an extra \$1,000 to a total of \$8,000 a year for councillors, and a raise from \$29,000 to \$31,500 for the chairman.

**Declined**

According to The Era story, Mayor Forhan and Mayor Tony Roman of Markham were approached by the meeting to run for the chairman's job. But both declined after deciding it was all just a bit too late.

Mr. Forhan is quoted as saying the meeting showed there was support for someone other than Wright. And if such were the case, it should have come to the surface earlier. As it was, it was too late.

Councillor Adams is said to have stated he considered the inaugural meeting, electing Wright, "simply a grand ceremony put on for the old wardens of York County."

There obviously wasn't unanimity, he said, when he had been able to come up with enough votes to split the issue down the middle.

The chairman's nomination was made by Mayor Garnet Williams of Vaughan, and seconded by Mayor Gladys Rolling of East Gwillimbury.



Representing Richmond Hill High School in the 1975 Winter Carnival Snow Queen contest will be the five young ladies pictured above. All 18 entrants will be judged February 6 at the Legion Hall. The Snow Queen will be crowned at 9 pm

## Sky divers, snow sport, romance at Winter Carnival Feb. 6, 7, 8, 9

Frosty winter weather with some snow over the weekend set the stage for Richmond Hill's annual Winter Carnival scheduled for February 6, 7, 8 and 9. The program is shaping up rapidly for lots of fun for the whole family, whether as participants or as onlookers.

Getting things off to a good start is the Snow Queen dinner and dance Thursday evening at the Legion on Ohio Road. This is where the judging will take place and all citizens are invited to attend.

Cocktails will be served at 7 pm, followed by dinner and then dancing with tickets available at \$5 each person from 884-6240 or 884-2137. Get yours early because space is limited.

Friday evening the Snow Queen winner will be presented at the Mill Pond at 9 pm and weather permitting the sky divers will perform carrying torches. They can jump as long as they have 500 feet of visibility, and wind and weather conditions are favorable.

Saturday's events get going at 10 am with children's races, hockey, broomball, tugs of war, sleigh riding on the Mill Pond, log cutting, snowshoe races (bring your own equipment), ice sculpture judging

and presentation of awards. In the evening (7 pm) an old fashioned skating party to live music is the programmed event.

Saturday night at the Richmond Hill Golf and Country Club there will be a dance combined with a sleigh ride. Needless to say this is NOT a formal affair. Music will be provided by the Sandmen and tickets may be obtained by phoning 884-6240 or 884-5694.

Sunday will start off with a pancake breakfast at the Mill Pond and will feature cross-country ski races (own equipment, please), skating on the pond and entertainment including the Richmond Hill Youth Concert Band plus other local talent and demonstrations by the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club. The sky divers will be back again in the afternoon and the carnival will conclude with a late afternoon community folk service.

Two rides for the children will be set up on Mill Street for the whole carnival and there will be lots of food and warming drinks available throughout the scheduled events at the Mill Pond.

Show the hard-working members of the committee that you support them by buying and wearing an oopik.



Don Head Secondary School's Totem Pole tells a story and the school's representatives in the 1975 Snow Queen contest seem to be listening. Bottom to top they are Kathy Papp (first year), Carol Anderson (second year), Sue Botham (third year).

## Rhodes yields bit on Yonge for now

A four-lane design for Yonge Street in Thornhill has been approved by John Rhodes, minister of transportation and communications, Don Deacon, MLA York Centre said last week.

The minister wrote Deacon a letter January 10 suggesting a new design of the highway south of Royal Orchard Boulevard.

However, he proposes the seven-lane plan announced in December be proceeded with as far north as Major MacKenzie Drive in Richmond Hill.

Several letters of protest went to the minister when the plan was announced. But apparently the about-face by the ministry came after Deputy Minister Harold Gilbert met with local politicians for a walking tour of Thornhill January 7.

"It would appear that due to the make-up of the new municipal councils in the area, there is a complete reversal of some of their

recommendations regarding improvements to Yonge Street," Rhodes wrote to Deacon.

Representatives of Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan attended the meeting with Gilbert.

Deacon intends to arrange a meeting with the three area municipalities and the minister to discuss the area north of Royal Orchard.

"I am happy the minister has decided four lanes is sufficient in the Thornhill area, but the idea of seven lanes in between Richmond Hill and Thornhill is just crazy," Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller said Tuesday.

Markham Regional Councillor Bob Adams said he was gratified by the minister's decision, but he too wondered at the wisdom of the wider section north of Royal Orchard.

Rhodes has suggested a senior technical official be appointed by the municipalities to meet with ministry engineer Roy Burnfield to discuss the new design.

"There is considerable urgency in this matter, as the reconstruction of Yonge Street has a high priority, and improvements must be carried out at the earliest possible date," Rhodes says in his letter.

He assumes in his letter Markham and Vaughan will take steps to close certain streets at Yonge and eliminate parking on Yonge.

In addition, he assumes the municipalities agree to the purchase of enough land to permit Scheme A so it might, if required, be constructed "at some future date".

Deacon said there will probably be left turn lanes and bus bays in the four-lane plan.

## House prices rose \$11,000 during year

The average price of houses sold under the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) in York Region jumped \$11,000 last year.

According to the York Regional Real Estate Board, the average single family home sold for \$58,008 in 1974, compared with \$47,300 in 1973.

