



If you've ever called the Richmond Hill Theatre and heard a short informational tape recording, this is the face that goes with the voice. Carmen Bordonaro is

theatre manager and says big things are slated to happen at the local movie house. You can't argue with the price. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

# Elementary teachers ratify six per cent salary pact

York County Elementary teachers and the school board are moving ahead steadily with both groups, ratifying a salary contract allowing for an average increase of six per cent across the board — just what a provincial fact finder called for last October.

The low end of the teaching positions received the largest increases ranging from 6 to 6.4 per cent. A first-year teacher starting off with

the minimum of qualifications will now get just under \$10,000 per annum. That's up \$934 over the last contract which expired August 31, 1978.

A teacher with five years' experience in that same group (category D) got a boost of \$1,608 to nearly \$13,900. That's as far as a teacher can get in that category.

Meanwhile, it was teachers at the top end of the scale who got the smallest chunk of the

spoils.

The A4 group, teachers with honors degrees, managed an average increase of 5.8 per cent. The salary range for the 13 steps allowed for each year of experience is now \$15,894 to \$28,408.

Under the old contract, the figures ranged from \$14,960 to \$26,800 so the average annual salary increase for one of these teachers is \$1,177.

The contract is retroactive to September 1, 1978. Many of the other

issues which were said to be holding negotiations up, remained the same in the new deal.

Staffing ratios didn't change, with the board and teachers agreeing to keep the system-wide ratio to within one per cent of 21.23:1.

The contentious tenure clause, which states the board will not terminate the permanent contract of any teacher because of declining enrollment, is still in the agreement.

Before fact finding, the board had asked for salary increases of four per cent. The teachers had requested seven per cent and neither demands included the annual increment allowance for experience, an extra 2.2 per cent.

At least one Area 4 teacher (category A4) who asked not to be identified, said he was unhappy with the contract. He voted against ratifying it when he was asked to mark a secret ballot last week.

"I think it's fair to say it isn't enough. The cost of living is rising by something like nine per cent every year so you can see the disadvantage teachers are faced with at a 5.8 or 6 per cent contract," he said.

The secondary teachers have so far not come to an agreement with the board. Provincial mediator Harvey Ladd was supposed to have been in the process of setting up another round of mediation talks at press time.

The secondary contract for the last school year wasn't signed until December 7, 1977.

## MTC reps review 407 with Hill

Plans for the proposed Highway 407 on the site of the present Highway 7 were presented to council and a handful of interested citizens of Richmond Hill last Tuesday evening.

Len Dutchak and Gary Corupe, representing the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, and Robert Adachi, chief transportation engineer for the consultant firm of Fenco Consultants Limited, hired by the ministry, explained the need for such a highway, the route it would take and certain design details.

Throughout the presentation, Mr. Dutchak stressed the fact there is no program or date for construction at this time — that these are concept drawings only.

When pressed by members of council for a date of possible construction Mr. Dutchak said, hypothetically, if the money was to become available today, the portion of the highway from Highway 427 to Highway 400 would not begin until 1981 and would not be complete until 1987.

"The costs are staggering. We can't afford to build it all at once," said Mr. Dutchak.

The consultant, Mr. Adachi, gave a figure in excess of \$100 million to complete both the new Highway 407 and the realignment of Highway 7 between Bathurst Street and Highway 404.

Councillor John Birchall expressed a concern for public input on the highway issue, so that a situation like the dispute over the Gormley interchange on Highway 404 did not arise.

He was informed by Mr. Dutchak that meetings had been held in conjunction with the parkway belt hearings and certain commitments had been made, but the ministry was keeping close contact with Works Commissioner for Richmond Hill, Bernie Toporowski.

Public meetings will be set up to receive input about the realignment of Highway 7, said the representative of MTC.

After the formal presentation, the small citizen audience was allowed to ask questions of the well informed representatives.

Alan Ablett, a property owner near the proposed

interchange at Yonge Street and Highway 407, and Bill Doel representing the Doncrest Rockwell community which would be affected by the new highway, questioned property expropriation and noise abatement practices.

Terry Goodwin, ex-councillor for Vaughan, expressed concern for the Boyle community and Longbridge Road residents, but other members of the audience were silent.

## Watermain break closes Crosby

Water services and through traffic were both cut off on Crosby Avenue for about six hours Monday.

Maintenance Manager for Richmond Hill, Merv Perkins said his department received a call at 9.15 a.m. Monday advising of a problem and because the break was in a particularly bad spot the repair was not complete until 5.15 p.m. adding a total cost to the municipality of \$633.

