



**Kleinburg Kids Parade**

A group of children from the Kleinburg area won first place in the children's parade at Kleinburg Binder Twine Festival last weekend. Dressed as historic figures, the children are themselves descendants of prominent early Canadians. Left to right: Dana Rieger, descendant of Sir Isaac Brock,

was dressed as Laura Secord; Catherine Moodie Heddle, a great-great-great granddaughter of diarist Catherine Parr Trail, was dressed as Susannah Moodie; Robert Moodie Heddle was outfitted as a Mississauga Indian.

(Photo by Susan Samilla)

# Lake supply will mean softer water

By Larry Johnston

THORNHILL - All water may look the same, but there are subtle differences.

Well water, for example is "hard". In York region it has 22 grains of deposit per gallon.

Lake water has between eight and ten grains and is relatively soft, but it still has enough hardness to leave a ring around the bathtub or to retard the forming of soap suds in the laundry.

Hardness in water also makes it more difficult to wash your hair, or at least get the soap out. Undissolved curds are left behind.

Vaughan and Markham eventually will switch most of their consumers over to lake water bought from Metropolitan Toronto.

Some residential areas, such as Crestwood Road in Thornhill, are already on Metro water.

**Softeners are prevalent**

An industry survey shows about 30 per cent of York region home owners have bought or rented softeners to treat hard water.

There is a mistaken impression, according to Jobst von Windheim, manager of the Don Mills division of Culligan Water Conditioning Ltd., that these residents should throw out their softeners when they are switched over to Metro water.

The difference is in the degree of hardness. "With less hardness to be removed, less capacity is required, therefore less salt will be used by residents who are on Metro water," said von Windheim.

Less frequent treatments will be needed too, and so the cost for residents on contract with portable softeners should go down, he said.

He points out that many Metro residents use water softeners. There are many industrial and commercial users as well.

A survey once showed that 95 per cent

of the Chinese laundries in the city used water softening equipment, he said.

They can realize savings of up to two thirds on detergent, von Windheim says.

Town of Vaughan Engineer Richard Kraft said he wouldn't advise anyone who owns a water softener to throw it out, but he would not advise anyone on Metro water to start using one either.

**Lake water for all**

The Crestwood Road area is already on Metro water as is most of ward 1 in Markham except Bayview Fairways. Most of Thornhill and Richmond Hill will eventually have lake water.

The switchover is inevitable, because the capacity of the area to pump water out of the ground has been reached, according to municipal engineers.

Von Windheim, who, among other projects, has advised the government on getting the iron taste out of water for northern provincial parks, said if he had a personal choice, he would have his water supplied by a well.

"You know what is in the water and you can deal with it," he said. "You remember the scare over asbestos? That couldn't happen with well water."

He said Metro does an extremely good job of treating its water, but he would not advise anyone to drink water out of a lake without treatment.

Municipal engineers, on the other hand, in York, will be glad to be rid of the maintenance problems involved with wells. Buying water from Metro means that Metro will be responsible for doing most of the work.

## Woodbridge's water provokes complaints

MAPLE — Vaughan council was beset with residents in the Woodbridge area Monday complaining about the bad taste, odor and color of their drinking water.

One resident complained he spent \$2,000 for a new white bathroom, but it came out brown.

Iron odors are the most obvious problem and councillors said there were problems from all over the town.

Councillor Ab Hollingshead said Woodbridge used to have good water. There were no problems until the town of Vaughan took over the village.

**Chemical added**

Mayor Garnet Williams blamed the problem on a "newfangled idea." Sodium silicate is added to the water at the well to hold the iron in suspension.

But according to Town Engineer Richard Kraft, it only works for three days.

And as the aquifer where the well water is drawn from changes in iron content, the amount of sodium silicate needed has to be changed.

Council will ask the region which operates the wells to go back to the old system of filtering the iron out with charcoal.

Williams said there were no problems when this system was used in Vaughan Township.

**Pipes are old**

The residents who were complaining will get a new outlet at the end of their dead-end, a two-inch line so it can be more easily flushed.

Kraft said Woodbridge was "full of dead-ends" and old iron pipes.

Another problem is the town has been losing bits of the swabs they have put through the pipes to try to clean out the system.

## How to run a campaign

AURORA — Endow Aurora's public workshop on running political campaigns will be held next Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Victoria Hall on Mosley Street.

Stephen Mills of Richmond Hill, former chairman of the Hill citizens' advisory group, will lead the workshop. It is intended to offer advice to prospective council candidates and their campaign workers.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact workshop co-ordinator Pat Bell at 727-5155.

## Board decides no action against outspoken staff

AURORA — A watered-down resolution that would discipline employees of York County board of education thought to be too free with their tongues was defeated 13-6 at a meeting of the board Monday night.

The motion was proposed by Trustee Norm Stephens of Markham, as a result of letters in the press by Education Director Sam Chapman and Andrea Emmerton, an employee of the board.

Chapman had replied in the Banner to charges against the board made by King Mayor Margaret Britnell in her weekly column in The Banner.