The lowest average house price last year was in January, at \$46,346, but this was still nearly \$2,000 above the average in January 1973.

## Await OMB Buttonville airport ruling

By James Daw

The Municipal Board hearing on a runway extension at Buttonville Airport ended last week with the lawyers' posts apart on the issue of noise.

Markham's solicitor Harold Elliott said it is "facetious" for Toronto Airways to argue the airport's noise and nuisance will not increase if more twin engine planes land there.

But Toronto Airways lawyer Robert Macaulay argued the possibility of more planes and more noise does not outweigh the advantages of the 1,200-foot extension.

He said in the final day of the hearing that area residents claim noise has increased over the past five years, when the number of movements by planes has

"dropped very substantially".

In 1969, there were approximately 212,000 take-offs and landings but in 1972 there were 38,000 fewer flights — the equivalent of 101 movements a day, he said. And in 1973 there were an average 74 fewer movements a day than in 1969.

**Youth charged in car death**

Lorne Bell, 16, of Weldrick Avenue, Richmond Hill, has been charged with careless driving and failing to share half the roadway. She was involved in an accident December 22, in which one person was killed and several others injured.

The accident occurred on Highway 11 near Aurora

when a southbound car driven by Bell, was in collision with a northbound vehicle driven by Robert Small, 39, of Devins Drive, Aurora.

Margaret Teid, 27, of Cousins Drive, Aurora, was killed. Her husband, Alexander, 30, was critically injured, as were Small, his wife, Jean, 33, and Bell.

aviation," said Elliott in his reply arguments.

He compared Macaulay's position to a quote by American humorist Artemus Ward, who wrote at the time of the Civil War he was prepared to "shed every drop of blood my able-bodied relations got" to win the war.

Buttonville Airport, he pointed out, is a private business enterprise. Money is made through a pilot training program, rental of planes and rental of space in buildings.

The desired rezoning of approximately 70 acres of land, from agricultural to transportation, is to permit increased profitability, he said. Not only will the extension permit heavier planes to land more often, but related airport buildings can also be built on site.

Responding to Macaulay's earlier criticism that a planning study on noise at the airport was withheld from the hearing, Elliott pointed out Toronto Airways President Michael Sifton was also not called.

He said Sifton is the most qualified person to testify on the likely conduct of the airport in the future.

"It is the responsibility of counsel to elect to call the evidence which will be helpful to his case," he said. He offered to submit the study, but Macaulay said it was too late.

Elliott disputed Macaulay's claim that the provincial government has a policy against urban development in the area of the airport. He called a government task force

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## Family life centres are threatened

With the existence of their agencies threatened by lack of financial support, 30 representatives of the four family life centres and family services in York Region met January 6 in Markham to draw up a plan of action.

To emphasise the urgency of their situation, representatives of the four volunteer boards of directors agreed to support the inter-church delegation which will be appearing before York Regional Council when it meets at 2 pm tomorrow.

In 1973 and 1974 the region provided funds for staff salaries for the four counselling services. In turn the region received a 50 percent subsidy from the province.

Office expenses and other operating costs came from fees for services, internal fund-raising projects and donations from churches, organizations and individuals.

During 1974 the agency boards worked with the region and the province in an attempt to set up a long-

term funding contract. When a formula could not be struck, interim financing was extended to the end of the year.

**Money stopped**

No funds have been allotted or received for the current year and all four centres will run out of money by the end of March, the meeting was told.

At the January 6 meeting a chairman's committee was formed with representatives from the Georgina Family Life Centre, Belhaven; the Aurora-Newmarket Family Life Centre, Newmarket; the Richmond Hill-Thornhill Family Services; and the Markham and District Family Life Centre.

In addition to supporting the inter-church delegation, the committee agreed to approach members of the regional council individually.

They are also to approach the health and social services committee of regional council through com-

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## Church women rally for family centres

Family life centres and family service in York will have the support of United Church women from all over the region when they appeal to York Regional Council for funds at a meeting of council in Newmarket tomorrow at 2 pm.

More than 100 women were at a meeting of York Presbyterian UCW in York Pines United Church January 14. They came from Milliken in the south to Sutton in the north; as far west as Nobleton and east to Uxbridge. They offered support in appealing to municipal, regional and provincial levels of government for financial assistance for family services.

Many of those present expressed interest in personally attending the regional council meeting as a delegation.

**Valuable services**

The meeting agreed the

family services centres in Richmond Hill, Markham, Newmarket and Georgina are of great value in helping to meet the needs of people in the community with personal and family problems; that they should have government support.

It was calculated the need could be met at a cost of less than \$1 per person in tax money. If only one family were helped to stay together it would be worth the cost, the women agreed.

**Church support**

It was pointed out that of the nearly \$10,000 in voluntary contributions received by the Richmond Hill-Thornhill Family Services last year, 75 percent came from churches of all faiths, showing the churches do care.

The women intend to make this very clear to the members of the regional council when they meet tomorrow.

## Inside The Liberal

### New column about the Nice News

Excitement reigned Sunday as 60 snowmobiles competed in the annual Kinsmen Club races here. See story and pictures on Page 15.

This week we are starting a new local news column we hope to run frequently in the coming weeks. It's titled Nice News. We are going to be looking for more such heart warming stories from your community. See Nice News on Page 3.

The index of news, features and advertising on the inside pages is as follows:

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