

# Letters

## "Maple Midway" OMB hearings begin Monday

Despite unusual and hasty planning procedures in the Town of Vaughan and York Region, OMB hearings on the 'Maple Midway' are set to begin in Maple on October 31.

Local politicians do not seem to think that a site plan filed in advance is necessary prior to approval being given.

A citizen's group — S.A.V.E. (Sensible Approach to Vaughan's Environment) has retained legal counsel in the person of Mr. John Richardson of the firm, Hassard, Elliott, to argue against their own elected officials at the OMB hearing.

S.A.V.E. has consistently questioned the desirability of the project, its location, the negative impact on the local people and the hidden costs involved.

Earlier, D'Arcy

McKeough, Stuart Smith and Stephen Lewis questioned the location and impact upon the local townspeople and strongly suggested that Taft locate somewhere else in Ontario.

Studies done by the developer seem to be the only source of information upon which Vaughan and York have based their decision.

F.I.R.B. (Foreign Investment Review Board) required information before approving the development but that information is confidential and will not be released.

Only the decision of F.I.R.B. is made public.

In addition, a market study done by the company has remained secret and no one outside the company apparently has access to the information.

The development, if it is approved, will be located

at the corner of Highway 400 and Major Mackenzie Drive on 320 acres of Class A farm land.

Traffic conditions on Highway 400 will worsen, especially on Sunday, when cottage traffic is returning to the city.

Local residents know that pressure has already begun to develop other commercial outlets on their major streets and many do not believe their council will fight long or hard to stop it nor to prevent increased traffic in their neighborhood.

Ron Wilson  
Ted Pickles  
Co-Chairmen  
S.A.V.E.

Story was 'outstanding' reader says

## This reader has reached limit on tax payments

It is beyond my comprehension why house taxes have to be so high.

The townships are constantly calling for higher taxes, and what do they do for you?

Not much.

They write on your taxbill "local improvements" but local improvements are never done in my area.

Perhaps in Richmond Hill or areas where they are not so much needed.

It burns me up when I see how the money is wasted.

The fancy sports stadiums and all kinds of other recreational facilities are being built whether they are needed or not.

The way the prices are going, people will soon not have enough money to go to these places.

In Europe, house taxes are less than half of what we are paying here.

My lot is 80 x 180. I have a septic tank, pick up my own mail, have a terrible ditch, and I pay over \$1,000 in taxes.

How does the Town or Government expect me to pay more when I already have reached the limit.

Already there is talk of higher taxes next year when the sewer goes in.

Is the government prepared to put people out on the street if they cannot pay anymore?

Jack Funk  
Box 669  
Oak Ridges

## Editorial amazed her

I am amazed at your editorial comments praising D'Arcy McKeough for his humane treatment of the people in the Langstaff area.

You seem to ignore the fact that it was D'Arcy McKeough as Minister who was totally responsible for the Langstaff area people being threatened by demolition in the first place.

You perhaps are unaware that during a meeting between the Langstaff residents and Mr. McKeough, the same honourable gentleman suggested to one of the residents that if she raised too many violent objections to what the Government proposed, the bulldozers would be used to level the community.

The Minister did apologize in the Legislature for his statement but nevertheless the statement had been made.

If there is credit to be bestowed on a politician for correcting this dreadful infringement of peoples' property rights D'Arcy McKeough would be the last person to choose by any thoughtful person.

I was very active on behalf of the Boyle Group which is a group of residents on the West side of Yonge also threatened with being expropriated by the Provincial Government.

The only provincial

politician who assisted us in any way was our Provincial Member, Alf Stong.

He was kind and considerate enough to attend our meetings thereby providing the moral support we so badly needed a year ago.

Because we had no funds to fight the government Alf Stong helped us prepare our brief to the hearing officers and arranged to have our brief presented and witnesses called.

Our presentation was a major reason for receiving favourable treatment by the hearing

officers and for this the Boyle Group will always be indebted to Alf Stong.

