

# Mail all through despite strike

Area postal officials are divided in their assessment of this year's volume of Christmas mail, with reports ranging from "extremely busy" to "very quiet".

But the post offices — in Richmond Hill, Markham, Thornhill, Maple and King City — all agreed Tuesday this has been an unusual period because of the protracted mail strike.

As a Markham postal official said, the Christmas mail volume is probably close to last year's "but it's hard to tell since we don't know what is Christmas mail and what is the backlog from the strike."

**Volume higher**  
It's been "extremely busy," Markham reported.

On two recent days when comparative surveys were made, the volume was up considerably from last year.

But by Tuesday morning, Markham postal workers — including 15 extras to supplement the regular staff of 55 — had only a small amount of unworked mail which was expected to be cleared away soon.

Richmond Hill spokesmen said figures on outgoing mail are not available this year since, as of last July, local mail has been cancelled in Scarborough.

The over-all volume for December is reported to be "slightly down" from the same time last year, and all Richmond Hill mail will have been cleared and

delivered by Christmas eve.

A main factor in the decline is that European-bound mail is far less than in previous years, presumably because the Christmas mailing deadline had already passed by the time the strike ended.

**Doubled staff**  
Richmond Hill more than doubled its staff size for December, with 35 extras complementing the regular staff of 32.

At King City post office, "We're all pretty tired — I can tell you that much," says Postmaster Andrew McKenzie.

both Christmas mail and the backlog from the strike."

In Maple the post office said it had no figures to release but the volume has been "very low compared to last year."

"It's very quiet with no backlog," a spokesman said, "and everything is well under control."

Thornhill postal officials were not available for comment, but an inside workers' union spokesman said the volume of mail has been less than in previous Decembers and that operations were running smoothly.

"There haven't been as many parcels this year and a lot of people just didn't bother to send Christmas cards because of the length of the strike," the spokesman said.



from  
**The Liberal Staff**

**Richmond Hill Edition**

# The Liberal

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# 15% increase in cost of electricity coming

