

Chief says constable planned to 'frame' drug pusher

Chief Bruce Crawford of York Regional Police told a crowded press conference last week it was the intention of former Constable Glenn Percival, 26, of Bolton, to plant some confiscated marijuana on a known drug pusher in order to frame the pusher.

The conference was called by the chief to present what he said were the facts he considered "pertinent to the truth of the matter".

Chief Crawford said media coverage following the resignation of Constable Percival from the force, January 12, for taking 1½ ounces of confiscated marijuana home, had "reached such a degree of magnitude and inaccuracy" that he (Crawford) felt

obliged to issue a statement on the facts surrounding the case.

Right now, Crawford said, he was dealing with the "unbelievable situation of Mr. Percival pursuing the matter in every media in Ontario" with "the story getting more glamorous each time. Percival has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence in the matter and denied all allegations.

Crawford said he originally just planned to issue a release, but as he was leaving for a Florida holiday the next day, he felt he should give the media a chance to ask any questions they wanted to as a result of his statement.

By just handing out the press release and then

taking off, he would be "dropping a bomb. That's not the case," the chief said. "I planned this holiday for a long time."

Under surveillance

The chief then reviewed the case from the time the constable first made out his report on the arrest of two Woodbridge area juveniles for possession of marijuana, the confiscation of it by Percival, the subsequent surveillance by police and raid on his apartment, right up to his interrogation by Crawford and two senior officers, to his eventual resignation.

During that period, the chief also admitted there were some unanswered questions as to the handling and recording of the con-

fiscated marijuana evidence by Percival, which allowed him to keep it for more than a month-and-a-half without police knowledge.

Chief Crawford said this part of the matter was now under investigation.

The facts as related by the chief at the press conference

are as follows: On January 8 a statement was received from an 18-year-old youth to the effect he and another youth purchased a quantity of marijuana from Percival, who was off duty at the time, at the Village Inn in Kleinburg.

Neither of the youths was known to police prior to that time, the chief said.

As a result of the statement, Crawford said he assigned a six-man detail to conduct a 24-hour-a-day surveillance of Percival. To assist, he said, he arranged to borrow two "specially-equipped police cars and other specialized equipment from the police force of a surrounding municipality".

Elaborating on this later on, Chief Crawford said some of the police had been outfitted with microphones to record any conversation with Percival, but at no time had the latter's telephone been tapped.

A former Metro policewoman was also hired to keep a watch on the suspect.

The surveillance was

terminated three days later on January 12 when Percival became aware of what was happening, the chief said. A warrant was then issued to search Percival's apartment in Bolton.

Apartment searched

The search was carried out by Inspector Dave Hillock and four detectives and resulted in the finding of five brown manilla envelopes, four of which contained marijuana, with the fifth containing marijuana seeds. The total weight was 46 grams, or 1.62 ounces, the chief said.

All five envelopes had been sealed at one time, the chief said, but when found in Percival's apartment, three had been torn open and seals

(Continued on Page 2)



(Photo by Margaret McLean)

Male bastion falls

Another bastion of male privilege hit the dust recently when King Mayor Margaret Britnell was appointed to York Region's engineering committee. Above, her honor is shown wearing the hard hat which goes with the post.

Rhodes says Yonge to be four lanes

Ontario Minister of Transportation and Communications John Rhodes has directed his staff to prepare designs for a four-lane highway on Yonge Street between Markham Road and Highway 7 through the southern end of Richmond Hill.

This is according to word received from York Centre MLA Donald Deacon, Mayor David Schiller reported to Richmond Hill Council Monday evening.

The four-lane design would continue through Thornhill.

"It looks as if the ministry is prepared to accept the wishes of the majority of the municipalities concerned," commented the mayor.

A communication from the clerk's department of the City of Toronto to the town expressed support of the town's opposition to the widening of Yonge Street.

The letter also contained the information the city was reluctant to accept the province's offer of \$64,850 for 2.591 acres of the fall farm needed for road widening purposes, if the road was widened to seven lanes.

Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe suggested this amount (the market value of the land) be kept in mind by the town's finance department when negotiating with the City of Toronto for a grant in lieu of

taxes on the property.

"Maybe they can be more realistic when they come to pay us off in the future," he said.

However, Regional Councillor Lois Hancey warned a heavy financial levy on the fall farm might make the city more susceptible to developers' plans for large-scale high-density housing on that site.

FBI get their man in Maple

A Maple resident faces a charge of illegal entry into Canada following his arrest January 28.

Police said the man was employed in Maple since he allegedly entered Canada from the United States with his wife and family, via Niagara Falls last August.

Since then police here were informed by authorities in Morristown, New Jersey, that they held warrants for the man for rape, abduction, assault, robbery and lewd acts.

The FBI is also said to have a warrant citing flight to avoid prosecution.

Arrested by York Regional Police and RCMP and turned over to immigration authorities was Curtis Colby Knapp, 26, of Major Mackenzie Drive.

