

Thornhill city gets nod

By Larry Johnston

THORNHILL — There were congratulations around the room when Vaughan council passed the final reading of the Thornhill-Vaughan plan Monday.

The tension was broken after an unsuccessful last shot by Councillor Terry Goodwin of Thornhill to have the number of units in the plan reduced by 15 per cent. He noted the plan had grown from 16,000 units to 22,050 since it was first proposed.

"It is a good plan but there are serious problems in it, particularly external traffic," said Goodwin. "That is beyond our control but there is one thing we can do."

Councillor Goodwin said the transportation planner had been "really squeezing" and since his work was done the estimate for the number of wage earners per unit has increased from 1.2 to 1.6, he said.

Council also declined to get a verbal presentation on the deficit of the plan to go with the lightly considered financial report from Woods Gordon and Company Ltd., he said.

Councillor Dario di Giannantonio seemed most concerned that Goodwin withdraw the statement that council had been "derelict" in its duty, on the plan.

But Councillor Goodwin did not. He was outvoted 6-1 on his amendment and 5-2 on the plan itself with only Councillor Lorna Jackson supporting him. Councillor Jim Cameron voted with the majority.

The town is preparing for a battle to get the plan past its next hurdle, the Ontario Municipal Board. Six weeks have been allotted for hearings starting in September.

Most government agencies have been mollified. Plan co-ordinator Terry Kelly said the staff in North York and Metropolitan Toronto had withdrawn their earlier objections to transportation in the plan and were now calling them "concerns."

An official of the York County board of education (which last week had objected because there were only 14 school sites instead of 18) could not comment on whether the change in plan wording made in the interim was satisfactory.

Kelly said there were two objectors he knew of, and there may be more.

Two residents near the end of Arnold Avenue at Bathurst Street, succeeded in having two polka dots removed from the map indicating medium density development beside them.

But H.L. Wisebrod, representing a developer on Steeles Avenue, had no

such luck in removing the proposed school site and park from his client's 11 acres in the plan. He said only about 3.5 acres were left and effectively sterilized.

It was not board policy to have a school on an arterial road as proposed in the plan and it was an equally bad place for a park. It would be ideal for a shopping plaza to serve the Crestwood community.

The park was moved down from beside the railway track following a closed meeting of council last week. Wisebrod was told the land could not be developed in any case until 1985.

A press release distributed before the meeting by town officials placed emphasis on the brakes in the development.

"The plan contemplates a population of approximately 75,000 persons at maturity which would not be before the year 2000."

"The first phase consists of approximately 25,250 persons which could

be achieved between now and 1981 when the York-Durham servicing scheme will be available to the community."

"The second phase is not expected to be completed until 1987 or thereafter and would contain a population of approximately 38,000 persons. The third phase is not expected to begin until around 1991, the earliest date at which highway 407 is expected to be built."

The Vaughan planning committee first discussed the possibility of preparing such a plan in July 1972. A citizen advisory committee was formed (whose members support the 15 per cent rollback). Consultants were retained and 3½ years of meetings at every level have taken place since.

A provincial-municipal liaison committee was set up to expedite the plan. The final special council meeting was held at Thornhill public school last week with the ratepayers objecting to the number of housing units.

A spokesman for 28 developers involved, told council the previous day they would not object at the meeting but reserved the right to do so before the OMB.

In July 1976, Thornhill-Vaughan was designated an Ontario Housing Action area, thus making the town eligible for per unit grants averaging \$500.

The town also received \$278,000 in study grants from the province and has applied for \$3.8 million in interest free loans available from the province under OHAP.

With the East Woodbridge (Pine Valley Village) plan passed last week by council, Vaughan has committed itself to 4,000 acres of housing in connection with OHAP.

Delay tax bills

NEWMARKET — According to York Region Treasurer John Hlynski, the regional budget, expected last week, will not be finalized until May.

Property owners won't know what their tax bills will be until then.

"In a way," said Hlynski, "we're waiting for the Ontario budget. We're waiting for the confirmation of grants."

"The delay is not only the Ontario government, but the assessment review courts, which hold their last hearings April 26. It will be the middle of May before I can apportion the levy," he said.

Richmond Hill Edition

The Liberal

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

Wednesday, April 6, 1977 26 pages 20¢ Est. 1878



Celebrate Easter with music

Sir John Stainer's 'Crucifixion' was performed Palm Sunday by the choir of Richmond Hill United Church under the direction of Joe Calverley. The

evening was highlighted by the choir's new green gowns and the talents of guest tenor soloist Les Dobbins. Here Yvonne Smith of

Mill Street, Darlene Fanelli of Centre Street, and bass soloist Bill Lekx of Major MacKenzie Drive join in the singing.

(Photo by Hoag)

Swamp clean up cost doubles

By Tom Gale

OAK RIDGES — Although it will now cost close to \$600,000 when it would have cost \$265,000 in 1970, the Meadows property north of the Schomberg Road and west of Yonge street may finally be in line for a cleanup.

