

# Bubble trouble

By Tom Gale

Remember the tennis bubble? The one that almost went in at Crosby Park? Well, that didn't work, so the proponents suggested Morgan Boyle Park. At first, it seemed much the better location.

At last week's parks and recreation committee meeting, however, councillors learned differently. Residents in nearby areas objected — loudly — and the committee passed a resolution against winter tennis in Morgan Boyle.

After debating the question for over an hour Monday night, council voted 5-3 to negate the earlier negative resolution, and then voted 5-3 again to give approval in principle to the project.

That is, if it's legal! The executive of the South Richvale Ratepayers' Association thinks even the existing tennis facility is not conforming with the town's R2 zoning bylaws.

Mayor David Schiller admitted it was "a point well taken," and the final

approving resolution was conditional upon clarification of this point.

In debating the issue, Schiller suggested concerns expressed about traffic increases were not really justified.

But he said he would object to the proposal on the basis of the energy it would require to heat the bubble over the winter months.

"Cumulative effects of decisions of this kind regarding energy," he said, "could be very damaging in future."

"The decisions we'll have to make over the next few years won't be happy ones."

Those in favour of the bubble maintained it provided a needed service, the cost of which made it prohibitive for the public sector.

Councillor Burnie objected that the rights of the minority must be immediately affected by the bubble must be respected, and argued "we're giving it to them, over the objections of the people most directly related."

In the final vote, Councillors Burnie and Wainwright and Mayor Schiller voted against the proposal.



(Photo by Huxx)

## The long arm of the law

Though he says he felt "very badly" about doing it, neither Constable Gordon nor Constable Mason in the eye victim Councillor

Marylo Graham seem to mind too much. All proceeds for last week's flakey event — part of Richmond Heights Centre's

Bonanza '77 — will go towards the York Region United Way. Other highlights of the day included the 'Family of Man'

singing group, the 'Tempos' and a mystery prize.

# The Liberal

Richmond Hill Edition

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

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## Town taxes up 6.3%

"Although we haven't been officially served with a requisition, our levy will be about \$1,436,000."

Richmond Hill Treasurer Bill Rice told The Liberal last week that if this figure is accurate, "there will be no significant change in the levy for regional services."

The present rate is \$90.84 for an assessment of \$20,000.

In general, residents' town taxes will jump 6.3 per cent, or from \$236.74 to \$251.74 for an assessment of \$20,000, Rice said.

The public school tax is up 15.4 per cent, (from \$178.92 to \$206.42). The secondary school tax is up 1.7 per cent, (from \$172.48 to \$175.44).

This means the total tax bill for a Richmond Hill resident with a

### It's a car-pool

Readers have been calling The Liberal asking why cars are parked near entrance ramps along Highway 400 during the day.

According to Fred Cederberg of the public safety and information board of the ministry of transportation and communication, people are car-pooling.

"They get into one car and go to their destination," said Cederberg.

"I'm not even sure that's government property," he said.

"As far as I'm concerned it's government property they're parking on," said Corporal Smith of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Both Smith and Cederberg agreed, if no-one complained, it was all right for cars to park there.

\$20,000 assessment will jump from \$678.98 to \$724.44 or 6.7 per cent.

In other words, the mill rate is up from 33.949 to 36.222.

Separate school supporters face an increase of only 4.6 per cent; from \$718.36 to \$751.10.

# Schiller wants landlord prosecuted after gas shut-off to apartments

Tenants at 45 Trayborn Avenue Richmond Hill were without gas for three days last week. Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller feels the landlord involved should be prosecuted.

"The thing that really bothers me," he said, "is that here you have a landlord whose simply not paying his bills. It's not the tenants' fault that the landlord is taking their rent money and not paying bills."

"I hate to see the landlord get away scott free. I don't think that's very fair to the tenants."

