



(Photo by Hogg)

William Mirrlees, who credits his survival of a serious illness earlier this year to six units of blood which were administered, is seen above with his son David, who made his first gift of blood just two weeks before his father's illness.

Blood giving saves father

William Mirrlees of 117 Lawrence Avenue, Richmond Hill, was admitted to York Central Hospital with acute phlebitis of the legs on January 8 of this year.

This disease is caused by blood clots and the treatment is the administering of anti-coagulants to "thin" the blood and disperse the clots.

Unfortunately, one of the hazards of the treatment is the possibility of internal bleeding. This happened in the case of Mr. Mirrlees.

To keep him alive, blood was needed — in a hurry! And it was available.

Mr. Mirrlees has the highest praise for the doctors, nurses and the rest of the staff at our hospital.

He doesn't remember too much of what was going on, except looking up every now and then to see a "little bag of blood" — life-saving blood beside his bed.

His blood group is A positive, a very well used group, since so many of the population belong to it. It took six units to bring Mr. Mirrlees back on to the road to convalescence.

Six separate donors gave their gift of life — and one of them may have been Mr. Mirrlees' son David.

Just two weeks before, David had become a first time donor at Bayview Secondary School, where he also helped with the clinic. His blood group is A positive, too.

Mr. Mirrlees is now at home recuperating thanks to York Central Hospital — and thanks to those six "little bags of blood" and the six donors from whom they came.

The local opportunity to ensure blood is available when needed by neighbor or family members comes tomorrow (Thursday) at the regular Red Cross Blood Donors Clinic in the Richmond Hill Lions Hall, Centre Street East.

This should be an exciting time with the Lions Drum Corps and Majorettes holding a parade outside in the evening. The majorettes will be coming inside the hall to entertain the donors between 6 and 9 p.m.

The afternoon clinic is between 2 and 4 p.m.

Sidestep abortion issue

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disappointed by this decision but am appalled," Roche wrote.

"How can we as educators and leaders be selective about the major social issues we explore? How can we bury our heads in the sand and pretend the issue is not for the school, that the school is not an extension of the home in this area of preparation for life?"

"...How can we instruct our youth in the process of family planning and conception prevention without exploring why abortion is not an acceptable method of birth control?" Roche said.

Schools responsible
He said Education Minister Thomas Wells had "placed a responsibility for moral leadership with the schools."

"As an active Right to Life member, I am dedicated to this cause, the defence of the 'unborn'."

Roche said he would appreciate a statement of board policy with respect to the issue and its discussion in the high schools.

He also asked for approval, to bring his presentation to the schools in the area.

Separate School Board representative John Raniowski of Schomberg said children needed "positive and constructive" attitudes on values.

If Education Minister Wells said instruction on abortion was needed, it showed a "variety of things are needed and he's acknowledged it."

"The board is in the business of proper education and this is the way to do it," Raniowski said.

Later on in the meeting, Raniowski re-emphasized the matter of taking a "positive approach", saying

"they should 'stay away from three-and-four-letter words,'" Said Trustee Gary Adamson of Markham: "I would like to stay away from this issue at this time." He suggested a letter be sent to Roche asking him "to contact the appropriate people in the schools to see what they say."

Said Trustee Keith Hargrave of Georgina Township: "I can just see the papers..."

Chairman Donald Sim of Markham noted Roche had said they were hiding their heads in the sand. They would be better able to do it in Keswick.

Trustee Donald Cameron of Vaughan said: "I feel it would be good for the board to view his (Roche's) presentation."

Trustee Chris McMonagle of Markham: "I'm against it, as I think both sides should be presented."

Vote refusal
The board then voted to turn down Roche's request to make his presentation, following which, Trustee Adamson suggested a letter be sent to Roche asking him to contact physical education teachers and various school department heads for their views.

Shame on them
"If they teach abortion as a method of birth control, shame on them," said Trustee Cameron.

It was a matter of morals, said Trustee John Stephens of Markham, another separate school representative. The lectures were available if they wanted them.

Said Trustee Warren Baillie of Richmond Hill: "I don't want to hear from somebody on abortion unless they are pregnant."

The motion to write Mr. Roche was carried.

Hill retail space issue aired again

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reason for the attempt to get the amendment repealed is to save his clients and the town the unnecessary expense of an OMB hearing.

Max Sitzer, secretary of Victern Developments Limited who have owned Richmond Heights Centre for the past four years, drew a word picture of the difficulties merchants there are experiencing because of the oversupply of retail space.

"There are vacancies and we find we cannot get tenants. We have had two vacancies for almost a year, have run ads and turned them over to real estate agents with no takers."

Business decrease
He also said the percentage of decrease in business from this time last year runs as high as 49 percent in those businesses that remain.

"It is obvious Oxford Square is also suffering and most stores in the McDonald Plaza have never been rented. Hillcrest Mall is not doing all that well, either."

"The major chain stores will survive but the little shop operators will fold," he said.

"The results forecast in that study are absolutely true — in fact, if anything they are modest. So far we have seen only the tip of the iceberg."

