



Old time transit

(Photo by Hogg)

It's the only remaining radial car from the North Yonge Electric Railway service, and its operator, Charles Rathbone, was on hand last week at a special transit display at Richmond Heights plaza. That service ended in 1948, and now another

new era of transit along Yonge Street is about to begin. Sunday's the starting date for GO Transit's takeover of the bus system, and the display of mementoes in the old car continues through this week.

Rat poison killed Angel, laboratory tests reveal

By Denise Romberg

RICHMOND HILL — Studies performed at the University of Guelph's toxicology lab have revealed that the black mountain gorilla, Angel, died of thallium poisoning, a University of

Toronto veterinarian told The Liberal last week.

Thallium, a heavy metal commonly used in the 1960s as a rat poison, was found in the gorilla's body hair and analyzed by atomic absorption to show a level of .37 parts per million, said Dr.

Jim Kenyon, a staff veterinarian at the University of Toronto division of laboratory animal science.

"There had to be a hell of a lot in the body to put that level in the hair," Kenyon said.

Little is known about the growth of the gorilla hair, Kenyon explained, thus making it difficult to tell exactly when the thallium first entered the gorilla's body. However, Kenyon says he believes it might have been sometime last April.

The thallium findings were confirmed Tuesday by Don Hepworth, chief inspector with the Ontario Humane Society, who added that the autopsy also revealed colitis, bronchial pneumonia, nutmeg liver (a liver disease caused, in humans, by alcohol) severe skin lesions and emaciation.

Asked whether the society plans to press charges, Hepworth responded: "The point is who are we going to charge?"

The case is still under review, Hepworth said and no moves would be made until "we try and get a little more evidence."

The gorilla, a house pet owned by Ruth Bowman of 90 Birch Avenue, died shortly after the Ontario Humane Society confiscated the animal from Mrs. Bowman's home two months ago. At that time the gorilla had a gangrenous wound on its hip, eczema on its fingers and toes and had lost a great deal of its body hair.

"I just don't understand," said Mrs. Bowman when told of the thallium findings. "How in the world could he get that?"

She said the gorilla had never taken any alcohol, although half a bottle of vodka was found in the gorilla house when the Humane Society arrived to take the animal away, she confirmed.

"That was mine," she said, adding that "you wouldn't assume after finding alcohol in someone's home that they were feeding it to their dog, would you?"

She was not surprised however by the colitis and pneumonia findings, claiming that this was caused after the animal was removed from her home and kept outside in the sun.

"These animals do not enjoy the colitis or the sunshine," she explained.

She did confirm Hepworth's allegation that the gorilla liked chocolate "turtles" and added that he chewed gum by the case.

Policy proposed on psychological tests

AURORA — A proposed staff policy on psychological testing in the schools will be allowed to circulate for awhile yet, York County board of education decided Monday night.

Although agreeing to one amended clause, which would allow test reports to be shared with the parents or guardians when requested, and also given to medical advisors with the written approval of the parents, the board was reluctant to pass on the other three clauses right away, other than in principle.

These were: all individual psychological tests of intelligence and personality be administered by members of psychology services; for all such testing, prior approval be obtained from the parents or guardians, or from the student, if over 18 years of age; test reports be filed in and therefore be part of the Ontario School Record (OSR) of the student.

Trustee Joy Horton of East Gwillimbury moved that the latter clause be deleted, but was unsuccessful. Mrs. Horton objected to the fact that the reports would be readily available to any teacher, who wanted to see them, but would be denied to parents.

Mrs. Horton also took exception to education director Sam Chapman's opening remarks. In speaking against giving parents copies of the reports, he said that it was "not in the best interests of the child to have a copy in the family filing system."

Said Mrs. Horton: "I feel a copy must be made available to the parent. I can't conceive of the school having the arrogance of testing a child and then

taking the reports away.

"They're not the board's children, but ours," said Mrs. Horton. "I don't think the school system has the right to decide if a parent is capable of raising his own child."

Newmarket's Craig Cribar saw it differently. He said that, when he went to a doctor, he was given an opinion, but not a written report. A psychological report was "only safe in the hands of those who can interpret it." It was "dangerous" to give results to parents, who may not know the form.

The results could be shared, but the actual report shouldn't be given, he said.

Chapman said that, for a psychologist to release a report, "so that parents can ask their neighbors what it means, is doing a disservice to the children."

He said that he didn't trust parents in that respect and didn't want the

children hurt.

King's Dorothy Zajac wondered why "we should do something in the school system, that they don't do anywhere else."

Chris McMonagle of Markham, said that psychologists did release such reports to parents. The testing was only done on how the child was functioning in school. If it went beyond that, they weren't treated in the school.

She then suggested that the reports be released to the medical practitioners, who, in turn, could release them to the parents.

John Stephens, also of Markham, said it was "inconceivable" that a child could be "tested and his report not be given to the parents."

The policy report will now be circulated among the teachers and parent groups.

Board's new member is ruled ineligible

RICHMOND HILL — Try as they did to find a replacement for a dismissed member, York Region Roman Catholic separate school board just couldn't get it together.

Rev. Ermanno Bulfon was appointed and sworn in, Nov. 2 to replace John Faraci, the Vaughan trustee dismissed for skipping too many meetings.

However, Bulfon was ruled to be ineligible when he went to file his

nomination papers for the Dec. 6 election and it was discovered he did not live in the region.

Although Bulfon has begun his duties as parish priest in Woodbridge, he has not yet moved to his Woodbridge home. Residence in the region at the time of enumeration is a requirement for contesting the trustee's seat.

"It didn't even occur to me that this would be a problem," said Vaughan Trustee Eugene Jacobs, who recommended the appointment of Bulfon.

Offices urged at jail farm

THORNHILL — Mayorality candidate Bob Adams says he would like to see the west side of the Langstaff Jail Farm developed as "prestige office space" while the east side is kept in the public domain for open space.

He said in a press conference on Cable 10 that the best place for "a higher order of services" in York Region was on the Langstaff Jail Farm next to Yonge Street.

This was interpreted in the Liberal as meaning a place where apartment buildings could be put.

But Adams said later that he meant commercial "the cream of development", for the land between Yonge Street and the CN tracks.

The jail farm in Richmond Hill has been vacant for some years and is owned by the City of Toronto. Adams, a regional planning committee member as well as chairman of the Markham planning committee, said that Mayor David Crombie of Toronto had said the city would accept whatever use for the land that Richmond Hill decided for it.

He said that he could work with Mayor David Schiller of Richmond Hill and Mayor Crombie to keep the eastern part of the farm as open space.

Vandalism

RICHMOND HILL — Although York Region's Roman Catholic schools have been plagued with heavy vandalism this year, the board's financial picture should end up in the black, Ed Joyce, superintendent of business and finance, told the board last week.

"With investment assets totalling \$935,000, by December if all the townships pay up, we should end up the year in the black," Joyce said.

He said funds were required to replace 28 panes of glass at St. Joseph's school and \$5,000 was spent for repairs at St. Michael's.

Joyce noted that the budget set aside for portables has been exceeded by \$14,000 due to the purchase of five new portables in September.

"The board is probably heading for a deficit position (in that portion of the budget) but one that we will be able to handle," Joyce said.



(Photo by Hogg)

Bazaar for hockey

Getting prepared for Saturday's Richmond Hill Minor Hockey bazaar are convener Linda Dunnett of Browndale Crescent (front) and Shirley Logan of Emerald Isle. The second annual bazaar starts at 10 a.m. at the Richmond Hill arena.

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