



Maybe next time

Oh well, you can't get good wood on them all. Paul Black of the Richmond Hill T-Ball team looks determined but he was out at first in wind-up game against Bramalea which saw Richmond Hill winning and walking off with tourney title at MacKillop Public School Sunday. See story, Sports B-1.

Park plan on its way to council

MAPLE — The controversial \$50 million Maple amusement park proposal is finally coming before Vaughan council, probably within the next few weeks.

Mayor Garnet Williams said he expects the issue to be dealt with in early September. Approval from York region council will also be necessary before the project could start.

Williams himself has already announced his support of the application by Family Leisure Centres to build the 320-acre complex at Highway 400 and Major MacKenzie Drive.

"I can see nothing wrong with it," Williams said, adding that he doesn't know for sure whether other council members have made up their minds on the issue.

In press interviews earlier this month, the mayor called the park plan "definitely one of the best tourist attraction proposals for Ontario I've ever seen. It will be the best thing ever to hit the town."

The proposal has been the object of a long and bitter campaign from a Maple-based group called Sensible Approach to Vaughan's Environment (S.A.V.E.).

The group is concerned about noise and traffic problems along with what they fear would be a carnival atmosphere detracting from the area's tranquil, rural environment.

But Williams says the S.A.V.E. campaign has been based on

"misrepresentations and barefaced lies."

"Their protest peaked too soon. They're lucky if they have one-tenth of their original support."

Now that all the studies and consultants' reports related to the park proposal have been completed, another public meeting is being planned for Sept. 2.

Purpose of the meeting will be "to

answer questions," Williams said.

The Maple park would be similar to two others operated by Family Leisure Centres in the United States. Attractive landscaping, midway rides, restaurants and live entertainment are among their features.

The developers say the park would bring 2,000 to 3,000 jobs, including 200 or more on a year-round basis.

Low-rent housing plan proposed

THORNHILL — Approval from Vaughan and Markham councils will be sought by Ontario Housing Corporation for a new Thornhill program "designed to encourage the private sector to get more involved in the provision of assisted rental housing".

Under the program, which was announced this week by Housing Minister John Rhodes, builders would arrange private mortgage financing and develop rental projects, which they would own and manage in return for government assistance.

A release from OHC said that up to 100 per cent of the units would be for

senior citizens and low income families, who would pay rent according to their incomes.

Family projects would be limited to a maximum of some 30 units to a site.

OHC builder agreements would be in effect between 15 and 35 years, with rents adjusted annually from costs.

Rhodes said that, by asking builders to arrange their own mortgage financing, it would reduce federal and provincial capital spending.

The program complements the present assisted rental housing program, in which the province pays 10 per cent of capital costs, while the

federal body pays 90 per cent.

Basic operating deficits for the units would see the federal government paying 50 per cent, Ontario, 42½ per cent, and the area municipality paying 7½ per cent.

On top of that, OHC would absorb the interest differential between the public housing rate of 10½ per cent, and the National Housing Act rate of about 11¼ per cent.

Other areas being asked to participate are Burlington, Brampton, Mississauga, Tweed, Stratford, Sarnia and Sault Ste. Marie.

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Oct. 15 deadline for report on population

NEWMARKET—A strategy paper on urban development in south central York is not an "isolated" document, nor a "rigid" one, former York planning commissioner Murray Pound told a special meeting of York regional council last week.

Pound, who is now in private business in Toronto, said the report, which was adopted by council for discussion, had been done with a look to Metro Toronto.

The recommendations — including a proposal that the region's population grow to 500,000 — were made "in context to and relationship to Metro," Pound said.

"They were determined on our likely share of employment and industrial opportunities in the Metro area.

"We have tried to make our document realistic," Pound said.

It wasn't rigid, "but the best we can do on the information we have today to give the municipalities guidance."

The local municipalities involved, plus other concerned agencies, will have until Oct. 15 to consider their reactions to the report. That's the deadline for submission of their views to the planning commissioner; these will then be brought before council by Nov. 15.

Property tax

A motion on this by Councillor Bob Adams of Markham, also included a recommendation by Vaughan's David Fraser regarding the controversial property taxation clause.

The report had recommended the latter be regionalized "to ensure that each municipality pursues the type of development most appropriate, and to ensure that the system is an equitable as possible . . . all area municipalities should share in costs of municipal services in proportion to their ability to pay as measured by their total assessment."

The report would also allow area municipalities to levy individual taxes to cover various local services.

The report, which calls for a "moderate growth policy," would see the region's population hit the half-million mark by 2001, with 400,000 of those people in the southern end.

Richmond Hill would go from 34,000 to 95,000 and would be the major commercial-office employment centre. Markham and Vaughan would also get much of the industrial and commercial growth.

The trunk sewer servicing scheme has a design life beyond the end of the century of 416,000 people and 8,406 acres of land, according to the report. There is also an additional population allowance for three Ontario Housing Action Program areas in the region.

The report adds that, with provincial population estimates reaching 600,000,

"the region should be able to accommodate well in excess of that, since growth in the Toronto area will inevitably continue into the next century."

750,000 population?

It then suggests that an option of being able to accommodate 750,000

people, "be protected until such time as a lower ultimate population level can be assured."

When asked by Councillor Gordon Rowe of Richmond Hill how employment projection figures were arrived at — 230,000 to 245,000 by 2001 — a consultant accompanying Pound, said

they had studied employment trends that were likely to occur, taking in such things as growth and services.

