

Hillcrest-Maple transit



Photo by Hogg

Playing tonight

Part of the Bayview, secondary school students Lorne Davidson on the tuba and Tasha Stephenson with French horn, have been busy practicing for tonight's (Dec. 17) Sounds of Christmas concert at Richmond Hill United Church. The 8 p.m. concert, \$2 for adults and 50 cents for children, will feature brass and woodwind ensembles.

Vaughan transit service will be extended into Richmond Hill on Jan. 5. Richmond Hill council Monday approved a Vaughan proposal that service be extended east of Maple along Major Mackenzie Drive to Yonge Street, and south on Yonge to Carrville Road. The new route will be in effect for a six-month trial period.

"If viable, it could very well become a permanent service," says Vaughan transit co-ordinator John Plunkett. He adds there have been many requests for this extension from both Maple and Richmond Hill residents.

30 cent fare
Fare will be 30 cents, a five cent increase, to conform with new Richmond Hill transit rates. Senior citizen, child and student rates remain unchanged at 15 cents.

Along with addition of the new route, Vaughan is also cutting back on existing service between Maple and the Jane-Steeles intersection. Because of lack of demand the

existing 20-minute service in early morning and evening periods will be changed to 30-minute or 60-minute intervals between pick-ups.

Recent passenger counts on the Maple-Jane route showed the average use as low as two people per trip on some runs.

2 opposing votes
Richmond Hill's decision to support the extension was favored by all councillors but Gordon Rowe and William Corcoran.

Rowe suggested the route extension seemed expressly designed for the benefit of Hillcrest Mall merchants.

He said he has "nothing against the mall" but wondered if the new service would provide it an unfair advantage over the business district north of Major Mackenzie Drive.

Corcoran indicated he did not wish to support the Vaughan transit service in competition with Richmond Hill transit.

Postpone GO rail again

Ontario Transportation Minister James Snow has told the Legislature the opening of the proposed GO Transit rail line from Thornhill and Richmond Hill to Toronto, will be delayed past the spring of 1977.

Replying to a question from John

Williams, (P.C., Oriole), Snow said delays in grade construction, station locations, the right of way to a parcel of land and financial constraints, were the cause.

He said he will make a full report at a later date.

Hill transit must economize

Higher bus fares and reduced service have been endorsed by Richmond Hill council in an effort to reduce an expected 1976 transit deficit of \$218,860. The proposals call for a five-cent local fare increase to 30 cents and reduction of local service by three hours.

Elimination of three North York runs from Finch Avenue and a fare increase on this route are also proposed.

But this will require approval from

the TTC, Vaughan and Markham as well as Richmond Hill.

The town estimates these changes would cut the deficit by \$58,260, reducing the total to about \$160,600.

About \$80,000 would come from the annual subsidy from the ministry of transport and communications.

The increased fare and reduced hours for Richmond Hill transit are to take effect Jan. 15.

It has not been decided which hours will be reduced.



Photo by Hogg

Christmas giving

Theresa Chard, 10, of Willowdale adds another light to the "People Tree," signifying a donation to Dellcrest Children's Centre. The tree is situated in the rotunda at Towne and Countryside Square. Organizers from the Square, Dellcrest and CFGM Radio have given this project the slogan: "Light a light, light a life." The campaign concludes Dec. 23 with concerts by George Hamilton IV and other popular musicians. Dellcrest Children's Centre is a private, non-profit service helping emotionally disturbed children and their families.

The Liberal
In Essentials Unity, in Non Essentials Liberty, in all things Charity.

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On pupil ratio

Strike award breached

Secondary school teachers say the pupil-teacher ratio fixed by arbitration during last year's strike is being violated by the school board.

Furthering the "mutual trust and confidence," that exists between York County Board of Education and its school teachers, and trying to effect a change in the present pupil-teacher ratio, resulted in a visit to the board Dec. 8 by three representatives of District 11 of Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

The three, who presented a brief to the board in which they listed all the reasons they felt the PTR should be 17.15 and not the present 17.44 to 1, were Eric McLean, Donald Nixon and John Herbert.

Before discussion got under way, however, McLean told the meeting that, "two short years ago" they couldn't have got together in the same way.

Resignations had been received from 75 per cent of the staff and "respect and

trust were non-existent."

No grievances
It was now restored and the board could "take pride in its accomplishments."

Their new contract was a "shiny document," with "no grievances recorded to this date."

He then introduced Mr. Herbert, who presented the brief.

Among other things, Herbert said an arbitration award for 1974-75, set the PTR at 17.5 to 1.

