

Treasurer McKeough tells York Regional Council how to run land division committee

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The land division committee should be a tribunal carrying out the policies of council, Darcy McKeough, provincial treasurer and minister of economics and inter-governmental affairs, told a meeting of York Regional Council last week.

The committee was just one of things Provincial Treasurer McKeough took a run at during his brief appearance before council.

He was welcomed by Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora with the words: "It's nice to have the father of the child (regional government) drop in."

Buck critical
Mrs. Buck said there was no co-ordination at Queen's Park in such things as the land division committee, health and social services and family counsels.

"We're looking to you," she said.

"You appointed them," replied Mr. McKeough, referring to the land division committee.

Said Mrs. Buck: "You did; you made the act." The answer, she said, was worse than the problem.

She said the committee often disagreed with professional opinions and was "just a jungle of red tape."

Planning boards
Planning boards used to have authority in such matters, Mayor Buck said.

McKeough said, however, the reason the province moved away from the planning board method was because the board was spending all its time discussing severances and minor variances, and not doing any planning.

YRP may cut '75 recruits to 10 men

York Regional Police Force recruits could be cut to as few as 10 this year due to a \$200,000 cut in the YRP budget.

This announcement, made at the last police commission meeting by Chairman Judge William Lyon, follows a previous decision to reduce the number of new officers hired from 18 to 13.

The police budget now stands at \$6,982,900 as of the regional budget debate May 29.

Police Chief Bruce Crawford said he assumed that 13 officers had been approved for employment by October 27.

Chief Crawford suggested to Judge Lyon the matter be discussed at a later meeting, preferably one attended by all members of the police board.

No decision was made as to the number of officers to be hired at the commission meeting.

But both Commissioner Stewart Rumble and Commissioner and Regional Councillor Ray Twinney said they thought the region wished the commission to hire only 10 officers.

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Mayor Gladys Rolling of East Gwillimbury, said such matters were the region's problems and not the provincial government's.

But she did wonder why the region could only charge \$50 when it cost \$100 to handle a dispute.

He's flabbergasted
When asked by Councillor Gordon Rowe

about the federal government's recent gasoline tax hike, McKeough said he was "flabbergasted." It was a "very stupid thing to have done," he said.

Families and commuters were the ones who would be hit the hardest; with the refunds for commercial use, the "paper war is mind bogling."

In answer to a question later on at a press conference, he said the provincial government would not be receiving any of the gasoline tax revenue.

Liberal leader Nixon wants individual's role in society to be strengthened

Provincial Liberal Leader Robert Nixon last week called for the role of the individual in society to be "preserved and strengthened."

"We don't believe bigger government is better government," Nixon said. "We believe people — individuals — have an important role in our community life."

And a Liberal government would assist them in maintaining that community role, he said.

Nixon made his remarks at a nomination meeting at Aurora Community Centre. Mayor Margaret Britnell of King Township was acclaimed as the candidate for York North.

As Liberals, they were committed to strengthen local government, he said. "We'll stop the (Premier William) Davis plan to arbitrarily impose regional governments from Windsor through Ottawa," Nixon said.

Costly government
Regionalization "inflicted big government and high cost government on local ratepayers," he said. Governments that rejected regional plans were penalized with lower grants from the province.

"Clearly, the plan announced three years ago this month to regionalize the whole part of southern Ontario has only been delayed, not abandoned," Nixon said.

"Wherever centralized regions have been imposed in Ontario, local governments have jumped dramatically. Here in York, municipal spending increased by 51 percent in the first year of regionalization," he said.

Costs jumped 73 percent between 1970 — the year before regional government — and 1973. If this increase had been limited to the average rate for local governments in the province, York ratepayers would have saved about \$7 million, Nixon said.

He said the "individual's involvement in local government diminishes" this way and, "in the name of centralized efficiency, the whole

system of local government becomes remote, impersonal — regional instead of local."

Look it over
Nixon said a Liberal government would not only review the whole system of regional governments, but would insist, where regions were already established, the chairmen be elected locally, rather than be appointed by the provincial government.

The Liberal leader also attacked the present education system in the province. He said he felt 50 to 60 percent of school time should be spent in uniform studies.

At present, there were no standards and nobody failed. That didn't mean, however, that good students still couldn't excel, he said.

He also wondered about teachers, who, he said, were moving into an area "where they are becoming just another union."

If they were going to form a union, it should be certified, he said, as the government would "like to take some initiative to move the teachers into professionalism."

