

\$85,000 grant voted to family life centres

It took until nearly six o'clock, or was it seven, but those people who had waited patiently from 2 pm on for a verdict as to their welfare, were eventually rewarded when York Regional Council last week voted to provide the region's family life centres with \$85,000, by a vote of 10 to 5.

Up until then, however, it looked pretty grim for the family life people.

Aurora Mayor Evelyn Buck finally made her way to the podium at the front of the room — at her insistence — and told those present that, as head of the health and social services committee, she recommended those municipalities favoring financing "should do so, according to the pattern of area services planning, leaving those municipalities favoring financing, free to opt out of the program.

In other words, Mrs. Buck felt the responsibility for public counselling was a municipal concern, not the problem of the region.

The centres, which were last year subsidized in part by the provincial government, could carry on to the end of March. There shouldn't be too hasty a decision on the \$100,000 request of the region, Mayor Buck said.

Changed position

Mayor Tony Roman of Markham said Mayor Buck had thought differently in 1967 when a move had been made to put all welfare agencies "under one umbrella". "You were one of the champions," he said.

Roman said he was surprised now to hear the mayor advocating it be sent back to the municipalities.

Money wasn't everything, Mayor Buck said. What she was arguing about was the responsibility of the taxpayers to assume their share of the welfare programs.

All for it

Speaking for the centres, Councillor Erik Larsen of Georgina Township, said the region "couldn't afford not to pay it."

If someone emerged better off, then everybody benefitted.

Vaughan Councillor David Fraser said the centres were "probably the cheapest service in the region."

Councillor Ron Moran of Markham called it a "copout," if the region didn't support the centres.

If they needed the centres in King Township, for example, "they should have them," Moran said.

"Speak for yourself," Mayor Margaret Britnell of King, replied.

Schiller motion

Councillor Moran, with the assistance of Mayor David Schiller of Richmond Hill, then moved the centres be given a grant of \$85,000, with the region making an effort at the same time to get government financing to offset any deficit.

Voting for: Bob Adams, Markham; Fraser; Lois Hancey, David Schiller, Gordon Rowe, Richmond Hill; Schiller, Moran and Bob Adams, Markham; Erik Larsen, Georgina Township; Mayor Gordon Ratcliff, Whitchurch-Stouffville; Ray Twinney, Newmarket.

Against: Buck, Mayor Margaret Britnell, King; Mayor Bob Forhan, Newmarket; Mayor Gladys Rolling, Georgina; and Mayor Garnet Williams, Vaughan.



(Photo by Hogg)

Richmond Hill Irish dance award winners in competition last weekend in Metro are (left to right) Janet,

Christine and Jennifer Gerritse with sister Angela in front.

Win Irish dance awards

Four young sisters from Richmond Hill competed Sunday in the Butler Academy class competitions held in St. John's Norway Hall at Woodbine and Kingston Road and came home with a total of six awards. The four are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Gerritse of 97 Baker Avenue.

Janet (10), who has been studying Irish dancing for two years, won a second in the reel and a second in the three-hand reel.

Jennifer (7), who has also been dancing for two years, won a fourth in the jig.

Christine (8), who has studied for only a year, won a second in the jig and Angela (5), who has been dancing only since last September, won a first in the jig and a third in the reel.

The girls are students of Mae and Patrick Butler who hold Irish Dancing classes at Our Lady Queen of the World hall, Bayview Avenue, every Tuesday at 4 pm.

Hancey asks if scheme will bring fluoridation

Will approval of the 'Big Pipe' agreement bring its own kind of problems in the matter of approved drinking water?

That was the question posed at the last York Region council meeting by Councillor Lois Hancey of Richmond Hill.

She wondered if the region could buy fluoridated water from Metro when fluoridation had previously been rejected here by plebiscite.

Region Solicitor Ted Oakes said there was no authority to fluoridate the region's water,

but there was authority to buy water from Metro.

"What might we anticipate if the people objected to this type of water?" asked Mrs. Hancey.

There were several legal methods, including an injunction, to grant a temporary halt to proceedings; it was also possible for Metro to supply unfluoridated water, Oakes said.

"Aren't we using Metro water now?" asked Chairman Garfield Wright.

"Only on occasion," the solicitor replied.

Percival gets final no from YRP commissioners

York Regional Police Commission last week finally closed the door to former Constable Glenn Percival of Bolton.

Percival had been trying to get back on the force ever since resigning last January.

The 26-year-old policeman quit the force after a quantity of marijuana he had confiscated was found in his apartment several weeks later.

Percival had since asked the commission to have the Ontario Police Commission

hold an inquiry into his subsequent resignation.

At a closed meeting, the commissioners ruled Percival resigned January 12 of his own will, without duress, and that they should take no further action.

Commissioner Ray Twimney of Newmarket, who is also a member of York Regional Council, said the case was closed so far as the police commission was concerned.

If Percival's lawyers, who had hinted of such steps in the past, wanted to take it to

court, they could, Twimney said.

Jeffrey Lyons of Toronto, who represents Percival, said he had contacted the Ontario Police Commission and was confident Percival would get a favorable hearing.

Mill Pond clean-up doubtful

The fate of the Mill Pond rejuvenation is doubtful at the present time, it was learned during the question period preceding Monday night's Richmond Hill council meeting.

The project was to include dredging the pond and building a retaining wall. It was to be financed half by Richmond Hill and half by the provincial government through Metro Conservation Authority, Mayor David Schiller explained.

"The budget has been reduced by the province and it looks at this time as if the work will not be carried out this year," he said.