I know he prefers to work quietly and effectively for all his constituents and perhaps would not seek the glory which you have mistakenly bestowed on D'Arcy McKeough.

However, I feel the record should show who helped and who didn't.

If the rationale of your editorial is pursued then a thief should be praised when he ceases to steal.

Liz Therrien  
President,  
Boyle Group

## Expenditures up 25%

The Ontario Treasurer has announced that grants to municipalities, are to be stringent in 1978.

This announcement will probably be used as an excuse for tax increases by local politicians.

In view of this, I reviewed the Richmond Hill budgeted and actual expenditures for 1975-77, to determine how well the taxpayers' needs have been provided for.

The total budgeted expenditures have gone up by 25.5 per cent since 1975, hardly an indication of restraint on public spending.

The parks and recreation budget increased by 42.6 per cent and the recreation programs budget in-

creased by 73.5 per cent.

This seems to indicate the priorities set forth by the re-elected members of Council and the Parks and Recreation Department.

In fact, the parks and recreation budget was overspent by about \$160,000 in 1975 and by about \$120,000 in 1976.

This is over 10 per cent of the budgeted figure each year and suggests a serious lack of control.

The parks and recreation budget is about one-fifth of the total budget.

At a time of high unemployment and a depressed economy this is out of proportion unless



## Deborah Nye weds Wayne Hindmarch

Deborah Elizabeth Nye, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nye, Levedale Road, Richmond Hill, was married recently to Wayne Hindmarch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hindmarch of Sarnia.

The wedding took place at the Richmond Hill United Church with Rev. Robert K. Shorten officiating.

Virginia Bregg of Richmond Hill was the Maid of Honor, while bridesmaids included Mrs. Gwen Emery, the groom's sister, and the bride's cousins Karen and Denise Maxwell.

Merv Badke, a friend of the groom, was the best man, and other gentlemen attendants included Rick Emery, a brother-in-law of the groom, and Chris and Warren Nye, brothers of the bride.

The bride wore an empire line gown in white Jersey featuring a wedding band neckline and a lace bodice

accented in brown satin, with ruffled shirts coordinating the colors of the girls' dresses.

Out of town guests attended from Nipawin, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; London, Sarnia, Port Hope, Midland, Fonthill and St. Catharines.

The couple honeymooned in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and upon their return, took up residence at 50 Baif Boulevard, Richmond Hill.

sprinkled with tiny seed pearls.

The bishop sleeves were cuffed with chantilly lace and pearls, and the dress had a full chapel train edged with matching lace.

A Juliet crown of lace, seed pearls and crystals held a lace trimmed veil of silk illusion.

The bridesmaids wore floor length gowns of lemon yellow jersey, accented by chiffon jackets with belled sleeves.

The Maid of Honor was dressed in the same style of gown but in chocolate brown jersey.

The mother of the bride wore a deep aqua jersey gown enhanced by a cape effect back, and a delicately pearl-beaded neckline. Her accessories were in a matching tone.

The mother of the groom was in a mint green jersey gown, topped with a matching chiffon cape.

To complete the ensemble, the men wore dark brown tuxedos

## RHHS

## Grade 11 students conquer Algonquin

By JANET ROBBINS

Recently, a group of Grade 11 Richmond Hill High School boys went on a canoe trip through the Algonquin Park area.

The group, consisting of Pete (The General) Gurney; Steve (Sissy) Garlick; Steve (Spread Eagle) Young; Mike (Lily Dipper) Webb; Martin Wildberger and Don Hutchinson (known as Zig and Zag because of their prowess handling a canoe); Trevor (Eagle Eyes) Schiller; and Ian (Ranger Rick) Hepburn, were led by Don Fleming and Neil Gallichan.

The route was about 60 to 70 miles long in total, covering some 18 lakes and rivers.

It included several portages, the longest of which was one and a half miles, and numerous rapids.

Fortunately, the group

had good weather, with the only weather obstacle being a strong headwind on the return trip.

