

Bed race to be Carnival's grand finale

RICHMOND HILL—What had been planned as the last event to put Winter Carnival to bed Sunday, Feb. 6—the bed race—is now shaping up into a real grand finale.

Organizers had hoped to get four entries into the race from police, firemen and town works and parks department.

They now have 15 entries and they're still coming in.

Tom Carbin, 884-9577, has been appointed to handle the event and deal with any further entries.

And word is the beds might have to be placed in categories and run in separate heats to determine a winner.

Even Richmond Hill Library has entered a bed with a five-person team to compete in the event.

Firefighters have two entries, one from the regular force and one from the volunteer firemen.

The Lions, Rotary and Shriners are in. Richmond Hill Hydro, police, town works, parks and recreation department, Progress Club, CB (Citizen's Band Radio) club, Black and Stewart Realty, McDonald's Restaurants and Pick Otto and Sons Seeds Ltd. are all entered.

McDonald's clowns will be on hand on



the Saturday morning when the children's races start at Mill Pond at 9:30 a.m. They will also help liven up the action on the Sunday afternoon.

Organizers are still looking for local musical talent for the Carnival Queen dance at Legion Hall Thursday night, Feb. 3, the grand opening for Winter Carnival.

Word is that tickets for the two main dances are starting to move quickly and orders should be placed soon.

For the Snow Queen dance on the Thursday, John Cook, 884-4923, is handling the tickets.

Gail Skinner, 884-5694, has the tickets for the sleigh ride and dance at the Richmond Hill Golf and Country Club on the Saturday night.

Unseasonal weather has rained out some events in previous years and snow had to be trucked in for snow sculptures.

There's enough snow around this year to give free rein to artistic talent as long as temperatures remain below freezing.

Late bulletin

At press time, the bed count had risen to 20—almost enough for a small hospital or a dormitory of some sort.

Beds ready soon enough will be displayed at Hillcrest Mall this Saturday. Mall merchants have organized a best-dressed-bed contest and donated the prize. The Foxglove will provide music at the Mall.

The snow princesses were dined by the Lions last week and legionnaires will give them a feast at Legion Hall tomorrow night.

On the last day of Winter Carnival, the Langstaff high school band will play at Mill Pond at 12:30 p.m., the Roselawn steel band at 1 p.m., and Bayview high school's windjammers at 1:30 p.m.



Carnival cuties

Winter Carnival snow princesses are being dined around the town—by the Lions Club last week and Legionnaires this week—as the big Carnival Queen contest rapidly approaches. These three

contestants from Don Head high school, from left to right, are: Gwen Hood, Kleinburg, second year; Laurie Knight, Nashville, third year, and Bonnie Towle, Woodbridge, first year.



Man of the Year

The Lions made a fine choice in singling out Shaun Beggs, founder of Winter Carnival which has become an annual highlight of community life in Richmond Hill. Nine years of organizing the event has been a major effort.

Lions name Beggs 'outstanding effort'

RICHMOND HILL—The Lions Club last week honored Mr. Winter Carnival—Shaun Beggs—with its man-of-the-year award.

Shaun, who started the Carnival idea nine years ago and has been a prime organizer of it ever since, was presented with a plaque at a Lions dinner.

Inscription on the plaque reads: "In appreciation for an outstanding effort and faithful service to a successful Winter Carnival for the past nine years."

When Beggs was parks board chairman, he found that beautiful Mill Pond park was used by folks in the

vicinity, but not by residents in other parts of town.

To attract more attention to the park, he came up with the idea of Winter Carnival. Bill Ruttle, Warren Davey, Dalt Hicks and Paul Binkley agreed to help and they promptly made Shaun chairman and Bill Ruttle vice-chairman of the Carnival committee.

Things stayed that way for five years, then they decided they'd had enough and all quit.

Later, they decided they couldn't let the Carnival die and started the committee up again with Ruttle and Beggs switching the top jobs. It's been that way ever since.

Tree planting

Town has problems

By Art Robson

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Just like a tree, standing by the water,
We shall not be moved.

Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough.

