

# Research policy still in doubt

By Jim Irving

AURORA — York County board of education's much battered and debated report on student research programs in the schools, has been sent back to staff for another look.

Last week, the board decided a proposed amendment to one of the report's recommendations, by Trustee Harry Bowes of Whitchurch - Stouffville, calling for written parental approval of any such programs, was making things too complicated and decided yet another review was in order.

The report has been the subject of considerable controversy since the matter of studies and research on students' personal habits, homes and activities, was revealed as something other than a simple question-and-answer paper when reviewed by the board last year.

At that time, it was disclosed students were being asked such things as whether they had "the runs once a month or more," to whether they liked being a boy or a girl.

The questions were just two of 108 being asked students as part of a project being conducted by Langstaff secondary school guidance head Reg

Winstall. The board ordered the project stopped and the survey destroyed.

In presenting a draft policy on a new research program, the board bogged down on the first recommendation.

The recommendation said "the purpose and nature of any research shall be stated to the students asked to participate in any such study, or in the case of any student under 18 years of age, to the parents before such research is begun."

Trustee Bowes asked the words "and written approval is received," be added to the end of the paragraph.

"That's the parents' main complaint," Bowes said. "If written approval is given, it relieves the teachers of responsibility."

If written approval wasn't given, would the students take part? asked Trustee Dorothy Zajac of King.

Bowes said he assumed it would mean parents were saying no.

Director of education, Sam Chapman, said that, while written approval was "a good idea," to seek it "for every little bit of experimentation, would

eliminate the use of schools for research."

Markham's Bob McMonagle said that, as the policy stood at present, there was "no cover up for items of a sensitive nature. Students are more important than some minor bits of experimentation," he said.

Among the clauses in the proposed draft: The board shall name a public committee, consisting of a lawyer, psychiatrist and one trustee to whom research involving students being questioned on sensitive personal issues shall be referred by the director of education for evaluation and recommendation to the board.

The policy also stated that: if it appeared that revealing in advance the purpose and nature of research would invalidate the results, the proposal would either be refused or brought to the board for a decision along with comment from the board's public committee.

The policy was referred to staff.

The meeting also approved the final draft of a policy on psychological testing of the students.

The policy provides that individual tests of intelligence and personality be administered by the board's psychological services staff. Written approval from parents or guardians would be obtained prior to all individual testing and could be rescinded at any time prior to testing.



(Photo by Hoag)

## What's going on here?

It's hard to tell who's the player here and who's the caddy. Either way, the fellow on the right seems to have all the best of it. Anyway, he looked pretty contented when Jeff Veltri, 11, (left) and brother, Andrew, 7, of

338 John St., Thornhill, who put him together, smoothed off some of the rough edges, just as The Liberal photographer came by. It's not known who put his companion together, however.

## Shooting Unionville film

UNIONVILLE — One of the area's oldest settlements is getting a film about its history.

Murray Edmunds is making a film on Unionville which was founded in 1794 by William Berczy.

Edmunds is a roofing contractor and has been an amateur film maker for 20 years.

He has lived in Unionville for two years and discovered no one has bothered to record its history before.

A film company was formed with four other residents in December to produce a two hour film. Since then, 10 people have joined the volunteer

group and Edmunds has commitments of help from several residents who are professionals.

Filming is to start this week with aerial shots. Also older residents will be asked to narrate portions on historic buildings.

The first segment will be on the history of the 57-year-old Crosby Arena.

By the time the second part is ready to film, Edmunds hopes longtime residents will come forward with "color" stories that can go into the picture.

The film will be done in three parts over a year and a half. In the final segment, it is hoped to

film the trip of Berczy along the Rouge River to Unionville.



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## Hill councillors hike pay

RICHMOND HILL — For the first time in two years, members of the Richmond Hill town council voted themselves a wage increase.

The pay hike comes to 7.5 per cent, raising the stipend of regular councillors from \$7,678 to \$8,254.

