

Who controls development?

Those who attended The Liberal Forum Monday night heard candid and wide-ranging debate between the three York Centre candidates.

One subject was the future of municipal autonomy.

"We must force municipalities to follow a strict timetable for subdivision approvals," said Alf Stong, Liberal candidate, re-affirming his dislike of government 'red tape'.

He suggested direct provincial intervention should a municipality delay approval for more than nine months.

"We hear of it (housing land subdivision) taking eight years," he said.

"There are 75 different departments a plan must go through to be accepted. The problem is with the Davis government."

"I propose going to various municipalities and saying 'You have to provide homes for 100 families in the next 18 months,'" said Stong.

He added, "I want to protect municipal autonomy."

"I don't care what developers say," argued NDP candidate Chris Olsen, "they don't have a long term interest. They have a short term interest."

"It seems Mr. Stong and Mr. Smith are saying the OMB should be circumvented in a great many cases," he said.

Progressive Conservative candidate

Bill Corcoran said "the problem lies very definitely in the municipality. If you have a no-growth council."

"We have a study going on in Richmond Hill," he said, "to see if people need housing. It's been going on for five years now."

"But there's no way we want to bypass the OMB."

In response to a question from the floor, Corcoran suggested York Centre should have a PC member at Queen's Park because "they certainly give the goodies to people who are part of the government. That's just common sense."

The questioner replied, "I thought government governed the whole province, not only the PC ridings."

Stong (the incumbent) said, "I don't

think people in this riding have been shortchanged one iota."

And Olsen said, "Bill Corcoran's answer pointed out the very thing that's wrong with the Tory government today."

"That's the kind of Tory favoritism that's absolutely wrong in government."

Earlier, Corcoran answered Alf Stong's charge that the election was an unnecessary and extravagant expenditure of 20 million dollars by saying, "Where do you think the money has been spent? Right here in Ontario! It all spells jobs, jobs, jobs!"

Someone in the audience was heard to reply, "We should have an election every week."

Which way education?

The quality and future of education in Ontario became the subject of heated debate at The Liberal's York Centre election Forum Monday night in Thornlea secondary school.

"He (Davis) has cheated our children and our young people," said Liberal candidate Alf Stong. "Students are free to graduate without learning even basic reading, writing and arithmetic."

"It's simply not true that children are

graduating without knowing how to read and write," said NDP hopeful Chris Olsen — himself a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

"I don't think either Mr. Davis or Mr. Wells know too much about education. They failed to give any indication to teachers as to how to go about teaching the open system," he said.

"Our education minister just can't tell whether a suggestion is good or bad."

Olsen was vehemently opposed to the suggestion that standardized exams be re-introduced.

"Exams are not the test of knowledge, let me tell you that!" he said.

Stong argued for values-education in the classroom, saying "we expect them (students) to respect property, we expect them to earn a living, to compete. They have to learn to play to win."

