

It's dry, all right...but it's not really hot

By SHARON HAY and MILLIE STEWART
Your favorite "in and out" store may soon need a revolving door.
They're tough places to get into these days, thanks to a near-drought, coupled with hot, sticky weather, which residents of the area have been enduring for weeks.

Brewers' Retail spokesmen say their sales have skyrocketed as people stock up with the suds to beat the heat.

Officials aren't really surprised by the increase in sales. They expected it and, naturally, hope the hot, dry weather hangs around a little while longer.

Liquor stores, meanwhile, report sales are steady, with only the summer drinks — lemon gin, etc. — showing any marked increase in sales.

While we run around tugging at shirt collars and mopping sweaty brows, here's a cool thought from the Ontario Weather Centre.

Temperatures for the month of July are running one degree below normal. Don't you feel better already?

But, they say, it is dry. It began May 21, and statistics available at Toronto International Airport show that so far, only one-quarter of an inch of rain has fallen this month, compared with the normal inch and a half.

In June, one inch fell, but normally we would get three.

The forecast through to this weekend calls for sunny weather with cloudy periods — with only a slight chance of thunderstorms tonight.

Oak Ridges Farms on Yonge Street grows corn mainly for silage, and under normal weather conditions will get a yield of 15 to 20 tons per acre.

However, according to the farm manager unless there is rain in the next week or so, the crop yield will be cut in half.

Bill Mitchell at his farm says his sweet corn is about a month behind and pasture grain is suffering as well.

"If we don't have rain soon, the late corn crop will suffer, as will the late grain crops."

Bill Powell, of Francis Powell and Company, specialists in commercial hay sales, says it has been exceptionally good weather for getting hay crops off and "there is lots of good hay around."

He says, however, that farmers expect the second cutting will be scarce, because it's just not growing.

Turf farms and sod companies are feeling the pinch and some are out of irrigated sod. Without rain, new grass won't grow back.

Town maintenance manager Merv Perkins says Richmond Hill is holding off planting any new sod, but he is not concerned

about sod laid earlier. "It does create some problems," he said, "but it will pop back."
And where are you going in all this heat?
Boyd Conservation Area in the Woodbridge district and Bruce's Mill on the Gormley Sideroad,

both report increased attendance.
Boys played host to 81,223 people, an increase of 3,665 over last year; while Bruce's Mills is up 4,022 to 64,778.
You're not using the town pools, however. Officials say attendance is down at both the

Centennial Pool and the Richvale Pool.
They say the decrease is caused by so many vacationing families at this time of year.
Gwen Halliday, program director at the Y, says the weather is great.
"We like it because it makes it

delightful for programming," she said, referring to day camps now in operation.
"Heat doesn't seem to affect kids," she said.
The weather has yet to help the ice cream business to any degree.
"We need hot, humid weather for our business," says Frank

Gallant, owner of the Richmond Hill Dairy Queen store on Yonge Street.
And for you pool owners — your costs are going up.
Residents with outdoor swimming pools are likely using more chemicals because of the long hours of sunshine.

The sun almost drinks chlorine. Craig Watling, owner of Pool Craft on Yonge Street, says sales of chemicals has increased, and says if people don't take precautions for severe temperatures, they will end up with algae problems in their pools.
Have a happy summer.

Richmond Hill Edition

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VAUGHAN ADMINISTRATOR

Lori Staples quits



LORI STAPLES

Vaughan council accepted the resignation of its chief administrative officer Tuesday amid charges from Mayor Garnet Williams that she was "driven from office."

The administrator, Lori Staples, will receive nine months' severance pay, \$27,326.

She had planned to fight for her job but with the advice of her solicitor, decided Monday to resign without the benefit of the public hearing allowed to her under the municipal act.

Council decided last month to ask for the resignations of both Ms. Staples and John Dewar, the planning director for the last 11 years because of a personality conflict between them. "It got to the point where they could not be in the same room together," said Councillor David Fraser, and the business of the town was affected because of the conflict.

The town's solicitor, Tom Fraser, was asked to seek their resignations and according to Councillor Ab Hollingshead, everything that has happened since has been the working out of the resignation process.

The town had also fired management consultants who

In council Tuesday, Mayor Williams said he favored terminating the planning director but not Ms. Staples who had never had a fair opportunity to show what she could do "because of the harassment of another employee."

He had asked Ms Staples if any reason had been given for her being asked to resign and it had not. "I had to tell her I knew of no reason myself."

The reputation of the Town of Vaughan has deteriorated to the point in its treatment of employees, it will not recover "for

See also page A2, editorial page A4

generations." He felt it would be difficult to hire another highly qualified administrator.