Mr. Perkins said breaks in the watermain are fairly common. There were 78 breaks in 1978, and usually about twice as many in winter as summer.

Breaks occur because of the pressure exerted by frost, temperature differential, stones working their way up, soft spots in bedding and weak materials, said the works department

representative, and usually cost anywhere from \$200 to \$500 to repair.

Mr. Perkins considers the repair of watermain the worst job in the municipality, especially if it occurs at night — combining the late hour with sub-zero temperatures looking for the break surrounded by mud and water.

The works department usually tries to close off the streets to keep the traffic away so the men can work quickly without being crowded, said Mr. Perkins.

Often time is taken waiting for representatives from hydro, gas, cable and telephone to arrive at the location so that digging can begin. The break is often hard to locate in winter because the water travels underground quite a distance because of frost.

## Movie going should be "community experience"

BY STEVE PEARLSTEIN  
Liberal Staff Writer

Richmond Hill's best theatre wants to do more than just take your ticket and kick you into your seat.

Since it's the town's only moviehouse, employees there think going to films should be a "friendly, community experience".

At least that's the way manager Carmen Bordonaro, 27, looks at it. He started running the Richmond Hill Theatre in June, 1978, when it was taken over from the Odeon chain.

The 400-seat screening room is still leased from its next-door neighbor, The Richmond Inn.

"People have the wrong impression of the Inn. It is in the process of changing and beginning to improve," said Mr. Bordonaro.

The new theatre owners are two entrepreneurs who also own the Fox Theatre in Toronto's Beaches area and the Kingsway at Royal York Road and Bloor. Mr. Bordonaro was hired to run the latest acquisition of Tom Litvinskas and Jerry Szczer, after he spent two years operating an advertising agency with a partner in Toronto.

Carmen takes care of booking pictures from distributors, advertising and promotion for films and the day-to-day functions of the theatre.

Whether they realize it or not, patrons who call the theatre automatically encounter one of its unique features.

A recorded message gives the day's movie and starting times and transmits a bleep.

If the caller stays on the line, his voice is recorded and Carmen says some of the comments are worth playing back.

"We just like to get an idea of the type of people who call us. No names are used so sometimes the comments range from abusive or obscene to constructive. It varies with what we're showing," he said.

The theatre's major problem is its drawing power. Currently, shows are only

averaging 50 people per night from Monday to Thursday. Busiest nights are Fridays and Saturdays, which usually bring out about 200 viewers.

Until three weeks ago, general admission to the theatre was \$2 per person. Prices now are \$2.50, \$1.50 for kids and if senior citizens show Carmen their cards, he lets them in free.

"I have lots of fun with the older people. Last week, a couple came up to me to show their senior citizen cards and then wanted to pay admission. I wouldn't accept it and let them in free. They couldn't believe it," he said.

The manager also claimed he has often handed out free coffee to seniors and they always appreciate that kind of hospitality.

Carmen's other major headache is his never-ending fight with the distributors to get the films he'd like to show. The problem is, all the big hits end up at the larger chain houses like Odeon and Famous Players Theatres.

He has to work around constraints set by the distributor like getting a popular film, in return for playing a loser for a certain length of time.

"Even if I could explain all the political hassles we have to go through with the distributor, you wouldn't understand them," said Carmen.

He is working to improve the quality of movies shown at the theatre, though. Within the next two months such titles as Animal House, Midnight Express, Boys From Brazil and Magic should be here.

Special group rates and passes to local businesses and schools are available. Call Carmen after 5 p.m. at 883-5533.

Depending on the film, the box office opens at 6:30 or 7:30 p.m., with two showings per night, unless a double feature is running.

For the New Year, the manager hopes to make improvements to the washrooms and have the lobby of the theatre freshly painted.

## Freeway parking areas just happened, he says

New parking lots at access points onto Highway 407 were not the idea of the government, who owns the property, but rather the idea of the commuters who have been parking there.

Fred Cederberg from the Safety Information Branch of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, (MTC), said "It wasn't really our idea — we're just going along with what has sprung up."

People have been parking at intersections off Highway 400 and Highway 7, King City Sideroad, Highway 9 and 88, and the ministry wanted to prevent potential traffic hazards, said the ministry representative.

He suggested car pooling commuters had been meeting at these locations and parking cars on grass and shoulder areas.

tends to keep the surface clean during winter months.

The advantages are many, said Mr. Cederberg, it will reduce traffic volume on the highway as well as ease the parking situation in Toronto as well as produce savings

for individuals and conserve energy.

Cost for each lot with approximately 70 parking spaces will be about \$67,000.

The ministry plans to monitor the usage of such a project to see if it will meet expectations and for future design features.

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