Richmond

NO 7711 ONDWHND
24 WRIGHT ST
LIBRARY
RICHMOND HILL ONDWHND

The Liberal

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

Established 1878

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1975

48 pages

Price 15 cents

BAIF block proposed for south end arena

Council is asked to consider site

By Mary Dawson

Is Block 'U' of phase 2 of the BAIF development a suitable site for an arena?

This is a question Richmond Hill Town Council must resolve.

Monday evening Arena Association President Elgin Barrow and Manager Ed Sackfield presented a proposal to council to build an arena for the south end of town on that site.

They explained that the arena association last November dropped out of the original recreation complex in that area because of the high cost of the arena portion of the proposed building.

"Related to our type of operation, debenture payments would have been too great for the association to carry and still operate at no cost to the taxpayer," Mr. Barrow said.

"The building we propose would cost no more than \$500,000. It has always been our rule of thumb that we can carry a debenture not exceeding \$250,000."

He asked that \$200,000 of the developers' contribution to the recreation complex be allotted to the arena. He said that with government grants (winterworks and community centre) the association would be able to continue on the same basis as in the past, with a start late this year.

A staff report, requested by council in committee on November 13, recommended the Block 'U' site, stating it contains two acres, is located off a collector street a short distance from Bathurst Street, is zoned for public use and is immediately behind a proposed neighborhood shopping plaza and next to a proposed town house site.

"If the site is approved, a sign could be erected to advise prospective purchasers of townhouses of the future use. Berms could be constructed along the eastern and southern flanks to screen the arena and parking lot. Combined with fencing by the town house developer a very effective screen would be provided," the report said.

"The site is accessible to all utilities and services and would be on a future public transit route."

This was one of 11 sites considered in the area, but lack of services and proximity of others to residential areas ruled them out.

Total use of the present three arenas per week is 252 hours, it was reported, with only 41½ hours being used by outsiders — late at nights and on Sundays. This provides no public skating on weekends.

"Ever since we first installed artificial ice in Arena 23 we have not rented ice time to local groups until 1 pm Sundays, after Sunday school and church services are over," Barrow explained.

The questions now are: "Will the owners be willing to sell Block 'U' for an arena site and will the town's planning department and council agree this is a suitable site?"

"If we can't use it, we'll start looking again," said Barrow.

162 petitioners oppose Richvale library move

One hundred and sixty-two residents of the residential area of Richmond Hill Ward 6, south of Carrville Road, have signed a petition asking Richmond Hill Town Council to alter the decision of the town's

library board to relocate the Richvale Public Library to the BAIF Recreation Complex. The petition was presented to council February 3 by Wayne Smith.

Smith told council he was amazed at the response he received. He said he could have obtained at least triple that number of signatures.

He reminded council the present library on Pearson Avenue was a Vaughan Township Centennial project and questioned the legality of closing a Centennial project.

He noted the proposed library in the recreation complex would contain only 5,000 square feet and asked, "Why go to the expense of closing the present library when it would have to be reopened with population growth?"

To be vacant "We understand," he continued, "the library board has offered the existing library building to parks and recreation for a



(Staff photo by Hogg)

A hard look at the Richmond Hill and its future was taken by a panel of experts from the town, the province and the region last week at the annual meeting of Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce at Summit Golf and Country Club. Those taking part in-

cluded (left to right) Harry Sadler, realtor; Tom Murphy, realtor, chairman; Garfield Wright, chairman of York Region; Mayor Dave Schiller; Margaret Scrivener, MLA St. David; and Stuart Casement, a past president who thanked the participants.

Mayor tells businessmen to slow up

The business community has a responsibility to rethink its goals in life and become more socially aware of what society and the community is saying.

And what the latter is saying is slow down, Mayor Dave Schiller told the annual meeting of Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce last week at Summit Golf and Country Club.

Mr. Schiller was one of four panelists discussing the topic: Richmond Hill — Where do we go from here?

Other panelists were Garfield Wright, chairman of York Regional Council; Margaret Scrivener, parliamentary assistant to the Ontario Minister of Housing; and Harry Sadler, regional vice-president, Ontario Real Estate Association.

Mayor Schiller, the first speaker of the evening, said the electorate in the recent civic election gave him a "fair idea of where the community wanted to go". And it said the town was on

the verge of growing too fast.

They wanted the government to be "open, honest and to discuss" matters with them before making decisions.

Municipal governments were regulated by laws, regional government, the province and more and more by the world economy, "and we must all think within that world perspective," the mayor said.

He said the country wasn't in the "best shape economically," and there seemed a permanent slowing down, "which, if guided properly can give us a good life."

Many projects Schiller said the town had some 76 projects it would like to initiate, had set up committees for this purpose, and insured people had a fair chance to get on the committees.

