

## Town passes chance to look like hero in the Metric war

"We'll look like fools," said Councillor Ron Moran, "when Markham council almost balked at the price of metric speed limit signs.

But instead the Markham councillors passed up a chance to look like heroes.

They could have made headlines sea to sea if they rejected metric, taken a stab at democracy.

That's not too foreign a concept. Some people say they practice it in the United States.

But Markham council went along with what big brother was asking them to do at Queen's Park, who in turn was going along with what the even bigger brother in Ottawa wanted, metric speed limit signs.

This week, council received seven pages of correspondence from the minister of transportation and communication, James Snow and his deputy.

That is probably more verbiage than Snow and all his predecessors have squandered on the Highway 7 and Islington Avenue. One wonders if he is getting a lot of slack.

What the correspondence says is that councils should stick to nice round numbers, like 100 km-hr. It also notes that the conversion is the result of the joint decision of high-

ways ministers in all 10 provinces.

Which just goes to show that when ten men get together to make a reasonable decision they can agree to something that any one of them, on an individual basis, would find downright revolting.

The multi-million dollar process of metric conversion was never agreed to by act of parliament.

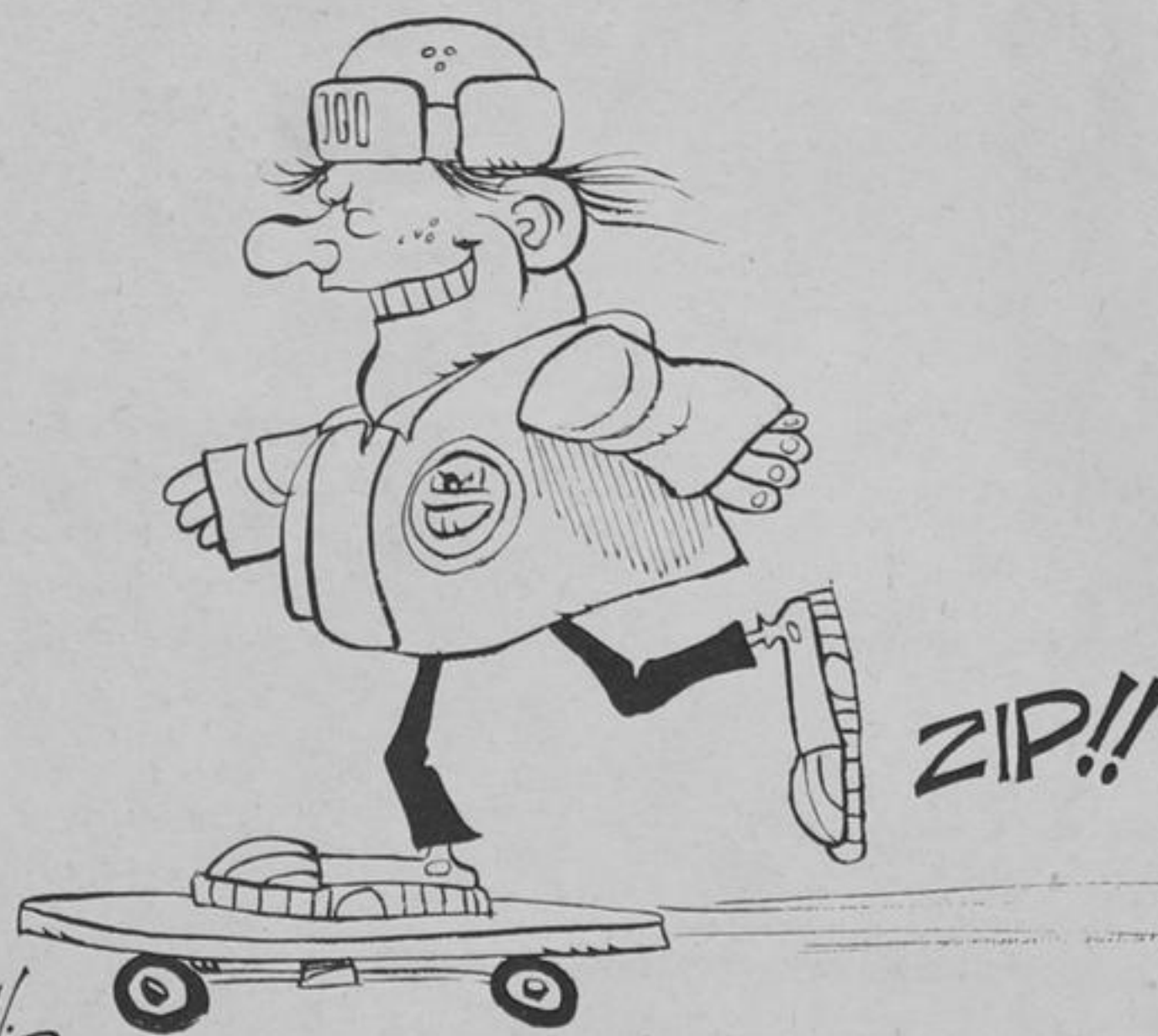
It was started by a simple resolution of the Commons. The legislature had a chance to debate the issue of traffic signs but the MPPs too were afraid of looking like fools.

