



(Photo by Hogg)

## Lazy days

When the summers are short and the bathing suits brief, what could be more compatible, as well as practical, than grabbing a bit of that sun when it does put in an appearance in the neighborhood? Doing just that the other day down by the Mill Pond were Carla Kisko (left) of Mill Pond Court, and Liz Christie of Leisure Lane.

Richmond  
Hill  
Edition

# The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Liberty, in all things Charity"

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## Canada's biggest in Maple?

# Dump hearings under way

MAPLE — The Environment Assessment Board will begin formal hearings Aug. 5 regarding waste disposal sites near Maple.

The applicants, Superior Sand, Gravel and Supplies Ltd. and Crawford Allied Industries Ltd., were represented by counsel at the preliminary hearing Tuesday at the

Maple Arena. Counsel for each listed possible witnesses who will be called to speak on behalf of the applicants who are seeking permission to dump garbage on an estimated 900-acre site adjacent to the town of Maple.

The hearings, before the newly formed assessment board, concern a

proposed dump that would be largest in Canada.

"This preliminary meeting suggests all the earmarks of a long hearing," David Caverly, chairman of the assessment board, said.

President of Crawford Industries, Harry Lerman claimed that the estimate of the size of the landfill area

was high.

"It only involves an area of 450 to 500 acres at the maximum," he said.

In addition to requesting permission for landfill, Crawford Industries also proposes to build a resource recovery site, when and if markets are available.

"We would like to give part of the land back to the town for a park," Lerman said.

Maple Against Dumping, a group of 400 local residents, is opposing the applications and will be represented at the hearings by John Swaigen of the legal staff of Canadian Environmental Law Association.

The ministry of environment has retained independent consultants to study the proposal and is prepared to take an active role at the hearings.

# Funds short for 3 years, education director says

THORNHILL — Funds for education will be short over the next three years, Sam Chapman of the York County board of education told about 1,100 Area 3 and 4 elementary and secondary school teachers at Thornlea Secondary School last week.

"I don't think that the trustee can balance the budget for 1977 because

funds have been underlevied by \$2½ million," the education director said.

He clarified the statement later in an interview saying: "We are spending in 1976 \$2½ million more than we are collecting from the ministry and the taxpayer."

Chapman told the teachers that spending levels will not rise in education until 1979.

"Teachers must endeavor to live within the policy statements of the ministry," he said, "work co-operatively and take action against trustees, teachers or administrators who sabotage the organization."

"We can begin by moulding the curriculum, responding to the formative years, responding to the back to the basics movement and making sure that the secondary level program is positively related to ministry guidelines."

Billie Hurley, president of York County elementary teachers association of federations, expressed her concern about both the learning environment and teacher interests.

"We are concerned that the educational enterprise should deliver the best possible environment for learning," she said.

## Rice named to advisory post

RICHMOND HILL — Town treasurer William Rice has been elected to the treasurers advisory committee of the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.

The committee is established to investigate and report on matters affecting current and capital financing for municipalities and their boards and commissions.

One of its main tasks in the coming year will be to analyze and comment on the proposals made by the provincial government for restructuring the property tax system.

Rice has been employed in the finance and treasury departments of the Town of Richmond Hill for the past nine years. He was named treasurer on Jan. 1, 1974.

# Block parent group ready to serve Hill

RICHMOND HILL — The local block parent program is finally getting off the ground.

The program now involves 30 volunteers who have divided the town of Richmond Hill into six sections. Each

area has its own chairman who will organize homes in each block to display a block parent sign in their front window by September.

The program was prompted by an article in the February issue of Homemakers Magazine describing the block parent program in London, Ont.

The sign for resident's windows has been specially designed and is being kept by the York Regional Police until school begins in September.

It is not necessary for the block parent to be a parent. Responsible persons aged 16 or over can apply to join the program.

Displaying the sign in the front window of a residence, signifies to people, especially children, that responsible assistance in an emergency is available.

The purpose of the program is to discourage troublemakers from a given area, and thereby protect the children. Chairmen in each of the six areas are the following: north-east, Dianne Weir 884-8675; central-east, Joanne Hollet, 884-8646; south-east, Helen Mitchell 884-2840; central, between Yonge Street and CN tracks, Kay Cronin, 884-8473; south-west, Penny Spence, 884-7630; north-west, Sue Foot, 884-3886.

## Housing plan draws protest

MARKHAM — The overwhelming majority of residents here do not want a housing development on the former Markham fairgrounds, according to the organizer of a citizens' protest group.

Jack Luftman, leader of a petition campaign to preserve the site, said 95 per cent of some 2,300 people contacted are opposed to the development.

The fairgrounds are situated at Highways 7 and 48 in the centre of Old Markham.

The Markham fair, to be held there for the last time this fall, has been at the same site since 1855.

The property was bought in 1975 by a Vancouver company which later joined with local developer Doug Meharg.

