

Fire station to be called "Stong Hall"

Richmond Hill's new fire station, still under construction on Major Mackenzie Drive was given a name last week by members of council.

Unanimously, council agreed the building should be called Stong Hall, in honor of the late Alf Stong, who gave 42 years to the Richmond Hill fire department.

Mr. Stong joined as a volunteer in 1931 and served 20 years in that capacity until he was named volunteer fire chief.

In 1957, he was appointed full-time chief of the department.

"He was known as 'Smoky'," Councillor Lou Wainwright said last week. "There was no better fire fighter."

Stong had volunteered to become chief in 1951, when dial telephone arrived in Richmond Hill.

The chief and deputy at the time felt they couldn't handle it.

Present chief Bob Kennedy told The Liberal yesterday the firefighters had planned to submit Mr. Stong's name as a name for the new structure, but

Councillor Lois Hancey beat them to it by initiating the discussion last week. Mr. Stong's wife, Dorell, was elated by the decision.

"I think it's a wonderful honor," she said. "He was dedicated for so many years."

Alf, Jr., is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for York-Centre.

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INSIDE



Charming Liz Casey, who spoke to Richmond Hill Rotarians last night, is as far away from her Perth, Western Australia, home as she can be without leaving earth. She's here to pursue post-graduate studies at the University of Toronto, and successful conclusion of her course next year will give her a Masters in History. Her story is on Page C-1.

A special eight-page tabloid section is included with your Liberal today. It covers the Thornhill Jubilee Festival scheduled for that municipality this Saturday. Stories and a list of events may be found in the supplement.

The Community Calendar, rapidly becoming the most popular single item in your Liberal, is suffering growing pains again. A bigger calendar may be found on Page C-1.

Your favorite columnists, Bob Rice, Jim Irving and Sharon Brain, are on the editorial page, in big, enjoyable and readable type. Read them all on Page A-4.

Parents say no to Mill Pond dock proposal

A number of Richmond Hill parents will appear before the town's parks and recreation committee next week to ask that a children's fishing dock not be built at the Mill Pond.

Meeting at the home of Bruce Venn, Golf Club Road, last Thursday, the parents discussed the situation with committee member Ted Spence.

Spence, who also opposes the planned dock, said such a structure would be "an unnecessary hazard".

If built, the dock would be 24 feet long, six feet wide, and be anchored to the southeast shore of the Mill Pond.

It would float on styrofoam pontoons. The parks and recreation department has already received a \$415 grant from Wintario funds to buy materials for the dock.

Attending the meeting besides Venn and Spence were Rhelda Stockall, Doug Hinchcliffe, and Dennis Young.

The dock has been the subject of much discussion for several months. At one time it was proposed to be 70 feet long.

Spence said the local chapter of the Anglers and Hunters were looking for a project in Richmond Hill, and the dock was suggested by Director of Recreation Dave Hamilton.

"I envision a kid falling in and drowning," Bruce Venn said. "That's my main beef."

He said he would rather see a fishing platform along the shore.

Hinchcliffe agreed the residents should offer some alternative to the dock "as long as there's no chance of a kid falling into deep water", he said.

The parks and recreation meeting is scheduled for the council chambers Thursday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Child's drowning accidental - jury

Ignorance about Richmond Hill's swimming pool bylaw wasn't cleared up in an Oak Ridges neighborhood until a child drowned in June.

So a coroner's inquest learned Thursday night at town council chambers.

Compliance with the bylaw wouldn't necessarily have prevented the child's drowning in the pool at her home, town solicitor John Stirling told the two-woman, three-man jury.

The jury ruled the drowning was accidental.

People in the neighborhood thought the bylaw didn't apply to above ground pools and didn't think they needed building permits, witnesses said.

Bylaw infractions in the neighborhood have since been cleared up, town bylaw officer Bernie Whitchurch testified.

The inquest showed the town swimming pool bylaw probably wouldn't have prevented the drowning of 3-year-old Kayleen Wilkins, Shaver St.

The bylaw has no provision requiring a locked barrier between house and pool.

"The child probably reached the pool through the house," solicitor Stirling said.