They were "surprised and disappointed" when enrolment and staffing figures for 1975, released Nov. 24, showed a ratio of 17.44 and not the expected one, the brief said.

Increased work
The difference both represented an overall shortage of about 15 teachers, or one per school, "and an increased work load for all teachers in the county."

The brief went on to say that as a result, "anticipated improvements in the quality of education at the secondary level in York County, had not come about."

It said also that, with the approximately \$15 million dollars saved in not hiring these extra teachers, the money should be divided among all the secondary teachers in York County, and the board's contributions to the fringe benefits of the teachers increased, "until the surplus is used up."

Trustee Dorothy Zajac of King wondered how hard the teacher

representatives had tried to find out why staffing was the way it was.

Wrong calculations
When told no effort had been made to that point, Mrs. Zajac said the schools had been staffed at 17.15 in April, but "every calculation was wrong."

Said Nixon: "We're trying to alter the situation so we can bring about a just solution."

Trustee Doreen Quirk of Markham, said there were two obvious reasons: every school had more students than expected.

When that was realized, eight or 10 teachers were hired.

Would they have preferred them to hire an extra 15 if they weren't of the calibre required Quirk asked.

Trustee Keith Hargrave of Georgina, himself a teacher, asked if the fall dropouts hadn't reduced the figure to 17.15.

Herbert said it would eventually reach that point as the year progressed.

A motion by Donald Cousens of Markham to turn the matter over to the chairman's committee, in consultation with staff, and report back to the board by Jan. 12, was passed.

Bylaw passed

Minimum maintenance standards for all property are now the law in Richmond Hill.

The town's property standards bylaw, adopted by council Monday, establishes criteria of health, safety, cleanliness and aesthetics for all buildings and land.

These standards are largely based on existing building controls and contain no new requirements likely to cause controversy.

The bylaw is considered necessary for the town to qualify for federal and provincial financial aid programs, such as the Neighborhood Improvement Plan.

RC board inaugural

The 1976 inaugural meeting of York Roman Catholic Separate School Board will be held in Newmarket Jan. 6, beginning with mass at St. John Chrysostom Church at 7:30 p.m., it was announced at the regular meeting of the board in Richmond Hill.

Support rent control

The province's rent control legislation has won unanimous support of Richmond Hill town council.

At their meeting last week, councillors also voted to request York Region to establish a landlord-tenant bureau to investigate and give advice on rental problems.

The action came in response to a submission of Local 544 of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers

Union. The union urged support for "strong rent control legislation that will halt the rise in rents beyond that which can be justified by increased operating costs."

It also recommended a landlord-tenant bureau be established to serve York Region residents.

Rent controls limiting annual increases to 8 per cent were recently introduced in the Legislature.

Want drinking age 21

"The drinking age should be raised to 21 again," said Jack Dunsford of Lincoln Green Dr., Markham, when he recently appeared before Markham council.

Impaired and drunk driving charges increased by 343 per cent between 1970 and 1973 in the 18 to 20 year bracket in Metro, he said.

He said many families have been destroyed by alcoholism.

Statistics for Canada are not available, he said.

John Wright, student council president at Markham District High

School, said on behalf of over 70 students, council should not adopt the proposal.

"The individual who abuses alcohol should suffer, not everyone," he added.

Councillor Walter Grieve concurred with Wright that the problem was in liquor law enforcement at liquor outlets and bars.

Raising the drinking age is a "drastic" measure, according to Grieve.

The petitions and remarks were received by council and held for further discussion.