According to Mike Garrett, administrator of the water resources division of the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (which

purchased the property about 10 years ago) a letter has been sent from the Town of Richmond Hill to the Region of York requesting the region to allow for expenditures of \$500,000 in this area over the next five years.

Local resident Dave Smith has been fighting for this move for years now. His property is one of the several affected every year by flooding, frogs and mosquitoes from the marsh-like 20-acre property.

He told The Liberal that Richmond Hill council was responsible for the delay since 1972, at which time the area became part of Richmond Hill.

He said it was his understanding no request had been made by the town; such request being necessary before the MTRCA could act.

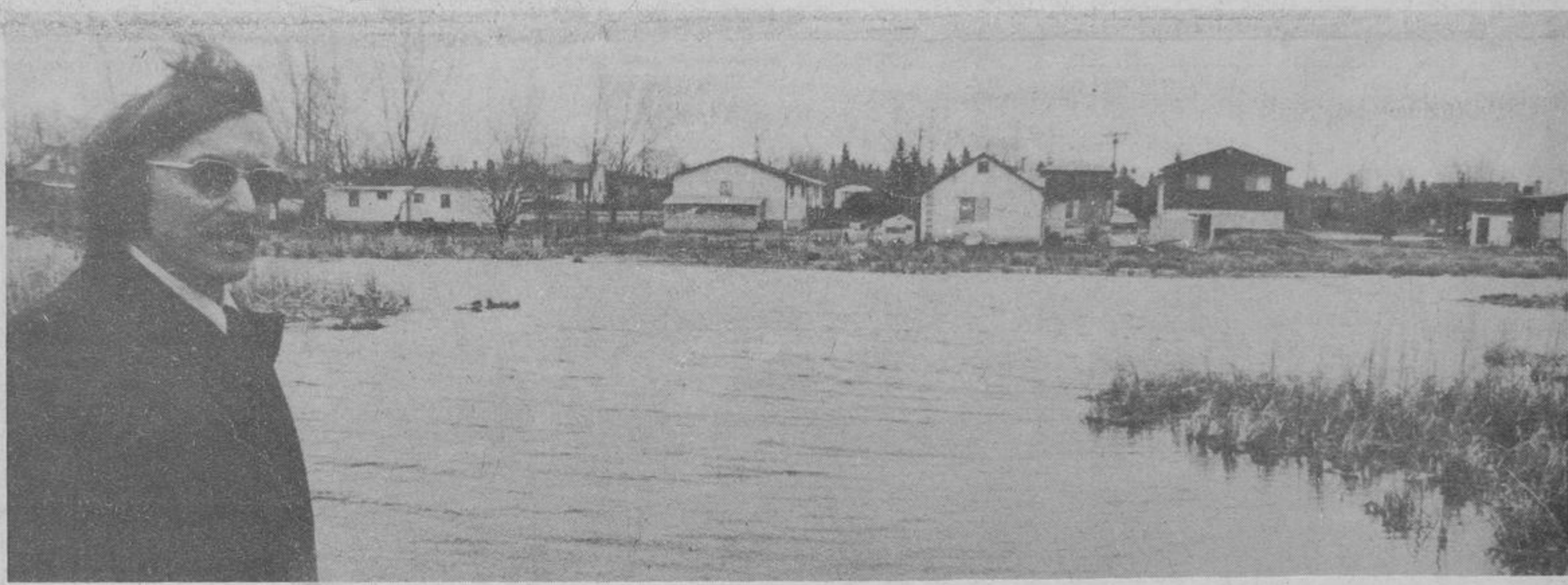
According to Mayor David Schiller, however, the request was not made "because the province couldn't afford it in 1972."

"I think the money was not available," said Administrator Garrett.

MTRCA Secretary Chairman Ken Higgs told The Liberal Tuesday money may well have been available had Richmond Hill requested it in 1972.

"In any case, Richmond Hill should have gone ahead and made the request in 1972," he said.

"If the mayor was given bad advice, then he was given bad advice," he said.



Oak Ridges flooding

An eyesore, a nuisance, and a health hazard is what Oak Ridges resident Dave Smith calls this swamp near his home. He's been fighting for im-

provements to this 20-acres behind his property for years now, and it looks as if relief is finally in sight.

No widening Sunset Beach

RICHMOND HILL — Council Monday assured residents the town has no intention of taking land to widen Sunset Beach Road, in spite of a letter which gave many that impression.

In fact, no-one on council knew of the letter's existence.

"It seems you don't know what's going on," said one resident.

"The letter mentions a 10-foot widening. We thought the town was going to take our land."

"We couldn't afford that," replied Councillor Mike Burnie, adding "If staff is going to do this at all, we should be notified . . . at least on the bulletin board."

"The letter was badly worded," admitted Councillor Bill Corcoran.

Motorcycle noise problem in Gormley

RICHMOND HILL — Town council Monday resolved to seek the assistance of York Region council and York Region Police in order to bar motorcycles from the Bayview Avenue, Stouffville Road area.