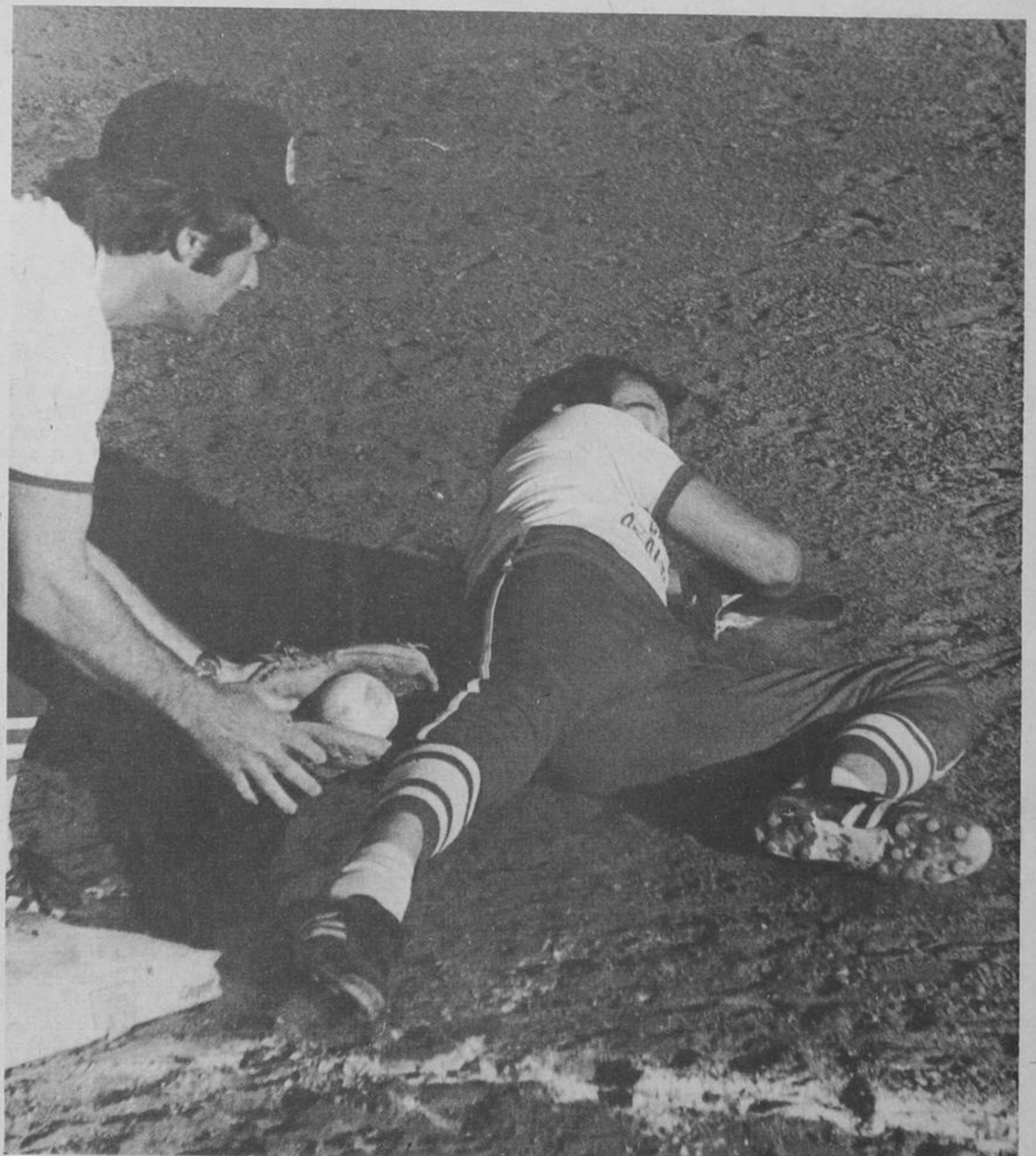
"Where are the parents in disciplining the children?" demanded Olsen.

"I've never understood that competition is part of education," he said.

"Not competition with each other. There should be co-operative activity rather than competitive activity."

"Administration costs are sinking the whole system," he said.

"There must be some way to get bureaucrats back in the classroom."



Will he make it?

No. Action is fast and furious here as Jenkin's Hardware's Bruce Samson nails Jack Blyth Real Estate's Bryan Jones cold

turkey as he makes a desperate dive back to first base. Scene was the start last week of the

1977 Richmond Hill Men's Fastball League. Jenkin's won this game by 4-0.

(Photo by Hogg)

The Liberal

Richmond Hill Edition

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

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Teachers' salaries are rolled back

Craig Cribar, chairman of York County board of education, has taken the blame for his fellow board members not being informed about a letter from the Anti-Inflation Board informing them of a rollback in teacher salaries.

The AIB directive, which surfaced at an emergency meeting of the board Monday night (May 30) but which had apparently been in the hands of administration as early as April 27, rolled back the salaries of 26 elementary teachers and four secondary teachers, because they exceeded the \$2,400 individual increase allowed.

The AIB also ruled the entire collective agreement of the teachers must be revised in order to be consistent with the rollbacks.

Monday night's meeting was called to deal with the omission of the information from the board. According to Liberal sources, Cribar's admission of guilt in the matter, prevented a motion from getting on the floor that would have censured two board administrators — George Ford, superintendent of business, and John Kippen, associate director of education, for "withholding" the AIB letter from the rest of the board.

