

Miklas quits race

By Jim Irving

Dusty Miklas, the former Markham Township staff engineer who threw his hat into the political ring a couple of weeks ago, has thrown it right out again.

Miklas, a candidate for the Progressive-Conservative federal riding of York North, said there was too much of a conflict with the provincial election set for June 9 and the federal

nomination meeting set for July 10.

He termed the latter action, "short-sighted." "York North PCs should be allowed the opportunity to seek out, interest and subsequently promote worthy candidates," he said.

"An early nomination date will certainly make this task an impossible one."

With a provincial election June 9, all Conservatives, must work to elect Bill Corcoran," Miklas said.

Corcoran, a member of Richmond Hill council for five years, won over Kerry Gilmor of Markham and Dick Perdue of Toronto at the nomination meeting in Thornhill last month.

To carry on the mechanics of a federal nomination would fragment the party workers and ultimately confuse the electorate, Miklas said.

He said he would have certainly been a candidate had the meeting been postponed until the fall, and efforts had been made to talk his opponent, Markham lawyer, John Gamble, into waiting until that time.

However, the efforts failed. When asked if he was committed to supporting Corcoran, Miklas said: "Only to the degree I feel strongly."

He was first and foremost a Conservative, committed to whomever got in, he said.

There were many problems affecting Thornhill, which was "going to get grabbed off" if it didn't have a representative.

"I don't see a federal election this year," Miklas said. "So we had lots of time to get a man elected here and have a nomination in the fall."

"People are going to be confused enough as it is."

Despite his withdrawal from the race, Miklas said he would continue to promote the philosophy and practice of the PC party.



(Photo by Hogg)

Spring Fair Friday to Sunday

Even though spring seems reluctant to get up in the air these days, there's nothing holding back Allison Geddes of Milliken, and her horse, First Pioneer, as they take off over a

hurdle in a bit of practice before this weekend's Richmond Hill Spring Fair. The horse, a four-year-old, is owned by George Ledson, past president of the

fair, and owner of Cavalier Farms, Con. 7, Markham. (See page A6 for story, plus pictures of fair princesses and senior king-queen candidates.)

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Trustees angry town meddling

Richmond Hill's desire to screen the York County education budget, and an angry Richmond Hill resident's reaction, were the source of a heated discussion at Monday night's board

meeting. Trustees agreed with resident Bob Martin, who called the council's desire 'meddling'. This was in a letter submitted last week.

"We will have them see ours if they will have us see theirs," said East Gwillimbury Trustee William Denison. "Council should stay out of the budget business of the board."

Trustee Norm Weller of Aurora, however, told his colleagues they might have something to learn by examining the "piddling little increases" in municipal spending.

"I would certainly like to know what's in our budget," he said.

"It could be a learning experience," Robert Houghton, trustee from Richmond Hill, was much less open to the suggestion.

"I move that we tell the council of Richmond Hill where they can stuff their request," he said.

"Meddling is exactly the term that should be used."

"Never have I, in public, said the town should clean up the dangerous swamp north of town, or improve street lighting."

"I felt they should do this themselves. But now they have enough time to sit on their backsides and criticize us, I'll point out mistakes and things they missed."

"If they have a concern, why can't they get off their seats and run for the board of education themselves?" he demanded.

"I can't see the point of starting a feud with council," said Eric Baker of Richmond Hill.

"Let's get on with business."

The board moved simply to receive Martin's letter of protest.

May 18 session school bounds

Members of the public wishing to comment on school boundary changes in Richmond Hill, will get their chance to at a meeting Wednesday night (May 18) at 8 p.m. at Beverley Acres public school.

The meeting was called by York County board of education after formation of a committee to study proposed zoning changes in the area.

Various proposals have been suggested by the board during the past two months to deal with overcrowding in Ross Doan public school, and decreasing enrolment in the junior wing of Crosby Heights.

These proposals have drawn considerable criticism from parents of children in the affected areas.

Changes in the attendance zones of a number of schools in both districts would have to be made to spread the school population over the area.

The committee studying the matter is made up of Area 3 superintendent

Walter Willms; Richmond Hill Councillor Al Duffy, the three Richmond Hill school board trustees, Robert Houghton, Bill Monroe and Eric Baker; three teachers: Mrs. Barbara Rubie, Roselawn Senior public school, Bryan Buchan, Walter Scott, and Mrs. Evelyn Lawrence, McKillop; and two members of the public: Mrs. Susan Stoner and E. C. Nokes, both of Richmond Hill.

Trustee Baker told The Liberal that, in naming the latter two people, the board decided "to avoid giving one school a preponderant interest, no one who is an officer in a home and school association, would be included."

Mrs. Beverly Breslow of Richvale, said her group which would be taking in all of the Ward 6 area, was sending a letter to school board chairman, Craig Cribar, "expressing its displeasure" in the selection of the study group.

Dog scoop bylaw unfair

A Thornhill dog lover last week charged that Markham's proposed "scoop and scoop" bylaw is discriminatory.

"This is outright discrimination against dogs," Margaret Finlay told council Thursday.

"What about animals that leave a terrible smell, foul children's sandboxes and kill birds?" she asked.

Councillors agreed the bylaw singled out dogs. They were prohibited by a medieval royal decree still on the books to do anything to interfere with cats.

Council was expected to give two out of three readings to bylaws making owners responsible for the mess their pets may leave behind on public property and in parks.

Since complaints have been coming from built-up areas, the bylaws apply to registered plans of subdivision.