He said that the previous town administrator, (Jim McDonald of Thornhill who was with the town 38 years), also had problems with Mr. Dewar and that "the province recommended firing Mr. Dewar before Ms Staples was even around."

But Councillor David Fraser, also the regional planning chairman this year, said that John Dewar "was a good planner and is a good planner."

He said that planning matters had been delayed "simply because of the staff conflict." He was satisfied from his own inquiries that Ms. Staples, who had been absent for two months due to illness, could not have regained the confidence of other employees.

He also felt that the amount of the settlements in each case was less than the high figure that each employee could have obtained through litigation, but it was higher than the low figure. Council had not sought just cause for firing the employees which would have meant no severance pay, if successful.

A press release read in council said that while there had been allegations, the council knew of no evidence of any wrongdoing by either employee.

Some of the 30 residents asked questions, mostly supportive of Ms. Staples. But one man congratulated the council for "finally taking the bull by the horns".

AUGUST 16 Hydro meet set

Finally a meeting has been arranged to get some answers about the proposed hydro towers between Thornhill and Richmond Hill.

Andrew Meles, interim president for the newly formed Romfield Circuit Area Community Association, said he noticed at both a council meeting and the Citizens' Advisory Group information meeting in the Blue Flame Room, hydro representatives and council members could not answer all questions.

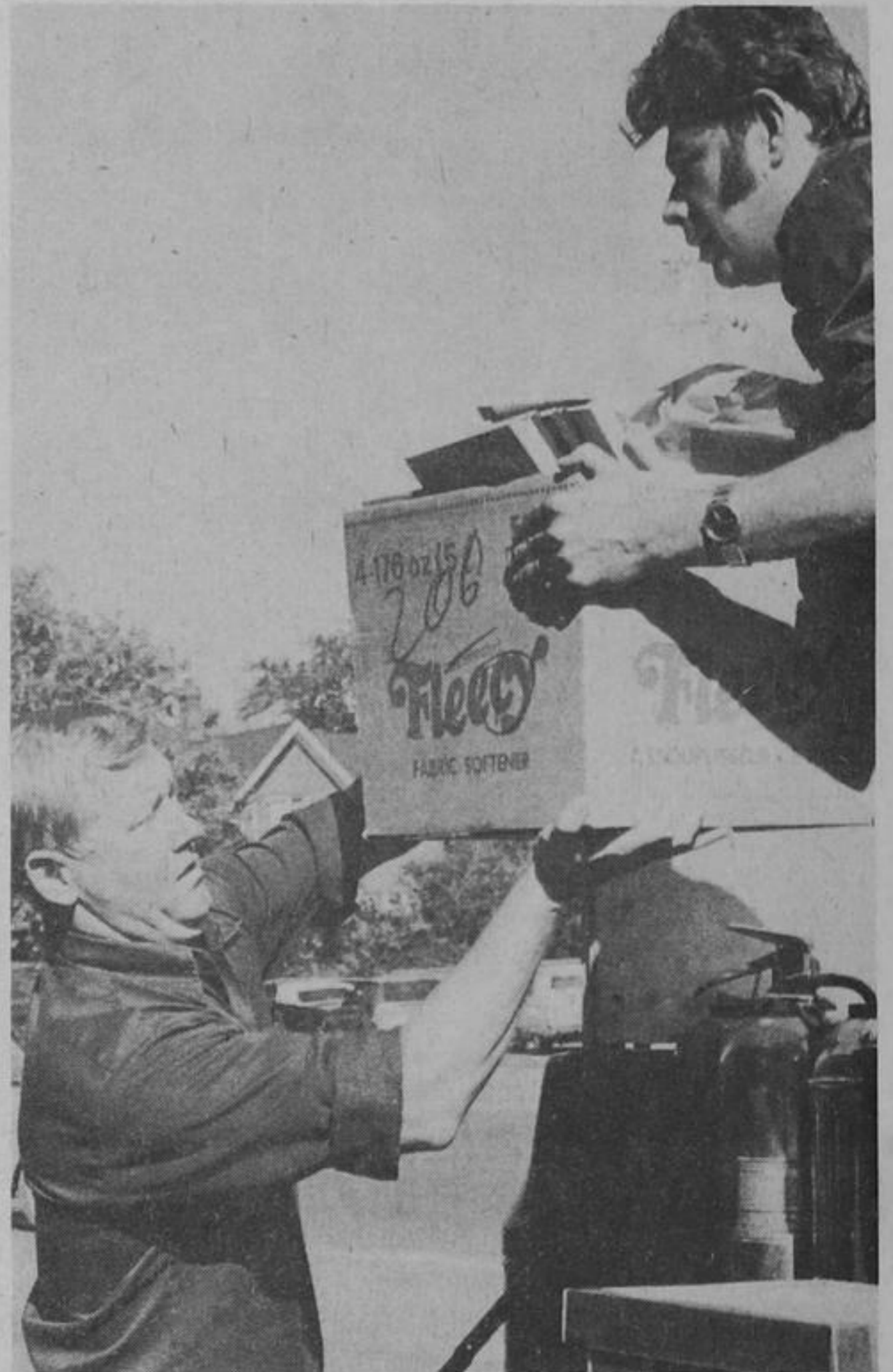
"A number of questions needed a political reply," said Mr. Meles.
Although York Centre MLA Alf Stong was present at one meeting, Mr. Meles said he felt Mr. Stong had come as a member of the audience and was not prepared to answer questions on a government decision.