Instead, the trustees passed three motions: to receive the letters from the AIB, approve the actions of staff, and appoint the chairman of the salary

negotiating committee — Bill Monroe of Richmond Hill — and last year's chairman — Dorothy Zajac of King — to meet with the executives of both the elementary and secondary teachers' federations "to discuss the ramifications and other aspects of the rollbacks."

Trustee Bob McMonagle of Thornhill, said the proposed motion against Ford and Kippen was designed to proceed with their eventual removal, if carried.

McMonagle said he was "extremely unhappy" with the way the meeting had gone. The trustees had met beforehand to discuss mutual problems and all agreed they needed more facts and information to deal with various issues.

However, whenever it was suggested the administration was remiss in anything, he said he was taken to task by the majority of the board for daring to question their actions.

"If government agencies were perfect, we wouldn't need elected representatives," McMonagle said.

He said a motion would be presented to the next regular board meeting, that would open up information received by the administrators that was the business of the trustees.

In defending his actions, board chairman Cribar, said he was shown the letter regarding the rollback May 18.

"I felt it was an administration matter to get the ball rolling," he said in pointing out why he hadn't informed the trustees.

He had since realized he "blundered," he said. "I would say that when staff made the letter known to me, I should have got it out to the trustees."

"If I made a mistake, it certainly wasn't intentional," Cribar said. "... I

certainly apologize to the trustees."

When asked if any of the administrative staff would be affected by the rollbacks, he said he wasn't sure.

Cribar also denied he had had a "change of heart," in letting a delegation appear before the board last week, after they had originally been turned down, as reported in The Liberal.

The delegation, headed by Peter Silverman of East Gwillimbury, appeared before the board May 24, to present the members with more information on the proposed outdoor recreation centre at Scanlon Creek.

The previous meeting the board agreed to commit a maximum of \$36,000 of next year's budget to the centre.

It was the contention of the delegation the board hadn't received adequate information about the centre and provided more data to back up its claim.

Cribar said the delegation was asked to come June 13, instead of May 24, because a report from the trustee evaluation committee was to have been heard at that time.

Corcoran against annexation

By Tom Gale

Bill Corcoran, PC candidate for York Centre, says his party is "firmly against any recommendation to annex Thornhill with Metro Toronto."

This surprised Liberal incumbent Alf Stong, who charged "Richard Rohmer, counsel for the Robarts Commission, publicly stated he would favor annexation."

Chris Olsen, NDP hopeful, said he was "pleased indeed" to hear of Corcoran's stand.

The three were addressing an audience of about 150 last Thursday in the Hillcrest Mall auditorium.

"When the Liberals or the NDP suggest far reaching changes, get out a calculator and add it up."

"Ask 'how much?'" said Corcoran. "The Liberals and the NDP hardly ever have a good word to say about anything that happens in this province. It's either 'too little' or 'too late'."

"The government is moving as fast as a responsible body can. If we win a majority and put an end to corridor conferences and backroom manoeuvres, we could probably go faster," he said.

"I will speak up... sometimes I might even be called mouthy, when I

feel an injustice has been done."

Corcoran told his listeners he was "undeniably" against the revival of the Pickering airport, and promised to push his cabinet colleagues "personally" to make the Markham and Unionville by-passes a reality.

"This would be the first step to the preservation of communities," he said.

Calling it his "first priority," Corcoran said he felt the Parkway Belt West should not infringe on the Langstaff community.

Liberal Alf Stong asked the audience how Corcoran could account for the fact the Uplands Golf Course, and 2,000 acres of land between Steeles, Bathurst, Yonge and Highway 7 were to be exempt from the Parkway.

He called the election "one of the most extravagant and unnecessary expenditures in the history of Ontario," especially in light of the current unemployment picture in the province.

Saying small business is the backbone of this nation's economy, Stong put forward the Liberal suggestion that government subsidize 20 per cent of the salaries of otherwise unemployed people taking positions in small business.

"It's direct, easy to administer, and small businessmen tell me it will

work," said Stong.

"They're prepared to take a chance." Stong said he would stand on his record.

"We've worked hard together, and we will continue to do so."

"I cannot claim expertise on planning, nevertheless, most of what I will say will be about planning," said Dr. Chris Olsen.

"The Tory government has become distant, and its insensitivity has become widely recognized."