The final resolution on the report approved by council, called for a public information program whereby the development strategies could be presented to the public for comment.

New regulation for airports

BUTTONVILLE — Federal authorities are going to intervene in the long battle between local residents and operators of Buttonville airport.

They are also preparing an air navigation order to establish procedures for suture relationships between airport owners and local municipalities.

The Toronto Airways Ltd. airport flight paths pass over a large area of Markham and Richmond Hill.

After years of public hearings, town council meetings and a Municipal Board appeal, the provincial government recently ordered Markham council to open the way for runway extension at the airport.

Council, however, has repeatedly delayed final approval of the necessary bylaw. At last week's meeting, it again

deferred the issue and requested further consultation with the Municipal Board.

Letters were exchanged at Ottawa this past week between Housing Minister Barney Danson (L-York North), the local member of Parliament, and Transport Minister Otto Lang.

MP Danson Aug. 6 wrote Markham Mayor Anthony Roman of the intention to have L.G. Fitton, regional controller, civil aviation for Ontario, arrange a meeting between Markham representatives and Toronto Airways before Sept. 10.

Danson said the object of this meeting will be to determine the nature of operations in relation to noise levels, traffic volume, flight patterns, hours of operation, safety and other factors which affect the surrounding area.

Pay raise too high, AIB tells schools

RICHMOND HILL — The Anti-Inflation Board has written Douglas Allen, York county board of education chairman, saying the recent raises approved by the school board to its senior administrative staff, are excessive.

As a result, the AIB suggested the board keep AIB guidelines in mind if it decides to reconsider the salaries.

The letter arose out of recent affidavits sent to the AIB, following the increases in March, and is a possible item on the board's agenda when it returns to work Monday night.

The increases of 16 to 19.8 per cent were granted a day after the 10 per cent

wage and price controls had been announced by the federal government.

A resolution called for the board to pay 10 per cent or \$2,400, whichever was smaller, effective Sept. 1, 1975, with the balance to be paid with AIB approval.

The AIB approved the raises, but called for sworn affidavits to the effect they were agreed to before October 14.

These were later supplied by John Raniowski, chairman of the negotiating committee, and Education Director Sam Chapman.

The Liberal has learned the AIB felt there was still some doubt about the board's over-all intentions and as a result it was leaving it up to the board to resolve any issues still to be decided, and whether the actions taken had been justified.

Oak Ridges subdivision in the works

RICHMOND HILL — A proposed 223-lot subdivision at the northern edge of Richmond Hill got the endorsement of town council's planning committee last week.

The development is planned for 160 acres west of Yonge Street, south of Bloomington Road.

The owners, Risenberg Developments Ltd., intend 179 of the lots to be 15,000 square feet each — about average for Richmond Hill.

The remaining 44 would be 40,000 square feet or more, almost an acre each.

A zoning change, from light industrial to residential, will have to be passed by council before the development proceeds.

Housing registry offers shelter from the storm

By Denise Romberg

RICHMOND HILL — People in need of short term housing in York region now have somewhere to turn.

During the past three months the Emergency Housing Task Force has added 12 homes to its registry, bringing the total to 14.

The program began last November when seven social service agencies in the region identified a need for a "half way house" — for people on probation, unwed mothers, youths and adults who desperately need housing to tie them over until they find something more permanent.

At the time, there was no such facility available in the region and the agencies opted to appeal to community residents to help out.

Program co-ordinator Trish Rogers, 20, began work on the project in May under an Experience 76 grant.

She is a third year student at the Bible College in Peterborough and has worked with the Kuriou Foundation providing organized activity for youths and children. During the summer months she has been responsible for developing new emergency housing placement homes.



Trish Rogers

Experience '76 grant

Homeowners are asked to complete a questionnaire, stating whether they wish to provide accommodation for adolescents, adults, senior citizens or the handicapped, how much they expect to be paid and for how long their accommodation is available.

"By the time I visit the home, the homeowner has decided whether or not they wish to participate in the program.

I usually walk away with the form completed and a new home added to the registry," says Miss Rogers.

Yonge Street homes

To date most of the homes registered are located along Yonge Street between Thornhill and Aurora.

Homes are still needed in Woodbridge, Markham and Stouffville.

Miss Rogers says word of mouth has provided the greatest impetus to launching the new program.

Task force workers have tried to "prethink the potential problems" that could arise from the placements.

"If the homeowner shows some reservation about participating in the program, we don't pressure them," she says.

"We tell the homeowner beforehand, that if any complications arise from the placement, if it's just not working out, then contact the agency.

"If they try it once and they're not comfortable with the situation, that's fine. At least they cared enough to try."

For more information on the emergency housing registry contact Helpmate Information at York Central Hospital or Help Information in Woodbridge or Markham.



Smoke gets in your eyes

Even if you didn't see them, you might well have heard the noisy, smoky muskets when a group of young men marched through the Hill last week recreating the historic military movements of a

century and a half ago. Marchers went the 104 miles from Penetanguishene to Fort York, stopping along the way in several centres. They're at the Hillcrest Mall parking lot in this photo.

Inside The Liberal

Early industry recalled

The days when the Don Head Farms property along Major Mackenzie Drive was the site of a thriving farm implements manufacturing industry, are recalled by columnist Mary Dawson in Yesterdays. Page A-3.

Are high school diplomas becoming worthless? See Trustee John Stephens' guest spot column, Page A-5.

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