

Local skydivers planning Carnival thrills

RICHMOND HILL — Three local skydivers and a clubmate from Port McNicoll will thrill the crowds at Winter Carnival this year.

They plan a really big show if the department of transport co-operates and gives them permission to jump from higher altitudes.

At 3,000 feet they can only do straight jumping.

Parachute stunts

If they are allowed to jump from 8,200 feet they will do "hookups"—joining up to link hands during free fall, before their chutes open—and "canopy capers", which appears to mean one jumper using another's open parachute as a sort of trampoline.

But Bob Schwartz, organizer of the event, said the transport department might consider jumping from the higher altitude as interference with Buttonville and Toronto airport traffic.

Hill jumpers

Schwartz, Tom Mesley and Tim Leonard, all of Richmond Hill, and Reeve Robin Talbot of Port McNicoll will do the jumping.

They are all members of the Huronia Parachute Club of Colwater, near Orillia.

They will jump from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 5 and 6, onto the ice at Mill Pond.

Another new Carnival event this year is the Moon Ball competition. High school students will push huge, inflated plastic spheres over the ice in a race across the pond.



In a high wind, the spheres tend to take off at high speed in their own direction, regardless of the way the race is supposed to go.

This competition will be held on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 6.

Working from a tentative program, The Liberal last week mistakenly reported Carnival organizers were looking for local "skating" talent.

The local talent actually wanted is local music groups to play at the Carnival. Volunteers should call Bill Ruttle at 884-2371.

Volunteers are also wanted to provide snowmobiles, cabooses and drivers for free rides on Carnival weekend.

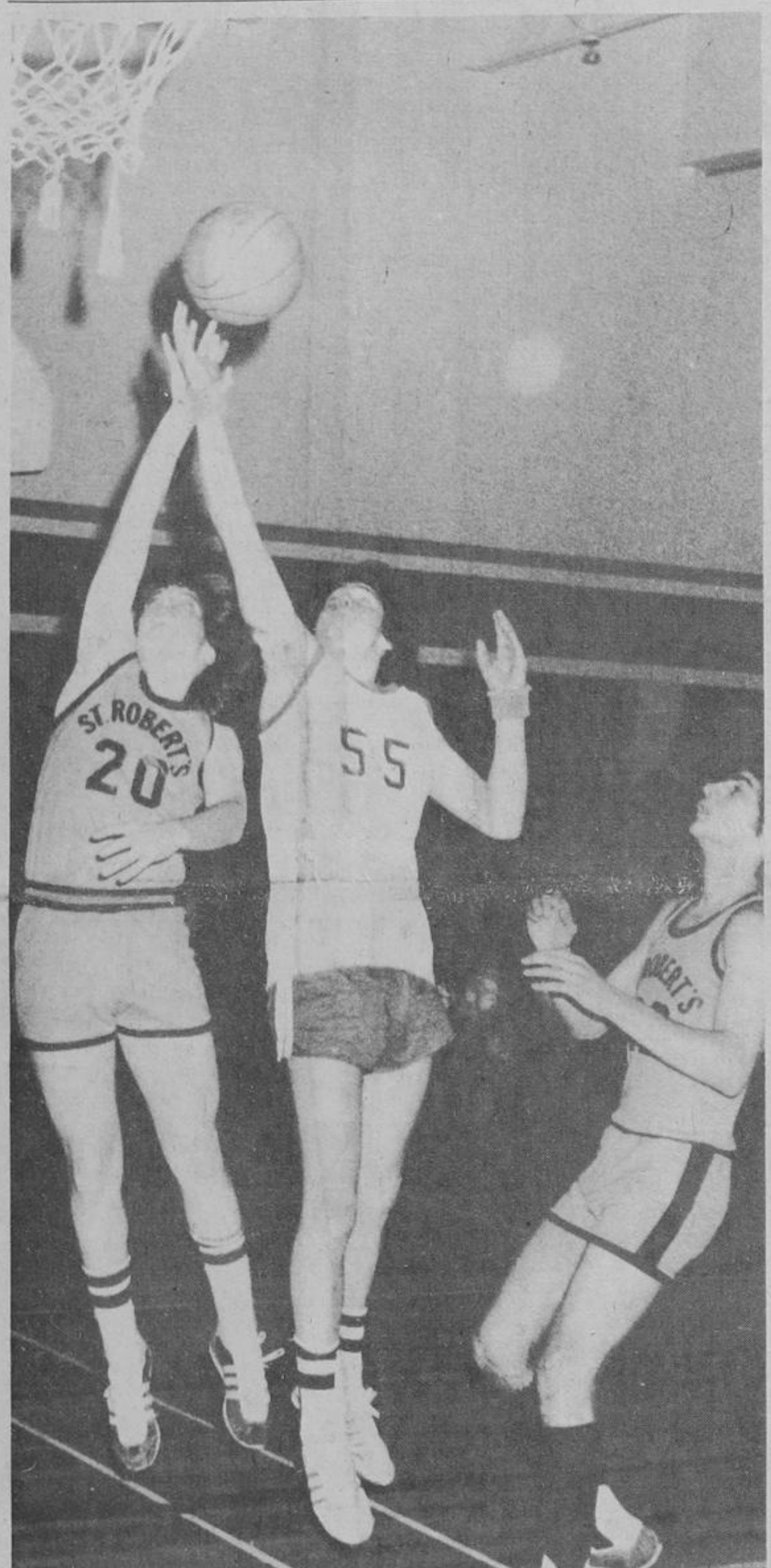
To get into the spirit of Winter Carnival, organizers are looking for snow sculptures to sprout on front lawns around the town.



