

Hill Spring Fair opens Friday

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IN RICHMOND HILL

Day Care Centre supervisor resigns over Region policy

By SHAARON HAY
Liberal Staff Writer

Despite efforts on the part of parents to save her position, the supervisor of Richmond Hill Day Care Centre, Johanna Kunze, resigned last Wednesday.

Mrs. Kunze had received a letter from the Day Care Division of the Department of Health and Social Services of the Regional Municipality of York, advising her of a transfer to Newmarket Day Care Centre.

The letter informed Mrs. Kunze that her "managerial techniques were not satisfactory" and that she was guilty of "direct insubordination to regional policies".

The supervisor said she felt she had established the RH-DCC, was happy there and did not wish to transfer.

"It was either go to Newmarket or quit — so I quit," said Mrs. Kunze.

"ALL POLITICS"
She especially did not like the way the transfer was arranged. "It was all politics and dirty play," she said. "I'm more or less glad I'm out of it."

Director of the Administration Branch of the Department of Health and Social Services, Allan Wells, would not comment on the reason for Mrs. Kunze's transfer, saying only "it's a personnel matter, explained in a letter to Mrs. Kunze".

He said it was a "lateral transfer" and part of regional policy.

The "politics" of the situation, said Mrs. Kunze, came partly from the fact that one person, Doreen Gordon, Director of Day Care Centres for the region, made all the decisions.

"And she only sees the centre about once every three months," said Mrs. Kunze.

Mr. Wells said this decision, as well as others, were management decisions, made by Dr. J. O. Slingerland, Commissioner of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Gordon and himself, based on the operation in all regional centres. The decision regarding the transfer, said Mr. Wells was "the most effective use of supervisory personnel".

STRATEGY
Twenty-two concerned parents turned up at a meeting last Tuesday to organize a strategy to try to alter region's decision. Those parents decided two representatives would meet with the mayor of Richmond Hill and letters would be sent to regional administrators involved, the press, Alf Stong and Barney Danson.

Marilyn Johnson, spokesperson for RHDC Concerned Parents said she was disappointed that

after these arrangements had been made, Mrs. Kunze quit.

"It was most unfortunate, but it must have been unpleasant for her," she said.

One of the main issues for the region was Mrs. Kunze's policy to allow children to arrive at the Centre before the program begins at 9 a.m.

Parents felt this was a helpful thing she did for working parents, while Mr. Wells pointed out the licence for the centre does not permit this practice.

The region and the province do permit by licence an after school program, running from 3:30 to 6 p.m., but did not give authority to provide care before school in the morning.

"We would be in direct violation of our licence," said Mrs. Wells.

DISREGARDED POLICY
The region took exception to the fact that Mrs. Kunze had been informed of the policy and the region's stand but disregarded it and provided the additional care.

One other issue was the integration of handicapped children into the program.

Mrs. Kunze said she agrees handicapped children should be integrated into the program, but she felt the region was gearing the program to the handicapped. "Normal children have just as much right," she said.

About this issue, Mrs. Wells

would simply say, "We find the handicapped integration program is working better in the other three regional day care centres and have taken steps to make it successful in Richmond Hill.

Mrs. Kunze had planned to leave the centre in August anyway because of an extensive holiday and dissatisfaction with the regional policy.

"They have initiated new programming," said Mrs. Kunze "where all children do the same thing at the same time." She pointed out she felt children are not necessarily at the same level. She also feels parents should have more say in the programming.

"After all they are taxpayers, as well as paying fees," she said. Parents feel Mrs. Kunze has run an excellent day care program over the past nine years for the benefit of all children involved.

STAFF QUALIFIED
Mr. Wells said Mrs. Kunze had done a fine job.

"Mrs. Kunze is not the only one who can run the centre," he said. "We think all of our staff are well qualified and feel sure Mrs. Shiril Davidson can do the job down there."

Mrs. Davidson is the new supervisor, transferred from Newmarket, who began work in Richmond Hill on Monday. About the transfer she said regional employees are told they are subject to transfer as part of the policy and that she accepts it. "The region has always been fair with me," she said.

Faulty motor causes home evacuation

Residents of Country Place, a nursing home on 18th Avenue, were awakened and evacuated to the lobby, last Wednesday night as smoke filled the buildings.

