

Erector sets

Plant produces steel buildings

By Denise Rowberg

RICHMOND HILL — It's no accident that the Richmond Hill waterfall ended up in the middle of a steel building plant.

Its creators planned it that way. The waterfall is more functional than a thing of beauty. Put quite simply, the water is used to keep the paint, used to prime steel building sections, from caking on the wall.

"We still have to turn it off every couple of weeks or so, to scrape the paint off the wall," a Stran Steel employee explained.

About a mile east of Yonge Street on Industrial Road, 80 men move almost a building's worth of steel through the plant each day.

"We're somewhat reluctant to state an exact figure on the steel tonnage that moves through the plant on a daily basis," explained the general manager, Howard Dutton, "but in 1976, it was enough for about one building per day."

Stran Steel Building Systems is a division of Westeel Rosco Limited, who moved into Richmond Hill 10 years ago with a plan to provide pre-engineered steel buildings for industrial and commercial use.

The company's literature boasts that steel building is the fastest growing segment of the construction industry.

Dutton attributes the growth in acceptance of his company's product to "the speed of erection, which has become a revolutionary inducing facility" he says.

Stran Steel purchases its raw material, steel plate and coils, from the Algoma Steel plant in Sault Ste. Marie, and the Steel Company of Canada in Hamilton.

The components, shaped and moulded in the Richmond Hill plant, are sized according to a computerized design, or pre-engineered to suit buildings from 300 to 300,000 square feet.

The buildings are marketed through any one of 70 builders who purchase the steel components in an "erectible form" and assemble them at various sites across the country.

There are plans in the making for expanded facilities which Dutton says could mean an expansion of the Richmond Hill plant, now 95,000 square feet, or the creation of a new plant in another location.

But before a move is made in that direction, Dutton says that "the next evolutionary step would be toward the multi-storey market".

A relatively new outlet for Stran Steel's product has been encouraged by a growing interest in tennis. In the last few years steel construction has been successfully applied to indoor tennis clubs.

In 1976, Stran Steel produced the beams and shells for 10 tennis clubs across the country. The Mayfair tennis clubs in Thornhill and Markham are Stran Steel buildings. So too is the Richmond Hill arena.

Recently the company has devoted a

great deal of attention to the market acceptability of its product, Dutton explained.

"Years ago, particularly after the war when systems building came into its own, pre-engineered steel buildings were thought of as nothing more than galvanized steel shacks.

"We're now trying to blend our product with conventional building materials, such as asphalt roofs", Dutton says, as he opens a catalogue to find a picture to illustrate what he means.

"We've also introduced lower roof profiles," he says as he points to a flat-roofed building in the catalogue. "That's called the concealed roof", he adds.

Oddly enough, with all the attention given to new designs, last year's rush on tennis court facilities was a somewhat peculiar turn of events.

While the company has been experimenting with lower roof profiles in hopes of making its product "more aesthetically pleasing", tennis clubs, which require a high roof pitch, are fashioned on the company's original pre-engineered designs.

"It's still a practical building," says Dutton, "and it just proves how right the original design was."



Fingers beware

Stafford Phillips of North York operates a drill press at the Stran Steel plant in Richmond Hill. A subsidiary of Westeel Rosco Ltd., Stran Steel fabricates pre-engineered buildings.



Steel fabricating

A welder creates fire and smoke as he works on a large steel beam in part of the prefabrication process for Stran Steel's pre-engineered steel buildings.

Trudeau has sweet tooth

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OAK RIDGES — Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau just loves chocolate chip cookies and chocolate covered marshmallow cookies.

That's a tidbit I learned on a recent visit to the Charles Connor Memorial Library.

Browsing through all the new books on the shelves, the section on cooking caught my eye. And I came across a volume called The Prime Ministers' Cook Book, by Alan Edmonds.

How would you like to present your guests with the same menu as the prime minister's? It can be done.

Edmonds' book gives recipes of the favorite dishes of prime ministers, both past and present. It won't guarantee you an invitation to dine with the Trudeaus, but it will show you how to eat as they do.

One other section of the library of special interest to women is the craft section. The books here show you how to do almost any craft you can name.

