

Native son heads chamber of commerce



(photo by Hogg)

Wide open Ranger net here

Richmond Hill Rams' Frank Nigro (9) pulls the trigger here as he's dead-on. The Rams went on to down North York Rangers 6-3 in the first game of their best-of-seven playoff series. Alas, the Rangers

bounced back and won the next three and the Rams are but a heart-beat away from elimination. (See story Page B1)

By Jim Irving

RICHMOND HILL — "If I make my living here, I feel I should put something back into the community." That's the way David Barrow, the newly-elected president of Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, was assessing his role with the chamber. Just 29, Barrow now presides over monthly executive sessions with some of the town's leading businessmen. They discuss mutual business interests and problems and try to get the "feeling" of the local business community.

"Our main concern is to prove ourselves as a benefit to the businessmen in town," Barrow said. "We want to get them involved."

Industrial commission

Right now, the chamber would like to see an industrial commission formed in the town. The chamber has made a submission to council, following up its request for such a commission.

"It would be an invaluable asset," said Barrow.

The town staff is currently preparing a report on the possibility of forming such a commission.

Another thing the chamber is following closely, is the possible reorganizing of hydro utilities in York. This would see the various local utilities formed into one or two major ones.

Electric power

Most of the chamber members are serviced by Richmond Hill hydro, Barrow said. The chamber would like

to make a submission to the Ontario hydro commission.

He said the chamber would like to see how it could work with the commission to see what kind of conclusion they could come to on behalf of the businessmen in town.

Barrow said that former Hill mayor, William Lazenby, was a member of the commission, and was advising them in the matter.

Other concerns

Industrial issues aren't the only thing the chamber is concerned about, however.

Phoney newspaper ads — in other papers, that is — complaints about car dealers, or just news about the next service club dance, all fall into the orbit of the chamber office.

The office does its best to deal with both queries and complaints. Sometimes it answers them straight out. Other times it advises the callers what action to take.

Sometimes the answers take considerable research. Other times it's just a matter of common sense.

Take the time a local car rental agency went out of business, leaving one of their clients with his car, but taking his license and ownership with them.

The man tried to locate the vanished dealer. When he couldn't, he appealed to the chamber.

The advice from Mr. Barrow was simple: just don't send in your cheque one month and they'll find you.

The chamber assists the Helpmate agency of Richmond Hill, and would also like to add to its own information services, so that it can aid people wanting to locate here.

Hill native

A native of Richmond Hill, Barrow was educated at McConaghy Public School, Richmond Hill High School and Ryerson.

He joined the insurance firm of his father, Elgin "Tubby" Barrow, seven years ago, and is in his fifth year with the chamber.

He and his wife, Margaret, who has her real estate license, have two children, Jennifer, 6, and Gregory, 4.

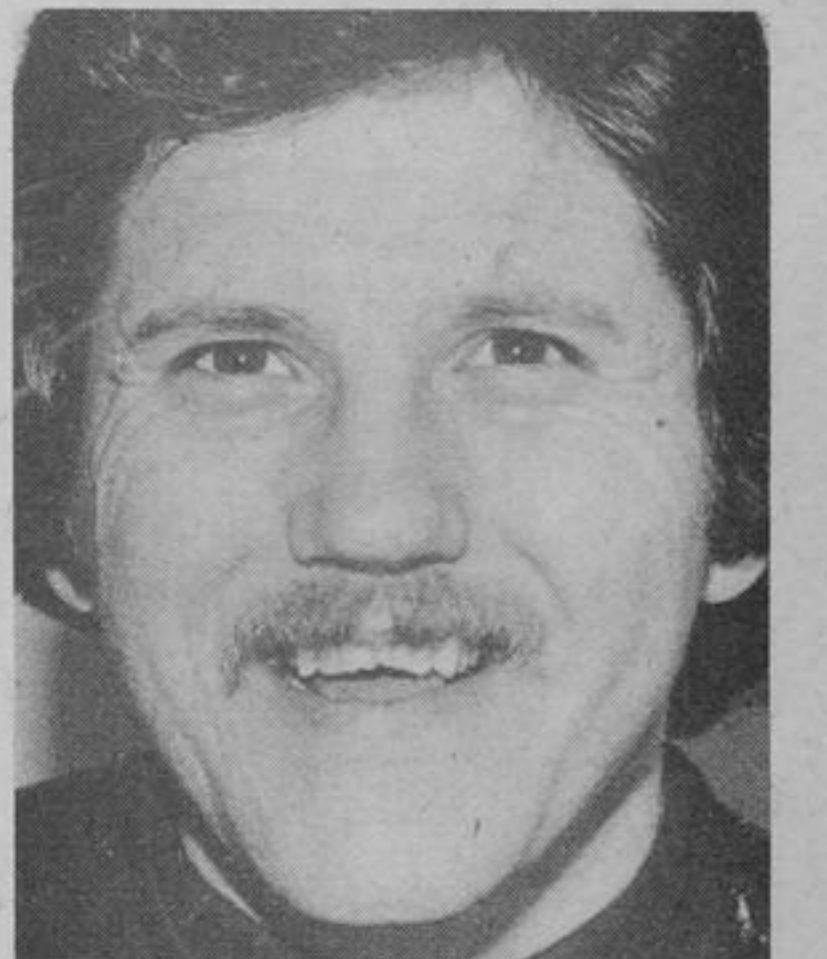
It makes for a full life for the young president. Much as he is anxious to establish a foothold in the community and put something back into that same community, he is able to go about it with a light step.

