

## Crime rate up 7.9%

Crime in York Region was up 7.9 per cent in 1978, according to statistics made public last week by Police Chief Bruce Crawford.

In a report to the police commission, Chief Crawford revealed that crime against persons increased in all but one category. All categories of crime against property showed increases.

While the chief was not pleased with the statistics, he admitted that "it's not a startling situation" and that "it is not unusual in this day and age for the crime rate to increase."

He noted that the increase in impaired driving charges — 1,030 in 1978 compared with 933 the previous year — was 10.5 per cent.

There were three murders in 1978, up from one the previous year, and attempted murders increased from one to five in the same period.

While rape offences showed no increase in 1978, there was almost a 100 per cent increase in other sexual offences (from 39 in 1977 to 69 last year).

Charges of possession of an offensive weapon jumped from 46 in 1977 to 90 last year, while arson charges more than doubled (from 21 in 1977 to 45 last year).

Modest increases were recorded in assaults, breaking and entering and thefts.



Richvale Lions Majorettes Michelle Dennis, 7, and her five-year-old sister Jeannette, are getting ready for their annual skateathon which takes place this Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

## School board wants information officer

The York Board of Education Monday night, confirmed what many of the Region's residents have suspected has been happening for some time — it's going around in circles, at least in one respect.

It authorized a search committee to hire a capable person for the position of information officer. The job had been deleted late in 1977 when Margaret McLean accepted a position with another board of education. Since then, many trustees have bemoaned the fact they made a mistake by not replacing her.

What hurts more is a decision the board made last February that has come back to haunt it. At that time, Newmarket Trustee Craig Cribar was asked to chair a special committee to develop a job description and hiring criteria for a communications or information officer.

The committee spent a lot of time and came up with some commendable recommendations — all of which were passed by the board — except for permission to advertise the position, interview candidates and select someone to fill the bill.

The board went through a useless exercise of approving the criteria for acceptability, the salary range (\$14,200 - \$18,500) and even a change in emphasis from the previous job description. Now that the decision has been made, the board will likely have somebody working at the job as

early as the budget debates, which wind down at the beginning of March. Like most expenditures, some trustees couldn't see the need for such a position.

"I feel the board made a serious error in not appointing someone to replace Mrs. McLean when she left. I would respectfully suggest the board hasn't done a good job of communicating with the public since the position was deleted. At that time we felt trust and the local press could do the job, but that hasn't been the case," said Vaughan Trustee Don Cameron, who re-introduced the subject.

Thornhill Trustee MacDonald couldn't agree. She claimed the board has 20 good communications officers who are responsible for relating board and school events to the public. She said the money for the job could be better spent in the classroom.

"I know you're not going to get the kind of job done you want for \$20,000 or \$30,000 — if you could, then I'd support the idea," said Mr. Weller.

The trustees ignored him this time.

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## Sheldrake hasn't filed expenses from election

With less than one week to go all candidates for local council have filed election expenses and contributions — except one.

Candidates were required by bylaw to submit a statement of expenses incurred and contributions received in support of election

campaigns within 60 days.

Because six of the 16 candidates did not comply with the bylaw, Town Clerk Dave Weldon granted an extension until Friday, January 26.

Doug Sheldrake, who ran for regional councillor, has not yet filed his statement.

Expenses of the late filers agreed with averages which became apparent on deadline day, with unsuccessful candidate Jack Major spending \$379.61 and Regional Councillor Lou Wainwright, \$3,127.23.

Of the Ward councillors, Ward 5 candidate Ann Gold and councillor Bill Corcoran spent the

largest amount.

Ann Gold received \$275 and spent \$772.21 and Bill Corcoran received \$450 and spent \$876.86.

Councillor for Ward 2, Al Duffy, whose seat was not contested, did not spend any money on his campaign, nor on his statement in compliance with the bylaw.

"I did not spend any money on a campaign," signed "Al Duffy" was scribbled on the bottom of the clerk's letter reminding the councillor of the bylaw.

## Fire damages office

A fire in the offices of Meriah Surf Products on Newkirk Road in Richmond Hill caused an estimated \$23,000 damage last Wednesday night.

Several nearby residents saw the flames and called the Richmond Hill Fire Department. Firefighters were able to confine the damage to one end of the building.

The building is owned by Canadian Heat Treaters, but they rent it out to two companies.

Wilkinson Metals occupies the rear of the building and Meriah Surf Products the front.

A cause for the fire has not been found, but it is believed to be accidental. Fire officials were still investigating.

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## 1979 is International Year of the Child



Here's what Ontario is doing and what you can do to improve the well-being of our children.



The United Nations has proclaimed 1979 as International Year of the Child in order to focus attention on children everywhere. In Ontario, the Government has always looked at children as our most precious resource and has worked to provide them with the best possible health, education and social programs. In 1979, we intend to strengthen these services and programs in the belief that the peace and prosperity

of the future depends on the well-being of our children today. However, the Year of the Child to be truly successful in Ontario, must have everyone's support... your support. Only you, as a parent or friend, can provide the love and concern that is so essential to the healthy development of a child. For more information on the Ontario Government's programs for our children, and a list of suggestions of what you, your organization or community can do

during the International Year of the Child, write to: International Year of the Child 1979, "Today is for Tomorrow" Secretariat for Social Development Whitney Block, 1st Floor Queen's Park Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2

**Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development**  
**William Davis, Premier**  
Province of Ontario