

The Liberal will be closed Monday, December 26, in order that the staff may enjoy the Christmas holiday. Advertisers are asked to have all copy to The Liberal by Friday, December 23. The editorial department will be closed Friday, but re-opens Monday. The same situation applies for the New Years' weekend.

Merry Christmas



We did it ourselves

Proud of their tree and the decorations they made for it themselves are these Beverley Acres Public School students. As well as paper

chains and ornaments, the kids made old-fashioned popcorn and cranberry chains.

Principal's actions irk police chief

By MILLIE STEWART and RON WALLACE

York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford will complain to Director of Education Sam Chapman about the behaviour of an Oak Ridges school principal last week. Chief Crawford said a police officer was sent to Oak Ridges Public School last Wednesday night after a complaint was received about numerous cars parked on Elm Grove Avenue. The officer asked principal Ed Burlew if the cars could be moved, but received a "lack of co-operation" from the principal. Parents of students were at the school to attend a Christmas Concert. "The principal's conduct left a great deal to be desired, for a man in his position," said Chief Crawford. Constable Ronald Reid answered the original complaint, and suggested Mr. Burlew ask the audience to move the vehicles. After a brief discussion over who would make the announcement, Mr. Burlew finally approached the gathering and said, "at this moment, York Regional Police are preparing to tag all cars illegally parked on Elm Grove Avenue. We have been told that

if these cars are not moved within three minutes, they will all be tagged and/or removed".

Chief Crawford said he had no idea where Mr. Burlew got the "three-minute" deadline.

Many members of the audience, who left the building to remove their cars, did not return for the concert.

On Thursday, Insp. Ted McBrien was sent to the Burlew residence to investigate the complaint and, according to his report, "he ordered me off the property".

Later that evening, Mr. and Mrs. Burlew showed up at the police station and carried on a lengthy discussion with the police officer, but the dispute remained unsettled.

Chief Crawford said Mr. Burlew was an "excitable principal" and the incident was "poorly handled".

He said he would take his complaint to Sam Chapman, York County Board of Education Director.

Mr. Burlew told a reporter, "if your editor wants to ask me questions, he may do so in the presence of the Board of Education".

Heavy snows had narrowed Elm

Grove Avenue to barely two lanes, and with cars parked on both sides of the street, passage was down to a single lane.

Chief Crawford noted that emergency vehicles would have difficulty getting through if they were required.

Earlier Wednesday, a large truck sat on the side street for several hours.

Parents attending the concert at first believed it was the driver of that truck who complained to police, since he had received a parking ticket that afternoon.

However, police confirmed the complaint came from a person who lived on the street, whose access was blocked by a parked car.

While several people elected to leave when told their cars had to be moved, the concert did continue.

Jack Ward of 71 Maple Grove said in a letter "it is sad when two policemen in less than one hour can break down what it has taken other members of the force 365 days a year to build up in regard to respect from the public".

Mr. Ward said it was "a shame" that police arrived and ordered the cars to be moved "half way through the evening".

Leukemia clinic Jan. 2

Staff and volunteers will be giving up a holiday, January 2, to run a special "Leukemia Clinic" at York Central Hospital.

The 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. clinic is seeking "platelets" from blood donors to help kids fight the dreaded disease.

Since a blood clinic was held last Thursday at Hillcrest Mall, Richmond Hill's blood clinic workers will be busy over the next couple of weeks phoning regular donors who did not turn out so that they can participate in this special clinic.

Jim Butler, area supervisor for the Ontario Red Cross, said that a total of 250 units are hoped for, between two clinics to be held that day. The other clinic is at the ManuLife Centre in Toronto.

"It should be a bit of a contest," said Mr. Butler.

community pulse

Draw aids kids

The York Ambulance boys sold 891 of 1,000 tickets printed in their first 50-50 draw. Of the \$891 raised, \$445.50 will go to various kids' organizations such as the Sick Children's Hospital, the Star Christmas Fund and Richmond Hill Minor Ball. The other half of the money goes to draw winner, N.C. Jain of Willowdale, whose ticket was selected Saturday by Ministry of Health executive officer, Wilf O'Brecht. Murray Kirkpatrick of York Ambulance said the draw was such a success it will now become an annual event.

Christmas dinner

Having Christmas dinner with a patient at York Central Hospital will be allowed this year, assuming the patient is in reasonable condition, the hospital's executive director, Jim Hepburn said this week. His plan is to allow husbands or wives or other close relatives of patients to have dinner at the hospital at a cost of \$3.25. Further details are available from the head nurse on the patient's floor.

Report favors local community schools

The proposal to make as many Richmond Hill schools as possible "local community" schools will be aired before the public on January 10, 11 and 12.

In other words, if the recommendations of the Richmond Hill Study Committee are carried, most schools in town will encompass the kindergarten to Grade 8 span.

The committee, commissioned by the York County Board of Education after Richmond Hill Councillor Al Duffy approached the board last spring, has found that, "almost without exception", briefs submitted favor "K-8" schools rather than junior and senior public schools.