Nixon said he would like to abolish the Ontario Housing Program. The government should have started servicing land, not banking it.

People should be able to go into housing divisions in some areas without full services, he said.

Share the wealth
Nixon also called for the sharing of natural resources by Canadians. Ontario, for example, had uranium and the technology to turn it into energy.

Every province, in fact, had an energy resource, but because of external crises, Canada was "divided into individual sheikdoms."

Rather than "pitting province against province, let us have an agreement to share for the good of all," he said.

He said Ontario had a deficit of \$1.7 billion, even though it was considered a rich province. Premier Davis hadn't

control of the police. While some people felt such a thing would lead to corruption, he didn't subscribe to that theory.

It was an area they were moving slowly in, because of the wide divergence of opinion and also because it hadn't always worked that well.

Many areas, too, were upset by the removal of provincial judges from the police commission.

Health councils
In the matter of the region assuming control over such outside agencies as the board of health, he said that Kitchener-Waterloo had abolished its board and it was now becoming a part of council.

York could either appoint a health council, or contend with an autocratic minister of health.

When asked from the audience by William Hodgson, MLA, York North, to "confirm that our southern boundaries are going to stay at Steeles," McKeough said: "I confirm."

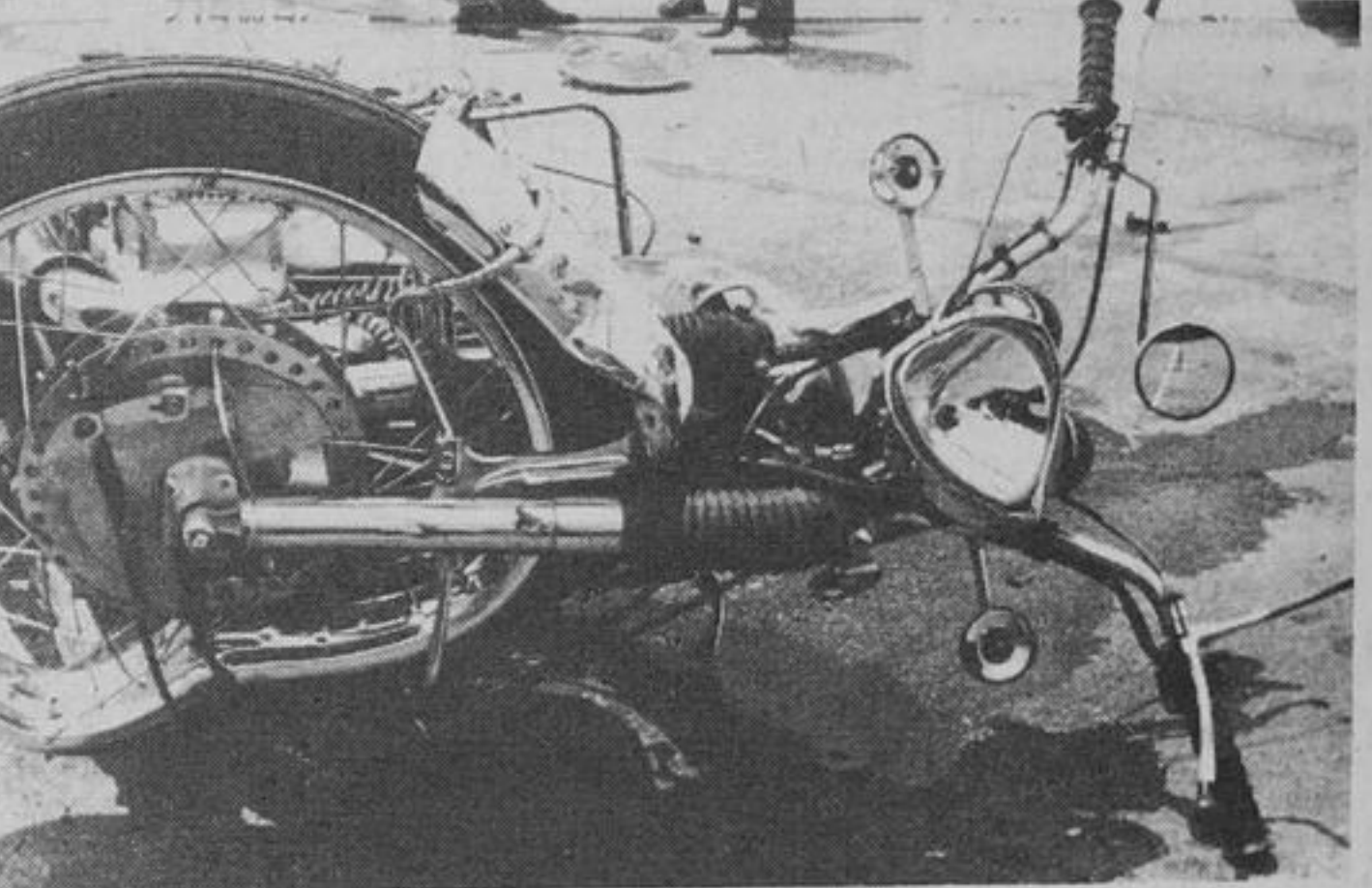
He's already wearing a Margaret Britnell badge, but provincial Liberal leader Robert Nixon seals it with a handshake with her honor at the York North riding nomination meeting last week in Aurora. Successful candidate Britnell, was unopposed.



