

Temperatures plunge but spirits high

Sunday was the coldest February 11 on record — just ask anyone who attended Richmond Hill's 11th Annual Winter Carnival.

Temperatures for the three days of events and entertainment reached as low as -27 C (an all time low for the area) and only as high as -10 C.

Tired but pleased carnival committee members unanimously agreed this particular Winter Carnival on the Mill Pond was one of the best and they were overwhelmed by the numbers that turned out, estimated in the thousands.

In the sub-zero but starry weather Friday night, pretty Lori

McDowell, from Richmond Hill High School claimed her success as 1979 Winter Carnival Queen.

Traditional tears of happiness, both from Lori and her mother, matched the sparkle of the crown Lori was to wear proudly throughout the weekend.

Runners-up, dressed in denim instead of customary chiffon,

were Joey Stephenson, also from Richmond Hill High School, Lesley Hoare, from Langstaff Secondary School, Laura Amodeo, from Don Head Secondary School and Francis Woo, also from Langstaff.

Lori modestly told The Liberal it felt great to be chosen queen and she was thrilled but sur-

prised because "there were quite a few girls who would have done a great job," she said.

Most adults huddled close to fires set in oil drums around the pond but kids who didn't seem to notice the cold competed in races and hockey competitions. Results of these events can be found on page A-2

More people than ever before took snowmobile rides at this year's carnival. Twenty-four hundred circles were made of the pond in the two carnival days.

Jim Barber, in charge of the snowmobile rides counted 16 machines and caboose donated to carnival weekend and thanked the drivers saying he felt the rides were something the kids always remember.

Shirley Klees, from William Klees and Son, wholesale meats in Richmond Hill who donate all of the meat used at the carnival each year, said 3,216 hamburger patties were used and 210 pounds of sausage to accompany the pancakes on Sunday morning.

The York Central Canadian Progress Club Pancake Breakfast drew hundreds of early carnival participants.

Because some were lined up almost one full hour, committee members stoked up the barbecues early creating a first for the carnival — barbecued pancakes.

Richmond Hill Minor Soccer Association cleaned up this year by winning both the men and women's division of the annual Bed Race. This year there were 20 decorated beds in the competition.

The warmest people at the carnival this year were the ones lucky to be tall enough to fit into the Ookpik costume.

One Ookpik Saturday said "it's like an oven in here" but said he was delighted to see the five to six year olds who rushed up to shake Ookpik's hands.

"They love it," he said.

Committee members cleaned up quickly after 4 p.m. Sunday to go to a wind-up celebration where they rehashed the carnival and started planning Richmond Hill's 12th Annual Winter Carnival.

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At hearing

Moorhead yells foul

By SHAARON HAY
Liberal Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. John Moorhead took the stand in a Toronto courtroom yesterday and flatly denied that he gave Thornhill businessman Douglas Sheldrake confidential police information.

A confidential document the policeman had put in his briefcase before visiting Mr. Sheldrake's office last July somehow wound up in Mr. Sheldrake's files, according to testimony at the disciplinary hearing.

A 13-year York Regional Police officer, Moorhead was not asked to speculate how the document came into Mr. Sheldrake's possession. The policeman said he had left his briefcase in Mr. Sheldrake's office for 10 or 15 minutes, then picked it up, went home and did not look in the briefcase for several weeks.

He insisted that he had not given the document to Mr. Sheldrake.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead testified that he had invested \$6,000 in Mr. Sheldrake's business. He also admitted that he used a police data bank to follow up requests from Mr. Sheldrake.

But he vigorously denied that he had passed any confidential information back to Mr. Sheldrake.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead, 34, is charged with a breach of discipline for allegedly giving Mr. Sheldrake information from the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). If he is found guilty of the charge under the Police Act, his penalty could range from a reprimand to dismissal.

"At no time did I provide him (Sheldrake) with information from the CPIC system for any purpose at all," Staff Sgt. Moorhead testified yesterday before County Court Judge Hugh O'Connell.

His denial came during questioning from his lawyer, former Ontario Ombudsman Arthur Maloney, during the second day of the disciplinary hearing.

