

Oak Ridges library, fire hall approved

Construction of a fire hall and public library on a town-owned lot at the corner of the King Sideroad and Yonge Street was approved by Richmond Hill Council. The members met in committee of the whole at 3 pm February 4.

Also present were Town Treasurer William Rice, Works Commissioner Bernard Toporowski, Chief Librarian Pat Harte and members of the library board and Fire Chief Robert Kennedy.

The works commissioner said there was some urgency on the decision, since the lowest tenderer proposed to start work while the ground was frozen.

"Since the terrain is very soft and wet, he can take advantage of the frost to excavate a trench and dump concrete into the bottom for footings, rather than constructing forms."

He pointed out it is in excess of 30 days since the

tenders were received. The low bidder is not obliged to carry out the contract, but indicated he was willing to do so at a slight extra charge reflecting increased costs by his sub-trades.

\$1/4 million

The total cost, Toporowski said, would now be \$229,789 plus \$2,200, about \$50,000 more than the financing which had been arranged for the project last year.

The chief librarian told

council the library board by the end of June has to vacate the school portable on Wildwood Avenue. The site has been providing library service to the northern area of town for the past three years.

The portable will be needed for school purposes next year.

No library

"After that we will be in limbo unless we can find some place to rent, and there aren't many places to

rent in Oak Ridges as you know."

Fire Chief Kennedy said the fire hall would enable volunteers to get to the fire minutes ahead of the trucks from the central hall in downtown Richmond Hill.

"If we ever put full time firefighters up there, we will need a larger hall with living quarters."

In that event Architect Thomas Brown assured council the library could be expanded to use the whole

building quite easily.

Hancey move

"The people up there deserve better," said Regional Councillor Lois Hancey.

She struggled, unsuccessfully, to have council consider renting space for a library and building a fire hall on another site "which is not a swamp".

"This site is centrally located," stated Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe.

"One of the prime needs

there is a fire hall."

Ward 6 Councillor William Corcoran moved the motion that the work proceed with additional funding from the current budget if additional debenturing cannot be secured.

Corcoran said, "It has been approved. All we're 'flaking' about is a few dollars and it's going to be a lot more dollars the longer you postpone it."

The decision to proceed was unanimous.



Champion weekly newspaper correspondents for Ontario in 1974 are The Liberal's King Township news writers Donna and Norman Matthews. They received their Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association Premier Award Saturday.

King correspondents Ontario champions

This newspaper and its King Township correspondents last week received one of the 11 Premier Awards given annually by the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association.

1974 was the first time in a number of years that The Liberal has entered the competitions.

Also each year there are eight special awards by the association, plus eight general excellence prizes in each of six circulation categories.

The Liberal was the only York Region newspaper to win a Premier Award.

King Liberal correspondents Donna and Norman Matthews received the Ontario Champion Correspondent Premier Award Saturday night at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto during the OWNA 25th annual convention. The award was presented by Ontario Hydro, sponsor of the award and sponsor of the Saturday night convention-closing dinner and President's Ball.