Sound service

"Our aim is to provide a sound service for the businessmen," he repeats as he sums up the situation. "Gain his confidence."

Then he adds, with just a slight pause and a bit of a chuckle: "Also his membership cheque."

Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce would seem to be in good hands.



(Photo by Hogg)

David Barrow ... something back

Richmond Hill Edition

The Liberal

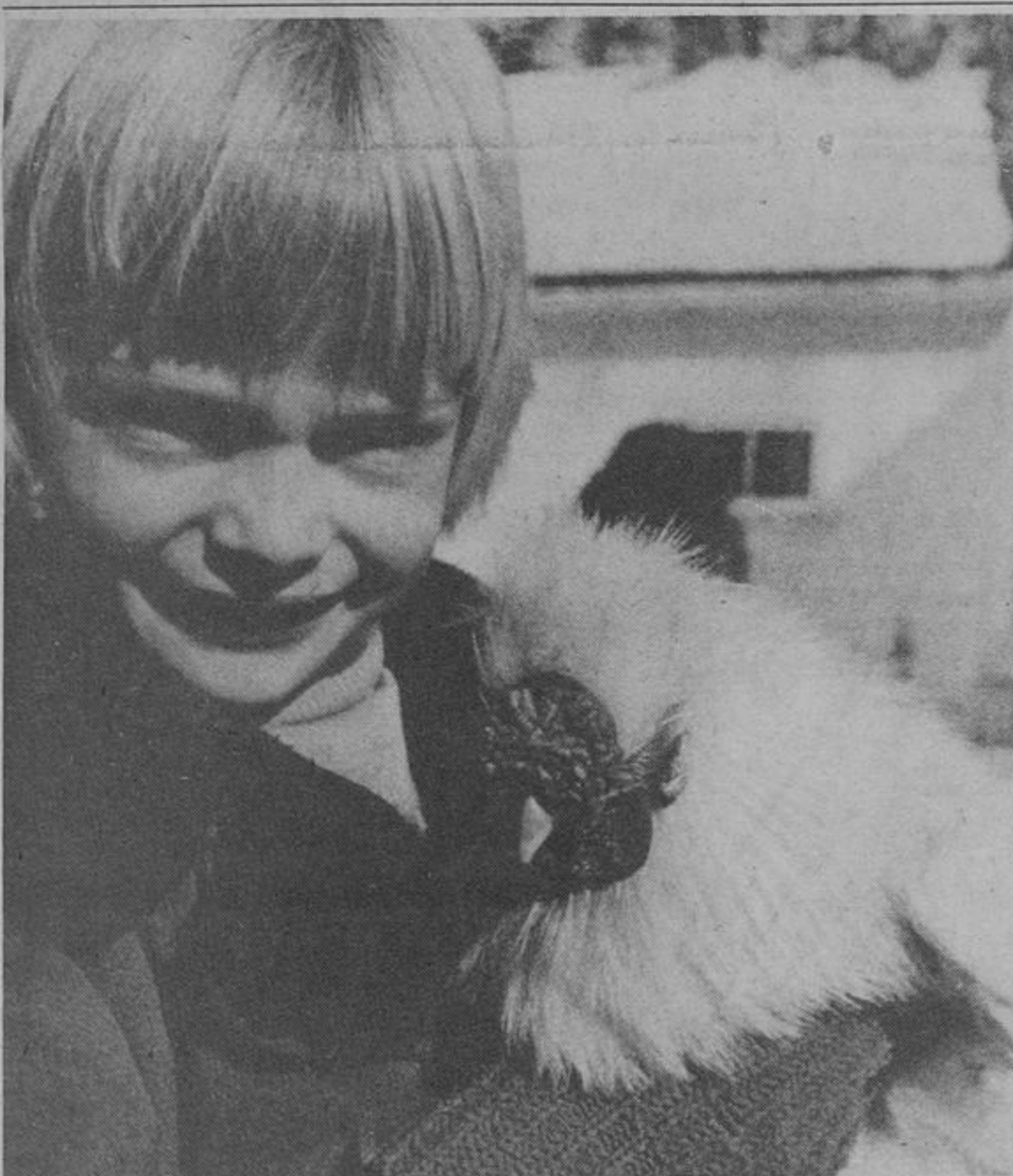
Established 1878

Wednesday, February 23, 1977

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Price 20 cents

3 enter York Centre PC nomination race



(Photo by Hogg)

Neighbors squawk

David Gifford, 5, 84 Proctor Ave., with one of his mother's pet pure-bred birds, the cause of a neighbor's complaints. This is

one of three Chinese silky chickens. She has three pheasants, five ducks and a bob-white.

'Roast' chicken lady

THORNHILL — Angela Gifford is pleading for her chickens.

Mrs. Gifford, kindergarten teacher at St. Michael's Separate School in German Mills, has been asked by a neighbor to get rid of her birds.

The neighbor organized a petition which was presented to Markham council asking for stronger zoning bylaws to control the birds.

Last night, Mrs. Gifford of 84 Proctor Ave. presented her side of the story with a counter petition. She said some of the neighbors had signed both.

The birds she peeks are pure-bred chickens and pheasants, not much good for producing eggs.

"Their hobby is their swimming pool. Mine is my birds," said Mrs. Gifford of her neighbors.

Odor and noise

The neighbor complained of odors, noise and a potential health hazard.

Mrs. Gifford keeps her birds in cages in the back yard of her 200 by 70 foot property. She said a health inspector examined them last summer and found no problems.

