

Bob and his tractor take the plunge again

By MILLIE STEWART
Liberal Reporter

Town of Richmond Hill tractor driver, Bob Whitmarsh, who has been with the Parks and Recreation department longer than anyone, must be wondering if he should invest in a set of water wings.

Bob and his tractor seem to be having a run of bad luck with the ice on neighborhood ponds.

Recently he and his tractor went through a soft spot on the Mill Pond, when he was testing the ice for strength.

It was just a fluke, because the Mill Pond is perfectly safe everywhere else.

Last week, Bob took his tractor to Oak

Ridges to clear the snow off a pond at the corner of Maple Grove and Wendy Way, because Councillor Gord Rowe asked the town for some assistance.

As luck would have it, the tractor found a soft spot at the very edge of the pond, and Bob once again found himself up to the hubs in slush.

Dave Hamilton from the Parks and Recreation Department assured The Liberal that the ice on this pond and the Mill Pond is perfectly safe.

Once the ice reaches a thickness of six to eight inches, it can sustain a weight of two tons, and the tractor weighs only 3,000 pounds.

Review grants

The Finance Committee for the Town of Richmond Hill is still reviewing grant applications from organizations other than those of a recreational nature.

Seventeen organizations in town filed under this category and five of those where either new or asking for a larger amount.

Last Tuesday representatives from the five organizations spoke to the committee explaining their special need.

The groups asking for special grants are the York County Association for the Mentally Retarded; Helpmate Information; Energy Conservation Office; the Recycling Committee; and the Richmond Hill Youth Concert Band.

Secondary teachers, board in limbo - Monroe

While elementary teachers have settled contract negotiations with the York Board of Education, mediation, hearings between the secondary teachers' team and the board remain in limbo.

Bill Monroe, chairman of the board's team, is not happy with the delay in setting up another round of talks.

He said he doesn't know what provincial mediator Harvey Ladd's problems are, but if he had his own choice, he'd get the two sides back together as quickly as possible.

"There's a lot of talk about mistrust between the board and teachers. These long gaps in between meetings make it

look like the truth," said Mr. Monroe. "Well just the opposite is the case — we do give a damn."

He claimed it wouldn't be breaking any regulations if he were to approach the teachers. "Our negotiations would probably be far

superior without him (the mediator) anyway," he said.

The teachers have been without a contract since August 31, 1978. Their last contract, which was effective September 1, 1977, was signed in early December of that year.

BABY BONUS WINNER!



The December winner of the S.S. Kresge Co. "Double Your Baby Bonus Draw" was R. Brownley, 217 Elgin Mills Road, Richmond Hill. The amount won was \$51.36.

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The application form for the new federal Child Tax Credit is enclosed with your

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