

Moraine land stays unspoiled for now

NEWMARKET — A proposal that passed in Richmond Hill council by a "swing vote" has now swung back. Regional council opted Thursday to send the Spring Mills development

proposal back to Richmond Hill council to be studied again in the light of the town's Official Plan revisions. The proposal concerning 108 acres of land on the east side of Bayview Avenue

and Gormley Sideroad was recommended for approval by the regional planning committee despite the environmental concerns expressed by regional planning staff.

Mayor David Schiller, who opposed the plan when it slid by Richmond Hill council on a five to four vote, asked regional members to "uphold the hundreds of thousands of dollars the region has spent on planning, uphold the planning staff and reject the plan". Schiller said the town was undergoing an Official Plan review. "We may come up with a rural residential policy of our own," he said.

Regional councillor Lou Wainwright also supported the proposal although he was a member of a citizen's group opposed to the development.

"I said before the election that if a motion passed Richmond Hill council and required regional council approval, I would support it," Wainwright ex-

plained. The Spring Mills proposal will now go before Richmond Hill planning committee for comments. It may end up as a rural estate subdivision of five-acre lots rather than the proposed one-acre rural residential development, Wainwright said.

Manager surprises 3 thieves in ski chalet

KING — An early-morning break-in Sunday at King City Ski Chalet, RR 1, King, went for naught when the manager surprised three men on the premises.

Police said Gino Mangiapane, who has his living quarters in the chalet, told them he was awakened by a noise about 1:40 a.m.

He came on the three men. They were

trying to open the cash register. He attempted to stop them.

However, he was assaulted, police said, and when the trio grabbed him around the arms and chest, he pretended to faint.

They let him go and he fell to the floor. Several other people in the chalet heard the noise and the would-be thieves fled.

Police picked up three men 10 minutes later at the King-Vaughan line.

Ronald Massicotte, 18, and Garth Joe, 17, were both charged with break and enter, with intent, and assault with intent to steal.

Leonard Ayr, 16, was charged with the first count. All three are from Toronto.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey, who steered the proposal through regional planning committee, pointed out the subject property supposedly lying in the Oak Ridges moraine according to the region's map of the moraine property, does not coincide with the provincial map of the moraine.

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Firefighter rescues youth from flames



Richmond Hill Fire Captain Kevin Izzard ...searched upper storey through smoke and debris

RICHMOND HILL — A Richmond Hill youth was still in the intensive care unit of York Central Hospital this week after being badly burned in a fire at his home, about 1:05 a.m., Saturday.

Vernon Ongai, 14, of 133 Palmer Ave., suffered burns, cuts and smoke inhalation in the fire.

Four of the nine occupants of the house, which also serves as a foster home for boys, went to hospital for treatment.

They were all later released. Richmond Hill Fire Chief Robert Kennedy credits the action of one of the firefighters, Captain Kevin Izzard, with saving the life of the boy.

Kennedy said Izzard went into the house without a hose or water, after all but the boy had been evacuated. Izzard searched for the boy through the smoke and debris in the upper storey.

The youth was unconscious when the firefighter finally came across him in the bathroom.

Blame cigarette
Smoking in bed is believed to have been the cause of the fire.

Damage to the house was estimated at between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The fire marshal's office is investigating.

Industrial blaze
A fire at Fornoold Plastics, 95 Newkirk Rd., Richmond Hill, Feb. 10, caused an estimated \$5,000 damage.

Cause of the fire, which took place in a storage area, is unknown.

Richmond Hill Fire Department put out the blaze.



Married

Julius and Lena Ryce of 76 Dunlap Street will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary Saturday. They were married at a small prairie church in a town

65 years

now called North Battleford, near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Ryces, who moved to Richmond Hill in 1968, are the parents of 12 children, 35

grandchildren and five great grandchildren. "Marriage is pretty nice", says Mr. Ryce. "I'd do the same thing all over again — it's a good life".

Cutting town budget rise from 16%

Inside The Liberal

Pioneering in sport

They're "pioneering" in sports at the new St. Robert's Catholic School in Markham but they're learning fast. See C-1.

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RICHMOND HILL — At present the projected mill rate increase for Richmond Hill is hovering around 16 per cent.

But the finance committee of town council hopes to lower that to 10 per cent, before presenting its recommendations to council, Feb. 28. Treasurer Bill Rice told The Liberal this week.

Department estimates have now been completed for about 60 per cent of the budget, Rice said, and are proceeding to the final committee stage.

Initial estimates would have resulted in a 20 per cent increase for local

purposes, with projected expenditures reaching \$6,409,250.

However, the committee made reductions of \$158,000, reducing the initial tax increase to about 16 per cent, the treasurer said.

Region levies
"We still hope to get it down to 10 per cent," he said.

However, Rice added that council had no idea of what to expect from York Region or York County Board of Education as yet in the way of a tax levy.

York Region Treasurer John Hlynski said the first draft of the region's

budget would be in by Feb. 15.

They were still at various stages, one of which was to see what the surplus from last year's would be, so they could apply it to this year's.

George Ford, superintendent of business for the school board, said they had just established the total budget and were now looking at the expenditures.

Next step would be consideration of grants and requisitions, with the revenue portion coming in a week's time.

1976 cuts felt

Town Treasurer Rice said last year's budget of council had been pared down, by reducing various levels of service, such as surface road treatment, which had been cut back slightly.

