



Bed guys finish first

Leo Durocher was right when he said: "Nice guys finish last." Obviously, bed guys finish first, no matter who they're representing. In this case, it's the Richmond Hill parks department in front. However, they didn't stay there for long, their rivals from

department from across the way, finally taking the honors. Leading the way here are Bob Whitmarch and Gary Charity at the front of the bed. Other team members are Lynton Friedberg, Rick Smith and Garry Oliver.

Region crunch

By Denise Romberg

NEWMARKET — Tomorrow's regional council meeting may boil down to a stand off between York Region's department of planning and council's planning committee, Mayor Schiller told 'The Liberal' Monday.

The crunch will come when council deals with a report from the planning committee concerning the proposed Spring Mills development in Richmond Hill.

The regional planning committee will recommend in its report to council that an amendment to the Official Plan of Richmond Hill be approved.

The amendment concerns 108 acres located on the east side of Bayview Avenue, approximately 600 yards south of the Gormley Road. It is proposed these lands, now zoned rural, would be rezoned to permit estate lot development.

Planners approve
Planning committee approved the amendment last week despite the fact the regional plan, for the town nor the adopted planning paper — The Oak Ridges Moraine policy — and could have an inadequate water supply.

"If fire develops to the north of the subject property, (a forested area) it could spread south and there would be no way to provide municipal water supply to the south," Don Knight of the region's planning department told the committee.

Lois Hancey, Richmond Hill regional councillor, said the development would attract a higher income level, "which would be a contribution to the municipality from a social point of view".

Later she called the Oak Ridges Moraine policy "inconsistent". "It would negate any rural estate building in the area," she said.

Mrs. Hancey said that the moraine policy was a document to assess the problems in the event that the area was developed.

Against policy
However, in the department's planning report, it is noted by adopting the Oak Ridges Moraine policy, "regional council resolved not to encourage development proposals which are located either wholly or partially within those areas illustrated as being of first, second or third priority for environmental preservation.

According to the ministry of natural resources comments included in the planning department report, the subject property is classified as a first

priority retention area. The comments from the medical officer of health don't make the subdivision any more attractive.

Septic tanks bad
It notes "there is no doubt that soil conditions could support septic tank installations," and also indicates water is available by means of drilled wells.

However, the medical officer's comments continue to explain the presence of Lyons loam, (a silty soil that tends to retain moisture) in some areas of the property, make it unsuitable for septic tank installations.

"In addition we are in receipt of a plan of subdivision covering this property and there are a considerable number of lots in this subdivision that have adverse contours and could conceivably not support septic tank installation".

No sewer, water
No municipal water supplies or sewage disposal facilities are planned for this area, the report from the regional planning department says.

Legal counsel representing Spring Mills Developments, who plan an estate lot subdivision on 79 acres of the property, said this proposal has been under consideration since 1970.

The subject property and lands to the north were first considered for development at a public meeting in September of 1971.

The present owner did not acquire the lands until November of 1973 and at that time most of the concerns in the technical report were satisfied, counsel said.

Rural population
Jack Rettie, chief administrative officer, noted the region has allocated a 100,000 rural residential population to be spread throughout York region. To date, 65,000 of that has been allocated, Rettie said.

Mayor Bob Forhan, of Newmarket, who was originally opposed to the amendment, voted in its favor after the committee agreed future such amendments would be accompanied by a plan of subdivision.

Alma Walker, Markham regional councillor, supported the amendment as well with her vote, beating out one dissenter Dr. George Burrows, Georgina mayor.

David Fraser Vaughan regional councillor who was elected to the committee chair earlier in the meeting, was not required to vote.

No smoking on GO Transit buses

RICHMOND HILL — A no-smoking policy on GO Transit buses will be tried in May and June, Richmond Hill Councillor Mike Burnie said last week. Burnie, chairman of Richmond Hill's

engineering committee, made his remarks following a meeting between Toronto Area Transit Authority and the committee, plus area residents to discuss problems on the line.

The authority took over the line from the Toronto Transit Commission Nov. 28.

Aside from complaints about overcrowding and smoking on the buses, the chief complaint from Richmond Hill residents was that bus service to downtown Toronto had dropped off.

Buses also no longer stopped at Markham Rd. and Yonge St., the last stop in Richmond Hill.

Reduced service
The authority, in taking over the service, cut back on runs to downtown Toronto because they were running at

one-third capacity.

Ron Swanson, a spokesman for the authority, said institution of the run from Richmond Hill to Finch subway station had nothing to do with cutbacks on the downtown Toronto run.

Swanson said the changes would have been made even without the added new runs, because of lack of riders at non-peak hours into downtown Toronto.

He said, also, the number of passengers at the Royal Orchard stop in Thornhill, had risen from 102 a day to 201, with the total number of people going south increasing from 700 to 1,300.

York Centre PC nomination day

RICHMOND HILL — March 10 has been announced as the date of the nomination convention to elect a Progressive Conservative candidate for the next provincial election, it was announced by the York Centre PC riding association last week.

The convention will be held at the Thornhill Community Centre at 8 p.m. The riding includes Markham, Richmond Hill and the Thornhill area of Vaughan.

All candidates seeking the nomination should contact Dave Wilson, chairman of the candidate liaison committee, at 297-1441.

Only 1977 members of the association will be allowed to vote.

Memberships may be obtained by contacting the following executive members: Ronne Dale, 889-6730; Jim McAlister, 884-5415; Betty Davenport, 294-2162; Peter Junger, 881-3888; Wayne Patterson, 887-5666.

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