By William Lever

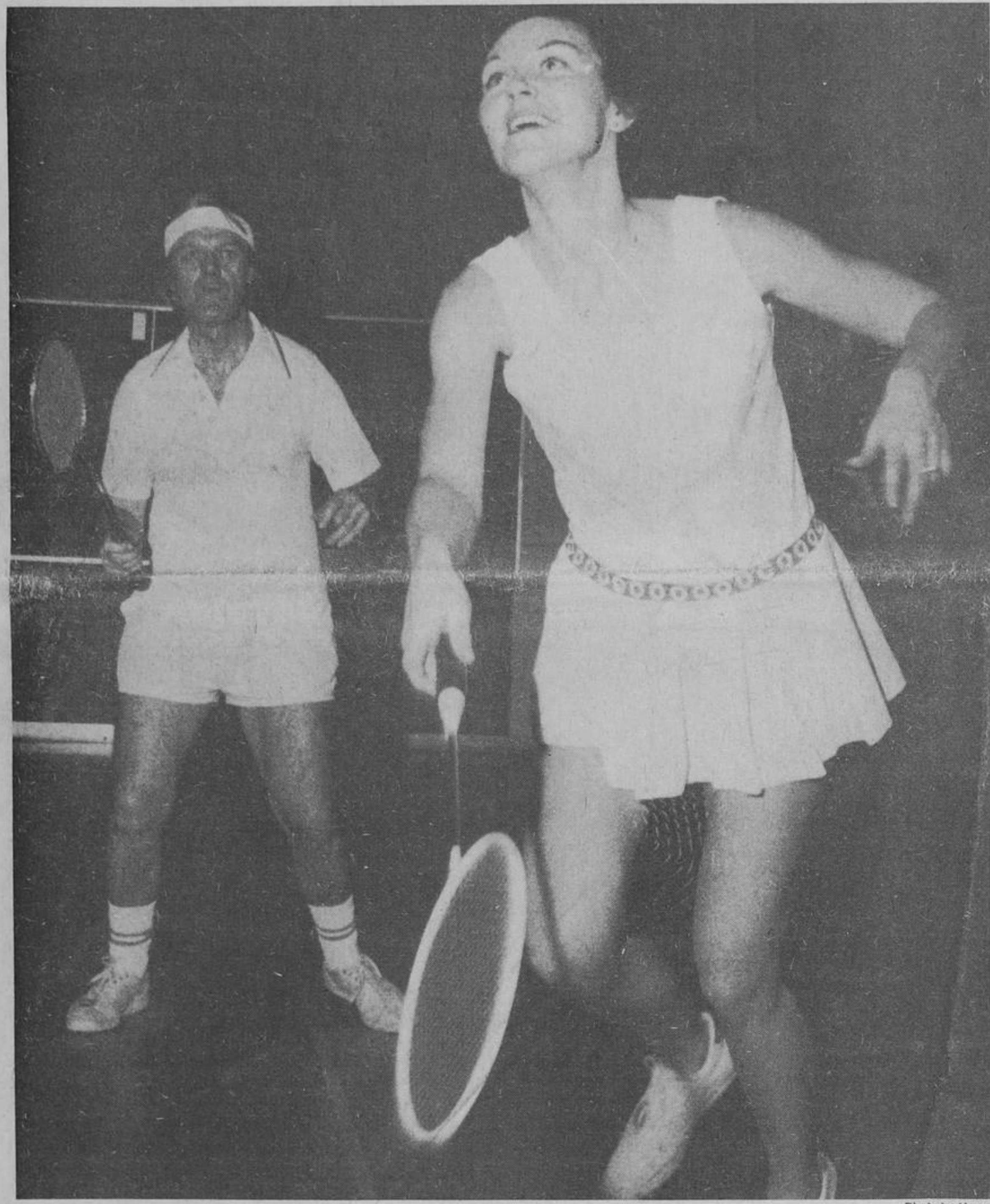


Photo by Hogg

## Action on the courts

Watch the birdie: Badminton player Hilda Baxter of Richmond Hill is relieved at her successful return: her partner, Sidney Redgate, tenses for the next one. Both are members of the Richmond Hill Badminton Club playing in last week's round robin tournament at Langstaff Secondary School.

Individual winners of the event were Tania Savoye and Derek Smith. Competition resumes Jan. 6 when Richmond Hill plays host to St. Clement's Badminton Club.

# Markham backs Langstaff area

By Robert Hughey

What promised to be a confrontation between Langstaff residents and Markham council didn't occur.

Amid applause from the citizens involved, Markham council unanimously endorsed a resolution requesting the provincial government lift the "freeze" from the Langstaff

area, move Langstaff out of the Parkway Belt West and have the hydro line routed away from Langstaff.

Bill Lardner, spokesman for the Langstaff residents, said Langstaff was not getting the proper support from council and advised this be done in the form of positive written support to Darcy McKeough, minister of economics and intergovernmental

affairs, on Langstaff's behalf.

**Sympathetic**  
"We are sympathetic to your cause," said Mayor Anthony Roman. "There is merit to moving the hydro corridor out of Langstaff."

Markham was led to believe there (continued on page A2)

## Hillcrest Mall bank robbery

While thousands of people did their Christmas shopping in Hillcrest Mall Thursday afternoon about 3:15, what police have described as a robbery was taking place at the Bank of Montreal, one of the many businesses in the mall.

Police said a man entered the bank and presented a note to one of the tellers demanding money.

The teller gave him \$694 and the man ran off through the crowds in the mall.

He was described as white, 20 years old, five seven or eight inches tall, medium-heavy build, straight shoulder length brown hair, medium complexion; wearing a green, three-quarter length cloth parka.

## Safe crackers

# Door kickers, wall bangers

Kicking down the door seemed a popular form of entry for several burglars in the region last week.

Most bizarre occurred at the home of a King resident on Conc. 3, on Dec. 17.

Police said a man knocked on the door several times.

When the owner, who was in bed, didn't answer, the intruder kicked the door down.

He went through several rooms before finally winding up in the bedroom. Then when he saw the owner, he turned around and left.

Nothing was taken.

**Richvale incident**  
David Huffman, Weldrick Road, Richmond Hill, also got his door kicked in the afternoon of Dec. 18.

