

\$74.1 million for schools

By Hal Blaine

AURORA — This year's York Region public school budget is \$74,100,000.

And the school board is going to keep borrowing millions of dollars for day-to-day operations.

The budget will be kept down to \$74 million by two major moves indicated at a five-hour York County board of education session here Monday night.

Trustees are aiming to renegotiate with the teachers to try to keep pupil-teacher ratios at the present level, instead of cutting down the number of pupils per teacher next term.

And they're going to eliminate master teachers from the secondary schools.

Bits and pieces of money are to be saved throughout the system. Maybe it'll be on office staff, school heating, travel, communications, outside professional meetings.

These were things the board majority picked on in informal voting and presented to staff.

The budget is up about nine per cent, or \$6 million from the \$68 million spent last year.

No money is to be taken from the working reserve this year, unlike last year when reserves were reduced by half.

Borrowing to keep schools operating has recently varied from \$2 million to \$7 million, the board was told, since the working reserve is already too small.

Efforts by a minority of the board to reduce the budget even further were turned back in a 10 to eight vote.

But the majority backed down from dipping into reserves to reduce taxes. This when the minority showed a willingness to mount a strong attack.

Voting for the budget were trustees Cameron, Quirk, Zajac, Monroe, Laird, Denison, Crombie, Cousens, Corcoran, Coburn.

Against were trustees Bowes, Weller, Taylor, Stephens, O'Grady, McMonagle, Houghton, Hargrave.

The public school tax levy will be set at a board meeting Monday, the last day before the deadline.

At that meeting board staff will report their recommendations of specific cuts to be made to meet the budget limit set by the trustees.

Cut from staff's proposed budget was \$165,000 for secondary schools and \$95,000 for elementary schools. There was a surplus of about \$400,000 left over from last year.

Supported by a citizen petition, the drive to make further budget cuts was led by trustees McMonagle, Weller and Stephens.

Deputy Chairman Doreen Quirk proposed use of 50 per cent of working reserves to reduce this year's tax increase.

She said such use of reserves was favored by the education minister in a time of restraint and inflation, but she failed to convince a majority of the board.

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"In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Liberty, in all things Charity"

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Donny Rose of Oak Ridges ... remembered television program rescue

Say trustee in conflict

RICHMOND HILL — An affidavit charging King Trustee Margaret Coburn of York County board of education with a conflict of interest, has been issued by a group of people headed by Vince DeVita of King.

DeVita ran unsuccessfully against Coburn and Dorothy Zajac in King in the recent board elections.

Robbed at gunpoint

THORNHILL — A 25-year-old man was charged with armed robbery Thursday after a Becker Milk storekeeper identified the accused in a line-up.

York Regional Police allege the accused, Michael Shadwell of 319 North Taylor Mills Drive, was armed with a .38-calibre snub nose revolver when he entered the Becker Store at 8820 Bayview Avenue.

He told The Liberal this week he felt Mrs. Coburn was in conflict because she is a member of the board's teacher salary negotiating committee, while her husband is a member of the teaching staff of Huron Heights Secondary School.

"I don't want her passing on the budget," DeVita said.

He was referring to the board's \$74 million budget which was under consideration.

He also said that lest his action be considered "sour grapes", he wanted it known he was doing it because of "the other 165 or so people" in similar positions either directly or indirectly on school boards in Ontario.

A judge will rule on the affidavit, which could see Mrs. Coburn absolved of any conflict or removed from her seat either for a two-week period or permanently.

Drug arrest

RICHMOND HILL — A Toronto man and woman were arrested and charged Tuesday of last week with possession of \$150,000 worth of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and with possession of marijuana.

After a lengthy investigation into trafficking of cocaine in York Region, Newmarket RCMP and YRP drug unit found 22 ounces of cocaine and a quarter pound of marijuana at 325 Seaton St. in Toronto.

Heidi Marie Gomez, 37, of 325 Seaton St. and Rudolph Hirsbrunner, 33, of the same address, were arrested.

Police in Newmarket had been investigating the case since last October and have been aware of the trafficking of cocaine in the region for 18 months, a spokesman said.

The cocaine seizure is the largest ever made by police in York Region.

Ms. Gomez was later released, while Hirsbrunner was held for a show cause hearing. Both are to appear in Newmarket court later this month.

YRP Angels strike

KLEINBURG — "The girls need a chance to whoop it up," claims Don Barratt, owner of the Village Inn in Kleinburg.

But York Regional Police obviously think otherwise.

Last Wednesday, two policewomen in plain clothes charged the Inn's male stripper with performing an indecent act at Ladies' Night.

They also charged Barratt with permitting an indecent performance.

Barratt said in an interview he didn't permit stripper Joe Adelman "to do anything indecent. I didn't see him do anything. I was flicking the lights on and off."

Adelman was required to keep one article of clothing on at all times. Barratt declined to say which item the stripper retained.

The two policewomen working under cover had stayed through two performances and talked to Barratt.

"When I asked them how they enjoyed the show they said it was terrific 'but your act is better than the stripper's'."

Then they told him they were Charlie's Angels and arrested him.

"I didn't know what they meant", he said. "I never watch TV."

Boy, 11, saves his family from flames

By Jim Irving

OAK RIDGES — Television, apparently, isn't all bad.

According to Donny Rose, 11, of Oak Ridges, it was a program that he remembered when fire raged through his Aubrey Avenue home Thursday about 12:05 a.m., and he and his five-year-old sister, Christine, were trying to get out.

Remembering a warning from the program to get under the smoke, Donny told Christine to crawl on the floor to the door and the two of them made their way outside.

It wasn't the first time outside for Donny that morning after the fire broke out. He had already run across the street to a neighbor's to ask her to call the fire department after he and his sister awakened coughing from the smoke. Their own phone was disconnected earlier.