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Richmond Hill Edition

The Libe

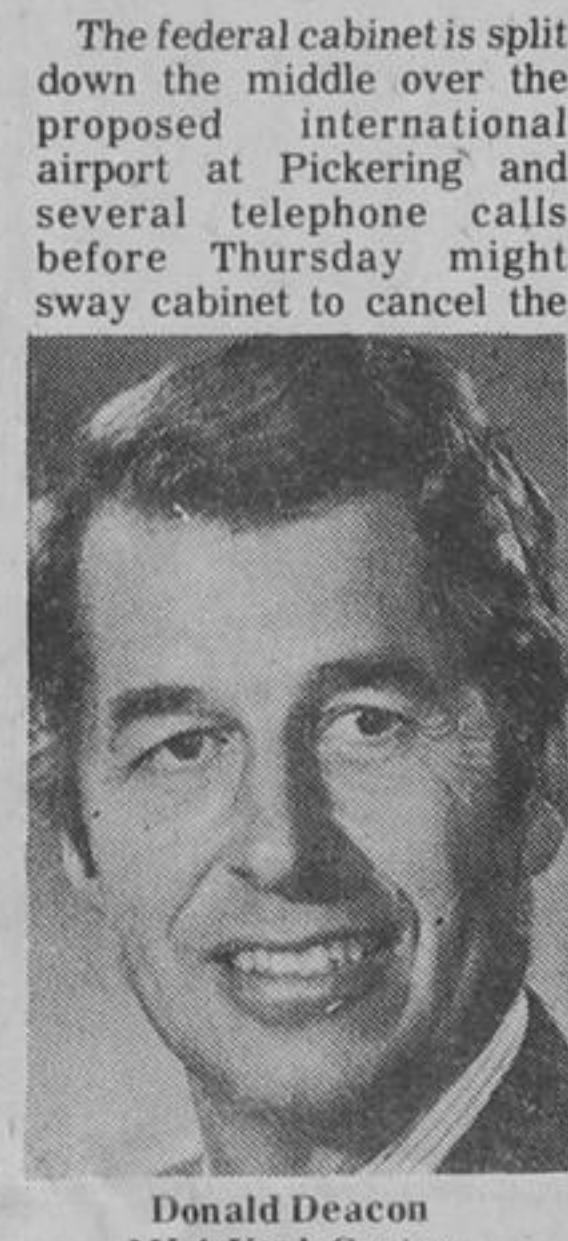
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Airport opposition rallies

Region's 2 eastern towns hardest hit



Donald Deacon, MLA York Centre

The federal cabinet is split down the middle over the proposed international airport at Pickering and several telephone calls before Thursday might sway cabinet to cancel the project, York Centre MLA Don Deacon told a public meeting in Markham Monday.

But he told the 150 east-Markham residents, calls from their friends who live in Toronto would be more effective than calls to York North MP Barney Danson, who is already convinced the airport is not needed.

The meeting, called by Markham council but run by Markham druggist Bill Crothers of the People Or Planes organization, was told a decision on the airport is expected in the next few days.

Deacon said many people across Canada are wondering whether billions of dollars should be spent on an airport so close to Toronto when economic growth is needed elsewhere.

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(Photo by Hogg)

Happiness is — a plate full of pancakes

About 175 people turned out on Shrove Tuesday, February 11, the eve of Lent, for a traditional supper of pancakes, maple syrup, cake and ice cream at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill. The three happy customers pictured above are Chris Court, 12, Lisa Eberlin, 11, and Elaine Markham, 10. The event was sponsored by St. Mary's Couples' Club.

Region defers plea of airport fighters

If The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville hopes to keep from becoming converted into a runway for the proposed Pickering Airport, as has been predicted by Mayor Gordon Ratcliff and others, it will probably have to go farther than to York Regional Council for help.

Last week, despite an impassioned plea by Councillor Robert Adams of Markham that council take a definite stand against the federal government establishing an airport in Pickering, council decided to give the matter a little more time before acting on it.

Councillor Adams said reports showed lands embracing Whitchurch-Stouffville would have to be acquired because of the

intolerable noise level from two runways.

No sleeping

He said the noise level was measured at from 28 to 30 degrees, whereas the minimum for sleeping was 15.

Mayor Tony Roman of Markham said Mr. Adams' suggestion the federal government not build an airport at that location, be put on notice of motion.

This was so council could look into the Gibson Report, a study on the proposed airport.

Matter imminent

Adams said that wouldn't do as the matter was "imminent."

"What do you want?" asked Mayor Garnet Williams of Vaughan, "an extension of Malton? It's just a matter of chasing it from one end to the other."

Councillor Adams said the logical place for the airport was "50 miles away at Base Borden."