The disciplinary charge was laid last August after Mr. Sheldrake, a former York constable who was fired in 1976, issued a barrage of misconduct allegations against the regional police force.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead said Mr. Sheldrake called him in July 1978 and claimed to have information about a major fraud incident. Mr. Sheldrake asked the policeman to run a CPIC check on two persons in connection with the alleged fraud, Staff Sgt. Moorhead testified.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead said he ran the check and found nothing to incriminate the two persons. He said he then put the CPIC printout into his briefcase and drove to Toronto, where he attended the perjury trial of a former colleague, Constable Doug Murray.

On his way home, he said, he stopped at Mr. Sheldrake's office. He said he sat down in the office, opened his briefcase, looked at the CPIC printout and told Mr. Sheldrake the check had produced no pertinent information.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead stressed that he did not allow Mr. Sheldrake to look at the printout.

Then, he closed his briefcase, leaving it on Mr. Sheldrake's desk and went into another room while Mr. Sheldrake used the telephone. Staff Sgt. Moorhead said he was gone for 10 to 15 minutes. On his return, he picked up his briefcase, and went home, he testified.

The officer said he then went on holidays. On his return, he discovered that newspapers were publishing reports that he had provided Mr. Sheldrake with

CPIC information.

"I am sure I did not take it to him (Sheldrake) or leave it in his office," the staff sergeant testified.

He also denied providing the information to any other business associate of Mr. Sheldrake, as prosecution witnesses had alleged on Monday.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead said Mr. Sheldrake had urged him to quit the police force and go into business with him. Mr. Sheldrake originally offered him \$100,000 to manage the business, the staff sergeant said.

Later, the ante was lowered to \$50,000, then \$15,000, and at one point, Mr. Sheldrake suggested that the policeman might be willing to work for a couple of weeks without pay, Staff Sgt. Moorhead testified.

The policeman said he declined the offer, but became involved in further negotiations when Mr. Sheldrake tried to interest a Newmarket business group in buying his credit agency. He said that Newmarket group included then regional councillor Ray Twinney (who was elected Newmarket mayor on Monday).

The group — which also included Robert Armstrong, Dave Smalley and Lorne Stevenson — was interested in buying the Sheldrake interest only if Staff Sgt. Moorhead would "put a leash on it for them" as manager, the policeman testified.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead said he declined the offer, a move that greatly annoyed Mr. Sheldrake.

The policeman testified that during the first six months of 1978, Mr. Sheldrake called him several times to request CPIC checks. In each case, he said, the request related to a situation which Mr. Sheldrake claimed involved a criminal offence.

Staff Sgt. Moorhead said he ran several CPIC checks on this basis, but never passed on any information to Mr. Sheldrake. In one instance, a man seeking employment with Mr. Sheldrake was wanted by Durham Regional Police, and the information on his current whereabouts was turned over to that police force, Staff Sgt. Moorhead said.

The hearing continues today.

(Monday's testimony, See Page A-2)

Teachers angry

Teachers in the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School system are upset with their negotiating team because "they gave a few things away," an angry teacher told The Liberal yesterday. (Tuesday)

The teacher, who refused to identify himself "at this time", said a meeting was scheduled late yesterday afternoon to discuss the situation.

55 district residents become new Canadians

Fifty-five residents of Richmond Hill and Thornhill became Canadian citizens at a special ceremony in Richmond Hill last week.

Our Lady Queen of the World Church on Bayview Avenue was the scene for the swearing in

ceremony sponsored and organized by the Catholic Women's League under the direction of Stella Dickenson.

Our new Canadians are: Concezio, Silvana and Alberto Battaglini, and Mrs. Mary Ellen Coen.

Joining them were Concezio and Elena Colucci; Piero Colucci; and Roberto and Paola Colucci.

Also included in the ceremony were: Iolanda D'Antonio; Bruno and Maria DelGrosso; Gino Rocco DelGrosso and Mrs. Antonia DelGrosso; and Maria Grazia DelGrosso.

Gabriele Iacobucci Delplavignano and Camillo and Ida Dicesare joined the above.

Two Di Domenico families swore their allegiance to the Queen. They are: Mario, Delfina and daughter, Concetta; and Orlando, Giannina and daughter, Sandra.

Natasha Engel and her son, Graham and Thomas Engel and his wife, Mary were joined by Angelina Ida Falbo and the Frasca family, Emidio, Nicola

Donata and Raffaele.

Others also included are: Angelantonio and Mrs. Petronilla Gargano; Elena LaLama and Guiseppina LaLama.