The meeting will be held at Thornlea Secondary School, August 16 at 8 p.m. with a panel made up of Alf Stong, Markham councillor Stan Daurio and a representative from Canadian Environmental Law.

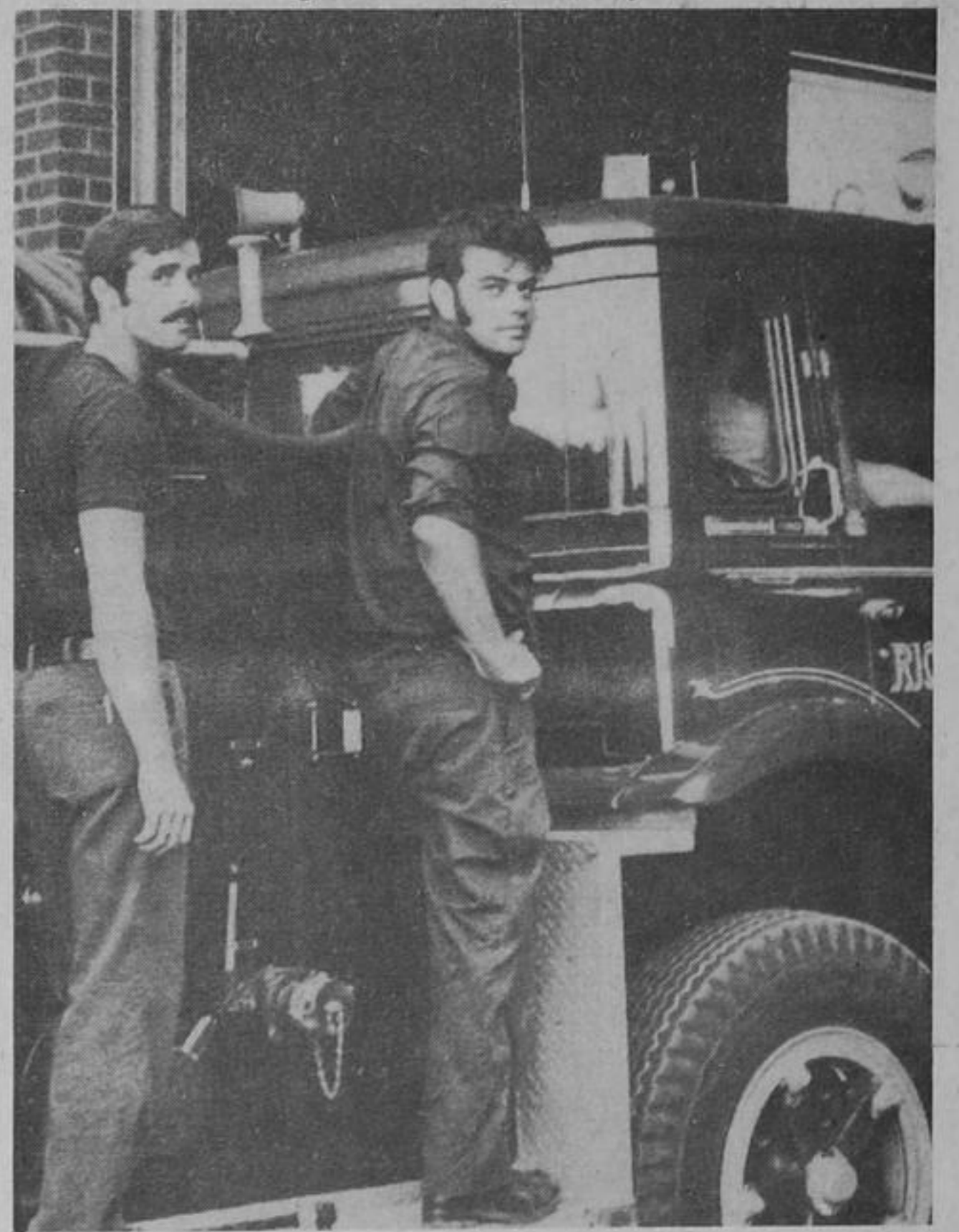
The purpose of this meeting, said Mr. Meles, is to see that the people of Thornhill can get answers to their questions and make a decision of what can and should be done.

