

Sod is turned for new fire hall



The Richmond Hill Fire Department will be moving to a new location, to the west of the police station on Major Mackenzie Drive, by next spring if all goes as planned.

Last Tuesday, Mayor David Schiller and fire chief, Bob Kennedy, took part in a sod-breaking ceremony at the site.

The architects are Allen, Brown and Sherriff and the estimated cost for the building is \$525,000 for construction plus about \$100,000 for external services such as landscaping, William Rice, town treasurer, said.

The new fire station is to be built on an acre and a half of land donated by BAIF associates, said Mr. Rice, and will centralize all the fire equipment from the Wright St. and Spruce Ave. stations.

"The expected completion date is late March or early April, but the move will have to be a total one," said Mr. Rice.

Electricians delay construction at 3 separate schools

By Doreen Livingstone

"It's a very frustrating situation" said Ed. Joyce, Superintendent of Business and Finance, York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Joyce was referring to the electrician's strike and the "snowballing effect" it has had on construction of schools in the entire region.

Affected are the construction of a new school building for St. Michael's in the German Mills area of Thornhill, an addition to St. Joseph's in Markham and, to a lesser degree, construction at Holy Name in King.

Another minor cause of the delay was the painter's strike which lasted three weeks.

Joyce says that the strike is "seriously affecting us because St. Joseph's and St. Michael's were going to be ready on the first school day."

"We need the portables in other places, but we are making do; it's

causing problems in other places," he said.

There is an enrolment growth in other schools and Joyce doesn't want to buy new portables for a short period when there are surplus portables.

"We had already moved three portables (from St. Michael's) when it hit so we are taking the older children and bussing about three class loads to St. Robert's until such time as St. Michael's is available," he said.

The classroom wing of St. Michael's has been affected and Joyce says that six weeks after the strike ends the school will be completed.

Bus routes already been set will have to be changed.

Also complicating things is the fact that at St. Michael's and St. Joseph's all the site work cannot be completed because the portables are located there "and if it doesn't end early it will have to be completed in the spring".

A letter is being prepared to be sent out to all parents.

Sod-breaking?

Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller and town's Fire Chief Bob Kennedy took the normal sod-breaking ceremony a step further last week when they began surveying site of community's new fire hall. It will be built on Major Mackenzie Drive at a cost of more than \$600,000. York Regional police station is in the background.

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Planning committee okays 7-storey seniors building

A new senior citizen apartment on the north side of Dunlop St. near Yonge was approved by town planning committee last Tuesday.

The seven-storey building will consist of 80 units with two suites especially designed for handicapped people, said architect Al Sherriff of Allen, Brown and Sherriff.

"There was a great demand from the seniors for a new building," said Mr. Sherriff. One hundred and nine applications were received.

One of the main benefits of the proposed building will be the park-like setting surrounding it. The existing trees will be maintained and garden plots, patios and paths for wheelchairs will be developed for the seniors, he said.

The \$1.3 million dollar structure will probably begin next spring after the area is rezoned and could open the fall of 1978.

It will be rezoned from second density residential to multiple residential, said Mayor David Schiller.

The Ontario Housing Corporation project will have easy access to downtown, public transit and other seniors.

"It seems like this is the type of housing preferred by senior citizens here; being close to downtown and public transit, it has what they want, and the town has an obligation to help provide it for them," said Mayor Schiller.

The building will be the fourth senior citizens' apartment in the same area and will be located west of an existing four storey structure.

When asked if the new building will overshadow the old, Mr. Sherriff explained that complete shadowing patterns had been looked at and the best one had been picked.

One of the changes from the original plan is that the building will be built closer to Dunlop St. giving more distance between the seniors and residents of Bedford Park, said Mayor Schiller.

The project still requires council approval, Sept. 6, but no delay is expected at that level.

Santa Claus parade meet this Monday

A meeting to organize a Santa Claus Parade for Richmond Hill will be held this Monday at the municipal building.

Chamber of Commerce President Dave Barrow told The Liberal yesterday that he was hoping for a good turnout, after a meeting called two weeks ago resulted in only two people showing up, including himself.

"I would like all those interested in participating in the organization to attend," he said. "Let's get it together or forget it, once and for all."

Steve Cox hits gold

Richmond Hill tennis star Steve Cox returned from the Canada Games in Newfoundland this week with a gold medal in his possession. Cox and his partner won six straight games to win the medal. Full details on the accomplishment are on Page A-5.