Town worker retires after eighteen years

RICHMOND HILL — After 18 years in the town service, Arthur James, works maintenance co-ordinator, retired Friday.

"What am I going to do now? A lot of household chores that got behind to start with," said James.

"Then a trip to Florida in April and back to gardening, swimming and fishing and maybe some travelling." Major changes in Richmond Hill?

Biggest changes
"Well, the population jump from 5,000 to 35,000 and the expanded town area I guess were the biggest changes.

"The town is now more cosmopolitan than the village I came to 22 years ago."

Is that good or bad?
"From an administrative point of view, it's good. We've become much more efficient and we've been able to make careers out of what had once been considered a pretty lowly job."

oak ridges lake wilcox

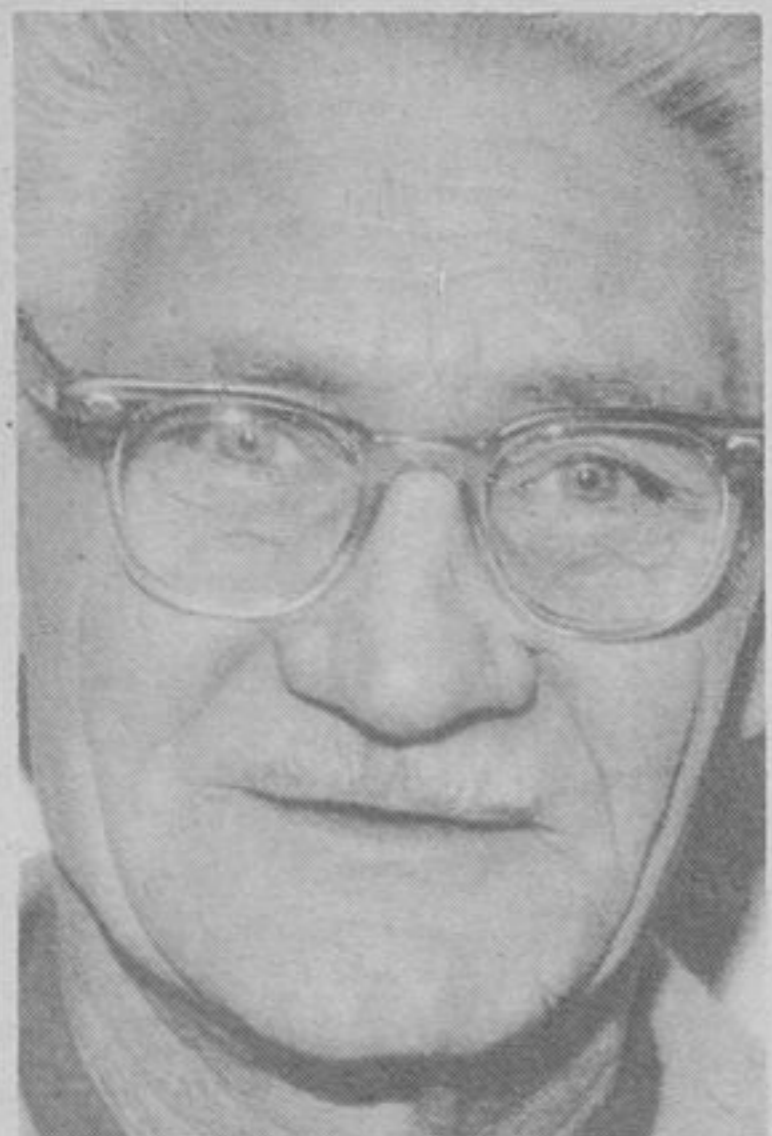
The film program for children of all ages will be this Saturday at 2 p.m. Films to be shown will be The Happy Prince, The Hoosgow (Laurel and Hardy) and Les Tacots (all about car racing for youngsters).

Tickets, as usual, are free, but they must be reserved in advance at the library or by calling 773-5533.

The annual Pub Night sponsored by York Central Hospital Auxiliary will be held Feb. 18 at Thornhill Community Centre. There will be dancing to the music of Hugh and You Know Who. The food is just delicious, and all this can be had for the admission price of \$5 per person.