Such a safety provision requiring a locked barrier between house and pool is included in the Markham pool bylaw.

There has been some agitation recently in Markham council to have this controversial provision removed.

Dr. Bernard Grantin, coroner, in his direction to the jury said they would have to decide whether or not it was desirable for government to regulate swimming pool safety within private yards as well as around such yards.

He said this would have to be judged in the light of private responsibility, the taxation load and whether or not government should go this far in regulating the life of the individual.

But the jury decided to remain silent on this point.

Four of the jury members indicated to the coroner they owned private swimming pools. Town council is reviewing the pool bylaw, Whitchurch said.

The jury said the public should be informed about the town's swimming

pool regulations by way of water bills.

Residents should be required to fill in and return a portion of the water bill to inform the town whether or not there was a swimming pool on the property.

In addition the jury said all pool manufacturers, dealers or agents should be required to inform pool buyers of the town bylaw building permit requirement and to inform the town when a pool is delivered to a local property.

Wilcox residents seek use of hall

Richmond Hill's Parks and Recreation Committee will attempt to solve the problems of Lake Wilcox residents who want to use the community centre there but say it's too expensive.

A sometimes fired-up Dick Evans, who has lived in Lake Wilcox for some 20 years, charged last week that the Town of Richmond Hill told a resident it would cost \$180 to use the community centre for an evening.

Evans said the woman wanted to throw a birthday party for her husband and was quoted \$18 an hour, plus \$40 for use of the kitchen plus \$25 janitor's fees.

Evans said she rented a hall from a private operator for half that price.

Councillor Al Duffy couldn't believe what he was hearing.

There was no charge for community groups to use the hall during the week, and a minimal \$4.53 an hour during the weekends, he said. Groups having special occasion permits may pay a little more, but costs would be nowhere near \$180 for an evening, he suggested.

Evans said the billing was contrary to all agreements between Wilcox residents and the parks department.

"We're not going to sit back and let Parks and Recreation dictate when we use the hall," he said.

Evans outlined the history of the centre which, in one form or another, has been located on Wildwood Avenue in Lake Wilcox for several years.

When Richmond Hill, under Regional Government, gained control of the Lake

area, the town condemned the old church hall, which was used as the centre, then tore it down.

"We lost control of the hall," Evans said. "The community centre was the heart of Lake Wilcox."

Five years later, a new community centre was built, but the Lake residents never regained control.

It fell under the jurisdiction of the town's Parks and Recreation department.

The new building cost \$60,000 to build, twice as much as was originally estimated, and the town refused free labor to help rebuild the structure, Evans said.

Councillor Andre Chateaubert said Evans was "asking us to practise a form of discrimination".

"We're saying you're substandard, therefore we'll give you a lower rate", was what the councillor suggested Evans wanted the town to do.

"Perhaps the charges in that facility are a little out of line," Councillor Chateaubert said, "but we can't start playing favoritism."

Evans suggested a committee made up of Lake Wilcox residents be allowed to control the use of the building.

Councillor Bill Corcoran, whose ward covers the lake, was in favor of letting the people have the hall.

"Why don't we turn it over to them," he asked. "Let's get the building used."

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Sept. 17-24

A full week of activities

Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller will receive a cake this Saturday, but it isn't his birthday.

The presentation, from Civic Improvement Committee officials Glen Waugh and Eric George, will mark the official opening of Discovery Days in Richmond Hill.

Scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at Burr House, the official opening will be one of numerous events slated to take place in various parts of the community for the following seven days.

The cake will be decorated with the official Discovery Days symbol.

Burr House is located at 528 Carrville Road, Richmond Hill, and will be the scene of much activity during Discovery Days.

On Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside Burr House there will be a craft sale, demonstrations of potting, weaving, spinning, natural dyeing, chair caning, and quilting, a drive-shed sale, appearances by the York Choraliers and the Richmond Hill Square Dance Club, a home baking table, pioneer-style refreshments and registrations for the crafts program.

Inside Burr House will be a display of art and crafts by local artists and artisans.

Then, throughout the week, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. the art and craft show will be on display, and a scone tea will be available.