Richmond Hill firefighters were unable to locate the source of the smoke, and after two hours, the residents were permitted to return to their rooms. Many of the residents were in wheelchairs, and firefighters helped evacuate them from their rooms.

A faulty motor in the ventilating system was found to be the problem.

Twinney to resign

Ray Twinney is resigning from the York Regional Police Commission.

Twinney says he will resign at the next meeting of the commission because the province has refused to renew the license of Knight Security, a private investigation agency in which his wife holds a 20 per cent interest.

Mayor Margaret Britnell of King had earlier called for the resignation of Mr. Twinney because of the appearance of conflict of interest.

438 yesterday

GO Train commuters continue to increase

GO Transit authorities feel the new daily commuter train service between Richmond Hill and Union Station is "100 per cent effective the first week".

Ridership went up as high as 425 people on Monday and Information Officer, Tom Henry, gave an unofficial count of 438 yesterday morning.

"It's a brand new market," he said. GO projected a figure of 1000 people each direction per day after one year of service and "we're almost half way there already," said Mr. Henry.

GO officials expect a slow steady climb as commuters become more comfortable with the service and residents know it's there.



Denise Norman, 7, of Elgin Mills Road West, Richmond Hill, puts the finishing touches on her entry for a new competition at this year's Spring Fair. There will be trophies donated for first prize in each of the four classes in the Children's Parade, this Sunday, May 14.

Three days filled with activities

This is Richmond Hill Agricultural Society's Spring Fair weekend, for the 129th time.

Publicity Chairman Stella Lekx, urges everyone "to come on in and take a peek".

The fair will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. in the Town Park at the corner of Church Street and Lorne Avenue.

Admission is \$1.50 for adults, children 6 to 14, 50 cents and children under six and senior citizens are free.

There will be the usual midway attractions for children and both arenas will be full of interesting exhibits.

School work, needle craft, domestic science exhibits, and all kinds of concessions are in the new arena.

Special attraction for children will be Old McDonald's Farm in the old arena, as well as cow, sheep, chicken, rabbit and dog shows throughout the weekend.

Outside there will be three rings of horse shows going on at all times.

For hungry patrons there are concessions outside with everything from hot dogs and hamburgers to ice cream waffles and traditional candy floss.

Mrs. Lekx advises the best way to get to the park is off of Markham Road on to Ruggles Avenue where there will be quite a bit of parking. Factories have released parking facilities for the weekend, she said.

Student placement office opens here

The Richmond Hill area office for the Summer Youth Employment Program officially opened Monday with the hopes of bringing employers and students together, from now until the end of August.

Employees of the Richmond Hill Student Manpower office, representatives from the Employment and Immigration Commission for both the region and the district, two delegates from Barney Danson's constituency office and Bob Higgs, representing the Chamber of Commerce in Richmond Hill, joined Mayor Dave Schiller in the ribbon cutting ceremonies to officially open the office on Yonge Street.

Mayor Schiller commented it was the third time he had had the honor, and said he was extremely pleased with the way the centre operates and co-operates.

Iris Sopinka, student supervisor in the office, said the prime concern is to get employers to put in orders for jobs students could fill.

Students are defined as anyone going back to school in the fall. The Richmond Hill office

serves the Thornhill-Richmond Hill area between Steeles and Bayview Avenues, Keele Street and King Sideroad.

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With traffic counters at almost every intersection between Richmond Hill and Newmarket this week one could almost assume Yonge Street was destined to become a 16-lane freeway.

Not so, says the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications. The series of counters — there are dozens of them through Richmond Hill, Oak Ridges, Aurora, Newmarket and as far north as the Holland Landing cutoff — has been installed to count traffic turning off or onto Yonge Street.

Ministry employees were stationed at various points along the road yesterday morning, monitoring the traffic.

Future reconstruction of intersections will be based on the readings of this series of counters, ministry officials say.

Community pulse Sweet spring smells

So, you were walking on Yonge Street Saturday, when your nostrils perked up and looked around. "What IS that smell," you wondered, attempting to find the source of aroma. You never did find it, what with all the cars and trucks and buses, and a street sweeper on Yonge Street. Those things don't smell like that. Ah, but one did. That sneaky sweeper was carrying two gallons of concentrated "spring flower scent", mixed with 400 gallons of water, says Dave Barrow of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce. It's not the first time the town has scented its streets. A few years ago, it used a blossom scent to pick up the air a bit. And it was a nice change from the normally stinky vehicle exhausts.