But Julian Polika, director of Crown law office-civil for the attorney general, told The Liberal Tuesday nothing could be done unless a tenant files a complaint directly. At that point, he said, a local Crown attorney can take action.

The Trayborn Avenue property is one of several managed by Horst Leebeck for West German owners. According to Glen Waugh, district of York regional manager for Consumer's Gas, Leebeck's was "obviously a defaulting account of considerable seriousness for

a considerable period of time."

"The amount involved was substantial," he said, explaining the shut-off was delayed as long as possible, and only undertaken during the warmest part of the year.

"The tenants are the innocent people," he said. "It's the landlord whose responsible."

"It goes back a long time."

Although only 48 hours' notice was required, the company informed tenants 15 days in advance and offered to supply electric heaters if necessary.

Mr. Leebeck's secretary told The Liberal her employer would be out of town until press deadline, but argued the problem was with the gas companies, which, she said, increased rates well beyond the eight per cent ceiling imposed on rents.

Director Waugh admitted "gas costs for that particular size apartment have increased approximately 25 per cent for the past 12 months over the previous 12 months."

But Ralph McGee, information officer for York Region rent review board told The Liberal "the whole basis for rent review is to permit the passing through to tenants of a bona fide cost increase."

"He can't say he can't pay the bills," said McGee. "Because I'd say he's not paying the bills." He told The Liberal Leebeck never applied for rent review.

Under Section 107 of the Landlord and Tenant Act, any landlord found guilty of "withholding reasonable supply of any vital service, such as heat, fuel, electricity, gas, water, or other vital service" is subject to a fine of up to \$2,000.

## Board delays the Scanlon Creek centre

By Jim Irving

While two former members hooted from the sidelines, and the present members hooted at each other across the table, York County board of education last week eventually agreed not to head up Scanlon Creek without first acquiring a paddle.

As a result, the board will delay drawing up an agreement with South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority for the use of Scanlon Creek outdoor education centre.

At its regular meeting two weeks ago the board agreed to commit a maximum of \$36,000 of next year's budget to the centre, which is still to be built.

However, after listening to a delegation, headed by Peter Silverman of East Gwillimbury, it was decided to form an ad hoc committee, as suggested by Trustee Eric Baker of Richmond Hill, of not more than three

board members and appropriate staff members, to be named by the education director, to study all aspects of outdoor education in the region.

The Baker resolution came after one by Bob McMonagle of Markham, calling for the chairman "to withhold any action" on the centre until the board had fully evaluated similar programs and costs, was defeated.

It was the contention of the meeting that the motion went against the motion of the earlier meeting, in which the board voted 12-6 to proceed. It was ruled out of order by Chairman Craig Cribar.

A subsequent amendment by McMonagle, calling for staff to delay drawing up an agreement, was passed 9-8 in a recorded vote.

However, the amended motion, featuring Baker's proposal, was passed 16-1 in another recorded vote, with only Trustee Dorothy Zajac of King, voting against.

In his brief, Silverman pointed out the board had three other centres — Albion, Clarendon and Boyd — available for its use, but in the past two years had not used all its allotted time.

Also, there were two proposed Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority centres in Oak Ridges and Kleinburg. The board had been offered shared commitments from MTRCA to both these places, but had never replied.

"If the board decides to make this type of program an educational priority, then the board must be prepared to allocate sufficient funds in their budget to cover the expense of the program," Silverman said.

He said parents shouldn't be expected to pay the shot.

Trustee John Stephens of Markham, said the board had been "misled" at its previous meeting, not having been informed of the ramifications of the project, or that there were two other centres being proposed.

The amendment to delay was absolutely necessary.

"Surely you don't invest staff time when you're not sure of the commitment. I feel that staff stands condemned by the figures presented today. It's absolute folly on the board's part to tell staff to proceed," Stephens said.

Trustee Zajac said the board had a delegation from the Simcoe authority last year and the board approved the idea in principle at that time.