One of those participating in the gallery is Mrs. Gwen Caldwell, Elgin Mills Road West, who does 3-D hooked pictures of the endangered species of birds.

The Rowland Burr Craft House is a pioneer cottage built before 1840 and is being restored for use as a centre for the teaching of pioneer crafts.

Even without the attractions, it should be a highlight of anyone's visit through Richmond Hill's Discovery Days.

At a glance, then, here's what to look for during the week of September 17 to 24.

SATURDAY

The Richvale Lions will hold a Steak Nite at the Lions Club.

And don't forget your look at the stars tonight, courtesy the David Dunlap Observatory, which is open to residents of Richmond Hill without appointment.

SUNDAY

Richmond Hill United Church Women plan an evening of slides on Kenya. That happens at 7 p.m.

The Richmond Hill Historic Society will conduct a tour beginning at the Town Hall at 2 p.m.

On Saturday and Sunday (pray for sunshine), the Richmond Hill Model Airplane Club will fly models at the Recycling Depot, Elgin Mills and Leslie from 1 to 4 p.m. If it does rain, that event will take place September 24.

MONDAY

The Richmond Hill Public Library begins a week of "no fines" to lure you and the books back to the library. The deal is in effect at the three municipal libraries, Richmond Hill, Charles Connor and Richvale.

There's a coloring contest for the kids happening this week at the Richvale Library. Pictures to be colored may be picked up at the library now and must be returned by September 23. Winners will be announced Saturday, following the movie presentation "The Three Lives of Thomasina" which begins at 10.30 a.m.

TUESDAY

Charles Connor library branch has a pair of movies tonight — "The Cure" and "Carry On Cleo" at 7 p.m.

The Horticultural Society will have a speaker who'll discuss tropical house plants at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church.

WEDNESDAY

Three feature films are on the plate tonight at the Main Library, 24 Wright Street. They'll get underway at 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Rock Musical night is on the agenda for Richmond Hill's Main Library tonight.

The York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded will hold an Open House tonight from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at their Adult Rehabilitation Centre (ARC Industries) 101 Edwards St., just north of the Consumers Gas building. Staff will be on hand and examples of work and various projects will be on display. Coffee and cookies will be served. A similar Open House will be held Friday night, same time, same location.

FRIDAY

Now it gets busy.

The One Parent Families Association of Canada will hold a pub nite at the Richmond Hill Legion.

The Richmond Hill Arena will be open this evening with a building-full of demonstrations, booths, activities and other assorted hoopla.

Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club will flash a few blades in the new arena from 4.30 to 8.30 p.m. today.

The Richmond Hill Scottish Country Dance group will perform in the old arena; as will the Richmond Hill Square Dancers and the Richmond Hill Majorettes. Square dancers are stage center at 8 p.m., while the majorettes will perform at 7.30 and 8.30 p.m.

At the main library, the featured musical "Oliver" will be presented at 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY

The Richmond Hill Live Steamers will operate a miniature steam engine around the arena at five cents a ride.

Art in the Park — at the Mill Pond all day or in the Richvale Community Centre if it rains. But it won't, because the committee won't let it. Entertainment will be provided by the Youth Concert Band.

Figure skaters are back at it in the new arena from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Square dancers 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The Richmond Hill Naturalists will conduct a tour from the Mill Pond. First trip at 10 a.m.; second at 2 p.m.