Doreen Rose, mother of the two children, was then awakened.

When she noticed a small flame coming from behind the chesterfield in the living room, she filled a garbage pail full of water and tried to extinguish it.

"It didn't look that bad and my first thought was to try to put it out," Mrs. Rose said.

"I poured the water on it and thought I had it out and then — poof it was away again."

Mrs. Rose said she then ran out of the house and had just got past the front window when it blew.

Her husband Paul, was in Utah at the time.

Chief Robert Kennedy of Richmond Hill Fire Department said the family was lucky to escape. Had the children not awakened, they could have been trapped.

"By the time the Oak Ridges volunteers arrived, flames were coming out of the window," he said.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith of 6 Schomberg Rd. who could see the fire from her home just up the street, had high praise for the volunteers, which are part of the Richmond Hill department, and the regulars.

Both arrived within minutes of each other, operating at peak efficiency, she said.

"I can't say enough about them," she said.

Mrs. Smith and her husband, Gary, also provided a home for Donny until Mrs. Smith left for the Bahamas later in the week.

Another neighbor, Mrs. I. Irwin, 10 Schomberg Rd., was able to provide Donny with an outfit for school the next day, a sweater, pants and shoes from one of her sons.

Donny and the rest of his family had nothing on but their night clothes when they fled into the street during the fire.

Mrs. Rose and daughter, Chris, stayed with Lois Kennedy and her family, across the street from them, but planned to move to Aurora later.

Besides their clothing, everything else was lost in the fire, which gutted the premises and caused an estimated \$35,000 damage.

Cause of the fire in the house, which the Roses have lived in for 17 years, was blamed on careless smoking.



Family is homeless

The Rose family lost all their night clothes from this \$35,000 belongings, escaping in their house fire in Oak Ridges.

Sunday concert

RICHMOND HILL — "My Old Kentucky Home" won't be one of the selections on the program when Bayview Secondary School band presents a concert, Sunday March 13 at the school, starting at 3 p.m.

But it would hardly be surprising if it was. Because Kentucky is exactly where the band will be heading this April. It's also one of the reasons why it's giving the concert.

The Sunday afternoon program under the direction of conductor Ray Barton, is to help raise money for the band's proposed trip to Carrollton, Kentucky, as part of an exchange trip with a high school there.

The Kentuckians will complete the exchange sometime in June.

All the money for the April 27 trip is being raised by the members, through such things as concerts, a disco night, a sale of coupons for a local hamburger house, plus the students' own money.

Carrollton is located on the Ohio River, halfway between Cincinnati, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky.

"So it's not really all that far away,"

Mr. Barton said, only about 570 miles."

Sunday's concert, which will be called "March Winds," and, besides the band, will feature selections from the Bayview jazz combo and stage band.

There will also be a piano solo by Toni Streissberger, and an accordion solo by Roy Heull.

Included in the band numbers will be, Hymn of Freedom, from Brahms' First Symphony; Maple Leaf Rag, by Scott Joplin; Finlandia, by Sibelius; and selections from My Fair Lady.

Tickets may be obtained from any of the band members, or by calling the school at 884-4453.

Bhuddists building

THORNHILL — The pagoda style roof of a Bhuddist temple may soon rise above the corner of Proctor and Bayview Avenues.

Bhuddists have been negotiating with the town planning department for some time over the size of three buildings involved and the number of parking spaces.

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Like model trains

RICHMOND HILL — Richmond Hill parks and recreation committee last week approved in principle a request to construct a track layout for operating live model steam engines in the town.

The request was made by Richmond Hill Live Steam Club, which wants to build ground level and elevated tracks on the park site of the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home.

The 20-member club builds authentic scale models of the steam engines, most of which can carry the weight of an adult person.

Three days a year would be set aside for the public to ride the trains free of charge.

The town's proposal is for a five-year lease for part of the park.

Club rental would be \$1 a year, provided it paid for construction and maintenance of tracks, signals, switches and other gear.

No dogs for research

GORMLEY — Jim Ryan is trying to give dog catching a good name.

That's "animal control officer" of course and Ryan holds the title in both Richmond Hill and Markham.

He used to do the job in Vaughan as well. But when he asked for more money, Vaughan got James McMillan instead.

McMillan now receives \$13,800 per year while Ryan gets \$42,000 apiece from Richmond Hill and Markham for a much more elaborate service.

While McMillan catches 300 dogs a year and two out of three go to research or the gas chamber, Ryan impounded 464 dogs and 387 cats from Richmond Hill and 552 dogs and 361 cats from Markham in 1976.

He refuses to say how many animals were destroyed. He will not send out any for research.

An original opponent of the Animals for Research Act, he has not changed his attitude over the years.

He also dealt with almost 300 wild animals last year, from wolves to mice.

There are six million dogs registered in Canada. Ryan favors a subsidized neutering program for dogs and cats and maintains veterinarians charge too

much for the service now.

An operation that cost \$15 a few years ago is now \$50.

He has also made forays into Vaughan, he admits, since McMillan took over.

Some people have asked him to come because of the possibility of animals there going for research, he says.

Any animals he does pick up in Vaughan are taken back to his shelter in Gormley.



She needs a friend

This puppy is being kept at the Ryan Animal Control Service kennels in the hope that a new owner can be found for it. Vicki Turner, a Ryan employee, holds the three month old female.

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Inside The Liberal

Dynes lead Junior B finals

Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers lead Mid-Ontario Junior B best-of-seven finals with two wins over Thornhill Thunderbirds. (See Page B-1)

School science fair activity is at its height as local students reach area finals. (See stories and pictures Page C-1)

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