This was the year of planning; and preliminary measures there had in-

cluded a height restriction bylaw in the central core, which was supported by the business men, also.

Election over Many wouldn't be happy

with the direction outlined, and many wouldn't agree with his views.

"But we all have to work together," Schiller said. "The election is over."

Acting Clerk Holman quits

Acting Town Clerk Jean Holman, who resigned effective February 28, said that it wasn't "the type of work" ahead of her that prompted her decision, "but the volume."

Mrs. Holman's resignation was received by a meeting of Richmond Hill Town Council, Monday night.

Mrs. Holman, who had been in the clerk's department for the past 18½ years, and who was acting clerk since January 3 of this year when Mack Clement resigned, said she had given the matter considerable thought.

"It wasn't a hasty decision," she told The Liberal. "The hours were getting long and I felt it was just a little much at this time."

Made up mind She said Mayor Dave Schiller asked her to reconsider her resignation, but she had made up her mind.

She said she didn't apply for the position after the personnel committee of council had decided to advertise for a new clerk.

Mrs. Holman said she didn't have any immediate plans, but she is understood to have told friends she will be spending considerable time at her cottage.

Expressing regret on his own part and on behalf of other members of council, Mayor Schiller said the town was "going to be in rather a difficult position since we will not have a full clerk or an assistant clerk."

Will supervise "I have spoken to Treasurer William Rice, who has promised to supervise the clerk's department as well as his own until we can appoint a new clerk," the mayor said.

"I have also spoken to the former clerk... who will provide assistance to Mr. Rice after Mrs. Holman leaves. We hope to be interviewing applicants for the clerk's position in March."

Former clerk Clement, a town employee close to 20 years, resigned after only 18 months in the job. He is now a justice of the peace in York Region.



Jean Holman Too much work

Inside The Liberal

Minor ball lacks parent power

The shortage of day care facilities and the threatened closing of the Richmond Hill - Thornhill day care kindergarten has been in the news lately. For an inside look at the local day care centre see the full page feature on Page 8.

The Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association continues severely crippled, if not in a near state of collapse, despite public cries for help. For the story of the association's lack of parent power, turn to the front of the sports section, Page 19.

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

Editorials	4	Real estate	30-31
Buttonville	9	Classifieds	31-34
Carrville news	23	Churches	29
Bayview Buzz	23	Births, deaths	29
King - Oak Ridges	22-23	Sports	19-21, 24, 26, 34
Maple social	11	Rock Talk	29
Thornhill social	27	Letters	25
Richvale Record	12	Legal news	28
Victoria Square	12	Gormley news	6
Business-professional	35	LSS Scoop	28

(Continued on Page 2)

Carnival Queen Dinner Dance tomorrow night

It's a big night at the Richmond Hill Legion, Ohio Road, tomorrow, starting at 7 pm, when the Carnival Queen Dinner and Dance gets the annual Winter Carnival off to a good start.

There are still a few tickets available at \$5 each. Call John Cook at 884-4923 or Ed Banks at 884-6240.

Tickets are also available for the Saturday night sleigh ride and dance at the Richmond Hill Golf Club at \$10 a couple. Call Gail Skinner 884-5694 or Ed Banks 884-6240.

Skating at the Mill Pond starts at 7:30 pm Friday with the Carnival Queen being crowned at 9:15 pm, followed by the Canadian Parabolic Skydiving Team illuminated by torches. Then there's more skating and dancing until midnight on the pond.

Saturday events Events get underway Saturday at 10 am with races for children from three to 15 years continuing until noon. Sears Pooh Bear and the Canadian Progress Club's giant caterpillar will join Oopkik in greeting the youngsters.

Elementary hockey gets underway at 11:30 and the ice sculpture will be judged at 1 pm. Girls' high school hockey starts at the same time and sleigh rides at the Mill Pond start at 2.

school toboggan races are at 3:45, snowshoe race at 4:15, tug-of-war at 4:30 and an old fashioned skating party at 7 pm which will feature the Royal Regiment of Canada Band.

Prizes will be given for the best costumes, best dancers, best skaters and spot prizes.

Sunday breakfast A pancake breakfast will be served at the Mill Pond from 9:30 am to noon Sunday with elementary school curling at noon followed by cross country ski races.

From noon to 3 pm entertainment at the Mill Pond will feature the Bayview Secondary School Band and the Richmond Hill Youth Concert Band, as well as skating.

The Oak Ridges Figure Skating Club will put on a demonstration at 2 pm and the sky divers will be back at 3 pm.

The closing event will be a half hour community folk service featuring the Mixed Blessings from Jefferson and Rev. Bernard Barrett.

A snow slide, sleigh rides, St. Bernard dog sleigh rides, merry-go-round for the children and a sky ride for the children and lots of delicious, warming refreshments for everyone will be available Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.

A full program appears elsewhere in this issue for your convenience. Oopkiks are available at 50 cents. By buying one you show the committee you are supporting them.