



Rituals of the Exodus

(Photo by Dunlop)

At sundown tonight Jewish members of our community will begin the eight-day celebration of Passover, with every member of the family a part of the rituals symbolic of the flight of the Children of Israel from Egypt at the time of Moses. Pictured above, centre, Barry Wortzman of the Har

Zion congregation in Thornhill passes bitter herbs to his wife, Cheryl, at the beginning of a Seder meal. Mrs. Wortzman's father, Jack Wainberg is at extreme left; beside him is Michelle Wortzman, 4. To the right are Elyssa Wortzman, 5, and Mrs. Tillie Wainberg.

Prayer, songs, feasting celebrate the Passover

By Doreen Livingstone
German Mills correspondent

THORNHILL — As Easter is to Christians, a sure sign of spring to those of the Jewish religion is the approach of Passover, the Festival of Freedom, which comes between the 14th and the 21st of the Jewish month Nisan, usually in April.

It commemorates in prayer, song and feasting the flight of the Children of Israel from Egypt, described in the Biblical Book of Exodus.

Only special foods and unleavened bread called Matzoh may be eaten during the eight days of Passover.

When the Children of Israel fled from Egypt in haste, they only had time to take with them unleavened dough which was baked in the hot desert sun, thus the origin of Matzoh.

Ritual laws are responsible for the many purchases of food made during this festival.

Even the most simple staple, such as

an unopened package of salt, must be replaced by a package that is marked "Kasher L' Pesaach" (Kosher for Passover).

There are also special serving dishes for Passover; dishes not used at any other time of the year.

They come in two separate sets, one for dairy foods, the other for meat dishes.

On the first two days of Passover, which begins today at sundown, a Seder dinner is held.

On the Seder table, along with the Passover dishes, silver goblets are placed at each setting. In a place of honor there is a special goblet for Elijah the Prophet.

There is also a special Passover plate upon which are placed the ceremonial Seder foods, all symbolic.

They include three whole perfect matzohs, each covered with a napkin or doily, representing the bread of affliction and also the unity of the three religious groups of the Jews, Kohanites,

Levites and Israelites.

A roasted lamb bone is placed in the upper right-hand corner of the Passover place, a symbol of the Paschal Lamb. A roasted egg, placed on the opposite left-hand corner of the plate, symbolizes the ancient festival offering.

Moro (bitter herb, usually horseradish root), placed in the centre of the plate, recalls the bitterness of slavery; Charoseth, (a combination of grated apple, nuts and wine), placed in the lower right-hand corner of the plate, is the symbol of the clay and bricks used by the Israelites to build the cities of the Pharaoh.

Finally, parsley, watercress, and endive (sweet herbs) placed in the lower left-hand corner of the plate, speak of spring and growth.

Salt water, placed around the table in bowls and pitchers, symbolizes tears shed by the captive peoples.

Glasses for wine at each setting are filled and drunk with ceremonial meaning at four different times during the dinner.

The Seder belongs particularly to the children of the family.

Many little diversions are introduced during the evening to please them, to arouse their curiosity and to enliven their interest.

Attractive songs and chants, riddles and jingles, keep the children alert to the end of the Seder, which sometimes lasts far into the night.

A highlight for the youngest child in the family is the saying of the Mah Nishtanah (the four questions) starting with the words "How is this night different from all other nights?"

Airport land freeze meetings promised

QUEEN'S PARK — The provincial and federal governments plan a series of public meetings on the future of the vast spread of land currently frozen for the proposed Pickering airport.

The land freeze, including 5,200 acres in Markham, was ordered in 1972 and remains in effect even though the provincial government moved to halt the airport's construction six months ago.

In a report to The Liberal, York Centre MPP Alf Stong said he has repeatedly raised the issue in the Legislature and was told a federal-provincial committee plans a "full study" of the problem.

Transport Committee

Provincial Transport Minister James Snow, according to Stong, said the study is being made by a joint transportation planning committee of both governments.

Stong said: "In answer to a supplementary question he (Snow) indicated there would be citizen participation in this inquiry.

"I asked when would the meetings begin, but he was unable to say anything more than they would get under way 'very soon'."

Stong added he understands the study will be concerned with "all modes of transportation involving southern Ontario and would be completed prior to any major decisions being made on 'new facilities'."

The provincial government announced last fall it would not supply essential services to the airport site, effectively cancelling construction of the controversial project.

'Oppressive Burden'

Stong and other opposition MPPs have since been pressing the government to lift the land freeze, which he calls "an oppressive burden on residents."

As an example of the hardship created by the freeze, Stong told the Legislature of a 67-year-old man who had used his entire life savings to buy retirement property in Markham.

Then came the 1972 freeze and, because of it, this man is spending his retirement years in rented property in Toronto, still unable to build on his own property.

Older buildings to be preserved

RICHMOND HILL — Historical buildings in Richmond Hill won't have to fear the developer's wrecking crane when an Official Plan policy now in the works becomes law.

Town council, already committed to some policy of preserving heritage buildings, is being advised by town staff to form an architectural conservation advisory committee.