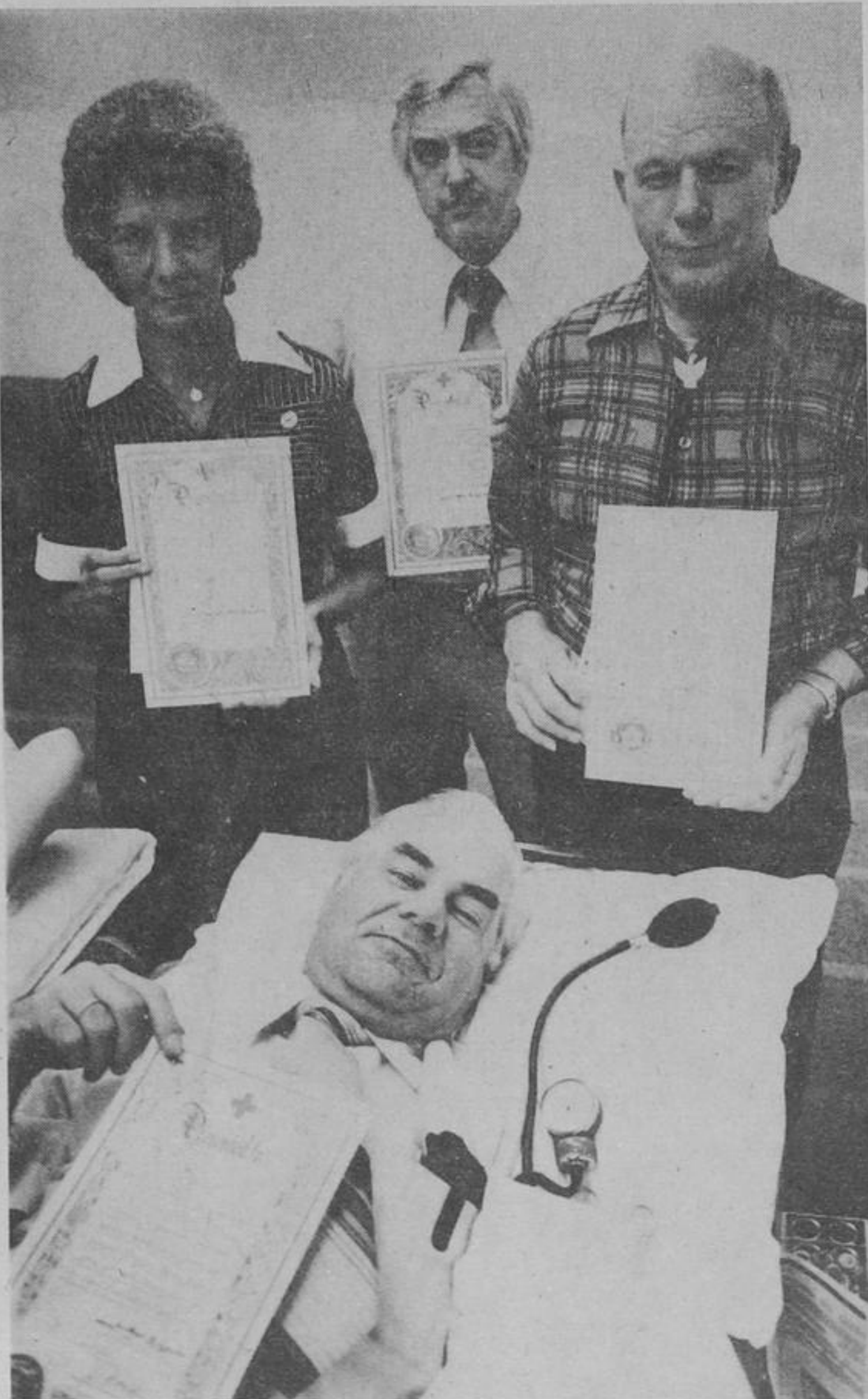
Dixie Flyers are scheduled for the Main Library at 8 p.m.

Richvale Lions will hold a "Hi Neighbor" party at the Richvale Community Centre tonight.

The old arena will be open all day, half the night, with demonstrations, booths, etc.

Richmond Hill Lawn Bowling Club will hold its district tournament beginning at 10 a.m. Clubs include Markham, Aurora, Agincourt, Stayner, Orangeville.

Whaddya mean, there's nothing to do . . .



35th

The 35th pint of donated blood was achieved by these four people at the Richmond Hill clinic Monday. They are, standing, left to right, Mrs. B. J. Kimmerly, 210 Beechy, Richmond Hill; Mr. A. W. Jeffrey, Willowdale; Mr. S. M. Stewart, 152 Church, Richmond Hill; and, on the cot, Mr. E. B. Zipp, 264 Conestoga, Richmond Hill.