



First annual model show

The first planes are the hardest, as Troy Edwards of Balkan Road (background) and Steven Mansbridge of Allgood Street can attest. Supervising is Richmond Hill Model Club's

president Iram Mansbridge. Exhibits from the Aurora Model Club, the International Plastic Modellers Society, and the Toronto Society of Model Engineers will be only a part of

the club's first annual model show. It will be held in the Richmond Room of the Richmond Hill Arena April 14 and 15 from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is free.

(Photo by Hoag)

Reform may help

NEWMARKET — Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Schiller feels Provincial implementation of the Blair Commission's report on property tax reform would be of benefit to many residential property owners in the Region.

Schiller urged Regional Council March 31 to ask the province not to delay any further.

"I'm saddened that the province has found it necessary to again review the findings of the commission, especially since its findings are the same as what the province was saying nine to 10 months ago," he said.

Schiller said provincial fears of public confusion, and the possibility of a provincial election, were responsible for the delay.

In a telephone interview Friday, Schiller said a province-wide re-assessment (one of the major

recommendations of the Blair Commission) would lead to a reduction of up to 20 percent in residential property tax, correcting an unfair situation created in 1968 — at which time York Region was one of the few areas in the province to be re-assessed.

Schiller cited the Langstaff Jail farm as an example.

"The grant from Toronto in lieu of taxes on this property is \$11,000, yet it's valued at between 20 and 25 million dollars," he said.

If the Blair report's findings are implemented, according to Schiller, "we would be getting taxes as if it were industrial commercial property."

Take its time
Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams objected to Schiller's motion, however, arguing the province should be allowed "to take its time."

"They can make the same mistakes through haste that we made back in '68", he said.

"I don't think it will help the region of York one iota", said Williams.

"To suggest property taxes in Ontario haven't been studied to death," returned Schiller, "is strictly a misnomer. York has borne an unjust percentage of residential taxes."

"I'm not arguing with the need for tax reform," said Williams. "Vaughan was hurt by the re-assessment, which took it off industry and put it on residential."

"We have no business asking them to implement it. They will when they're ready," he said.

Schiller softened his motion, urging the province merely to consider the Blair findings "as soon as possible." The motion passed.

80 tax proposals

TORONTO — The 10-member commission on the reform of property taxation in Ontario (chaired by Willis Blair), presented its report to the government on March 10.

In its more than 80 recommendations, the commission endorsed the provincial government's proposals to:

- tax residences preferentially at 50 per cent of market value.
- redefine residential property to include only residences and a

reasonable amount of land.

- levy a uniform mill rate on residential and commercial properties.
- levy a single business assessment rate at 50 per cent.
- tax all publicly-owned property, including that of municipalities and school boards.
- exempt churches, cemeteries and Indian lands.
- allow a phase-in of taxes at the discretion of the municipal council.
- return the assessment rolls and enumerate on a two-year cycle.
- pool public property assessment for assignment between the public and separate elementary school systems.
- apportion local government costs on the basis of market value assessment.
- use a consistent assessment base for the determination of assessment-based grants from the province to local governments.
- extend market value assessment to

areas without municipal organization.

- allow property taxes as an allowable expense of grant-supported bodies.

As well, the commission recommended the following departures from provincial policies:

- allow municipal councils to grant tax deferrals for land used for such recreational purposes as golf courses, ski resorts and camp grounds.
- allow a committee of local elected officials to adjudicate on the continued exemption of charitable and non-profit organizations within their jurisdiction.
- exclude government administrative facilities from its definition as a business activity.

Copies of the report may be obtained free of charge at all regional assessment offices, treasury, economics, and intergovernmental affairs regional offices, as well as the Ontario Government Book Store, 880 Bay Street.

Morman finds region council too distant

NEWMARKET — Markham Regional councillor Ron Moran March 31 suggested that holding the occasional Regional meeting within member municipalities would help bring the region level of government closer to the public.

"The public are reluctant to ask regional candidates questions; they don't know the area of concern," said Moran.

"We must seem rather remote to places like Georgina and Vaughan," he said.

"What if the odd meeting could be conducted in the outlying municipalities?"

In a telephone interview the next day, Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams said he didn't vote at all on the motion.

"I didn't understand where he was going to have it; our council chambers wouldn't hold that many elected officials", he said.

"I would like to see it, but there wasn't enough discussion. He didn't say if we were permitted to hold it in the Woodbridge Arena, for example."

Moran's motion was lost.

Rotary Club travel night

RICHMOND HILL — The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill Travel and Adventure series will feature "Adventure in Colombia" April 14 at 8 p.m. in the Bayview Secondary School.

Romain Wilhelmsen will be guest speaker.

Tickets are available at the door, or by calling 884-2918.

New day-care plan finalized

NEWMARKET — A new kind of day-care facility has been approved for York Region, according to Dr. Owen Slingerland, commissioner of health and social services.

Regional council March 31 received a report from Dr. Slingerland recommending the implementation of private

home day-care.

Private home day-care is a setting where temporary care for reward or compensation is given in a private home to not more than five unrelated children under the age of 10.

According to the report, such a service is needed in such areas where

"the number of children requiring care during a given period is too small to justify the operation of a centre-based program."

Such areas are identified by the report as Musselman's Lake, Lake Wilcox, Woodbridge, the northern part of Georgina Township, Aurora, Stouffville, Richmond Hill and Thornhill.

The report recommended the hiring of a private home day-care supervisor to oversee 25 providers of home care accommodating a maximum of 100 children.

The supervisor's responsibilities will include home finding, home evaluation, home development, intake and matching.

The province subsidizes 80 per cent of the net expenditures for such ventures.

Excluded Lake Wilcox residents still can hope

RICHMOND HILL — Though the hope was slim, town council nonetheless offered some to Lake Wilcox area residents now excluded in plans to provide municipal water under the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

Jim McMillan, speaking on behalf of the 30 homes affected, asked "are we part of Lake Wilcox, outcasts, or what are we?"

Works Commissioner Bernard Toporowski told councillors supplying

water to the 30 homes in question would cost approximately \$90,000 or \$2 per foot over 15 years as a local improvement project.

Councillor Mike Burnie moved that, should any money be left from the tendering of already approved NIP projects, it would be put towards extension of water services around water area 5.

Councillor Bill Corcoran urged council to "go ahead and apply immediately for more money."

Lake Wilcox hydro poles stay

LAKE WILCOX — It looks like the unsightly hydro poles on Bayview Avenue south of the Gormley Road will remain.

hydro poles to "pegs in a cribbage board."

"What about underground hydro?" she asked.

Councillor Mary Lou Graham and Mayor David Schiller both explained the poles were on regional rights-of-way, and thus out of the town's jurisdiction.

In a Monday evening question-and-answer session, Mrs. Anne Gould complained about "the visual blight of the new subdivisions" comparing the

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