Born in Vaughan

Former Woodbridge reeve Fred Armstrong, 76, dies

Fred Armstrong, a lifetime resident of Vaughan, and a former reeve of Woodbridge for nine years, died Sunday, Aug. 14 at Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton at the age of 76.

Mr. Armstrong, who also served on Vaughan council for six years, had been in failing health for some time, and did not seek re-election last December.

In politics for 21 years, Mr. Armstrong started at the top as reeve in 1952.

"Someone nominated him for the top office and he got it," recalls former Vaughan Councillor Jack Gilbert, a friend of Mr. Armstrong's for 30 years.

While still reeve, he became warden of the County of York in 1958, and then served six years on Vaughan Council when the various areas amalgamated to become the Region of York.

A builder, Mr. Armstrong told a News reporter last year that he started by laying blocks, "but found out I was doing the bullwork and someone else was getting the gravy".

That's when he decided it was best to be in control of things himself. One of his many fine projects is the rubber factory in Woodbridge.

Horses, too. Along with his work, politics and horse racing were among his other great interests.

"He loved politics," said his widow, the former Ethel Louise Theobald.

"He enjoyed every bit of it; loved talking to the people. He'd be on the phone half his lunch hour," Mrs. Armstrong said this week.

Away from the political arena, he was often found at another arena, the race track, where he raced Remlat Jessie, his harness horse, until she was injured two years ago.

In his early years, Mr. Armstrong, who "lived in the valley all my life," and was a resident of Clarence St. ever since he was a teen, played lacrosse with teams from Richmond Hill and Weston.

Just as active in community affairs, he was president of the Woodbridge Driving (Racing) Club at the time of his death.

He was a charter member and past president of the Woodbridge Lions and the Woodbridge Fair Board. He also was prominent in horticulture activities.

Besides his wife, Mr. Armstrong leaves a daughter, Lorraine, (Mrs. Ronald Warner); three grandchildren, Debbie, (Mrs. E. Lucchetti), and Kim and Stephanie; two great-grandchildren, Jason and Rachel; and a sister, Della.

Funeral service will be held in the chapel at W. R. Scott and Son Funeral Home, 7776 Kipling Ave., Woodbridge, Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 17, at 2 o'clock.

Interment will be in Christ Church Cemetery.



FRED ARMSTRONG

Journey of Manse costs dime a foot

The manse is on the move . . . at least on paper.

The old Presbyterian Manse, no longer wanted where it has stood for more than 130 years on Yonge Street in downtown Richmond Hill, has been offered to Black Creek Pioneer Village.

That's the easy part. The Village has accepted the historic structure with open arms.

But the catch is to get it there. Funds are required to pay for the move, an 11-mile jaunt from Richmond Hill to the Steeles Avenue village.

David Fayle, chairman of LACAC (Local architectural conservation advisory committee), has devised the thermometer system to record the money raised, but this system has a twist.

Instead of counting dollars, this thermometer measures distance.

So far, the Manse is out to Trench Street, in western Richmond Hill.

According to Mr. Fayle, every dollar donated will move the Manse 10 feet closer to Pioneer Village.

Accordingly: \$528 will move it one mile. \$132 will move it one quarter of a mile.

If you really want to do things in a big way, \$725 will move the Manse from one main road intersection to another.

For example, \$725 takes the building from Yonge to Bathurst on Major Mackenzie, or from Dufferin to Keele on the Langstaff Sideroad.

The moving of the Manse is not measured only in dollars.

"Every penny helps," Mr. Fayle said.

Ten cents moves the Manse one foot, and a penny moves it more than an inch.

The Liberal newspaper will become the drop-off point for donations.

Send or take your contributions (marked Manse Fund) to the Liberal's new offices at 10395 Yonge Street, L4C 4Y6.

Make your cheques payable to the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Foundation (Manse Fund).

All donations are tax deductible and official receipts for tax purposes will be issued by the Foundation.

Each week, somewhere inside the Liberal the accompanying thermometer may be found, recording the Journey of the Manse.

Final concert is on tonight at Mill Pond

The last concert of the summer season will take place tonight at the Mill Pond.

Jim Galloway and his Metro Stompers will be the featured attraction.

According to Superintendent of Recreation Lynton Friedberg, the group "is probably the best jazz band around".

Music begins at 7.30 p.m. and admission, as always, is free.