**Trustee attack**

In a letter to The Liberal, The Banner and The Era, Mrs. Emmerton Horton of East Gwillimbury, with "a snobbish

slip" allegedly arising out of a meeting Aug. 23.

The letter, however, did not really state what the "slip" was.

In its original version, the Weller-Stephens' motion was as follows: Resolved that this board consider attacks in the public media by employees of the York County board of education upon (A) Elected representatives of constituent municipalities or (B) Trustees of the York County board of education concerning education in York Region, to be gross misconduct on the part of the employee constituting grounds for dismissal.

**Different words**

Trustee Stephens then asked that the word "unacceptable" be substituted for the words "gross misconduct," and the words "disciplinary action" take the

place of "dismissal."

"The greater the leeway the better," Stephens said in defense of his amendment.

Trustee Chris McMonagle of Markham, however, found the whole amendment "unacceptable."

"Are we just trying to slap a few wrists?" she asked.

Margaret Coburn of King felt the board didn't have any right in the first place to say anything to employees about criticizing elected officials.

Trustee Weller said he had known the "good and bad" of working for an elected office and if he didn't like a job, he moved on.

"I feel that holds for anyone," he said. "We're elected to run the system and if anyone goes against it, they should resign."

**Mild rumbling**

Weller's remarks brought forth a mild rumbling of disapproval from the meagre audience.

Markham's Donald Sim said he sympathized with the motion, but couldn't support it, as he didn't think it resolved the issue.

He said, however, he felt both letters were "ill-advised." They could have gone to the chairman of the board and asked to say something.

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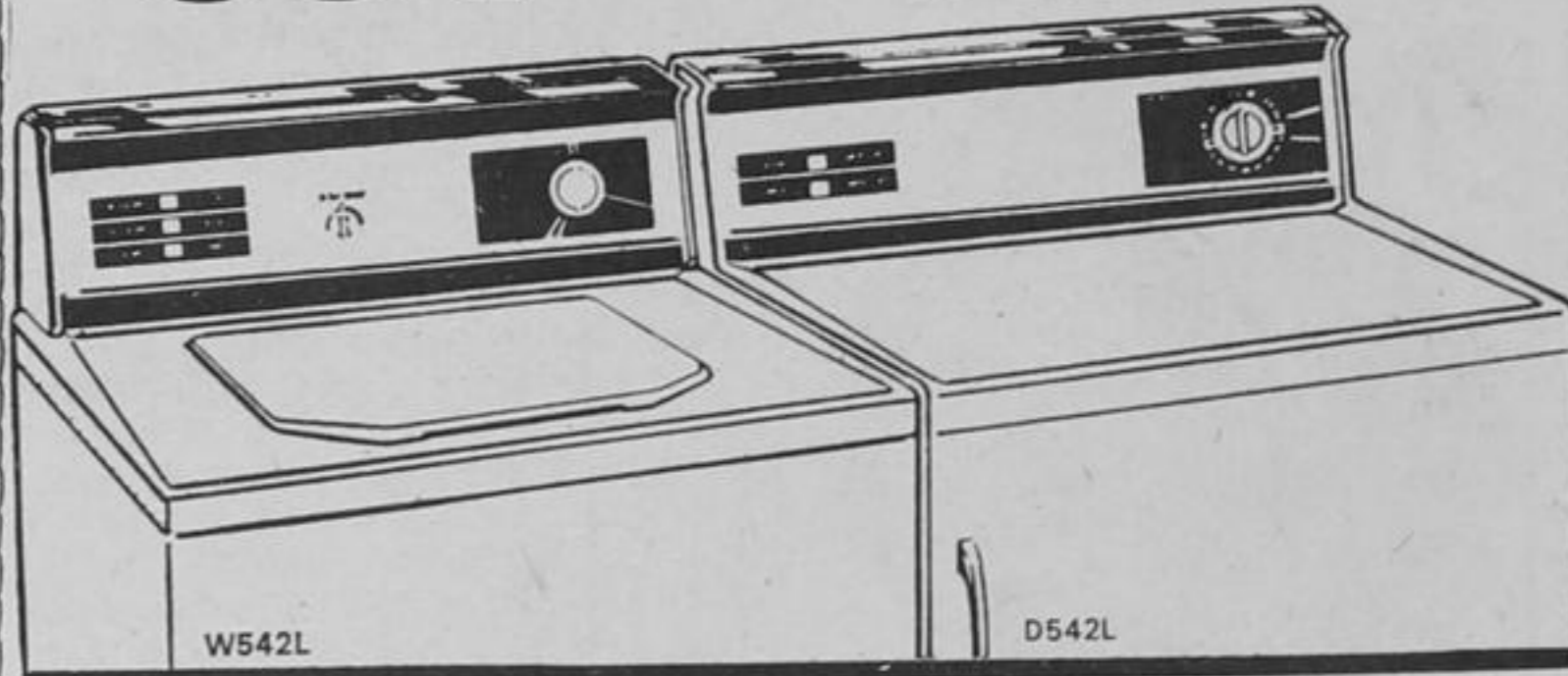
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