Councillors are ready for howls of protest from dog owners before the final reading is considered. The bylaws

call for a fine of up to \$1,000 but that is part of the standard wording.

They also suggest an owner could be convicted on the testimony of a single eye witness.

Mrs. Finlay suggested this was Hitlerism, asking neighbors to spy on each other.

What about outright vindictiveness? Mrs. Finlay asked.

Councillor Ron Moran admitted there was a chance a neighbor getting a dog out of spite but dogs fouling streets and parks were a major concern.

He had just come from a meeting in the Grandview area where mothers had voiced their concerns over dogs being in the park where their children had been.

Councillor Stand Daurio has been collecting a file on the subject for a year. He said the problem was a health hazard.

Councillor Ron Fenson was alone in suggesting the problem needed more study.

"I would never be in favor of a \$1,000 fine for the first offence. Maybe for the 10th offence," he said.

Councillor Carole Bell said, "We are lucky to get \$50 out of the courts."

Mrs. Pat Barnes, Donalbuin Crescent, Thornhill, presented a petition in favor of the bylaws. While going door-to-door, she said she only received three refusals to sign.

"Two people asked if I had anything better to do with my time."

Battle pool law

About 50 Markham residents have been served with notices to comply with the town's stringent swimming pool bylaw.

A dozen of them protested to council Thursday and won a two-week extension to the notice to comply, while the council takes yet another look at the fencing provision in the bylaw.

"I don't care a bit how much a fence costs or how it looks but I am now wondering if what we thought was a safety measure is in fact making pools safer," said Councillor Tom Gove.

At issue is the town's insistence on a fence four feet high all the way around the pool, allowing no direct access from the house.

Councillor Stan Daurio tried unsuccessfully to have the bylaw changed earlier this year. But when the attempt failed, the town building department went back and issued orders to comply to those who had installed pools last year when the bylaw was up in the air.

One woman said she had her fence taken down after being told by someone in the department it wasn't needed.

The objectors suggested it would take someone longer to get through the fence with the self-closing lock on the pool side to rescue a child in trouble in a pool than if there was no such barrier.

Dexter Ham of Markham was applauded by the whole group for summing up the law as "asinine."

Councillor Alma Walker said if people had been told not to build a fence by building department staff, "we should slap a few wrists down there."

She would never change her mind on the bylaw.

"There have been two deaths in Markham from children walking out into the backyard and falling in."

Councillor Bud Bonner said, "We must have talked 1,000 hours about pools by now. They are obviously hazardous. Maybe what we should be doing is banning pools."

But he went on to suggest, "We have to start releasing ourselves from responsibilities that should be mother's and father's."

Councillor Walter Grieve said, "What a man does in his own house is his own prerogative."

Councillor Carole Bell said her yard looked like a rabbit run with the fencing around the pool. "I don't know who would buy the place. Some people need keys to open their fence gates and some even have combination locks, said Mrs. Bell.

"Can you imagine trying to remember the combination when someone is struggling?"

About half the people in town have no protection at all, she said. They are the ones who had pools before the bylaw was passed.

Cyclist hurt

A Richmond Hill youth suffered a broken collar bone after being knocked from his bike while riding on Carrville Rd. last week, according to York Regional police.

Police said the boy, John Kempton, 13, of Edgar Ave., had just ridden by a group of youths when one of them kicked the bike.

The boy lost control and fell onto the road.

A 17-year-old youth is a suspect in the matter.



(Photo by Hogg)

Mary Poppins at Our Lady

Students at Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic separate school on Bayview Avenue will be producing their own version of Mary Poppins tonight, starting at 7:30 p.m. Here, Patrick Ribbons, 10, of

Anzac Crescent in Richmond Hill (Henry Banks); Lucia Forli, 10, of Sussex Avenue (Mrs. Banks); Gine Zazzara, 9, of Zelda Crescent (Mary Poppins); Della McArthur, 10, of Browndale Crescent (Barbara

Banks); Stephen Ceballo, 11, of Crosby Avenue (Michael Banks); and Paul McMurray, 10, of Cartier Crescent (John Banks) check some last minute details.

Coburn cleared

An action against King Trustee Margaret Coburn of York County board of education, charging her with a conflict of interest, has been dismissed with costs to the applicant.

This was in a decision by County Court Judge H. Waisberg, Mrs. Coburn told The Liberal this week.

The action was laid by Vince De Vita of King. He ran unsuccessfully against both Coburn and Trustee Dorothy Zajac of King in the December elections.

Mrs. Coburn, whose husband is a member of the Huron Heights secondary school teaching staff in Newmarket, was a member of the teachers' salary negotiating committee at the time, but has since resigned.

In her letter of resignation to the board, dated April 5, she said: "It has become apparent to me the two teacher-board negotiating teams are not structured sufficiently independently to permit me to participate, and I would therefore ask to be replaced as a team member."

At the time of laying the charge, De Vita told The Liberal 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.

DeVita was not available at press time for comment on the court judgment.

Sneak preview

For \$2, you can get a sneak preview of "That's Country" at the Richmond Hill Odeon.

Lorne Green will take the audience through 30 years of country music, with dozens of performances by the genre's great voices.

For ticket information, contact CFGM radio, 961-1320.

All proceeds will go to the Dellcrest Children's Centre.

Inside The Liberal

Ont. ladies ball

Richmond Hill is host to the Junior Ladies Ontario Elimination Softball Tournament June 24. See story Sports Page B1.

Chris Olsen, at left, is NDP candidate for York North in the June 9 provincial election. Nomination meeting stories and pictures Page C1.



Chris Olsen ... nominated

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