Snow princesses prepare

Five Winter Carnival snow princesses from Richmond Hill high school prepare for the big night Feb. 4 when one will be chosen Carnival Queen. Left to right, they are: Julie Wells of Mill St., grade 12; Kim

Bailey of Kenvale Court, grade 13; Regina Hodgins of Centre St. East, grade 10; Sam Markham of Major Mackenzie Dr., grade 11, and Kelly Johnston of Pemberton Rd., grade 9.



Three's a crowd

So high, high in the sky for this St. Robert's player, Joe Jacobs (20) and Markham's Kevin Kernohan (55) in this first-ever

basketball game Friday at St. Robert's Catholic School's new gym. St. Robert's lost but it was lots of fun.

Hospital forced to close beds

RICHMOND HILL — York Central Hospital has been forced to tighten its belt—mainly through closing some beds—under past provincial government spending restraints.

James Hepburn, the hospital's executive director, said the 7.5 per cent increase in his 1977 budget, just announced by the health ministry, is adequate for the present.

"It's very tight, but we should get by with most of our hide."

Wages, prices worry

What worries Hepburn and his board of directors is what can happen to wages and prices in the coming year.

"If the government extends the life of the Anti-Inflation Board and sticks with controls, we should get by," said Hepburn.

"But even under AIB, wages can go up eight per cent. And with a budget increase of only 7.5 per cent, we're done right there."

In addition, the hospital faces major increases in hydro rates.

This could also be the year in which the federal government and producing provinces agree to another hefty boost in gas and oil prices.

Controls crucial

If the AIB and controls are dropped, wages and prices could go right through the ceiling.

"If that happened," said Hepburn, "we'd just have to reduce services some more to reduce staff. We're certainly not going to reduce the quality

of hospital service. "The only other alternative would be for the province to give us more money."

To aggravate the situation, Ontario hospitals this year will have to operate on a 15-month budget.

Their fiscal year is being changed from the calendar year to start April 1 in 1978. This will make their budgets coincide with the government's fiscal year.

Extra 3 months

Operating that extra three months on a budget which is based on today's

conditions could throw calculations off considerably.

York Central had a budget of \$10,256,000 last year. For comparison purposes, the 12-month figure for 1977 will be \$11,019,000—an increase of \$763,000, or 7.5 per cent.

But the actual budget for 15 months will be \$13,774,000.

The health ministry announced that for the whole province, the total hospital budget has been increased on a 12-month basis by \$123 million to almost \$1.9 billion. For 15 months the bill will total more than \$2.3 billion.

Inside The Liberal

3 Rams on All-Star team

Three Hill Rams on Provincial Junior A Eastern All-Star hockey team. See Page B3.

Healthy Harry helps Beverley Acres school children learn nutrition. See Page C2.

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Work starts soon on regional expressway

RICHMOND HILL — Construction of Highway 404 in York Region will begin in earnest early this spring.

Hill council was asked Monday to approve the ministry of transportation and communications highway design and construction schedule.

This calls for construction of the section from Steeles Ave. to Highway 7 this year.

The next leg to Markham Road will

be built next year and the section from there to Regional Road 14 will be constructed in 1979.

Major work from the end of the Don Valley Parkway at Sheppard Ave. to Steeles is now completed, although traffic is restricted to one lane in each direction.

4 lanes first

Initial phase of the freeway will be a four-lane route with north and south

lanes divided by a 98-foot median. It is designed to be expanded to eight lanes with a 50-foot median as far north as Newmarket.

There are no plans as yet for extension beyond that.

Clover leaves

Full interchanges will be provided at Highway 7, Markham Road and Gormley Road or Regional Road 14. There will be traffic signals where ramps join

roads. Plans call for grade separations at 16th, 18th and 19th avenues in Richmond Hill and Markham.

These will be in the form of two-lane bridge structures (with sidewalks) over the freeway with provision for four lanes when needed.

The Markham Road interchange calls for a six-lane bridge and the Gormley Road structure will have four lanes.

The ministry request included assuming temporary jurisdiction of local roads where grade separations and interchanges are to be built.

The roadways and bridges will be returned to town jurisdiction after work is completed.

Council referred the ministry's request for approval of the plans and construction schedule to planning and engineering committees for study and recommendations.

Garfield Wright back as regional chairman

NEWMARKET — York Regional council voted to retain Garfield Wright as chairman in the inaugural session held here Thursday.

Wright beat out opponent Bob Adams in a 9-7 decision after Newmarket Mayor Bob Forhan declined the nomination for region chairman.