At the local level Councillor Walter Grieve said he could understand the need for metric conversion for international trade, but there was no such need to measure the speed at which we drive down the highway in our own country or to define a piece of property. We don't export land.

From a lawyer this week comes word that metric conversion will add to the cost of real estate transactions for years to come — with no foreseeable benefit.

The final quirk was provided by the Americans.

What is the point of switching to metric for exports if our largest trading partner is staying on the imperial system?



POSSIBLE SKATE-BOARD TRACK

SCRAPPED TENNIS BUBBLE



### yesterdays

by mary dawson

Quilts were made by pioneer women as a thrifty way to use scraps left over from dressmaking. Winters were cold and called for warm bedding.

Quilt making developed into a social pastime where fellowship and hospitality were enjoyed. "Quilting bees" provided opportunities for the women to get together and to ease their loneliness since usually neighbors were few and distant, and travel was slow.

Quilts were often the only opportunity the pioneer woman had to express her love of beautiful things and bore such names as flower garden, tulip, basket, Dresden plate, pine and temperance tree, log cabin, churn dash, double wedding ring (a most intricate design), double Irish chain, necktie, and spider web.

Quilts were given as gifts because the pioneers could not afford to purchase other articles. Among the delighted recipients were brides, new mothers and burned-out families. Church groups made quilts to raise money, the average cost of the new materials needed being from two to five dollars.

A young woman preparing for marriage would not be satisfied until she had a baker's dozen quilts tucked away in her "green box". Twelve of these would be used as needed but the thirteenth was the "bride's quilt", a very elaborate work of art which was put on display only on special occasions. When the last stitch was placed in the quilt at a "bee" it was customary to throw the new quilt over the head of one of the

unmarried girls present. It was believed that this would ensure that she would be the next to marry.

It was also believed that if a girl slept under a new quilt she would dream of her future husband.

Quilting is the process of sewing three layers of material together with small running stitches (eight to the inch was the ideal). The quilting frames consisted of two eight foot long strips of board (about one inch by three inches) and two seven foot long. These had a strip of ticking or heavy cotton fastened to them the full length to which the quilt base was attached. The pieces of wood were fastened at the four corners by clamps which were loosened occasionally so the quilt could be "rolled" as the quilters completed their fine stitching as far as they could reach toward the centre of the quilt.

The lining was made most frequently of dyed flour and sugar bags or more rarely of store-bought flannel or printed calico. The interlining would be of carded wool, batting or a worn blanket.

After the quilt lining had been attached to the ticking on the frame with heavy thread, the frame would be adjusted until the material was stretched quite smooth and taut. Over it would be placed the interlining and then the quilt top which would be pinned in place. Then the quilting design (cable, plume shells, fans, diamonds, etc.) would be drawn on the pieced quilt top with chalk and the quilting would get underway.

## Letters

### My taxes went up 43% but assessment didn't

I was somewhat shocked to receive, a few days ago, a tax demand (part 3 of 4) which together amounted to a total only three or four dollars less than the demand for the whole of 1973.

It amounted in fact for the whole year of 1977 to an increase of 43 percent approximately over that for 1973.

There has been no increase in the assessment since 1973.

It is clearly impossible to justify this increase by an appeal to the increase in cost of living over that period.

The tax is, of course, collected by Richmond Hill Town: their excellent note accompanying the demand seems that of each tax dollar collected 52.7 cents is the responsibility of the Regional Government; and 34.8 cents of the Town.

Spokesmen of the Town

and Region stated that they each had no authority, control or responsibility for the demand made by the two Regional Educational Boards nor the demands of the other level of government.

This makes it clear that there is neither an elected body nor an administration which can consider the relative needs of the various services required by and paid for by the taxpayers;

even worse, there is no elected nor administrative body which decides how much in total the taxpayer shall spend and therefore pay.

