



It does not burn

But the four floodlights that will set off the flame on this 35-foot high candle when it is raised at Queen's Park tomorrow do. The candle was made in Thornhill by Design Tubes Company Ltd., 115

Torbay Road, to commemorate energy conservation week, out of fibres made from waste corrugated newsprint. Putting in the flame are Bill Foster, and Bob Alebon, both of Thornhill.

Operation Catch-Up gets \$30,600 federal grant

RICHMOND HILL — Operation Catch-Up, the tutoring program co-ordinated by David Porter of Richmond Hill, is one of five projects in York

North federal riding to receive new Local Initiative Program grants. MP Barney Danson announced that a total of \$76,500 will go to the projects to provide community services and employ 15 people.

Operation Catch-Up will receive \$30,600 to provide a social-academic support program for troubled young people who have difficulty coping with the regular school system. The project will create six jobs.

Information Markham is awarded \$10,200 to continue with its programs of community service. The Community Aid '77 project will provide transportation for Participation House and ascertain the continuing involvement of 38 permanent and five temporarily handicapped adults.

PD day here this week

AURORA — Ethical relations in education, the disruptive child, implications of mathematics in the formative years and reading and the gifted child are some of the topics York county elementary teachers will be dealing with Thursday and Friday during professional development days.

The sessions will be held at schools in Aurora, Newmarket and Bolton.

As well as the teachers getting together to discuss the various issues, there will also be speakers from the board and from the teaching profession.

Christian day for the kids

THORNHILL — For mothers who are wondering how to keep the youngsters out of their hair during the professional activity day tomorrow, (Thursday), Thornhill churches have an answer.

Seven churches are jumping into the breach with a Christian Education Day. The day of crafts, drama, games and music for children built around a central religious theme is sponsored by Thornhill churches.

Glenda MacNaughton, one of the organizers, says 110 children have pre-registered but more are welcome to attend the activities which will be held at Henderson Avenue Public School from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

If successful, the churches are planning to follow up on another CE day with more of the same in another school.

Gula running for trustee

THORNHILL — If there's one thing Walter Gula, 82 Dawnhill Trail, is positive about these days, it's that he's going to run for York County board of education in December.

However, he's a bit worried that all his reasons are negative. "I don't want to be negative," said Gula, a teacher in Westview Centennial in North York, "but I'm unhappy about some things."

He said he didn't want to run — "We're a close family" — but he had attended many school board meetings over the past 2 1/2 years and often left "feeling frustrated and a bit bewildered by some of the things that have gone on."

Roberts heads Hillcrest group

RICHMOND HILL — Stewart Roberts of 118 Avenue Road has been elected 1976-77 president of Hillcrest Residents Association.

Other members of the executive are: Joan Hooper, past president; Rik Ellery, vice-president; Sandy Millstein, treasurer; Sandra Speirs, secretary; and Cathy Ott, Tony Voutsinos, Beverly Breslow, Larry Breslow and Gordon Avery.

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Gula said he would like the board to be "more responsive and open to the public."

"Twenty people are a lot to get along together, but I would like to see them try. It's a bout of personalities. You often know the verdict before they vote."

He agreed with Education Minister Thomas Wells' return to the three Rs, but didn't think Wells had gone far enough. There should be compulsory English to Grade 12, plus standardized testing.

Gula gave two examples to illustrate the kind of "frustration" he felt being on the outside looking in:

He said none of the trustees had mentioned raising their salaries before they were elected, but at the first meeting in 1975 they had doubled them.

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Changes required in theme park plan

MAPLE — Dave Fraser does not want a zoo.

And Terry Goodwin does not want the entrance to the proposed 320-acre amusement park to be from Major Mackenzie Drive.

These and other changes sent the proposed official plan change to allow the park, back to Vaughan staff for amendments last week.

"I don't want snakes and wild animals there," said Councillor Fraser. Councillor Goodwin said that if the

entrance was off Major Mackenzie there was no way he would vote for it.

Council wants a new interchange on Highway 400 at Rutherford Road to serve the park proposed by Leisure Centres of Canada Ltd. The theme amusement park, which would be similar to two others operated by the same owners in the United States, has sparked a major controversy in Maple and surrounding area.

Fraser suggested several changes in wording, all intended to make it clear

that Leisure Centres would pay for all municipal services which the development requires.

Councillor Lorna Jackson said that once Leisure Centres gets the amendment in their "grubby little hands" they will be able to use it in bargaining.