A friend with many more birds than her, examined her birds and found them the cleanest he had seen. Children in the neighborhood have been entertained by the birds and used them as a subject of school projects.

Pet pheasant

She had one golden pheasant who would come when she called it. It used

THORNHILL — There are three Progressive Conservatives in York Centre competing for the chance to challenge Alf Stong in the next provincial election.

Joining Kerry Gilmor as a candidate for the nomination are Dick Perdue and Don Bailey.

Perdue, son of Canon and Mrs. R.K. Perdue of Thornhill, is a lawyer, a former executive assistant in the provincial government and a former newspaper reporter.

He was educated at Ridley College, Brock University and Osgoode Hall Law School and worked for the St. Catharines Standard from 1961 to 1963.

He was executive assistant to the minister of tourism in 1971 and to the minister of labor at Queen's Park for the next three years.

He then went into private law practice in Toronto.

Ran before

President of the Broadview-Riverdale PC Association from 1974-1976, Perdue ran unsuccessfully in the NDP stronghold of Riverdale in the last provincial election.

He was also executive vice-president of the Metropolitan Toronto PCs in 1975 and 1976.

Don Bailey, 224 Crestwood Road, Thornhill, declared his intention of running just before going on vacation,

says York Centre riding president Alex Cowley.

Ran for council

Bailey, chairman of the Thornhill-Vaughan Ratepayers Association, ran for Vaughan council in 1974.

Gilmor, the first to declare, is the manager of Centennial Arena in Markham.

There are a few others who have expressed an interest in running Cowley says. The nominating convention is March 10.



Dick Perdue ... ran in Riverdale

YRP argument

NEWMARKET — Chief Bruce Crawford of York Regional Police, has called for the removal of Ray Twinney from the board of police commissioners unless Twinney apologizes or retracts remarks made recently.