During the time allotted each nominee to speak on his own behalf, Forhan said regional council should dispense with "all the nitpicking" and described himself as a "north-south person with parochial interests".

He then pledged his support to Mr. Wright.

Roman nomination

Forhan's nomination was made by Markham Mayor Tony Roman and seconded by Dr. George Burrows, regional councillor of Georgina.

Both Burrows and Roman voted for Wright.

Wright has served as regional chairman for the past six years. He was first appointed to the post in 1971 for a four-year term.

In 1975 he became chairman by acclamation.

His election last week marked the first time the regional head has won the post after a public campaign by other candidates.

Regional government in the municipality of York has helped create a division between metro Toronto and municipalities of York region, "but there is still a long way to go", Wright said.

Larsen nomination

Wright was nominated by Georgina Mayor Erik Larsen. Seconded was Garnet Williams, mayor of Vaughan.

"It is important that there should be strong debate in this council, but decisions that solely reflect geographical conditions help no one", the chairman-elect said.

Wright recommended that the regional act be re-examined and that the new council "should press strongly for revision".

Congratulations

Wright was congratulated on his election by York North MPP Bill Hodgson.

Wright's original appointment was recommended by Hodgson to former premier John Roberts six years ago



Garfield Wright re-elected to chair

when regional government was created in York Region.

"It only confirms what I recommended to Roberts six years ago—that you would make a good chairman," Hodgson said.

Election funds listed

RICHMOND HILL — Mayor Dave Schiller spent \$4,031.76 on his December election campaign and received \$3,356 in contributions.

His is the only detailed report on municipal election expenses so far received by Town Clerk Charles Weldon.

Peter De Vita, unsuccessful candidate in Ward 2, reported he spent \$92 and received \$65 in contribution. He said \$40 of this amount came from eight small businesses.

No contributions

Councillors William Corcoran and Marylo Graham reported they received no contributions to their campaigns.

Councillors Al Duffy and John Birchall said they received no contributions of more than \$100.

Other councillors and unsuccessful candidates have not reported their election finances.

They are not compelled to file reports, but a standing resolution of council requests they do so.

\$9 for Schiller

Mayor Schiller declared four of the \$9 donations he received were more than \$100.

He received \$200 from Fedyna Holdings and Fedyna Construction

Ltd.; \$200 from M. C. Kempton and Kempton Construction Ltd.; \$300 from The Mill Restaurant and \$200 from R. Semple.

Go, Gunner

RICHMOND HILL — If Gunner, the wonder dog, misbehaves and makes a mess in Mill Pond Park during Winter Carnival, Mayor Dave Schiller and his councillors will look the other way.

It won't be so much a matter of personal modesty as political discretion over a flagrant breach of council's dog control bylaw.

The bylaw says there shall be no dogs in Richmond Hill's parks — period. The spirit of the council act, of course, is to keep canines from polluting the turf.

But Gunner, a Labrador, is the North American frisbee catching champion and a star attraction at Winter Carnival.

At the request of Councillor Marylo Graham, council agreed Monday to "waive the act — or accidents" as Mayor Schiller put it, for Gunner during the carnival.

House price still rising

TORONTO — House prices in Richmond Hill are the 11th highest in Canada, according to a Royal Trust Co. survey of 66 urban centres across the country.

The survey showed the price of a typical bungalow in Richmond Hill increased about three per cent—from \$58,000 to \$60,000—in 1976.

The cost of a two-storey house dropped one per cent—from \$88,000 to \$87,000.

The Royal Trust survey was based on two types of houses.

House 1 is a detached three-bedroom brick bungalow, five to eight years old, with 1½ bathrooms, attached single garage, full basement, but no recreation room, fireplace or appliances. It covers 1,200 square feet on a 6,000-square-foot lot in an average neighborhood within average commuting distance of the city centre.

House 2 is a detached two-storey brick house of the same age, with 2½ bathrooms, four bedrooms, main floor family room, two-car attached garage, full basement but no recreation room. It covers 2,000 square feet on a 7,500-square-foot lot in a prime residential neighborhood.

Hill highest

The Richmond Hill bungalow, at \$60,000, compared with the highest price in Canada for the same accommodation—\$93,000 in the Kerrisdale area of Vancouver. Second highest was \$76,000 in Toronto and Thornhill.

The cheapest price for the same typical bungalow is in the Chateaugay district of Montreal at \$27,000. Most Quebec centres stood at the low end of the scale.

Richmond Hill taxes on this house would be \$690 compared with a high for Ontario of \$1,089 in Ottawa and a low of \$550 in Kingston.

The two-storey house in Richmond Hill, valued at \$87,000, compares with \$150,000 for the same house in Kerrisdale, Vancouver, \$120,000 in Toronto and \$90,000 in Thornhill.

The cheapest

Cheapest price for this house is \$51,000 in the Brossard district of Montreal.

The Richmond Hill tax on this house would be \$1,100 compared with a high in Ontario of \$1,550 in Toronto and a low of \$770 in Kingston.