



New \$620,000 Hill firehall

This is an artist's conception of the proposed \$620,000 fire hall, to be located next to the York Regional Police building on an Arnold Avenue extended south across

Major Mackenzie Drive. The classroom (projecting from the front) will not be included in the actual hall, in order to cut expenses.

Firehall cuts worry chief

Richmond Hill Fire Chief Robert Kennedy is concerned that council's continued attempts to fritter away the much-needed firehall proposed for Arnold Avenue will leave the town with inadequate fire protection.

The present firehall on Wright Street used to house the town's works and hydro departments, and has been there longer than anyone on the fire brigade can remember.

It's badly heated and much too small for either staff or equipment, Kennedy told The Liberal last week.

There are no storage facilities, and the space is so limited it is impossible to employ female staff, he said.

The Spruce Street station, though it houses a \$105,000 vehicle, is unmanned, with staff (mostly volunteer) arriving only when an alarm is sounded.

"This system does not belong in today's fire fighting methods when this type of equipment is involved."

"It is risky to assume a sufficient number of people will answer an alarm," Kennedy wrote in a report submitted to

council. He says councillors originally agreed to a \$625,000 debenture for a new hall, yet are insisting on further cuts in spite of the fact the proposed structure is only expected to cost \$620,000.

The principle matters of contention seem to be the hose drying and training tower, the classroom-gymnasium, and the darkroom; all of which Kennedy maintains are necessary. This in spite of a report submitted last week by Councillors Mike Burnie and Al Duffy.

The Duffy-Burnie report describes visits to Etobicoke and Mississauga halls, which either do not have or do not use these 'frills'.

Kennedy says a hose drying tower capable of handling up to 50 lengths of hose is much preferable to either the oven or wall-rack systems employed by the metropolitan halls.

"The majority of their fires are fought near hydrants", said Kennedy. "We would use more hose on the average."

"As well, volunteers could leave to get on with other work."

The oven system could handle up to 10 lengths, the rack system nine.

Kennedy stresses the tower will also be used as a training facility — where the men can practice and still be close to their trucks.

"All I want," said Kennedy, "is to provide the municipality with a well-trained staff, able to handle most emergencies in a well-trained manner."

He told The Liberal a darkroom would be used especially in case of inquest, and be available for other community groups as well.

"They're grasping at straws," he said.

"They don't like the fire department and think all firefighters are over-

paid." Over the next 30 years, Kennedy said he expected the force to grow to 150 men from its present 27.

Big teacher salary issue is increments

Increments in everything will be the theme of this year's salary negotiations between York County board of education and its teachers.

Monday night, (Apr. 25) the board announced it agreed increments would be "considered as part of a package in all costing and all Anti-Inflation Board submissions."

Last year the board tangled with the secondary teachers after sending their wage submissions to the AIB with the increments in.

Don Nixon, president of Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation, District 11, said at the time the teachers had their wage agreement approved with increments out.

The submission was also to be a joint one from the teachers and trustees,

he said. However, only the board's form was submitted.

The board eventually sent the AIB another reporting form leaving the increments out, but pointing out that, under the terms of their agreement, they could either be left in or taken out.

Monday's motion was passed 17-3, with three abstentions.

Trustee Margaret Coburn of King, whose

husband is a teacher in Newmarket, declared a conflict of interest, as did Chairman Craig Cribar of Newmarket, whose wife is a school secretary.

Help your HEART FUND

Civic corner

The following meetings of civic interest have been scheduled in Richmond Hill during the next two weeks:

Monday April 25, 8 p.m. — Ward 4, public meeting, Richmond Hill high school.

Monday May 2, 7:15 p.m. — council chambers, regular council meeting.

Tuesday May 3, 4 p.m. — deputy treasurer's office, finance committee.

Tuesday May 3, 7:30 p.m. — council chambers, planning committee.

Wednesday May 4, 7:30 p.m. — committee room "B", bylaw procedures, fire and personnel committee.

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Speed limit enforcers not needed

NEWMARKET — If there's a speed limit posted, motorists shouldn't have to be told it is being enforced.

This was the consensus of opinion at the regional council meeting last week.

Council turned down a request from the York Regional Board of Commissioners of Police.

The commissioners asked signs be posted notifying the public "speed limits within the Regional Municipality of York are strictly enforced by mechanical devices."

Councillor George Timpon of Aurora seemed to speak for the majority when he said, "It seems a little ridiculous to put up signs warning people that if they break the law they're going to be prosecuted."

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