Clinic falls short

Eighty-five staff members from York Central Hospital donated their blood at a blood donor clinic held at the hospital last Thursday. The Red Cross had anticipated receiving 125 units.

Welcome back, Mary

Mary Watts at one time covered events in the Richvale area for The Liberal. For the last year or so, however, she has been missing from our pages. But now Mary Watts is back, and her first article appears in your Liberal this week on Page C-9.

Maple school closing

George Bailey Senior Public School will be closed next September. Those kids in Maple now in attendance there will become part of the population of Joseph A. Gibson, which is slated for conversion to a kindergarten-Grade 8 school also for September. If Gibson should become overcrowded in future, there will always be space at Langstaff and Thornhill Public Schools.

Walter Scott students clean up

When students from Walter Scott Public School put their minds to something, they don't fool around.

Such was the case Saturday when the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce sponsored a clean-up day in the community.

Students from all the schools were invited to participate, and at the end of the day, 135 bags of garbage had been collected.

Ninety-seven bags were turned in by Walter Scott students.

Another 20 bags came from youngsters at Pleasantville Public School, and the remainder were turned in from various other sections of town.

Walter Scott students also shone in picking off awards in the

Clean-Up Day poster contest.

Five of the 10 awards went to kids from that school.

Following is the complete list of winners:

Grade 6: Christine Reddy (Our Lady of the Annunciation School); Linda Van Horn (Our Lady of the Annunciation).

Grade 5: Heather Murray (Walter Scott); John Stoner (Walter Scott).

Grade 4: Melanie Justice (Pleasantville); Peter Spence (Walter Scott).

Grade 3: Christine Riehl (Walter Scott); Angela Schank (Walter Scott).

Grade 2: Lara Lee Uthoff (Lake Wilcox); Jennifer Barrow (Pleasantville).

Grade 1: No entries.

CROSBY WALKATHON

Close to finishing walk first, two students miss a checkpoint

Tony Veitch and Paul Sarazin, both Grade 7 students at Crosby Heights Senior Public, thought they had it made last Saturday.

They were way out in front of another 183 kids in the school's 9th annual walkathon — an event that so far has raised \$28,000 for equipment and supplies at York Central Hospital.

Until the two youths reached check point number 10 at the CN tower, it appeared they would finish the 20 miles first.

However, it was then they realized they had missed the ninth checkpoint — at the Hydro building, College Street and University Avenue — and had to make the trek back there before they could officially finish at Strachan Park.

Tony and Paul are thinking men, though, and they made a deal with Tracey Hall and Catherine Anagnostopoulos, so that all four would finish the walk first. It took about 4 hours, 40 minutes for the team to sign in after starting at 8:10 a.m.

Ray Coombes, an instructor who co-ordinated the walk

said it will be at least three weeks before he knows how much the 185 walkers collected.

"With the procedure we use of having each walker go back to their sponsors with pledge sheets, it does take a little while to get final results in," he said.

He is optimistic, though, that the target the school set of \$4,000 for this year, will be surpassed.

He was present at several of the checkpoints Saturday, and felt the walk went smoothly.

"The temperature was cool," said Mr. Coombes, "but it's better that way because you generate a lot of heat when you're walking. On a hot day, that tends to dehydrate you quickly — and even though there was a bit of drizzle during the morning, we were pretty happy with the weather."

Among the walkers were principal Kelvin Tonner; vice-principal Al Tripp and Grade 8 teacher Joe Marinangeli.

They started with the majority of students, but their finishing times were not available.



On their way to downtown Toronto, these six students from Crosby Heights Senior Public School in Richmond Hill pause for a break. They are, left to right, Barb Tarrington, 298 Broaddale Crescent; Elizabeth Dandy, 391 Allen Court; Greg Byer, 78 Cartier

Crescent; Andrea Mouganel, 395 Fernleigh Crescent; Susan Higham, 431 South Taylor Mills Drive; and Jo-Ann Verner, Demaine Crescent. More than 180 students took part in the annual walkathon which is expected to raise about \$4,000.