

Northern municipalities fear regional 'rep by pop'

NEWMARKET — The possibility of representation by population could be tough on the northern municipalities, Councillor Eric Larsen of Georgina told a meeting of York Region council.

Larsen said he was afraid the smaller northern municipalities would "never

get to first base."

In a letter to Markham council and region council, provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough said he agreed with Markham that there was "some justice in requesting a change in the composition of council."

However, should Markham be given one more member, it would be "slightly under-represented," while "an additional two members, on the other hand, would reflect a slight degree of over-representation in terms of the representation by population principle."

In a subsequent letter to region council, McKeough said council "should be able to recommend an adjustment of regional representation in such a way as to follow the principle of 'rep by pop' fairly closely."

He said he had "placed the onus squarely upon the shoulders" of council.

Markham at present, has three members on council, or 17.6 per cent of representation, with 26.9 per cent of the region's total population.

In 1974 a committee was formed to study redistribution, following Markham's first request for more representation.

According to Mayor Bob Forhan of Newmarket, however, the committee was unable to decide whether redistribution should be on the basis of population, or whether the region should be divided into ridings, eliminating municipal representation.

The committee is to submit a report to the council administrative committee in December.



Crafts mini-workshop

(Photo by Hogg)

Wendy Smith, crafts instructor with the Vaughan parks and recreation department, demonstrated weaving at the recent Gallanough Library's first anniversary celebration. Puppet show and refreshments were offered along with the mini-craft workshop, which continues at the library until Dec. 6, each Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wright won't resign

NEWMARKET — Garfield Wright, chairman of York region, hasn't announced whether he will seek another term, but one thing he's not going to do is resign.

Last week at regional council, Wright was asked to resign by Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora, so that a new chairman could be named before the coming municipal elections.

Mrs. Buck also asked that council assume the cost of a by-election, should a member of council be elected to the post of chairman. Council approved the motion.

Mayor Buck said that often councillors were hesitant about seeking the chair because of the added cost to their municipalities.

Draft official plan ready by May 1977

NEWMARKET — York Region's draft Official Plan could be ready by May 1977 at the latest, acting planning commissioner Don Knight told a meeting of York regional council.

In the meantime, area municipalities will have until mid-December to review a report on recommended strategy for urban development.

The extension was given following a request from staff to allow municipalities to meet with consultants and regional representatives to con-

sider technical aspects to the report, which was presented to the region in the summer.

Whatever the deadline, however, Knight said the matter would be too late to be considered this year. It would take to the end of the year to compile municipal comments.

Lois Hancey of Richmond Hill said it was unreasonable to expect areas to submit their comments before mid-December, especially when the region had two months to study the comments.

Caretakers settle with Catholic board

RICHMOND HILL — Caretakers and maintenance workers represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1571, reached a mediated contract settlement Friday with York Region Roman Catholic separate school board.

The settlement comes after a conciliation officer recommended the dispute not be brought before a conciliation board.

The 45-member union, working without a contract since July 1, has won an 8 per cent wage increase, 6 per cent of which will be paid retroactively to July, said Ed Joyce, the board's superintendent of business and finance.

The balance is above Anti-Inflation Board guidelines, he said, and will not be paid until AIB approval is received. Joyce said the approval could take from two to three months.

Other changes included in the new settlement regard fringe benefits, group life insurance and dental insurance.

Joyce said the board has agreed to increase life insurance policies from \$15,000 to \$25,000 and will pick up 55 per cent of the cost if the AIB agrees to the settlement.

Joyce said he was pleased with the settlement, saying it "fell within the board's ability to pay."

Income 'offsets' budget overrun

AURORA — York County board of education director Sam Chapman has taken a close look at the board's 1976 budget and found it over spent by \$287,890.

However, estimated revenue puts it under its \$68,088,594 total by \$307,286, he said.

The figures were contained in a report giving the estimated expenditures and revenue for the year ending Dec. 31. The report was requested by Trustee Warren Baillie of Richmond Hill "with a view to accumulating the largest possible surplus to reduce the mill rate for 1977."

According to superintendent of business George Ford, the differing figures were the result of the additional cost of supply teachers and the board's inability to foresee exact costs of settlements negotiated after the budget was completed.

However, there was an "offsetting figure" resulting from grants for additional students, he said.

Aurora trustee Norm Weller asked that the board meet "right away" to make cuts for all 12 months next year, but the board decided that Nov. 29 would be soon enough.

Following the meeting, trustee Joy Horton of East Gwillimbury, told The Liberal she felt the report was "misleading."

Regardless of where the money came from, there was still a deficit of \$287,890. The secondary surplus couldn't be used for elementary purposes.

"They didn't give us what we needed to make a decision," Mrs. Horton said. "We must see if some of that money can be used for elementary needs, such as in staff adjustments."

She said the board had always intended to give parity in its negotiations, and the over expenditure in the budget was "just bad arithmetic."

She said they already had a 10 per cent increase in the mill rate for next year, and suggested the budget be frozen at its present total of \$68,376,484.

Smith services held

RICHMOND HILL — Albert Henry (Bert) Smith, a director of Richmond Hill Agricultural Society and often a prize-winning exhibitor in Ontario fairs, has died at age 56.

Smith, who lived at 33A Elgin Mills Rd., had been in Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto for the past month.

Born in Fisherville (now known as Concord), Smith worked as a cable operator at Canada Wire and Cable Company, Leaside, for 30 years.

He was well-known for raising prize chickens, black and white Langshans,

and won many grand champion awards and plaques at the Canadian National Exhibition and Royal Agricultural Fair.

He served as assistant superintendent of the Royal Winter Fair poultry division and was to have been superintendent this year.

He was a member of St. John's Baptist Church.

Smith is survived by his wife Kathleen, sons Russell, Rodney and Richard, and daughters Shari, Carol (Mrs. Jack Waller) and Patricia (Mrs. Albert Norman).



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