Councillor Ron Moran of Markham said parts of Markham would be affected as well. His own property was on Highway 48, where the noise level was 28, and it was possible it might be acquired.

"I might be one of the lucky ones if it's expropriated," he said. "At

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103 East Gwillimbury industrial acres approved

An amendment to the Official Plan of the Township of East Gwillimbury, which would change the designation of approximately 103 acres of prime agricultural land to industrial, was approved by a margin of 8 to 7 in a recorded vote of York Regional Council last week.

The land, which is on the north side of Davis Drive east of Woodbine Avenue, would be for use as an industrial park.

A report of council's planning committee asked for council's approval of the amendment.

Schiller opposed

Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Schiller said he was "surprised" the planning staff would approve it.

Had the application been made for industrial land on low-cost agricultural land, he wouldn't object.

However, pressures in the southern part of the region were to avoid building on

agricultural lands.

Mayor George Burrows of Georgina Township said that "prime agricultural land is prime house-building land."

A technical report from the planning department said development of the proposed area would "provide new employment opportunities for the residents and much needed industrial assessment to balance more evenly the municipal assessment ratio."

Earlier in the week, Dr. Burrows told a planning committee meeting the amendment showed the need for the various municipalities in the region to share their industrial assessment.

Unless the present policy was changed, Georgina, for one, couldn't survive, he said.

In explaining it to a meeting in East Gwillimbury last year, Mayor Gladys Rolling — whose

remarks were contained in a transcript distributed to council — said it was hoped to use the industrial park to improve the township's tax base and to provide some industrial and to assist farmers and rural residential people.

Prime requisite

"It is a prime requisite of our council that we need industry based here to assist our area," Mayor Rolling said. "There are 87,000 acres of agricultural land in the township, and only 103 acres in question here. It may be agricultural, but we must think of the needs of the agricultural and rural residential people."

"Farmers need agricultural industry as well as the residential people do. It is our intention to serve both by this amendment."

She said it wasn't council's intention "to have industry all over the place. Across the corner there is an industrial park in

Newmarket with services. It is better to have your industrial areas together than all over the township."

Without services

The East Gwillimbury site is without services at present.

Speaking to the matter before York Council, Mayor Rolling quoted agriculture Minister William Stewart to "first consider the needs of the people." It was not possible to save all agricultural land.

Mayor Tony Roman of Markham said agriculture was "discriminated against." There was "no way a young man can farm in this area."

Mayor Schiller said according to the United Nations, by the year 2000, there would only be 20 percent more arable land to clear in the whole world.

"So we shouldn't be looking at just what we have," Schiller said. "One

hundred and three acres may be extremely useful in the next 20 years."

Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora wondered why the land couldn't be unpaved again in 20 years if it were paved over now.

"And why is York Manor sitting there doing nothing?" she asked.

"We can't afford to work it," Chairman Garfield Wright said.

How they voted

Voting for: Burrows, Eric Larsen, Georgina; Mayor Gordon Ratcliff, Whitchurch-Stouffville; Rolling, Roman, Gordon Rowe, Richmond Hill; Mayor Garnet Williams, Councillor David Fraser, Vaughan.

Voting against: Bob Adams, Markham; Mayor Margaret Britnell, King; Buck; Mayor Bob Forhan, Newmarket; Lois Hancey, Richmond Hill; Ron Moran, Markham; Schiller, Richmond Hill.

Want Richvale Library kept

Richmond Hill Library Board last week decided to retain the Pearson Avenue Library.

The motion read "that the Richvale Library remain on Pearson Avenue and that we wait until we see how the BAIF development progresses and perhaps in the future put a library in the area immediately surrounding it."

It was also decided the Richvale Library should be kept at its present size.

Improvements recommended include the purchase of pegboards, baskets (for paperbacks) and cassettes.

A further motion was that the \$100,000 allotment by the BAIF developers for library purposes be placed in an account for future library expansion in the BAIF development.