(Photo by Irving)

Guess who Nixon's for?

He's already wearing a Margaret Britnell badge, but provincial Liberal leader Robert Nixon seals it with a handshake with her honor at the York North riding nomination meeting last week in Aurora. Successful candidate Britnell, was unopposed.



(Photo by Hogg)

Motorcyclist hospitalized

Blain Tomlinson, 21, of Willowdale, suffered a fractured femur and assorted cuts and bruises, after the motorcycle he was riding was in collision with a car at Yonge Street and Carrville Road June 28 about 1:05 p.m. Tomlinson was southbound on Yonge, and a northbound car, driven by Robert McCausland, 40, of Penwick Crescent, Richmond Hill, was turning left onto Carrville when the accident occurred, OPP said. Extensive damage was done to both vehicles. No charges would be laid.

Langstaff Public School farewell luncheon held

Two teachers who are leaving the staff of Langstaff Public School this year were honored at a luncheon given for the teachers, school helpers and library mothers by the home and school auxiliary.

They were Mrs. Lillian Peacock and Mrs. Nancy Marcotte.

Among the guests were John Peacock, the former's husband, and the former principal of the school, Richard Colvin.

Taught 21 years
Mrs. Peacock was presented with a clear paperweight in which was enclosed a beautifully carved Canada Goose.

She taught for 21 years, began her teaching career in Ibstone, Saskatchewan, taught during the war years at Thistletown and has been on the permanent staff at Langstaff for the past eight years.

On behalf of all parents whose children she had taught, Acting President Mrs. Myrtle Lang expressed the wish for many happy years in which the Peacocks may enjoy their retirement.

Mrs. Marcotte was presented with a leather maple leaf pin.

Classroom farewell
Grades 3 and 4 also held

a farewell party in the classroom for Mrs. Peacock and gave her a beautiful Blue Mountain pottery bird.

Students of Grade 6 gave Mrs. Marcotte gifts — a vase and sleepers and toys for the baby.

Tuesday afternoon they also held a graduation party at which the grade 5 students were guests.

At the end of the luncheon Mrs. Lang expressed thanks to: Mrs. Lillian Stubbs, library co-ordinator, and her team of 11; Mrs. Alva Cunnane, ski co-ordinator; school helpers, Mrs. June Barber, Mrs. Leona Blake, Mrs. Rae Alderton, Mrs. Betty Ball, Mrs. Linstead and Mrs. Henderson; teachers, Dorothy Good, Mrs. Marcotte, Mrs. Peacock, James Milne and John Martins; school secretary, Mrs. Sylvia Graham and custodian, John Kremin.

New executive
The auxiliary executive will have three new members in September — Mrs. Robinson will be library co-ordinator; Mrs. Alderton will help with publicity and Mrs. Bauer will look after the room mothers.

Positions of president

Baythorn School farewell party

A surprise party attended by parents, teachers and students was held June 23 at Baythorn Public School to bid farewell to the school's principal for the past eight years, R.

Glenn Guyatt. He is leaving to become the principal at Dixon's Hill Public School and will be replaced by Bill Higginson, formerly of Stornoway Public School in Thornhill.



(Photo by Hogg)

Fun Day at 16th Avenue Public School

The 16th Avenue Public School Fun Day June 23 featured the three 'B's — baseball, barbecue and bombing about. Navigating the obstacle course are (left to right) Keeley Ablett,

Wendy Palmer, Elly VanHorsen and Randall Fockler. Stuart Petrie keeps his eye on the stopwatch.

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