However, in his case, a quantity of stereo equipment and a guitar with a total value of \$2,058, were taken.

Another heavy loser was Hans Langin, Clark Avenue, Thornhill, who lost \$2,545 to the thieves who ransacked his house after kicking in the door Dec. 17.

**Wall bangers**  
Choosing a little different form of entry were the thieves who broke into A&P Food Store, Bayview Avenue, Thornhill, Dec. 21.

At this place they chipped through a wall, and then once inside they chiselled open a safe.

An undisclosed amount of cash was taken.

## Served in Thornhill

# Earns OPP promotion

Staff Supt. J.W. Lidstone, who began his career with the Ontario Provincial Police in Thornhill, has been promoted to the rank of chief superintendent, second-in-command of the field division.

Chief Supt. Lidstone joined the force in 1951, and was with Thornhill's former OPP detachment until June, 1953.

Subsequently, he served at Barrie, Bracebridge, Cochrane and Timmins.

Lidstone was transferred to the criminal investigation branch in 1964 and in 1969 was promoted to the rank of chief inspector.

In 1972, he was appointed staff superintendent and assigned to the staff inspections branch where he served until his current appointment.

He has served on three royal commissions. In 1973, he was secretary of a commission on certain sectors of the building industry.

The following year he was executive secretary to commissions studying the conduct of police forces at Fort Erie, and the Toronto jail and custodial services.

Chief Supt. Lidstone lives in Willowdale.



J. W. Lidstone  
... now chief superintendent

## Region says:

# Big Pipe is too small

The Big Pipe, or south central trunk sewer system planned for this area, is apparently not big enough now.

Designed by the ministry of the environment to service 416,000 people and 8,500 industrial acres, it should really be re-designed to serve another 70,000 people, according to a report from York region chief administrative officer Jack Rettie; region planning commissioner Murray Pound, and region engineer Bob Hodgson.

The increase would cover 20,000 more people at both Woodbridge and Thornhill-Vaughan, and 30,000 in Markham in the Milliken Mills area.

If the situation is not remedied, the provincial schemes would eliminate other local growth, the report stated.

The big sewer facility will eventually dump processed sewage from York and Durham regions into Lake Ontario via Duffin's Creek.

Council will discuss the matter in full at its next meeting.

## Inside The Liberal

### Rams win 15 in a row

Rams keep winning as they extend winning streak to 15 games beating North York 7-1 in Provincial Junior A hockey.

Black Creek Pioneer Village is close by and offers Christmas food and fun for old and young. See Page A-3.

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# All dressed up, but no place to ho-ho

By Mike Tennant



Mike Tennant ... not eligible

The roar of the grease-paint, the smell of the crowd.

My assignment wasn't exactly show business, but it meant a lot to me.

The assignment given me by The Liberal was to see what it would be like to 'be' Santa Claus for a short time at a large local shopping mall.

As I started home in a light snow flurry, several thoughts dashed through my mind.

I would gain local fame, impress my favorite girl and pick up some spending money from the feature.

All of these fantasies were shattered, by one measly telephone call, from an executive of the mall.

I was told they've had complaints their Santa Clauses have been too young. (I'm 15, sealing my so-called ineligibility).

They think they've seen the last of Michael Arthur Tennant.

To them I say humbug! If there is a loophole, a legal case, a felony or anything else I've heard of on Police Story, I would waste no time putting it to use.

I could really fix their legal clocks if I were to complain they've never hired any female Santa Clauses.

"Discrimination," I call it, and that should be enough to sink their jowls to the dirt.

They'll beg  
Some day, they'll come on their

hands and knees, begging me to stop my legal steps, and be Santa Claus in their store.

Then we will see who is on the wrong side of the beard. I have my pride.

The mall will regret not really finding out who they're dealing with. I'm in Grade 10 now and can say "black bugs blood" 10 times fast (would you believe eight?). I look rather good in red and have weeks of experience at "ho-ho ho-ing."

But I can take a hint. Who wants to be Santa Claus anyway.

Who needs money, fame or a chance to show off in front of his favorite girl. Gee whiz.

Just wait until Easter, I really make a great rabbit ...