"That's not true," shouted former trustee Chris McMonagle of Markham,

a member of the delegation.

Her husband, Bob, who succeeded her on the board, said that it was "totally immoral" to proceed with the agreement.

Speaking against the agreement, William Laird of Georgina, said he wasn't "prepared to throw out the advice of staff on the basis of the information of a 15-minute delegation."

Donald Cousins of Markham, took exception to Stephens' remarks that the staff stood "condemned," and asked for an apology.

Said Stephens: "I apologize because I seek truth and justice and you are doing everything to subvert it."

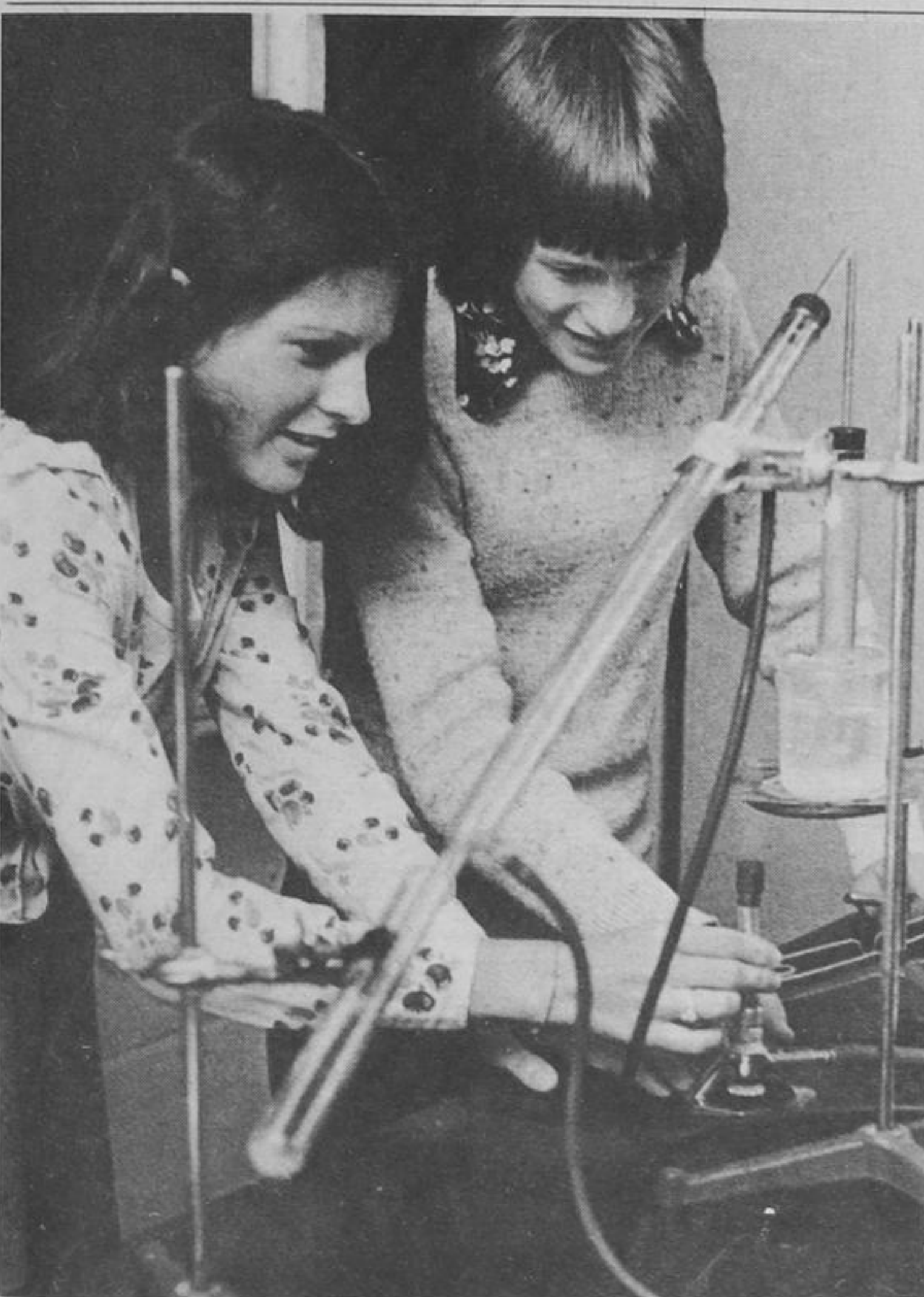
The meeting also agreed to a motion by William Denison of East Gwillimbury to have the ad hoc committee report back to the board at the second meeting in June.