Our Christmas tree is almost an object of worship, which we trim with tender care. And we sing an old German hymn to it.
Adam and Eve gave the world guilt

Journalist sues newspaper

TORONTO—Pierre Berton has launched a libel suit against a Vaughan Township weekly newspaper.

Berton, the leading author and broadcaster and a Kleinburg resident, had a writ issued Jan. 13 in the Supreme Court of Ontario against Vaughan Vanguard Publishing Ltd., R. Wayne Given and Erna Koffman.

Berton's claim is "against the defendants for libel contained in articles respectively headed 'The New Mafia' and 'Eldorado Canadian Style' published on page 4 of the issues of Vaughan Vanguard dated the 22nd and 15th days of December, 1976 respectively and for libel published by the defendants in the three month period immediately preceding the foregoing libels."

Wayne Given is listed on the Vanguard's editorial page as the publisher and editor and Erna Koffman as the associate editor.

Koffman is herself the author of a book, *The Big Rip Off*, which was critical of federal Opportunities for Youth and Local Initiatives programs.

by eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of life.

Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity for us when an apple fell on his noggin.
George Washington never got over his foul deed in cutting down that cherry tree.

Johnny Appleseed earned a permanent niche in American folklore by planting trees wherever he went and spreading good cheer.

All love trees
But even Johnny might have become a cropper if he had tried to plant a tree on someone's front lawn in Richmond Hill and they didn't want it.

It's not that folks here don't like trees. We all love trees.

But once planted, a tree tends to endure forever. It will not be moved. And if it's the wrong kind of tree in the wrong place, you're stuck with it forever.

It can block the view, ruin your landscaping, bust the sewers with its roots, make an awful mess of leaves and create a nuisance when mowing the lawn.

Meet objections
And that's the kind of objection the town works department runs into every year with its tree planting program to beautify the community.

And that's a noble endeavor, no one will deny.

It's just that the choice of tree and the place to put it is a highly subjective thing. And sometimes the town and the taxpayer just don't agree.

The taxpayer knows that once it goes in, he's going to have to live with it forever, so he doesn't want it in the first place.

Unwritten rules
Trouble is the town has to follow certain unwritten rules.

Trees on the public road allowance (even if it does look like part of your front lawn) must be planted in a straight line, at equal intervals, one per taxpayer. That's just democratic.

God, and taxpayers doing their own landscaping, plant at random. The over all effect is pleasing.

The town plants a regiment of soldiers in a geometric row. If they didn't, the symmetry would

RICHMOND HILL—More changes in GO bus service—and possibly fares—will go into effect by this time next year when GO trains start operating from Richmond Hill via Thornhill to Union Station.

No fares or service schedules have been determined as yet. They probably won't be until the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority (TATO) which runs the GO system, has completed its current fare and ticketing study.

This could lead to some sort of single ticket system which would permit transfers from GO trains and buses to TTC subways, buses and streetcars.

Fares would be based on distance travelled and the carriers—TATO AND TTC—would share the revenue proportionately.

Current fares
The current GO bus fare for direct service to downtown Toronto from Richmond Hill is \$1.

You can save 15 cents by taking the GO bus to Finch Ave. for 35 cents and the subway for 50 cents.

For comparison with existing GO train fares, Oakville is the same distance from Union Station and the fare on that run is \$1.20.

This suggests some adjustment will have to be made in Richmond Hill rates when the GO trains start next January.

TATO has announced the service will provide three southbound trains in the morning rush hour and three northbound in the evening.

Running time is expected to be 48 minutes.

And it's hardly likely that GO buses would compete with GO trains through direct downtown service at rush hour.

Bus changes

It's more likely GO bus service from the north would feed passengers to the trains at the Richmond Hill terminus.

Tom Henry, a TATO information officer, said nothing has been decided yet about re-routing or re-scheduling buses. But the service will have to be modified.

When the authority re-organized its

service recently to short-turn some buses at the Finch subway, many Richmond Hill residents who commute regularly to downtown Toronto were highly annoyed.