Councillor Duffy said he first spoke to the board when he was concerned that the present system was not working for everybody.

In some cases, he said, kids would have to walk right past a nearby school to get to another school where their grade level was offered.

The committee has now reached the stage where it is ready to put its recommendations before the public. As well as favoring K-8 schools, the committee has agreed that students should be allowed to stay in schools in

which they are presently enrolled.

The committee has also suggested that Roselawn and Ross Doan Public Schools become one school with one principal.

If the recommendations are accepted, M. L. McConaghy Public School will be closed in September, 1978. Its

students will be distributed between O.M. MacKillop Public School and Crosby Heights Public School.

The public meetings, at which time input from concerned residents will be considered, will all be held at 7:30 p.m. on the three consecutive evenings.

The first meeting is January 10 at Crosby Heights. On January 11, the meeting will be held at Roselawn, followed by one at McConaghy on January 12.

The committee report, with amendments if necessary, will then go to the board.

Chapman report supports two-tier school system

York County Board of Education will continue to establish a two-tier system of schooling — kindergarten to Grade 8, Grade 9 to 13 — it was decided at a meeting of the board last week.

The latter was one of the recommendations involving two-tier and three-tier — K to 5, 6 to 8, 9 to 13 — contained in a report on the two systems by education director, Sam

Chapman. This means the board will build K-8 schools in any new areas, but will retain its present senior public schools, such as Roselawn and Crosby Heights in Richmond Hill. It will also continue to extend its efforts to "upgrade the Grade 7 and 8 programs" in the schools.

In his report, Chapman stated that senior public schools were set up in some areas at a time when school

systems were expanding. However, with present enrolments declining it would be necessary to draw from a wider area to fill the schools, thus increasing bus costs and bringing about changes in boundaries.

Chapman said that, despite studies of the two systems, it was impossible to declare which was the better, although the intelligence of the students seemed to be the determining factor in the long run.



Smack

A kiss and a citation is Richmond Hill blood donor clinic chairman Betty Armstrong's reward from Jim Butler, area supervisor for the Ontario Red Cross.

Surprise citation honors chairman

Betty Armstrong was taken by surprise last week. Pleasantly, that is.

The hard-working chairman of Richmond Hill's blood donor clinic was on hand as usual to see how the clinic was going on Thursday at Hillcrest Mall.

She did wonder why Ontario Red Cross' area supervisor Jim Butler was running around the mall "all dressed up".

But she didn't know that he had in hand a citation from Fred Blucher, president of the Ontario division, for Mrs. Armstrong's outstanding service to the organization.

Mr. Butler told The Liberal that these awards were "not handed out lightly".

The Red Cross had wanted Mrs. Armstrong, who had accepted a citation at the town's awards night on

behalf of the Red Cross, to have an award of her own for her service to the group over the past 15 years.

Mrs. Armstrong has been involved with the clinics in town ever since they started and has been chairing them since 1971.

She attributes her success in the role to the fact that she is always on hand at the clinics, rather than organizing them from afar.

Sometimes she's disappointed because attendance goes down. Another time, attendance will soar to boost her spirits.

Like a true volunteer, she has a goal. "I would dearly love to get 350 out to a clinic," she said.

Perhaps she'll get her wish next March, when the next regular clinic is planned.

No grant for Rams

Council opts for lottery

The Rams Hockey Club request for a \$9,000 grant fell flat on its face at Richmond Hill Council Monday night.

Council instead supported the concept of a sports lottery to be organized by the team and other sports organizations in the town.

While he was "sympathetic to their plight", Councillor Andre Chateauvert said council could not expect taxpayers to pick up the amount owed to the bank by team supporters who had taken out loans.

"Wisely or unwisely, they signed a bank note," he pointed out. "Now they want the municipality to bail them out."

Councillor Bill Corcoran argued that it was clear that the Rams members were "not trying to get themselves out of hock" and would still leave their money with the team.

But, countered Councillor Chateauvert, "If we're paying the loan, we're getting them off the hook".

A recommendation from last Thursday's parks and recreation committee meeting had suggested that the Rams be allowed to conduct a lottery.

However, the motion also called for the town to match the amount raised by the Rams on a dollar for dollar basis, up to \$4,500, half the amount requested by

the team.

Councillor Lois Hancey said Monday that she had received a number of telephone calls and had the feeling that people would support a lottery but "I do not believe they would support any property tax dollars going for this purpose".

She suggested the committee motion be amended to delete any reference to anything other than support for a sports lottery.

At the meeting last week, a delegation of Rams members appeared before committee.

When asked about the possibility of fund raising themselves, the Rams'

Kerry Gilmor said ball clubs had been successful holding stags.

"But it's not something we want to get into," he said.

He suggested that the town authorize a sports lottery in which various clubs would "get as much out as they put in".

When asked if the group could survive if the town came up with \$4,500 instead of \$9,000, he said that anything that would give them some breathing space would help.

"Sitting here and being realistic," said Mr. Gilmor, "I don't think we're going to get the \$4,500 from you either. But I like the idea of a lottery. I think it can work."