Olsen said he felt proper planning to be the single most important ingredient of municipal government, "especially in York Centre, which comes under such heavy pressures for development."

He said he was not against growth, but against over-hasty unplanned growth; growth for example that takes place on prime agricultural land.

A member of the audience suggested "every election has brought more and more new promises. I don't think any of them are any good unless the old system is good. The lawyers end up with a monopoly on laws and anyone who wants to know must pay."

"I totally agree," said Olsen. "I just finished trying to read the Landlords and Tenants Act."

"He referred to Premier Davis's Charter for Ontario and asked 'if they haven't been able to do it in 34 years, do you really think they'll be able to do it in the future?'"

"Olsen did not answer what you were asking," observed candidate Stong, himself a lawyer.

Stong agreed that many of our laws are unintelligible to the average reader and said, "We think everyone should be able to understand the law."

Resignation, 'cover up' at York Board of Ed.

A showdown is looming between certain members of York County board of education and the senior administrative staff.

Just before The Liberal went to press last night (May 30), the following events were revealed: Trustee John Stephens of Markham, announced his resignation from the board salary negotiating committee, citing the board's lack of resolution in making issues public; an anonymous letter was sent to the Anti-Inflation Board, with a photocopy of board-approved salary ranges for supervisory officers showing two getting more than the \$2,400 increase allowed.

"Why did you approve these increases?" the letter asked.

The letter then charges that the AIB let the increases slip by one year ago.

It also charges Chairman Craig Cribar with approving a "coverup" this time.

The other issue was the board's action in selling a piece of board-owned property to the town of Newmarket for \$20.

The action caused Richmond Hill Trustee Eric Baker to resign from the

board's committee reviewing the sale of unused property.

Said Baker: "... the board dealt with one valuable property without considering the report of its own committee on policy — despite the fact that the board had specifically deferred the transaction until after policy was amended."

Baker said there was no point in serving on such a committee. He said, also, he doubted the board was legally entitled to give away its assets, nor "morally entitled to finance council responsibilities when it has so many unmet budget needs for education."

He told The Liberal some trustees claimed Newmarket was "entitled to a favor," because the board was able to get Valley of Cedars site at \$11,000 an acre.

Baker said he rejected that argument, because councils would be "doing us a real favor only if they gave us the same treatment they themselves get from subdividers."

This included land for roads and parks, money for utilities, plus lot fees.

The board property was estimated to be worth between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Psychiatric tests ordered

Psychiatric tests have been ordered for Marlene Moore, 19, of Oak Ridges, and Isabella Ogima, 18, of Thunder Bay, who pleaded guilty to seven different charges in Brampton court recently.

The two women, who giggled throughout and also shouted obscenities at Judge D. Ord, were appearing in court as a result of a hostage incident at the prison.

At that time, tin can tops folded in half, were held against the throats of two female guards by the two defendants.

The guards were later released.

Detective Donald Bick of Peel Regional Police, told the court he felt the women would have carried out their threats to slit the throats of their captives, if certain demands were not

met. However, after speaking to duty counsel Peter Budnick, who said he didn't feel they were fit to enter pleas without being first assessed, Judge Ord said he would put their sentencing over until Wednesday; also, he might reconsider their pleas if it would help.

Moore and Ogima pleaded guilty to two counts of assaulting the guards, and to one count of mischief in connection with the destruction of confidential documents belonging to the ministry of corrections.

They also pleaded guilty to wilfully setting their mattresses on fire, possession of dangerous weapons, and two charges of forcible seizure of the guards, all of which are indictable offences.



The big blow

With a huff and a puff! Greg Knights, 6, and Janit Beynon, 5, kindergarten pupils at Beverley Acres school, get ready to blow out the candles on the Queen's

'birthday' cake. The giant creation was manufactured by the kids to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's jubilee.

(Photo by Hogg)

Inside The Liberal

Oh, those Dynes!

Richmond Hill Dynes Jewellers' fastball team wins three more games for a 5-0 win-loss record. Softball is also under way on several other fronts including the Richmond Hill Men's Softball League. For complete details turn to Sports B-1.

Liberal, Conservative, NDP. Want to know more about the people behind the names? Turn to C1 for profiles of the three York Centre candidates.

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