Some bus stops for the direct service were eliminated or moved. Commuters complained they had to walk or drive an extra half-mile to catch their bus.

The alternative is to take the bus to Finch and transfer to the subway.

\$200,000 saving

Henry said that for the small inconvenience of the transfer (and the advantage of a special low fare of 35 cents) the over all service has been improved and the authority is saving \$200,000.

The spokesman said most of the track for the Richmond Hill GO train terminal has been laid. Construction of the four stations on the line will begin this spring.

The Hill station will be at the same location as the GO bus station on Newkirk Ave.

Langstaff station

Another will be built at Langstaff at Highway 7 and two in North York, one at Leslie and the Finch hydro right-of-way, and one at Leslie and Highway 401 just south of Sheppard Ave.

The four stations are to be completed by the end of the year, in time for GO train service to start next January.

Parents claim trustees 'rude'

AURORA—A group of Thornhill parents, who appeared before York County Board of Education Monday night to request the implementation of junior kindergartens in York, criticized the board for its "rude" treatment after it was all over.

Mrs. Diana Lofsky, spokesman for the group, said she felt that the board had made light of the group's presentation, even suggesting it might be "anti-feminist" at one time, until reminded that a man had assisted her in her presentation.

However, her main complaint and that of others in her group, was that the board had been generally rude.

Speaking for the group, Mrs. Lofsky told the meeting that they would like to see junior kindergartens where there was both a demand and available space.

Wide variety

"Existing junior kindergartens indicate that exposure to a wide variety of activities greatly enhances a child's ability to learn," she said.

No home could provide all the opportunities necessary to develop a child in that rapid period of growth between four and six.

She said that kindergartens also offered other benefits, such as aiding a child's self-confidence, plus detecting learning disabilities, or the needs of a gifted child.

When asked by Trustee William Laird of Georgina, what happened when there wasn't any available space, Mrs. Lofsky said they could use the available space in existing schools.

Children in grade six, who didn't need bathroom facilities, could be moved into a mobile and the junior kindergarten students into their class, she said.

They could also use space in high schools and church halls.

In answer to a question from Dorothy Zajac of King, as to why she felt junior kindergartens "fill the order better than nursery schools," Lofsky said that children gained at nursery school, but that not everybody could afford it.

"How old do you feel children should be when they start school?" asked Trustee Robert Houghton of Richmond Hill.

"As soon as possible," was the answer.

Houghton went on to say that he found it difficult to contain himself where the suggestion about the school was concerned.

Money and space

Where were they going to get the accommodation and money from? asked Harry Bowes of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"My taxes have doubled. Where are they going?" Lofsky replied.

Georgina's Keith Hargrave said that it cost \$1,200 a year to educate each child; wasn't individual attention the best teacher?

A notice of motion by Trustee Donald Cousins of Markham to have staff prepare a cost analysis for junior kindergarten, was turned down.

Chairman Craig Cribar told the group that the board would look into the matter and let them know.

Inside The Liberal

"Wolves" in town

Thornlea Secondary School battles Bayview high school in basketball action, Thornlea taking 2 out of 3. See Page B1.

Wolves, deer roam the woodland on David Dunlap Observatory property in Richmond Hill.

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Soldiers keep digits hot with high vitamin C diet

THORNHILL—A Thornhill physiologist has discovered that Vitamin C helps keep you warm.

Dr. Sidney Livingstone conducted an experiment which involved sticking soldiers' fingers in ice water and measuring the effect.

The 11 soldiers first submitted their middle left index fingers to the test for 30 minutes. The fingers came out of it with an average temperature of 37.4 degrees.

The soldiers then went on manoeuvres in northern winter weather for two weeks, with rations including lots of fresh fruit and

vegetables rich in vitamin C.

The soldiers were given the same test at the end of the manoeuvres and this time the average finger temperature was 5.4 degrees higher.

This was not the only experiment conducted at the Defense and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine in Downsview. Dr. Livingstone said he wished he knew why the Vitamin C worked as it did, but he will be recommending lots of vitamin C in the diets of military personnel when they have to work outside in cold weather, particularly with their hands bared to the elements.