## \$19 million budget

NEWMARKET — York Region's engineering committee last week approved its heavily-subsidized budget, with nothing cut from the \$19 million draft estimates.

However, government grants will reduce the taxpayers' portion to \$4 million.

Biggest engineering project this year will be the paving of Queensville Sideroad from Sutton Rd. to 1,500 feet west of the Holland River.

A new bridge over the river is included in the

\$1.9 million cost. While the engineering budget is down, police and Children's Aid Society costs came in higher than expected.

As a result, the anticipated one per cent mill rate increase, has risen to three per cent.

The over-all budget is \$42 million, up 12 per cent from last year.

The engineering budget will be presented to regional council at the meeting of Mar. 31, in order to meet provincial grant deadlines.

Mayor David Schiller — the only full-time employee on council — goes to \$16,508, up from \$15,356 in 1976.

Schiller and regional councillors Lois Hancey and Lou Wainwright also earn an additional \$8,640 for their work on the regional council.

This brings the mayor's total salary to \$25,148 and those of the regional councillors to \$16,894. Of the totals, \$2,880 is not taxable.

The three regional representatives also receive 21 cents per mile when using their automobiles on regional affairs.

Wainwright is retired, while Hancey is a housewife. All councillors serve on at least two committees as well as regular council meetings, averaging six to 10 meetings per month.

They receive no remuneration for meeting attendance.

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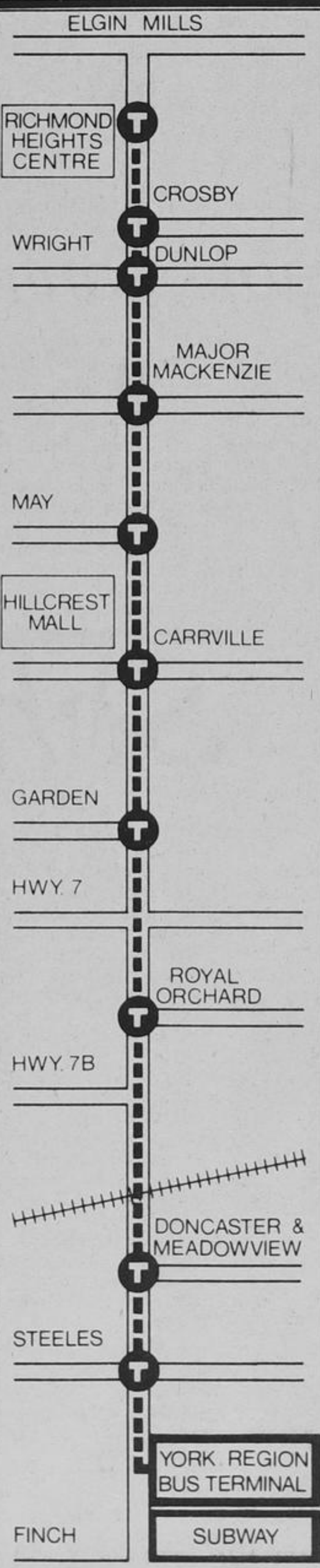
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## The Regional Municipality of York NOTICE OF INFORMATION CENTRE

Proposed Re-alignment of Kennedy Road at Unionville and Jog Elimination in Warden Avenue and McCowan Road at Steeles Avenue

Feasibility Study reports have been prepared for the above proposed works and the Region of York has arranged an Information Centre at the following location and time where interested persons may view the reports and discuss the proposals with representatives of the Region of York and the Consultant who prepared the reports.

DATE: March 29 & 30, 1977

LOCATION: Crosby Memorial Arena, Unionville

TIME: 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Copies of the reports have been placed in the Unionville Centennial Library for public viewing.

The public is invited to view the Feasibility Study reports in the Library and to attend the Information Centre.

Written comments may be submitted to the following address until April 20th, 1977, for consideration by the Engineering Committee.

The Regional Municipality of York  
Engineering Department  
Box 296  
Newmarket  
Ontario.  
L3Y 4X1

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