"The percentages are still going down. A major shopping centre just two blocks away would be a major disaster. You may gain assessment but you will also lose some," he continued.

Mayor David Schiller asked if Mr. Sitzer could explain why so many people were anxious to build retail space.

"I think they may have built on the expectation of a large population increase. Those population levels may not be reached, and if they are it will not be for years," replied Sitzer.

Town has control
The mayor went on to comment that council does have a responsibility to established merchants and to residents.

"The oversupply is also affected by the general economic situation. But that doesn't mean the bylaw cannot go ahead to amend the Official Plan. The town can still control the timing of the new mall by zoning."

He also noted that comments from merchants in Richmond Heights Centre had included complaints about major increases in rent as a contributing factor to their problems. "Perhaps these were justified."

Rent changes
Sitzer explained the original leases called for a base rent or a percentage of business, whichever was the greater.

When the leases came up for renewal, he said, the percentage rent was converted to a base rent.

"With the decline in business, this does indeed mean the merchants are paying a higher rent."

Elliott Yarmon, speaking for Richmond Hill Industrial Acres which owns 25 of the 42 acres involved in the Amendment 2 redesignation, told the committee his firm purchased about 200 acres north of the Elgin and east of Yonge Street in 1963.

This formed the major part of the 300 acres annexed by Richmond Hill in 1968 primarily for industrial development.

Another view
He pointed out that under the present plan and zoning his firm and other owners could develop the Yonge Street in highway commercial outlets, which could create a variety and multiplicity of uses, some desirable and some undesirable.

All would have separate entrances, exits and signing. His firm agreed with the town that one unified centre would be preferable.

"We could build 412,000 square feet of retail space, but if we are successful in obtaining this Official Plan amendment and later on a

zoning amendment, it is our intention, at the appropriate time, sometime in the future, to build only 225,000 square feet," he said.

Long history
The amendment was passed by Richmond Hill Council unanimously in July 1973 and by the Region of York Council in September 1973.

It was then referred to the OMB because there was an objection. Later this objection was withdrawn, Yarmon said, but in February 1975 the minister, after several meetings with interested persons declined to withdraw the matter from the OMB.

"In his (the minister's) opinion the proper forum is the OMB," he said.

Yarmon went on to point

out that, in his opinion, this is not a change in land use but would restrict the types of uses, "and that is what we have sought."

Private study
He also noted a study prepared for Richmond Hill Industrial Acres "indicates, in fact there is a market opportunity right now — but we don't intend to build right now."

Mayor Schiller asked if a copy of that study and report could be made available to the town. The firm's solicitor answered at some length in the negative and the mayor told him "I would have been satisfied with a simple 'No.'"

Yarmon explained there is indeed some urgency in the matter since servicing of lands designated for in-

dustrial development east of this property and west of the railway is dependent on determination of the eventual use of the Yonge Street frontage.

"What we want is some long range planning so we can plan with some certainty. We have been trying for the better part of four years to improve the planning in that area," he said.

Withdrew objection
Walter Smith, a long time Richmond Hill resident who conducts his own consulting firm, explained why he had withdrawn his objection.

He said Victern had written to the minister asking to be advised of the right time to make an objection, but had not been so advised.

When they were heard by the minister, he had withdrawn his objection. By means of charts he showed the effect of oversupply on the short term and long term, indicating what the town now has is a major oversupply, and it will be well past 1981 before it gets out of that situation.

This means the retailer cannot get enough profit to stay in business, resulting in inefficient service. Customers suffer because they no longer can get service in their own area.

The committee requested the planning director to make recommendations at the next regularly scheduled meeting on the matter, taking into account the comments made at the meeting.

Markham Road overpass

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there with access from Cedar Avenue. "It is quite possible that the Cedar Avenue entrance to Markham Road will have to be closed because of the grade separation, with access from the other end being provided," she said.

"All indications are that the matter is being actively pursued and the region's engineering commissioner has put it in writing the report will be completed in July," said Mayor David Schiller.

He stressed the need for the grade separation in ensuring adequate service by emergency vehicles to the east side of the town.

The committee agreed to seek the advice of the town's solicitor before taking action on the application for a site plan agreement.

"They expect the study to be completed by the end of July and have asked the application be deferred to that time. To purchase the land they must have the money in the budget. If it isn't there the applicant may have to wait longer."

Alternative access
Mrs. Hancey stated "If it's a priority, they probably could find the money by putting something else off, and I have been assured that it is a priority. We have been trying to get a grade separation since 1963."

"Legally you are entitled to a building permit and a site plan agreement, but I think it would be foolhardy to put a building in there. I suggest you get together with other landowners for a residential development

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School spending
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In the matter of the testing office in planning and development, Weller's motion called for a sum to be budgetted to carry out a limited testing program.
Library and research
So far as the research office and library are concerned, he asked that "sufficient monies be retained to complete the projects already in progress and final date of phase out be December 31."
Supervisor Burnham was recently successful in getting a \$25,000 grant from the provincial government for the institution of a values program (teaching of moral values) in the schools.