However, this, along with such things as washing and "relamping" of street lights, could no longer be ignored, and would have to be considered this year.

Among the general government areas, which will have increased budgets, are the following: protective services — fire, building inspector, animal control — 20 per cent; transportation — 13 per cent; garbage and sewage — 11 per cent; planning and related environmental services — 37 per cent; parks — 23 per cent; recreation — 47 per cent; library grant — 17 per cent; grants — 16 per cent.

Councillor salaries
Rice said the matter of an increase in councillor's salaries was still to be

reviewed. As yet, there had been no firm discussion on the matter.

The budget also showed community centre costs were up 92 per cent.

Rice said these were because Richvale, which opened in the fall, had a full budget.

Wildwood in Lake Wilcox, was now budgeted for a full year.

"Up to now, community centres were just a little room in an arena," Rice said.

That budget meeting of Feb. 28 will be at 9 a.m. at the council chambers.

Ross Doan overcrowding Feb. 28 issue

RICHMOND HILL — How to overcome crowding at Ross Doan Public School in Richmond Hill, is still causing problems.

But York County board of education won't have to face the matter until Feb. 28.

That was the date set Monday night of last week at a meeting at Roselawn Senior Public School. The meeting was attended by parents, Area 3 superintendent Walter Willms, and the three Richmond Hill trustees, Robert Houghton, Bill Monroe and Eric Baker.

Earlier parents voted to transfer Grade 4 and 5 students from Ross Doan to Roselawn Senior.

Staff, however, has declared that adding students from the two lower grades would upset specialist facilities. The system of rotating classes from room to room at the senior school would also suffer.

Last week, parents were split in their feelings. Some wanted Roselawn abolished as south Richmond Hill's only senior public school.

Instead they would have a system of kindergarten to eight classes in all four schools in the area.

At present, Roselawn handles Grade 6-8, with the other schools teaching kindergarten to Grade 5.

Another group wanted to change school boundaries and send some Ross Doan pupils to Charles Howitt and 16th Avenue Public Schools in Thornhill.

Jr. kindergarten issue lives on

AURORA — York county board of education will continue to investigate the possibility of having junior kindergartens in the system.

This is despite warnings from Trustee Dorothy Zajac of King, that they were "misleading the public".

Mrs. Zajac made her comments during a discussion of three recommendations from the chairman's committee.

Two of these dealt with proposed studies for the kindergartens.

A third called for a pilot project of four of them in the fall.

A delegation of Thornhill parents, wanting the program, appeared before the board earlier in the month.

Mrs. Zajac admitted she was restricting her comments to "purely financial reasons".

She said she couldn't contemplate new programs when the board didn't have enough money to maintain all their present ones.

Home economics and shop classes had been cut from two years to one. There also had been cuts in library books, supplies and musical instruments.

"I feel such a study is presumptuous at this time," Mrs. Zajac said. "It is unfair to staff and misleading to the public."

Her motion that the board not consider junior kindergartens was seconded by trustee Norm Weller of Aurora.

Motion debated

Chairman Craig Cribar of Newmarket, suggested the motion be to disapprove the chairman's committee recommendations, instead.

Markham Trustee Donald Cousins said he wasn't looking for a detailed report. It was just a matter of bringing present information up to date and should only take a couple of days.

Planning and development superintendent Steve Bacsalmasi, had suggested a couple of months to prepare a study. He said, too, that a study conducted in 1973-74, had proved inconclusive.

3 recommendations
Chairman Cribar said the three recommendations had been suggested by Director Sam Chapman. They were not meant to be drawn out.

King Trustee Margaret Coburn said she had more people speaking against junior kindergartens than for them.

"We misled ourselves, too, if we set up a pilot project," Mrs. Coburn said.

Richmond Hill's Robert Houghton, said he "found it hard to believe" they might open up four junior kindergartens and then not retain them if they were proved not to be beneficial.

However, he felt there were "good ideas" in the third recommendation by Bob McMonagle of Thornhill.

This called for implementation of the program "where the demand exists and where there were benefits to be derived by children having English as a second language."

Donald Cameron of Vaughan said the board should support the studies, so that it "can go back to the public with some intelligent answers."

Question of benefit
John Stephens, Markham, said if the kindergartens were beneficial, the cost was immaterial. The question,

however, was whether they were beneficial.

Said Harry Bowes of Whitchurch-Stouffville: "because of lack of space, teachers and funds, we should save staff time and taxpayers' money by not doing a study."

William Laird of Georgina, suggested the matter be deferred until they had a chance to review the previous study and a follow-up report from the program committee.

"How about referring it back to the chairman's committee?" asked Cribar. Laird agreed and a motion to do so was passed.

New airport turns

BUTTONVILLE — Buttonville Airport approaches will be changed from a standard left hand turn to right hand turns for a trial period in early spring.

This was decided at a meeting involving federal officials, Mayor Tony Roman of Markham, Mayor David Schiller of Richmond Hill and Murray Billingshurst of the Association of Involved Residents Feb. 2.

The proposal is aimed at reducing the nuisance of aircraft over Buttonville homes. Mayor Schiller expressed

concern over the possible impact that would fall on residents of Richmond Hill as a result of the changed pattern.

Len Fitton of Transport Canada said the plan would be the best way to assess all impact before a final decision is made.

He offered to include in the monitoring plans any specific locations selected by either mayor or Mr. Billingshurst.

The change involves runways 15 and 21. The group is expected to meet again in six weeks.