The Richmond Hill library system continues to grow to serve the needs of the entire community, with the result the main branch on Wright Street is bursting at the seams with every possible inch of space pressed into use.

Therefore a large addition is now under construction to enable this building to better serve as the core of a town-wide system.

The north and south branches will continue to draw on the main library for services they do not have.

Rumors fly amid trustee turmoil

York County Board of Education met in a special private session Monday night with school staff head Sam Chapman, following a spate of rumors in the area that all was not well with the board administration.

The meeting arose out of an earlier one — January 28 — at Aurora Legion, which was called by District 11 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation "to express matters of concern relating to their morale."

Approximately 18 of the 20 board members were on hand, but none of the senior administration.

Following that meeting, which evolved around conditions leading up to last year's strike of York elementary school teachers and the conditions since, many of the trustees felt a meeting should be held with Mr. Chapman "to present his side."

It was also hoped to clear the air of some differences in viewpoint among the various trustees.

Board Chairman Don Sim would not comment after the meeting, other than to



Sam Chapman, Education director

Appointment at York University

Walter Lavender of Rosemar Gardens, Richmond Hill, superintendent of educational services for North York school board, has been elected to a two-year term on the senate of the York University.

Lavender, 55, joined the North York staff in 1953 and served from then until 1961 as principal of Maple Leaf Public School.

He was president of the North York Principals' Association during the 1960-61 school year.

From 1961 to his appointment as head of educational services in 1973, Lavender was an inspector and superintendent of schools.

He was born in Neepawa, Manitoba and taught in the



Walter Lavender, University senator

Industrial land bank urgently needed

The Region of York is part of "one of the most important expanding industrial centres in North America," it was noted by Harry Pilkington, president of Metropolitan Toronto Industrial Commission, in the commission's annual report.

"The important fact is there is an urgent need for a bank of large amounts of serviced industrial sites in a variety of sizes and locations for sale as well as lease," the president said.

Included with York in the president's assessment were Metro, and the Regions of Durham and

Peel, all of which he said were "economically strongly interdependent."

Mr. Pilkington said the function of the commission "continues as in the past, that is, promoting the interests of this entire economic area. We depend upon mutual co-operation between ourselves and the regional industrial development commissioners of Durham and Peel and the representatives of the individual municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto and the Region of York," he said.

Garfield Wright, chair-

man of York Regional Council, represents the region on the commission's board of directors.

The president said each year the staff makes a survey of all companies assisted by the commission in establishing themselves. This is to determine their current employment and amount of floor space occupied, plus municipal taxes paid.

"An examination of this survey brings to light the long-range benefits of our program," he said.

Statistics showed 5,000 people were added to the combined work force of all

the 786 companies, an increase of six percent over 1973.

These firms paid total real estate and business taxes to the municipalities of more than \$28 million in 1974, up 12 percent from the previous year.

A second survey showed the total amount of new industrial land utilized in the area by all manufacturers. It doesn't include property purchased by developers for future use.

The 1,380 acres used was 60 percent of that in 1973, Mr. Pilkington said.

During the past 20 years, this totalled nearly 24,000

acres, equivalent to one site approximately 600 feet deep extending between Toronto and Montreal.

"Although there are some uncertainties as to the extent of development during the next 12 months, much will be dependent on general economic conditions."

"The number and size of the prospects that have again become active indicates 1975 may be a year in which many companies will be making studies and determining plans which will be acted upon when the economy again becomes buoyant," Pilkington said.

Inside The Liberal

Rams vs. Nats in quarter finals

Bayview Secondary wins York County Intercollegiate wrestling championship. The Rams meet Toronto Nats in the fourth game of the Provincial Junior 'A' quarter finals. For these and other sports stories turn to Page 15.

The second in the new series Guest Spot on Page 4 sees a reader take a light hearted look at the use of language in municipal affairs as he applies for the job of fence viewer.

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