A delegation headed by Doug Dyson of Gormley told councillors the Bayview Avenue right-of-way (the road is not currently open) was being used by riders to reach the hilly land to the north.

"Last Sunday was like a circus," said Dyson. He was careful to point out the people involved were serious. "Almost

professional" riders.

"We're a quiet group. You don't hear from us very often. We're not demonstrative...which doesn't mean we're not capable of it," said Dyson.

"I think we're hearing you," said Mayor David Schiller.

Council decided to ask the region for a bylaw prohibiting motorcycles in the Bayview area.

Because it was generally conceded the town's bylaw enforcement officer was not able to enforce such a bylaw, council decided to request the York Region Police to do so.

RICHMOND HILL — Tempers grew short Monday evening as Ron Biderman, counsel for Spring Mills Estates, and Mayor David Schiller each accused the other of not trusting the first.

This was while council was rescinding a bylaw on the property. Biderman said he felt his clients should have been informed before any decision is reached or considered.

He was referring to council's March 7 decision to reconsider the application in light of correspondence received from the Region of York. Biderman (and several councillors) said he felt the application should go back to planning committee, where debate was possible.

Mayor Schiller insisted that the bylaw approving the development be rescinded first.

"This is a development that has been going on for years," said Councillor Bill Corcoran.

"It's favored by 99 per cent of the area residents, and is not located on prime agricultural land."

"I don't know if we've all been playing politics with this amendment," said Corcoran, who suggested the matter be referred back to planning committee "to clear the air."

Councillor Hancey moved the matter be referred back to planning committee "subject to an undertaking by the applicant that no request be put forward for an OMB hearing without prior notification of council."

"We have no intention of taking this to the OMB," said Biderman.

"Why don't you agree to council's undertaking (that the bylaw be rescinded)?" asked Schiller.

"I fear this matter could get further bogged down in red tape", answered Biderman.

"You could take legal action", said Schiller.

"I resent that," said Biderman.

"And I resent that", returned Schiller. "You suggest council's un-

dertaking is invalid."

Councillor Hancey's motion that the matter be referred to planning without repeal of the approving bylaw was defeated.

Bylaw 49, rescinding the approving bylaw was passed with a 5-3 recorded vote.

No noise relief for man on hill

RICHMOND HILL — Airplanes are making Frank Tucker mad, and are likely to do so for some months yet.

Tucker, who lives on a hill just north-west of the Buttonville airport, complained to town council Monday the noise of unmuffled aircraft passing over his home ("sometimes 500 a day") is making life unbearable.

"I cannot agree with the federal government's policy of allowing expansion without any concern for the welfare of the private citizen," said Councilor Andy Chateauvert.

"They seem to think there is no problem, no planes, or no reason to care. When you have one man, what chance has he against any level of government?" he said.

"If the company that owns the airport gives one hoot as a corporate citizen, it would buy him (Tucker) out. But when there's only one individual, forget it. He's expendable," said Chateauvert.

Councillors decided to re-examine land-use regulations on the Tucker property in the hope that sale of the 103-year-old home might be thus facilitated.

Inside The Liberal Science winners



Vernon Stringer young scientist

Top winner at the York Region school science fair was Richmond Hill's Vernon Stringer at left. (Pictures, story and winners list Page C1).

It was fight day in Richmond Hill Sunday as 400 watched 10-card boxing tournament. (See Page B1).

The index of news and advertising features on the inside pages is:

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Motion only allows research at beach

LAKE WILCOX — Last week at the Lake Wilcox Community Centre, Regional Councillor Lois Hancey explained the recent motion concerning the town's Sunset Beach property (purchased for \$¼ million) was for research purposes only, and in no way committed the town to a takeover of the site by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

This was in response to a statement by Mrs. Anne Gould, who claimed the town's citizens were still under "the threat of the Conservation Authority. It won't be a part of Richmond Hill any longer. We'd have another Bruce's Mill."

Hancey replied, "the motion was for research work. I don't think you should give people the impression the Conservation Authority is going to take over."

Hancey went on to say a Conservation Authority takeover would mean a 50 per cent reduction in costs to local taxpayers, and the realization of a recreational facility several years earlier than would otherwise be possible. "I'd sooner pay 50 cents than \$1", she said.

Parks Councillor Duffy had made it clear earlier there were no funds available for the beaches this year.

Several Councillors said they felt the lake to have been a good acquisition, in spite of the fact it cannot be developed for several years.

"It's a reasonable piece of land for public ownership," said Councillor Mike Burnie. "It's a darned good site for a park."

The town is currently paying approximately \$25,000 a year on the borrowing for the property, explained Mayor David Schiller.

Masons give 10 bursaries

RICHMOND HILL — Students at Bayview, Langstaff and Don Head Secondary Schools, and Richmond Hill High School, will be offered 10 bursaries by Richmond Lodge 23, a Masonic order.

The bursaries are in the name of a former long-time resident of Richmond Hill, Claude Wright.

Two bursaries of \$100 will be given to each school, with another two of \$50 each, going to Don Head students for the purchase of tools.