Councillor Ab Hollingshead said that unless the amendment was passed, government agencies that had to comment on the project to decide its feasibility would not do so.

School trustees approve custodians' pay rollback

AURORA — It's taken a long time, but members of York County Board of Education finally got together as one.

Monday night, in a unanimous recorded vote of 20-0 the board approved a rollback to 8 per cent as the pay increase to CUPE Local 1196 (custodians).

The original figure was 12 per cent and had been approved by the local last August.

The board also approved a 12 per cent increase to CUPE Local 1734, secretaries and technicians.

The proposal will now go to the Anti-Inflation Board for approval.

CUPE 1734 voted to go on strike as of Oct. 20, but withheld any action until final negotiation.

Hourly salaries for caretakers now will go to \$5.09, with maintenance men getting \$6.19.

The vote was 17 for, two against, with one abstention.

Tentative settlement was also reached with the elementary teachers, covering the three main issues of pupil-teacher ratio, working conditions and salary grid.

The vote was also 71-2-1.

In the latter category, the increase is 9.5 per cent, which includes the increment.

A joint statement from board negotiating chairman Dorothy Zajac of King, and Dean Bodkin, representing the teachers, said the increases "were necessary in order to maintain parity with the secondary school teachers ..."

The latter had received a salary plus cost of living allowance that "generated more dollars than that of the elementary agreement for the 1975-76 school year."

A pupil-teacher ratio of 21.3 has been established for the present school year, which is one of the lowest for an elementary school system in the province, according to the statement.

Any improvements occurring in it, "will be recommended to improve class size at the primary level," it was noted.

The teachers were to vote on the agreement today (Wednesday).

Stephens to run again

THORNHILL — Trustee John Stephens has announced his intention to run for re-election for York County board of education.

Stephens, who is separate school trustee for Markham and Richmond Hill, will be seeking his second term on the board.

He said the provincial government's recent directives toward a core curriculum, plus moves by the board toward fiscal responsibility, have convinced him he should run again.

Secrecy attitude

"There is still an attitude within the system that the public can't be told everything, because the information might be misunderstood," he said.

"As a result, there is still too much secrecy and withholding of information, which can only lead to mistrust and a diminished confidence in the system as a whole."

"I look to a system where people are treated with respect, courtesy and dignity," Stephens said.

"I want to see confidence and a good working rapport restored between the teachers and our administration."

Costs spiralling

"Education costs continue to spiral, and 1977 will be no exception. Trustees will have to examine the budget carefully, especially program costs, in order to achieve a responsible budget."

Angel owner's dog feels poorly, too

RICHMOND HILL — Ruth Bowman, owner of the gorilla Angel that died almost a month ago, now says her dog, a 10-year-old Doberman pinscher, has begun to display many of the same symptoms the gorilla did.

"I haven't taken the dog to a clinic because myself and the vets are not too friendly," Mrs. Bowman told The Liberal yesterday.

The gorilla and the dog were brought up for 10 years together, she said.

Meanwhile, scientists now performing tests on Angel are looking at the possibility of a heavy metal poison as a cause of death.

Dr. Jim Kenyon, staff veterinarian for the division of laboratory animal science at the University of Toronto, said individual animal hairs are being examined for the detection of heavy metals such as thallium, arsenic or mercury.

Kenyon said thallium poisoning was possible, although the evidence is not yet conclusive. Traces of thallium, a common rat poison, will eventually leave the body, he said, but can be picked up in the body hair.

Results from tests performed on the gorilla's internal organs showed no traces of the poison.

Kenyon said tests on the gorilla's hair may take "a couple of months to complete."

The Ontario Humane Society is also waiting for the results of these tests. Chief inspector Don Hepworth has said that the OHS may lay charges against Mrs. Bowman but he was unwilling to say anything more specific until tests are completed.

"I would welcome a court case," Mrs. Bowman said.

"I'm hoping that they want to meet me in court rather than making accusations through the newspapers."

Halloween Saturday

RICHMOND HILL — The town of Richmond Hill and town of Vaughan have decided Halloween will be held Oct. 30. Markham has left the decision with the ghosts and goblins.

All three municipalities scheduled a discussion of the Halloween date at recent council meetings in response to

numerous phone calls from residents. For the first time since 1971, Halloween falls on a Sunday night and coincides with the end of daylight saving time, which ends at 2 a.m. Sunday.

could turn into a two night trick or treat.

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