Tickets go very quickly. If you want some, call now: Linda Cotton at 889-9715 and Marion Carter at 884-1318.

This is one of the most popular events held each year in the area, so come on out and join in the fun.



Arthur James
... 18 years later

James came to the Hill from Toronto where he was raised. But he has no intention of leaving his home on Norfolk Ave. now he has retired.

There will be an open general meeting of the Bond Lake Skating Club tonight, Jan. 19, at 8 p.m., in the Lions Den at the Bond Lake Arena. This meeting is for all the parents of skaters and anyone else who is interested in the club. If you have questions or suggestions, this is the time to bring them up.

The third annual penny auction will be held tonight at 8 p.m. at the home of Doris MacAdams on Bond Cr. Bring anything from soup to nuts to auction and bring your pennies. You may also like to bring a friend to join in the fun. A night of fun and laughter is waiting for you and everyone is welcome.

Ladies of the A.C.W. of St. John's gather for their annual general meeting

Wintario grants guide available

RICHMOND HILL — Parks and recreation department now has the Ontario culture and recreation ministry's latest guidelines for Wintario lottery grants.

Generally speaking, any non-profit organization engaged in cultural or recreational pursuits can qualify on a matching basis.

That is, Wintario will match local money for an approved project.

"That's a pretty wide definition," said parks and recreation Director Dave Hamilton.

"But anyone who isn't sure whether they fit into the Wintario grant program or not just has to call the department. We'll be pleased to advise them."

Application help
The department will also help them to make out their application and see it's delivered to the right place at Queen's Park.

As a rule, Wintario will provide 50 per cent of capital cost for an approved recreational facility or half the cost of equipment for a cultural endeavor.

The program will even include half the cost of paintings, sculpture and other art works by native artists purchased by a municipality to decorate public buildings.

tonight in the Upper Room at 8 p.m. This is the time to start planning activities for the coming year, so don't miss out. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

This coming Sunday evening at 7:30 there will be a memorial service for Kathleen Rawlings formerly of Wilcox Lake and Aurora, who lost her battle with multiple sclerosis.

Hill fair site planted in corn

By Art Robson

RICHMOND HILL — Town ratepayers are still growing corn on their 132-acre farm at the northwest corner of Elgin Mills and Leslie St.

And the chances of Richmond Hill Agricultural Society holding its annual spring fair and horse show on the farm in the foreseeable future are just about nil.

The Markham and East York Society has just received a Wintario Lottery grant of \$800,000 to relocate its annual fair on a new site with spanking new buildings.

Richmond Hill's only prospects in this game would be to buy eight Wintario tickets and win the hard way.

Wintario Lottery follows the maxim "The Lord helps those who help themselves."

Planning paid off

Markham won out because it planned its relocation years ago, bought the land, sold out its existing fairgrounds and buildings and was prepared to go it alone on the new facilities.

The Wintario grant came almost as a windfall late in the day. Richmond Hill bought its farm several years ago, but that's about as far as it went.

civic corner

RICHMOND HILL — Wednesday — Jan. 19 — 7:30 p.m. — committee room "B" — bylaw, procedure, fire and personnel committee meeting.
Thursday — Jan. 20 — 8 a.m. — commissioner of works office — engineering committee meeting.
Thursday — Jan. 20 — 7:30 p.m. — council chambers — parks and recreation committee meeting.

The Liberal Section C community news

Wednesday, January 19, 1977

New lighting to see stars

RICHMOND HILL — Observe the stars in their stately course across the heavens — from downtown Richmond Hill.

Chances are you won't see half the Milky Way because of light pollution from the Hill's street lights.

And that has raised astronomical dander at the David Dunlap Observatory.

Trouble is our mercury vapor street lights produce the same kind of cold, pale blue light as the stars. Being so much closer and brighter, they tend to cancel out the starlight.

When astronomers at the Observatory try to latch onto a faint, distant star, the aurora of ambient blue light cast around the area by town street lamps frustrates their efforts.

It may have taken thousands of years for the light from that star — travelling at 186,000 miles per second — to reach Earth.