"If Richmond Hill citizens are anxious to have the desilting done, please feel free to write to Minister of Natural Resources Leo Bernier asking that funds be made available for the work the province has already approved," added Regional Councillor Lois Hancey, who sits on the conservation authority.

"We'd be glad of the assistance," she said.

By a vote of 11 to 5, York Regional Council last week authorized Chairman Garfield Wright to enter into agreements for the South Central Trunk Sewer Servicing Scheme.

The scheme will provide essential services for about 334,500 people here in southern York Region, more than triple the present total.

The first part of the agreement is with the ministry of the environment and Metro to provide water to the southern part of the region at a cost of 39 cents per thousand gallons.

The second part approves a sewage treatment agreement with the ministry and Durham Region to provide facilities at a cost not to exceed 49 cents per thousand.

The agreement was approved after a brief discussion by council near the end of an all-day session. The session went from 2 pm to about 8:30 pm.

Wanted deferral

Richmond Hill Councillor Lois Hancey had asked that the agreement be deferred to a special meeting to be called at the earliest opportunity.

"I have two pages of questions," Mrs. Hancey said. "I don't want to hold up the agreement, but I want to have a real knowledge of what I approve."

Gordon Rowe, chairman of the engineering committee, said he was prepared to "stay all night" to answer questions.

However, the rest of council was less enthusiastic about the suggestion.

"I thought it was all settled," said Chairman Garfield Wright. "I was under the impression it was all worked out."

One problem

Mayor Garnet Williams of Vaughan said the region had agreed to it all in June with the exception of the section on Ontario Housing Action Plan.

OHAP dominated every page, according to Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora.

"It's not right to push this through at this time," she said.

Councillor Hancey said the provisions for OHAP in the agreement were in excess of the population figures allocated by the government.

Councillor Bob Adams of Markham said the agreement couldn't be handled in one day "and I want to get it through."

Deferral fails

The motion to defer was

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Richmond Hill Councillor Duffy is getting up in world

More than a quarter of a mile in the sky is a precarious location in which to work. But that is where Richmond Hill's Ward 2 Councillor Al Duffy is 'doing his thing' these days. His firm, Construction Testing, is in charge of inspection of all structural steel members in the CN Tower in downtown Toronto. The tower is easily visible from the Hill on clear days. Duffy and fellow employees will be there when

the giant Sikorski Helicopter comes from California to remove the crane and to install the 300 foot high mast to top the tallest free-standing structure in the world. In the above picture Duffy is seen on the right with a fellow worker Tom Tommassi on the upper observation level at 1,500 feet. He has other pictures taken of himself at work among the girders at that height where the winds blow freely.

Housing Minister Irvine visits region, accepts invitation to Hill and Vaughan

Provincial Housing Minister Donald Irvine answered a long-awaited invitation to appear before York Regional Council last week and wound up with a pocketful of invitations to repeat the performance before some local councils.

Included in these was an invitation from Councillor Lois Hancey of Richmond Hill, who told the minister she would endeavor to have her council send him a list of prepared questions beforehand to help expedite matters.

Mr. Irvine said he would endeavor to appear before the Richmond Hill group if he thought they would be

Metric signs plan

Roads in the Region of York will be bedecked with metric signs "in the near future," according to Robert Hodgson, commissioner of engineering.

However, the changeover won't be all that traumatic. Hodgson said the metric measurements would be erected alongside the present signs, a few at a time.

His announcement followed a request from King Township that kilometer signs be put up in three locations in King to indicate the length of one kilometer.

Although not objecting to the King request, Hodgson said he preferred to develop such a program on a regional basis and his department was at present working on such a program.

"receptive to discussing one or two proposals" regarding accelerated housing.

Later that evening, Mrs. Hancey's proposal was agreed to by Richmond Hill Council, with only one member Mike Burnie, voting against it.

The minister also agreed to visit Vaughan Town Council "as soon as possible", after Councillor David Fraser made the request.

Asks about arena board's annual audited statement

"Does the arena board issue an audited statement each year?" asked a citizen in the question period preceding Monday night's Richmond Hill Council meeting.

"The arena board is a non-profit association set up by provincial charter," replied Mayor David Schiller.

"The arenas are leased to the association on a long term basis and the board is required under its charter to submit a list of appointees to council which has the

privilege of approval or disapproval."

The questioner said that as a corporation without share capital, he believed the arena board was required to submit audited statements to its members.

"We are proposing to conduct an arena review, probably about the end of March," the mayor replied.

"All we can do as a council is to request the board to issue such a statement. To the best of my knowledge they have appointed an auditor."

feel keenly disappointed, he said. Pressing need

"In looking at York, the most pressing requirement is for a housing policy," Irvine said.

300 get 15 percent pay hike

York Regional Council last week approved raises of approximately 15.3 percent, retroactive to January 1, for 300 of its non-union employees.

Council also agreed to adjust the \$8,000 salaries — up \$1,000 this year — of its members to rise in the consumer price index each year.

Still to be decided are raises for department heads, which will come up next month.

The increases last week provide a basic 12 percent to compensate for the cost of living rise, plus a 3.3 percent increase for experience and seniority.

Inside The Liberal

Expert explores our theatre

The Guest Spot column this week features York University Associate Professor of Dramatic Literature Don Rubin, editor of the Canadian Theatre Review. Turn to Page 4 for his controversial views on the state of our theatre.

You may think the housing situation is bad today, but for how The Liberal viewed the question in 1884 in comparison to the days of Anglo-Saxon ancestors, turn to the Yesterday's column of Page 5.

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