Move the manse

Pioneer Village

Steeles

No. 7

Keele

Langstaff

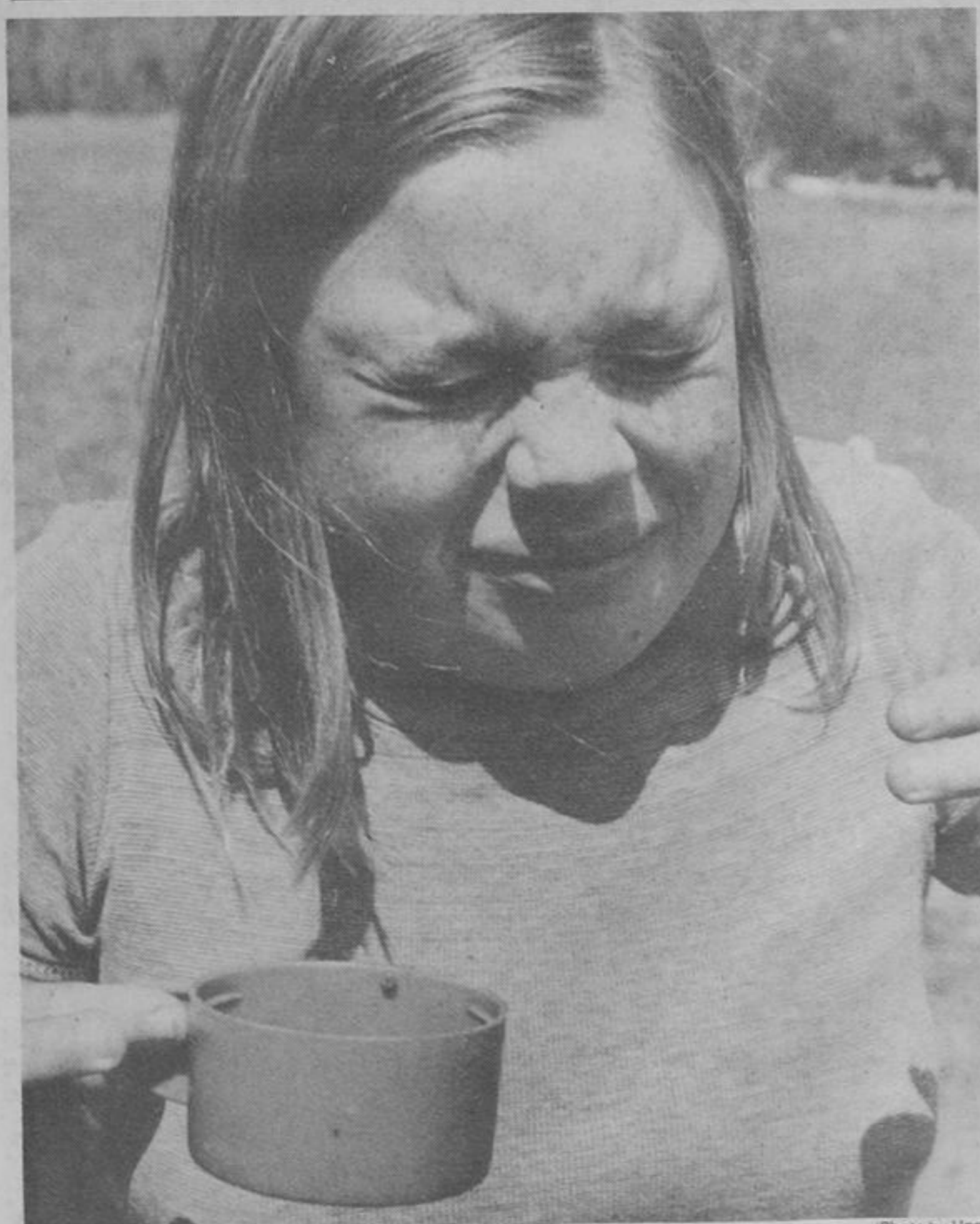
Rutherford

Dufferin

Bathurst

Trench

Major MacKenzie



Not her cup of tea

Sumac tea, obviously, does not appeal to everyone. At least Laura Swan, 12, of Axminster Drive, Richmond Hill, wasn't that crazy about it. She was sampling the brew at the Whitchurch Day Camp, operated by the York Region Family Y. For more photos and story, see Page C-3.