



Model ready

Richmond Hill fire fighters Al McKenzie, left, and Ron Fawn, put the finishing touches on the model of town's new fire hall, now under construction on Major Mackenzie Drive. The model will be on display next weekend at Hillcrest Mall, as part of Fire Prevention Week activities.



queen's park

By BILL HODGSON
MPP — York North

Coming next September's school year, the Government of Ontario will be implementing a new student assistance package.

The current Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will be modified to distribute non-repayable grants post-secondary students.

There will also be an increase in the number and value of scholarships awarded under the Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program.

These are awarded on the basis of academic merit, and not financial need.

Under a new component of OSAP — the Ontario Study Grant Plan — a more efficient use will be made of the taxpayers' dollar.

The basic principles of this new plan mean that every student will have to make a contribution to the costs of his or her education;

the amount of grant aid students can receive will depend on their family income;

some students and their families will be asked to give the province access to income tax records (which will be kept in the strictest of confidence) to verify financial information affecting student assistance applications;

part-time students will be eligible to apply for grant assistance; and

a new appeal process involving public participation will be set up to evaluate students' requests for additional assistance.

For the 1977-78 school year, the province has budgeted \$74 million for student assistance grants.

And although the 1978-79 Study Grant Plan has not yet been set, Colleges and Universities Minister Dr. Parrott said he expects it "to be no less than the level of expenditures in the current year."

A major feature of the new provincial grants plan is that there will be time limits placed on the grant assistance.

The reason for these limits is that after supporting approximately four years of undergraduate study, the province has ensured that the same educational opportunities are available for those who are less affluent.

These students will be eligible to apply for provincial grant assistance for a maximum of eight "grant eligibility periods".

Each of these periods corresponds to a period of study which is a minimum of 10 weeks and a maximum of 19 weeks in duration.

This means that most students will be eligible to apply for grant assistance for four years, using their grant eligibility periods as a rate of two per year.

The value of Ontario Graduate scholarships which I mentioned earlier, will be increased to \$1,500 per term, a maximum of \$4,500 per year, up from \$1,450 and \$4,350 in 1977-78.

The number of these scholarships will be increased to 1,200 from 945 in the current year.

The total budget for the scholarship program in 1978-79 will be more than \$5 million.

Further increases are now being considered

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New student aid package

either in the number of these scholarship or in their value.

Thus, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities doesn't expect to spend less money on provincial grants but rather to get a lot more mileage out of the money it actually spends.

On September 26 I had the pleasure of attending the honours and award dinner for Branch 426 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Lions Club certainly outdid themselves September 29 when they hosted their Octoberfest at the Nobleton Arena and Community Centre.

October 1 found me in Schomberg presenting scrolls on behalf of the Government of Ontario to the Schomberg Bantam

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RHHS

Grade 9s get royal welcome

By JANET ROBBINS
This year's Grade 9s went through that annual welcoming to Richmond Hill High School — Initiation Day.

After school, they were led, by shock troopers, to the cafeteria where they were admitted to the school by the Grade 13 students.

Stunts covered a wide range, from being 'made-up' to performing various unusual acts.

They were identified by their costumes; among other things, the girls donned their fathers' pants, while the boys came a la cavemen.

Then, that night, the 13s had a party for the 9s in the gym.

There was a large turnout and there was a lot of intermingling among the grades. Hopefully, all dances will be so successful.

FIELD DAY
The Athletic Council welcomed the newcomers with an afternoon field day, giving the Grade 9s a chance to know each other better.

No skill was necessary for the girls field day Tuesday. Events included throwing the football through a tire hung from the football goal post; a race which involved putting one's shoes on opposite feet, skipping rope, then putting the shoes on the proper feet; a shufflerun and a backwards run.

On Wednesday, the boys took to the field.

They were divided into six teams and their events included an obstacle course, a log roll,

soccer kick, football throw, backwards run and a golf club swing.

BASKETBALL
Last week, the RHHS girls' basketball team, coached by Mrs. Mary Lee, came up against a squad from Bayview.

Although the team lost 53-35, there were some high scorers.

Julie Wells earned 12 points, and Ann McMillwaine and Jane Toporowski each potted eight points.

Also last week, the squad lost a 53-51 cliff-hanger to Markham.

Tonight, our club takes on Woodbridge.

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Town of Richmond Hill GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

Applications for grants to non-profit organizations and groups to carry out programs in both recreational and non-recreational areas for 1977 will be accepted until October 31st, 1977.

Application forms may be obtained from the Finance Department, Municipal Offices, 10266 Yonge Street or by calling 884-8101, extension 42.

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