The five-member committee would assist the staff in formulating policies for the new Official Plan and develop criteria for designating buildings of historical significance.

At least some of the committee members will be local residents suggested by the Richmond Hill Historical Society.

The recommendation is to be dealt with by council's planning committee and then passed on to the full council.

Local MP explains high office expense

OTTAWA — Figures for his parliamentary office furnishings and restoration released by The Toronto Star, April 3, are misleading, says Barney Danson, MP for York North, the local south York region constituency.

According to The Star, Urban Affairs Minister Danson spent a total of \$58,400 on antique restoration and furnishings.

Of the \$58,400 total, \$37,400 was for antique restoration, \$15,000 for his Commons office and a further \$6,000 for furnishings over the last two years, states The Star.

Danson said a more accurate figure of new money spent is "\$3,000 to \$4,000".

The \$37,400 spent on antique restoration was for an historic, three-storey building to be fully restored to the period of 1850, he said.

Danson said the building presently houses four of his staff members on one floor, but he doesn't use the building.

As for the \$15,000 spent on his Commons office in Bishop's Palace, Danson said he has the office formerly used by MP Stanley Haidasz, complete with second-hand furnishings.

"It was a ledger transfer," he said. Of the \$6,000 spent on furnishings, most went toward purchasing used furniture from MP Jeanne Sauve, Danson said.

NEWMARKET — Nine members of the Ontario cabinet will hold a meeting in Newmarket April 28 to discuss government policies with York region residents.

The meeting, at 8 p.m. in the community centre, will be chaired by Housing Minister John Rhodes.

Names of the other ministers to attend have not been announced.

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Where do I get job retraining?
Where can I play chess?
When do the Lions meet?
Where can I find help? I feel as a parent, that I am losing control of my anger.

NEED A SERVICE?
I need a credit counsellor. Where can I find one?
I'm 15 and pregnant. Where do I go now?

WANT TO HELP?
I like children and have some spare time. What can I do?
My kids are all in school now. What should I do?

Don't be LEFT OUT

Your organization may be just what people in the community are looking for. But perhaps they've been unable to contact you. The Liberal can help you solve this problem.

In May, this newspaper will be publishing its second annual Information Guide. This useful reference booklet lists special services, education, recreation and leisure facilities, clubs of all kinds and general news of activities in Southern York Region.

There is no charge for a listing in the 1976 Information Guide.

All that's required is a letter or phone call to The Liberal office.

Please give a brief description of functions, and names and telephone numbers of people the public can contact.

To ensure inclusion in the Guide, information should be submitted before **APRIL 15.**

WRITE THE LIBERAL INFORMATION GUIDE
At 10101 Yonge St.,
Richmond Hill,
or phone

Catholic board faces high insurance cost

RICHMOND HILL — Despite a jump in its annual premium from \$18,638 to \$24,704, York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board decided last week not to tender for its 1976 insurance.

Instead it agreed to renew its general policy with Frank Cowan Co. Ltd., whose bid was described as "realistic and competitive."

Last year, the company's tender was the lowest of three submitted. Johnson Higgins, with \$18,890, was next, and Reed-Shaw Stenhouse, with \$24,357, was last.

The recommendation to accept the Cowan bid was made by Trustee Alex

MacGregor of Markham, chairman of the facilities committee which submitted the report.

In its report, the committee said the Frank Cowan Company has served the board well.

"The board could be facing a threat from the same sources as the vandalism experience of other boards," the report stated.

"It would appear to be safer to renew the policies with the same agent for this unpredictable period."

MacGregor said that among the reasons for the higher rate, was the increase in schools and vehicles, plus property insurance.

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THE TOWN OF MARKHAM PUBLIC HEARINGS

on the

NEW OFFICIAL PLAN OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM, THE SECONDARY PLAN FOR MARKHAM-UNIONVILLE, and the SECONDARY PLAN FOR RISEBOROUGH (Milliken Mills)

Will be held on

TUESDAY, April 20 at 8:00 p.m.	THORNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE, John St. and Bayview Avenue.
WEDNESDAY, April 21 at 8:00 p.m.	ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Highway 7, opposite Robinson St., Markham
THURSDAY, April 22 at 8:00 p.m.	BERCZY PUBLIC SCHOOL (MARK II), Carlton Road, Unionville
MONDAY, April 26 at 8:00 p.m.	COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Municipal Offices, Buttonville
WEDNESDAY, April 28 at 8:00 p.m.	COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Municipal Offices, Buttonville

The Planning Committee of the Town of Markham has not yet adopted the Plan and is seeking comments, suggestions and opinions from the residents, business persons and property owners in the Town before recommending a Plan to Town Council.

The Planning Committee invites you to attend the Public Hearings, to visit or telephone the official Plan Information Centre in the Municipal Offices at Buttonville, telephone 297-3567 and to make written submissions by May 17, 1976.

The complete text of the proposed plan is also available for study in the Information Centre or in the Town libraries and may also be purchased, price \$5.00, from the Information Centre. A free brochure summarizing and highlighting the Official Plan is available on request from the Information Centre.

R. W. Adams, Chairman,
Markham Planning Committee
T. M. Januszewski,
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