"No question should remain unanswered," said Mr. Meles.

Richmond Hill, Vaughan and other Markham councillors will be invited also, said the interim president, but only as part of the audience.



Easy now those are the Chief's papers. Firefighter Vic Ryman, left hands a box of papers to Paul Shuster. They were starting to move some files and other equipment into the new Fire Department headquarters, Monday morning. (Liberal photos by Millie Stewart)



In you go truck, Richmond Hill firefighters Dave Sefton, left and Paul Shuster hitch a ride on the side of Pumper 4 as Vic Ryman drives it into its new bay at the Fire Department's new headquarters on Major Mackenzie Drive.

Big move now underway, town's fire department ready for new hall

Richmond Hill Fire Department has started to move into its new headquarters on Major Mackenzie Drive.

Monday morning, firefighters loaded a truck with boxes and hoses and headed to the new hall.

The platform truck, housed until Monday at the Spruce Street hall, is now occupying the place of honor in its new bay at the new hall.

A tanker truck from the Spruce Street hall was moved into the new hall as well.

The hall on Spruce Street is no longer being used, and plans are to leave the building vacant for the time being.

Fire Chief, Bob Kennedy says,

"We hope to move equipment and files to the new hall for the rest of this week, and if all goes well, we will be running out of the new hall starting next Monday."

The new hall has better facilities for training the full time men and the volunteers.

There is an exercise and meeting room for mutual aid meetings that is large enough to accommodate all the men in one area.

Moving all vehicles from the Wright Street hall and the Spruce Street hall to the one location will mean that the hall in Oak Ridges will be more needed than ever because it will cover the entire north end of the community.

Dream for jail farm

Nikitas Tzembelikos is a man with a dream — the dream of a place where residents and tourists alike could go and relax and enjoy the countryside in whatever fashion they choose.

Mr. Tzembelikos, a Richmond Hill business man, will make a presentation to the town's planning committee August 1 outlining his proposal for a giant recreation complex at the former Langstaff Jail Farm, Highway 7 between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue, now owned by the City of Toronto.

Ontario Hydro's proposed transmission line towers will necessitate the removal of the historic buildings and Mr. Tzembelikos would like the town to look at his proposal as an alternative.

Mr. Tzembelikos sees the former administration building, the one closest to Yonge Street, as housing a variety of restaurants, each serving an assortment of different foods as well as special banquet rooms for private parties.

The rooms in this building are immense with high ceilings, each having a panoramic view of Thornhill or Richmond Hill.

The basement of this old building would be a natural for

some sort of flea market or farmers' market, open all year round, said Mr. Tzembelikos.

SANDBLAST

He would like to sandblast and repair the buildings, but retain as much of the historic uniqueness of the jail farm as possible.

"I don't want to lose the character of the buildings," he said.

Standing at the window looking northward, Mr. Tzembelikos pointed out where he visualized picnic areas, tennis courts, three olympic size pools, central parking and a trailer park to handle the thousands of tourists he sees using the area.

A recreational area of this magnitude, said Mr. Tzembelikos, would attract tourists from all over the country.

He stated this 600 acres is the largest tract of land belonging to the taxpayers around the city and should be maintained as a place for people to go and relax.

Highway access, GO bus transit on Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue, as well as the GO rail station right on the property, will save a lot of traffic congestion for the complex, he explained.



To anyone else it may look like an old barn, but to Nikitas Tzembelikos it could be the home of a summer theatre and part of a giant recreation complex he has planned for the former Langstaff Jail Farm. Mr. Tzembelikos will make a presentation to Richmond Hill planning committee August 1, outlining his plans for the area. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

He saves water in case of fire

Residents will be reassured to know that the town maintenance manager is working hand in hand with the fire department.

Richmond Hill Maintenance Manager, Merv Perkins, says he shuts off the water at the main tower on Newkirk Road when about one-third of the water is used.

That way he will hold about 150,000 gallons in reserve in the event of fire.

The town draws its supply from three main wells, one on Newkirk, one on Major Mackenzie, approximately one mile west of Bathurst Street, and the other on Sussex Avenue.

Lawn watering restrictions began being enforced in the town early in July. Mr. Perkins set up a schedule for lawn watering at that time, requesting even numbers in street addresses water lawns Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings while odd numbers, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"The bylaw is only to request people to act in a reasonable manner," said Mr. Perkins.

The works department has two employees who travel through the town to check on whether people are adhering to the restrictions.

Last weekend, on one day alone, Mr. Perkins said residents used four million gallons of water, double the average consumption.