But when it gets here, Richmond Hill pulls the plug on it as far as the Observatory is concerned.

The Observatory complaints have punched home to town officials something they have known for a long time — that mercury vapor lamps, oldest source of modern street lighting, are not by any means the best.

They glare. They give poor color rendition and they use a lot of power for the amount of light they give.

So the town is going to do an experiment by installing high pressure sodium lamps on Essex Ave.

According to Merv Perkins, works department maintenance manager, low pressure sodium lamps are the most

efficient on the market. But they have a disagreeable deep orange appearance and everything shows up in one color.

The high pressure sodium lamp is the next most efficient. It has a warm rosy look, and most objects show up in their natural colors.

They are deficient at the ultra-violet end of the spectrum, but that's just right to keep blue light from confusing the Dunlap telescopes.

Reaction test

The experiment is not to test the efficiency of the lights, which is already known from years of research, but to test public reaction.

Most of us take street lamps for granted. They're part of the town scene after dark.

But the experts tell us we all react quite sensitively to different kinds of light. This is particularly true in a residential area where people have to live with the street lights they are given.

While the sodium lamps will be an improvement in just about every respect, the very fact they are different could be a source of irritation to people who have been accustomed for years to mercury lamps.

The low pressure variety, with their stark orange appearance and lack of color rendition, "could drive them hairy," said Perkins.

The sodium lamps are more expensive than the mercury variety, but they use less power to provide the same amount of measurable light and are less costly over all.

New executive for Anglican women's group

KING CITY NEWS
Correspondent
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The Good Morning Group, which meets regularly Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in All Saints' Anglican Church auditorium, has a new executive for 1977 and plans for interesting speakers.

The new executive is: president, — Ellen Hoffman; vice-president, — Hilary Jackson; treasurer, — Diane Van Hoof; secretary, — Linda Fines; babysitting convenor, — Diane Wear; children's crafts, — Connie Inouye, and publicity, — Bev Foss.

Guest speaker this morning (January 19) is Jerry Walker, professor at York University, speaking on social networks and neighbours in King.

Speaker Jan. 26th will be Sylvia Binkley with a film and discussion on Canadian cuisine.

Join your friends and neighbours any

king city

Wednesday morning for coffee at the Good Morning Group. Babysitting provided.

Dominion-Pegasus Helicopters Ltd., located at the intersection of Highway 401 and King Side Road has recently received their licence to operate Class 4 charter and Class 7 specialty programs. These include flying training, aerial photography restricted to scenic, aerial photography and survey, aerial application and distribution, aerial inspection, reconnaissance and advertising, aerial control, aerial construction, and commercial air services using rotating wing aircraft in groups A-RW and C-RW.

The Christian education committee of King City United Church is organizing a square dance for Friday, January 21 at 8 p.m. There will be refreshments and tickets can be obtained from Glenn Ferguson at 833-5632 or John Manson at 833-5534 at \$4.50 per couple.

Dear Readers:

In March, 1971 when my husband Norm wrote the first King City News column and in later years when I continued the job, little did we realize the many people we would meet and the friends we would make.

The high point, of course, was when we received the Ontario Hydro award for champion correspondents at the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association convention in 1975.

Now, due to other interests and responsibilities, I am resigning and hope that someone out there will continue to do the job. Norm is continuing as the Dining Out columnist.

I'd like to thank the many individuals and groups who made my task of news collecting easier.

Chamber holds meet

RICHMOND HILL — The annual meeting of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce will be held Jan. 26 at Summit Golf Club.

A panel representing three levels of government will discuss Richmond Hill's place in York Region.

Panelists will be Mayor David Schiller, Liberal MPP Alf Stong and Region Chairman Garfield Wright.

Main order of regular business on the program will be to receive final reports for 1976 and elect a new executive for 1977.

Nominations to date include: Dave Barrow for president; John Lawrence, vice-president; Robert Sanders, treasurer, and Robert Blackburn, William Lazenby, Angus Brennan, John McDiarmid, Peter Miller and Henry Sadler as directors.

Tickets are available from any chamber member or call the office at 884-1961.