The boys wish to thank Mr. Fleming and Mr. Gallichan for leading them, and Mrs. Webb for driving them part way up.

**SADIE HAWKINS**

The annual Sadie Hawkins Dance was held last week. This, of course, is the dance where the girl asks the boy.

The evening included regular dancing, square dancing, games and prizes.

The games ranged from the flour blow to the old favorite sponge throw and balloon bust.

**BASKETBALL**

The girls' basketball team has been quite busy. On October 13, they beat Thornhill 31-27, the first team to do so.

On October 17, they lost to Langstaff 61-49, but bounced back with a 67-57 win over Bayview.

The boys' basketball team, coached by Roger Cote, is just about to get its season underway.

They hope to have an exhibition game against Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora this week.

They will also compete in the King City Tournament Nov. 18 and 19.

**UNIVERSITY NIGHT**

This year, University Night is being held at the school on November 2.

Representatives from Ontario universities will be at the school to explain their educational facilities.

**TUG OF WAR**

The intramural event on October 15 was a tug of war. Each grade challenged any grade of its choice to a match of strength and power.

Unfortunately, the rope broke.

Council intends to make Richmond Hill the pleasure land of Ontario.

The fact that funds have been diverted from the Protection and Transportation budgets to the parks and recreation budget is clearly in line with this philosophy.

It is about time that council starts to face the realities of life.

There is room for substantial savings in the 1978 budget if Council will take control of the spending and not leave it in the hands of the administration.

R. Marquis  
46 Roosevelt Drive  
Thornhill.

## Teacher dispute

## Both sides blamed

Both the region's public school board and elementary teachers are to blame for failure to settle a contract dispute, according to Prof. G. H. McKechnie, a provincial fact finder appointed to help solve the situation.

In a report released last week, Prof. McKechnie said both sides must give a little on salary demands in order to reach a settlement.

He says both parties to the dispute should re-evaluate their positions in the context of current economic conditions.

The latest board offer shows a 6.6 salary increase, including the teachers' annual increments given for experience. The teachers want a 6 per cent increase, plus their increments, making a total increase of 8.5 per cent.

Although a strike is a remote possibility, negotiations remain deadlocked between the school board and its 1,200 elementary teachers.

But both sides expressed willingness to continue their bargaining, despite no indication from either party that it would budge on the major issues.

ratio; fringe benefits; professional development days; maternity leave; educational and sabbatical leave; federation release time; and joint federation-board committees.

Trustee negotiator Bob McMonagle, however, said he felt the two sides are "close" in salary negotiations. He added the board stance on non-salary items is based on "firm rationale."

Mr. Gillham, on the other hand, said the two sides still were far apart. Meaningful negotiations have broken down, he said.

The fact-finder agreed that increments "can be excluded" from AIB guidelines and suggested that "the parties negotiate a fair and reasonable settlement of monetary issues first."

"Once completed, the question of the treatment of increment for AIB costing purposes can be addressed and the teachers' arguments should be considered," the report stated.

Prof. McKechnie stated that certain items do not belong in the contract negotiations, and had no recommendations at all on other points.

## Mobile centre helps consumer

A mobile consumer centre was officially opened by Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Warren Allmand yesterday at Hillcrest Mall.

The centre will remain at the mall until November 19, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We're here to help you learn about your consumer rights and responsibilities," a spokesman said.

Staff is also available to speak to interested Richmond Hill groups on consumer topics.

## Company courteous

I am quick to complain if I feel mistreated, and viewed the progress of the Richvale sewers with misgivings, but I also feel that consideration given by others should not go unappreciated.

The Pachino Construction Company installing sewer pipe past my house on Oak Avenue took care of minor details such as sump pump exits, and were courteous and even kindly, and should be commended.

Perhaps problems publicized earlier were not entirely their fault.

L.R. Morrison  
35 Oak Avenue  
Richvale

Staff is also available to speak to interested Richmond Hill groups on consumer topics.

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