They propose to build 184 housing units and a small commercial strip. Although Markham's new Official Plan designates the land for residential use, council has not yet passed the necessary rezoning bylaw.

Residents opposed to the development were to meet with council's planning committee Tuesday night to discuss their concerns.

# Schools get bouquets, brickbats

(Editor's note: How satisfied are York region parents with today's educational system? What are the hopes, the worries, the areas of contention? This is the first in a series of articles looking at these questions, put to a large number of local parents in a survey conducted for The Liberal.)

By Lynda Nykor

YORK REGION — By this time last week thousands of children had cleaned out lockers, packed up pencils and books, and decamped from schools to begin two months of fun and freedom.

But summer vacations never last forever, and The Liberal decided to conduct an informal survey to find out how parents feel about the kind of education their children will be heading back to come September.

They were asked how they felt about discipline in the York County school system. Is there too much or not enough?

We asked if the system was meeting the needs of their children, and whether they were satisfied with what went on in the buildings that house their offspring for at least six hours a day, five days a week.

What, we asked, would they like to see changed?

We decided to open the dialogue with parents of elementary school children, to find out what the concerns are right at the beginning of the educational experience.

"I'm very satisfied with the school," said one mother of a kindergarten child. "And I think the teaching is of a really high calibre."

Most parents of children in the lowest grades echoed that sentiment.

Where their children attended "open plan" schools, they were satisfied that there was "still enough structuring to the system to allow the child to work without distraction, but enough flexibility to ensure development of the child's natural abilities."

Trouble comes later

The idyll seemed to come to an end about the time children got into the higher elementary grades. Many parents of children in the 10-years and up category expressed concern, fear, and even anger at what they saw.

Even those who professed to be pleased with the schools their children attended, attributed this to plenty of discipline in the particular school.

"Not like some of those schools

I've heard about," they said.

They seemed to feel there was something going on in most schools they wouldn't approve, and to feel themselves fortunate their children had escaped it.

"If more money was spent on the junior schools instead of most of it going to the secondary schools, the problems would never arise later on," commented a parent who had also taught for a number of years.

"The failure to learn to read and do mathematics causes the problems that show up in higher grades."

Most parents felt the permissive society had gained too much of a foothold in the school system. With few exceptions they wanted "more structure," "firmer guidelines," "higher standards of conduct" in the schools.

"It wouldn't hurt to get back to the basics, the three Rs," was a typical reaction.

Teachers afraid?

One Richmond Hill parent suggested that perhaps this was impossible because "the teachers and principals are afraid of the kids and their parents."

"Bring back the strap," implored a few parents. Corporal punishment, they felt, "produces respect for authority, and it's an instant way of showing children the difference between right and wrong."

Many felt the breakdown of standards of behavior in the schools was symptomatic of a general deterioration in social mores. They felt the whole way of life in our society needed a pretty drastic overhaul.

And none felt the problems were confined to York County.

"I'm extremely disappointed in the school system in Ontario," said one father. "When the open system was brought in by the government it wasn't given enough thought. Now that we've got it, and it's not working, the bureaucrats won't retract. They're just compounding their errors."

"It was a good theory, but it never took human beings into account," said another parent.

Bright ones 'neglected'

One of the commonest complaints centered around the neglect by the schools, right from the beginning grades, of the gifted child, and this in spite of the fact that the new system was supposedly designed to allow such children to move ahead at their own pace.

"Because my child is bright, and

(continued on A-2)



William Rice  
... town treasurer

## Overpass on region agenda

NEWMARKET — York regional council will be asked next week to approve the \$3.2 million railway overpass on Markham Road between Essex and Cedar Avenues in Richmond Hill.

The overpass will accommodate expanded GO Transit rail service, which is expected to begin in late 1977 or in early 1978.

Engineering committee chairman Gordon Rowe of Richmond Hill said construction of the overpass is not likely to begin before 1980, as it still has to be approved by the provincial and federal governments.

Constructing it after introduction of GO service would be an inconvenience to commuters, and would result in a \$150,000 disruption of tracks and service.

## Inside The Liberal

### Dynes knocked off

The scores were close, but Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers fastball team lost two straight to get knocked out of All-Ontario tournament play in St. Catharines over the weekend. Despite the disappointment of defeat, the locals turned in a creditable performance with three victories in opening games. See Sports, Page B-1.

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## Higgs director of United Way

RICHMOND HILL — The recently established United Way of York Region has named its first executive director, 32-year-old Bob Higgs of Essex Drive, Richmond Hill.

Higgs, who has been working with the ministry of treasury, economics and intergovernmental affairs, will begin his new assignment on Monday.

Bruce McLenithan, chairman of the United Way board, said the regional campaign will be held from September to November with a fund-raising goal of \$250,000.

The initial campaign held in March raised some \$6,000, he said.

A permanent office for the United Way is expected to open later this month, but a location has not yet been chosen.