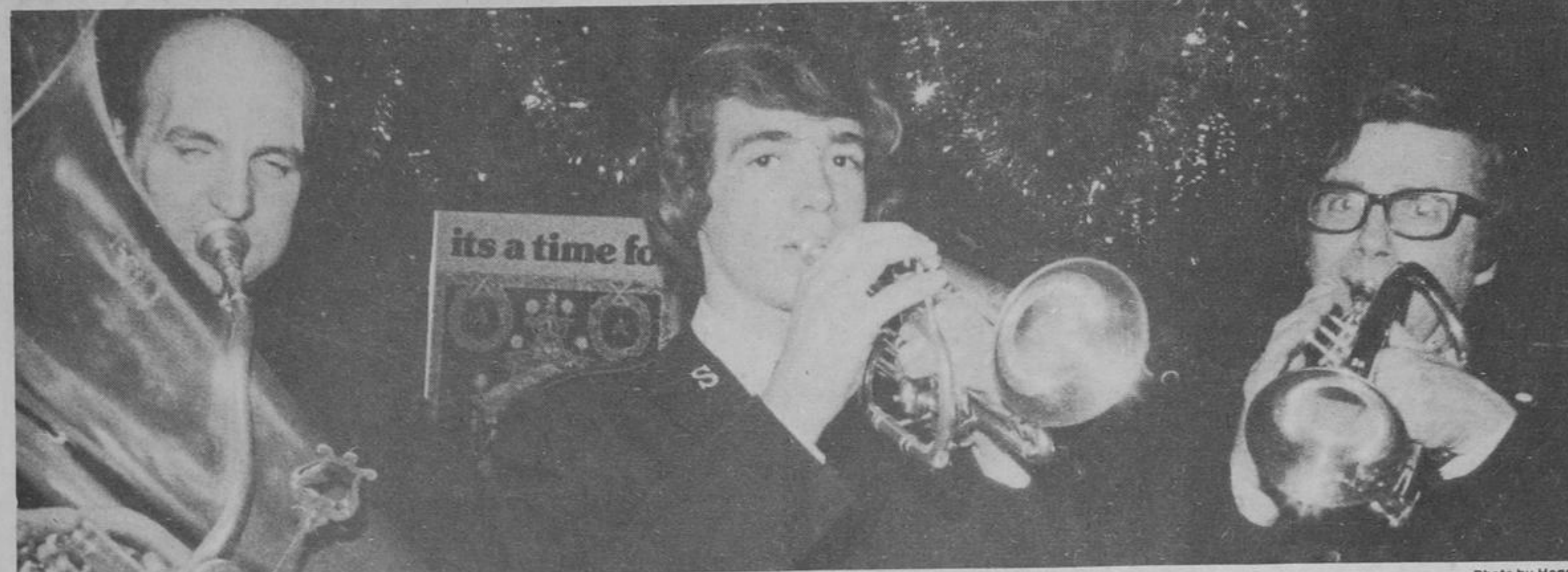


Photo by Hogg

Sounds of Christmas

The merry sounds of Christmas are in the air at Hillcrest Mall these days as shoppers are treated to performances by the Salvation Army band and

choir. Among the band's local members in action are: (left to right) John and Leslie Pierce, both of Baif Blvd.; and Ken Graham of Castle Rock Drive.

Hill councillors

Want computer grocers stopped

"Just a tremendous excuse to rip us off for more money" is Richmond Hill Councillor Mike Burnie's impression of the computerized check-out system being introduced by Canada's major grocery chains.

A majority of his colleagues apparently agree.

At its Monday meeting, council voted to endorse an Aurora resolution urging the ministry of consumer and commercial affairs not to allow the computerized system in Ontario.

The resolution expressed fears the

new procedure will make it difficult for shoppers to determine the prices of products, and that "this expensive system will again add extra cost to the consumer."

Under the new system prices will not be stamped on individual products but will be indicated on store shelves.

Coded markings on the products will be translated into prices by the computerized check-out service.

Richmond Hill councillors William Corcoran and Gordon Rowe voted against it.

Markham also opposed

The Town of Markham has joined the Town of Aurora to request the Ontario Ministry of consumer and commercial affairs not to allow introduction of computerized check-out systems in supermarkets.

The consumer is the new systems will add extra cost to the consumer.

The consumer, town councillors suggest, will find it difficult to tell the

price he or she is actually paying for a product until it is rung up on the computer cash register.

The request was initiated in Aurora. Acting Markham Mayor Bob Adams said the consumer won't know of price changes under this system.

The request also urges local MPP's to lobby on behalf of those opposed to new system.

Inside The Liberal

Thunderbirds, Rams win

Thornhill Thunderbirds whip Junior B leaders while Hill Rams extend win streak to 13 games. See sports section page B-1.

District YMCA winter program ready to go in January. Details page C-13.

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Wants 2 more region seats

York regional council will be asked to reopen the matter of increasing Markham town's representation on council.

Markham wants five seats on regional council, an increase of two from the present three.

At a meeting of the region's administrative committee Monday, a letter was received from the Markham clerk with the request that region council, which last year set up a committee to study such a change, bring the matter up again.

Last year the committee never met.

In the past four years, Markham, which is the fastest-growing municipality in York, has been responsible for half the region's 28,500 population jump and \$363 million increase in assessment.

At present, it has 26.9 per cent of the region's population, but only 17.6 per cent representation on council.

Representing Markham on regional council are Mayor Tony Roman and Councillors Gary Adamson and Alma Walker.

The York council doesn't meet again until January.