From a business point of view this is utterly unacceptable and idiotic; from the angle of a society which considers itself democratic, it is just nonsensical.

The only elected body with an administration reasonably within reach of a Richmond Hill taxpayer is the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill.

I suggest therefore, that we the people of Richmond Hill should demand of all our various layers of government, right up to Ottawa, if need be, that the Regional Government and the Regional Boards of Education should all submit their proposed budgets for consideration by, and approval of, the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill, which is responsible to the taxpayers of Richmond Hill. This would put matters into a business-like and also a democratic basis to which the present chaotic jumble does not even approach.

RONALD G. PERRY  
44 Sunset Beach Rd.  
Oak Ridges, Ont.

### Helpmate seeks info

Helpmate Information is beginning a new Community Calendar to list events in and around Richmond Hill.

The first Calendar will be on display on September 6.

People are asked to call Helpmate at 883-2234 to inform the centre of any events coming up.

The centre would appreciate knowing about events at least one week before they occur.

The calendars will be posted at the Richmond Hill Library, the Richvale Branch and the Charles Connor Branch.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
ANNE GERBER  
Assistant  
Co-ordinator  
Helpmate  
Richmond Hill.

### This group seeking former band players for 30th anniversary

The Burlington Teen Tour Band is looking for former band members and former band boosters for a reunion.

They're going to celebrate the Band's 30th anniversary and the retirement of their Music Director Eric Ford.

Eric Ford, who has been Music Director of the famous "Redcoats" since 1968, is retiring this year. Mr. Ford had a long and distinguished career in music before coming to Burlington.

In addition to his work as Professor of Music in Trumpet at Hamilton's Royal College of Music, he has been Music Director and instructor for the Burlington Department of Recreation Services.

He is best known, of course, for his outstanding work with the Burlington Teen Tour Band.

Under his direction, and with his own arrangements and compositions, the Band has become famous on

two continents.

To honor Mr. Ford on his retirement, the Band is planning to celebrate its 30th anniversary with an "Eric Ford Day".

The date is Saturday, September 10 and the festivities will commence with an Alumni Parade of Band Members of earlier years who came through the Band under Mr. Ford's direction.

An afternoon concert will enable "old" Redcoats to hear how the "new" Redcoats perform.

The highlight of the day will be a dinner and presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Ford, followed by a dance.

Ex-Band members are now scattered throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Although invitations have been sent to the last-known address of all past members of the Band, it is expected that many will not reach their intended destination.

All former Burlington Teen Tour Band Members who had

All former Burlington Teen Tour Band Members who have not received their invitation are invited to write to the Burlington Teen Tour Band Boosters, Inc., Box 5013, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 3Z6, or call Mrs. Marg Webb, in Burlington at (416) 634-3115.

### Phase in metric signs, he says

ED. NOTE: The following is an open letter distributed to Ontario newspapers. Readers are invited to respond to The Liberal.

The Hon. J.W. Snow  
Queen's Park  
Toronto

Dear Mr. Snow, I was surprised to learn, upon questioning your officials, that you are providing no "phase-

in" period on the conversion in September to the metric speed limit and other road signs.

Any reference to "miles per hour" is to be suddenly and totally removed and only metric signs will be displayed.

I believe you are making a mistake. For a period of time, perhaps a year, speed limits, bridge clearances, distances, etc., should be posted in both the metric and the present systems.

Otherwise there is going to be confusion and even some danger. The transfer to the metric system generally is going to create real difficulty for many people and the transition should be smoothed as much as possible.

In the change from Fahrenheit to Celsius, the temperature in both systems has been provided for more than two years.

It is difficult to understand why you are treating road signs so differently.

The arguments advanced about inadequate space on signs for both simply do not hold up under examination.

Through this letter I am urging you to reconsider your policy of precipitate change in September and, instead, use dual road signing for a phase-in period.

MRS. PEGGY TEMPLE  
Chairman  
Public Relations  
Committee

MEL SWART,  
M.P.P.  
Welland-Thorold

## Parade committee needs a turnout at Monday meeting

Probably no one person or organization can be blamed for the rather small showing at a Santa Claus Parade meeting in Richmond Hill a couple of weeks ago, but there is some cause for concern.

Sporadic at best, the Santa Claus Parade in Richmond Hill has simply become a "maybe-we-can; maybe-we-can't" operation. There wasn't one last year, but there was in 1975. There wasn't one the year before that, but there was in 1973.