Also accompanying Silverman and Mrs. McMonagle were former trustee Joy Horton of East Gwillimbury, and Marilyn Russell of Sharon.

This week, Peter Seibert, a spokesman for the South Lake Simcoe authority, said the latter would develop the Scanlon centre, with or without the support of the York board.

He said construction of the \$350,000 centre would begin this summer, and would be ready for use by the beginning of next year.

Seibert said the York Region Roman Catholic separate school board had requested \$10,000 towards its construction.



(Photo by Huxx)

## In the top 2%

If they look like they know what they're doing . . . they do. Richard Thompson of 19th Avenue and Sue Melsness of Windhurst Gate finished 28th and 63rd of 6,600 Ontario high school chemistry students

competing for the University of Waterloo's CHEM 13 NEWS award. Here the two Bayview secondary school students prepare a hydrocarbon using distillation.

## Corruption, not pollution

Ratepayers may ask the courts to order Mr. Justice Sam Hughes to give them status before the judicial inquiry into election contributions, says Tom Connolly, president of the Maple Ratepayers Association.

Judge Hughes ruled Friday that the inquiry was set up to investigate corruption, not pollution.

Connolly said John Swaigen, lawyer for the ratepayers, was suggesting the ratepayers go to the courts to have a change ordered in the judge's position.

"It seems to us we would be the most injured party," said Connolly, whose group has been involved in hearings of the Environmental Assessment Board in Maple.

The inquiry was set up to find out if there was any wrongdoing involving the government or its agencies regarding dump applications made by Waste Management Inc and its subsidiaries. One subsidiary, Disposal Services

Ltd., donated \$35,000 to the Progressive Conservative Party in 1974, the same year the subsidiary was seeking two approvals.

Another subsidiary, York Sanitation, had a site approved in Whitechurch-Stouffville despite problems with the town and ratepayers there.

Swaigen represents ratepayer groups in both places, and appeared before the judicial inquiry Friday.

It seems the only people who have a right to be parties at the inquiry are the companies who gave donations and those who may have been affected by it, he said.

The Environmental Assessment Board, ministry of environment, Waste Management Inc., Norman Goodhead and Disposal Services are all to be heard at the inquiry, said Swaigen.

If residents can show later in the hearing they have a direct interest in the proceedings, they can reapply for standing, he said.

## Watch live election coverage

Classcom TV in the York Region area Thursday night, June 9, carries live coverage of the provincial election results.

A panel of local people will be on hand to provide commentary and analysis. Reports will be heard from campaign headquarters throughout the area.

Ex-Councillor Gary Kay, North York

expert John Moore, and former candidates Jim Reed, Tony Roman, Bob Lewis and Margaret Britnell will form a panel to provide commentary and analysis.

Each of the candidates for York Centre and York North have been invited, win or lose, to the studio for a brief interview.

The program begins at 8 p.m.



Peter Etherington and Rob Butler . . . using every shred of news.

## Inside The Liberal

After you've read it, The Liberal can keep you warm. Ask these men; they make a business of converting newspaper into insulation. For the story, see Page C2.

Ian Scott, Jim Wilson, Bill Hodgson. You should know more about them before June 9. For profiles of the three York North candidates, turn to C1.

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