Twinney has charged the chief with being "rigid as hell" in enforcing a traffic program. The chief ordered police to charge "everyone that moves and talks," Twinney said.

Crawford retorted that the Newmarket and regional councillor was "a liar".

Twinney said he would continue his fight against the chief at the level where his responsibility is — at the board.

He said he would have a report on police policies prepared for the next board meeting, Mar. 9.

School \$ blues

AURORA — York County board of education members began a step-by-step review of their first draft budget Monday night.

And if their efforts are any indication, they may be working through their summer holidays to finish it.

Starting at 8 o'clock, the board got to page seven of their 35-page, \$74,359,782 budget, before stopping at the self-imposed deadline of 10:30.

A suggestion by Trustee Bob McMonagle of Thornhill that they meet again Saturday for another go, drew more chuckles than votes, and was quickly set aside.

Problem deadline

McMonagle said he didn't feel the board would get an extension to the March 15 deadline set by the ministry of education.

The ministry has already refused one request. The board has since asked for support from the Association of Large School Boards "to have the unrealistic deadline" deferred for two weeks.

The March 15 date seemed to come before the board for the first time, although Chairman Craig Cribar of Newmarket, said he had set March 1 as a target date. His pronouncement brought forth another round of chuckles.

Trustee disturbed

McMonagle told the meeting he was disturbed by the budget — up 6.8 per cent from last year. It was "totally impractical" to ask taxpayers for a 10 per cent increase in the mill rate.

He had run on a platform of fiscal responsibility and felt they should "set a target and shoot for it".

"We should look to no more than six to seven per cent increase, with a mill rate increase of three to four per cent," he said.

He said they should be able to "nibble off \$500,000" of the budget.

Full value Quirk

Trustee Doreen Quirk, also of Thornhill, said the board must see that the taxpayers were getting the "full value" of their dollars; the board must also take responsibility for services provided.

To help bring all that about, Mrs. Quirk made a five-part motion.

It called for the board to review the budget for understanding, decide on an acceptable level of increase over 1976, see whether funds should be taken from the working reserve, delete or add items, approve the present budget, or an amended version.

The board agreed to the first part, that they review the budget for understanding, and will deal with the others when they complete the first.

Cautious Baker

Trustee Eric Baker of Richmond Hill, asked if they could vote on the over-all motion. "I don't want to presume an increase," he said.

Chairman Cribar said it didn't say there would be an increase. "If it's zero, it may be an acceptable level," he said.

The board will try again, Wednesday, March 2.

Constable topless

RICHMOND HILL — If someone approaches you one of these days and tells you he's a policeman, make sure he's fully dressed.

In his uniform, that is.

York Regional Police report that following a scuffle at Steak 'N' Burger Tavern in Hillcrest Mall Saturday night, someone took off with arresting officer Elwood Caine's hat.

The man wasn't caught. However, another man, Douglas Brayshaw, 21 of St. Andrew Court, Thornhill, was arrested and charged with assault with

intent, resisting arrest and obstructing police.

Pellet fired

Another York policeman had his assignment nearly go to his head, too, when someone fired through a side window at McDonald's restaurant in Thornhill with a B-B gun.

The pellet whizzed by the head of Constable Dan DiPasquale, who was on duty there at the time.

There were no suspects picked up in the incident, which occurred about 11 p.m., Feb. 18.



(Photo by Hogg)

\$1,000 for Richvale

C'mon, Michelle, there's nothing to it. That's what Joan Dennis, right, seems to be saying as she and Debbie Boos guide five-year-old Michelle along. Or is it the other way around? Maybe Michelle's guiding them. Anyway, they were all having a great

time at the Richvale Lion's Club Skate-a-thon. The Skate-a-thon, the first for the Lion's, was held at their Spruce Ave. rink and raised \$12,000 for their majorette corps.

Inside The Liberal

Dynes win opening round

It's hockey playoff time as both local Junior B teams, Oak Ridges Dynes and Thornhill Thunderbirds, win in opening round. See Sports Page B-1.

OHAP housing, Richvale school overcrowding, school secretary contracts and local hardness of flowering trees highlight the Letters columns Page A-4.

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