Following that concept, there probably will be one this year, but if the turnout of that meeting is any indication, we'll have to call in Santa's elves to handle the project.

We don't really believe that clubs and organizations in Richmond Hill lack a community spirit. If that were the case, the clubs and organizations wouldn't exist.

And it is the middle of the summer. Who really wants to be thinking about Santa Claus when there are still six weeks of water

skiing left?

But the fact remains, if the parade is going to be a reality, planning must start now. And people must be available to assist with that planning if the parade is to have any reasonable semblance at all.

That's why the next parade meeting is very important. It's tough to say 'time is running out', but in the case of an operation as big as this parade, that's exactly what time is doing.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 22, Committee Room "B" (lower level) of the municipal building.

It begins at 8 p.m. and if reps of clubs which have been invited don't show up, it'll probably be the shortest meeting on record.

In the interests of keeping our community together as a solid enterprise, we hope the turnout Monday is overwhelming.

And, somehow, we think it will be.



### queen's park

## We still waste energy

Ever since the oil producing nations of the Middle East drubbed it to us in 1973, the energy question has taken on an urgency which even the general public is unaware of in 1977. It is a persistent matter which bears down on all of us every day and in some instances bring out the worst in human beings.

As if to escape this persistence, many people continue to waste precious energy in whatever they buy. Some critics would immediately suggest that our economy is to blame for this waste. Ban all advertising or tax gas

guzzling monsters to such extreme levels and you will cure the consumer from ever purchasing such items. Sounds pretty effective until the consequences are looked at carefully.

First off, the limits of a punitive tax are not as far reaching as that argument goes. Witness the limited effects of former Finance Minister John Turner's ten cent gasoline tax in June, 1975. That tax was supposed to conserve energy resources and to help pay for the great increases in oil transported to eastern Canada.

It had an initial start-

ling impact on people's consuming habits, but it soon wore off. All we were left with was a constant round of price increases for oil and gasoline, with the vast amount going to the coffers of the federal and producing provinces.

Ontario continued to receive assurances that the monies were going for new exploration and development. Little evidence exists to confirm that statement when so much controversy exists over the extent of the energy reserves to serve Canada.

What we do end up with is a \$3 billion heritage fund for Alberta so that

an agricultural and raw materials economy can be changed into broadly industrialized economy.

At least one can understand the wishes of Albertans to strike while the iron is hot. It's much harder to understand Ottawa's muddled energy policy, that is, if the federal policy exists. All I can get out of it is their great occupation to get domestic energy prices up to the world price, whether that be \$13.50 per barrel or \$20.00 per barrel.

If there is any magic in such an approach, I fail to see how it helps our general economic performance, let alone Ontario's manufacturing sector or all of Ontario's consumers.

All it really does is to increase the rate of inflation and an already too high level of unemployment. During the past 4 years, Ontario has taken the position that energy price increases must be linked to direct production costs. Such an approach is reasonable to all concerned, we thought.

So much for past history! It may sound as if Ontario was crying over spilt milk instead of getting on with the job at

hand. Well, actually Ontario has not lost any time in searching about for new answers.

We haven't lounged around, worrying about losing our place in the sun. With the formation of the Energy Ministry in 1974, we have undertaken a number of measures to deal with potential energy shortages down the road.

First off, we analyzed our energy needs, the growth in demand for electrical power and the extent of vulnerability. Ontario imports 80 per cent of its energy resources. Pretty shocking until one realizes that this province contains close to one-third of the total Canadian population. Ontario is the manufacturing hub of Canada.

Given some of these figures and general background, we moved on a number of fronts. We invested \$100 million in the first major Syncrede plant which should start production in the next couple of years. That amount represents only a small amount of the total capital required from other levels of government and the oil industry to get this first plant in production.

**The Liberal**  
VOLUME 100, NUMBER 7  
10395 Yonge Street, P.O. Box 390, L4C 4Y6, Ontario  
TELEPHONE: 884-1105, 881-3373 CIRCULATION: 884-0981, 881-3376

Home delivery of The Liberal is 80 cents every four weeks, by mail \$10.00 a year in Canada, \$20.00 a year outside of Canada. No local mail delivery where carrier service exists.

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The Liberal is published each week by Metrospan Community Newspapers Limited. This newspaper is a member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

Second Class Mail Registration No. 0150

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1976 PRIDE WINNER  
CANADIAN COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION  
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