Michael Stuart Bede Lloyd; Adelia Marinucci; Margaret Bridget McLaughlin are also new citizens.

A Richmond Hill family of seven was also sworn in as new Canadians. They are James and Margaret McMurray and their children, Patrick, Kevin, Elizabeth, Paul and James.

Also included in the ceremony were: James McLaren McNamara and Mrs. Elizabeth, Isobella Taylor McNamara.

Josef Paulua; Emilio Pezzetti; Gretan and Anna Teso; and Umberto and Guiseppina Teso also became citizens.

This ceremony, the first of its kind in Richmond Hill, involved more than a year of work on behalf of the Catholic Women's League.

Judge Kenneth Mawson presided over the ceremonies, and congratulated the new Canadians.



Geronimo Jim Greg, one of three skydivers performing at Richmond Hill's Winter Carnival exits the airplane about three miles north of

Mill Pond on Saturday hoping to be blown back to the red target laid out in the centre of the pond. He made it. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

Two men injured in Hill shooting

Two men were injured, one seriously, as the result of a shooting in Richmond Hill just before midnight last Saturday.

According to York Regional Police, a Richmond Hill man bought a .25 calibre semi-automatic revolver last Friday. The following night, four men forced their way into his home on Beechy Drive armed with baseball bats. During an apparent dispute over drugs, the man who owns the house threatened to shoot the four unless they left.

In the ensuing fracas, 41-year-old Joseph Thurston of Brampton was shot twice in the leg and John Thurston, 20, of no fixed address, was shot in the stomach. Both men were taken by ambulance to York Central Hospital. The elder Thurston was treated for leg wounds while John was admitted, requiring extensive surgery on his abdomen. He was listed in stable condition on Monday morning.

The other two assailants escaped unharmed.

Police arrested Thomas Randall Beeton, 19, of Beechy

Drive in Richmond Hill at 8 a.m. Sunday morning. He is charged with attempted murder, wounding, possession of a firearm in the commission of an indictable offence, pointing a firearm, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace and possession of an unregistered, restricted weapon.

Information was sworn to yesterday (Tuesday) by York Regional Police for further charges pending on the case.

The warrants will not be issued until the injured parties can recuperate and are able to appear in court. The charges are pending against John Thurston, Joseph Thurston, Allan Frederick Lord, 25, of the same Brampton address and Ray Quigley, 19, of Third Street in Toronto, for being unlawfully in a dwelling and possessing weapons dangerous to the public peace.

A police spokesman said any further action on the warrants until the time of hospital discharges, would have to wait. That could take a month or more, he said.

Rings taken from body at York Central

Two gold rings, valued at \$3,600, were removed from the finger of a dead person, York Regional Police said yesterday.

The theft, police said, took place at Richmond Hill's York Central Hospital last Wednesday

afternoon.

Police declined to comment further, saying the incident was still under investigation.

Hospital administrator James Hepburn was also not available for comment.

Community Pulse

Outstanding numbers

Check the number on the back of your Richmond Hill Winter Carnival button.

There are still two prizes to be won.

Number 0377 will win the Color TV and Button number 2193 will win the C.B. Radio.

Ray and Rose Bennett won the weekend for two at the Skyline Hotel with button number 4311.

Street names displayed

Yonge Street travellers in Oak Ridges cannot help but notice the large new signs with the street names prominently displayed.

Since most streets in Oak Ridges do not cross Yonge Street, this will be especially helpful in finding a particular road.

Twinney is mayor

In Newmarket Monday night, Ray Twinney, who was defeated in the last municipal election, was elected mayor of the town in a by-election. He defeated Clare Salisbury and Bud Eige. The mayor's position became available when acclaimed mayor Bob Forhan was elected chairman of York Regional Council.

Sure it's confusing but that's what happened.

Town's tax increase is held to small \$13

Good news.

The municipal portion of property taxes on the average home in Richmond Hill will increase about \$13 in 1979.

This figure represents a 5.7 per cent mill rate increase over 1978. Town Treasurer Bill Rice said in 1979 a typical bungalow assessed at \$20,000 will pay \$244.80 for the municipal portion of the tax bill compared with \$231.70 last year.

Original department estimates in the town would have

represented an increase in property taxes of 20.5 per cent.

Finance Committee recommendations brought it down to 6.9 per cent and on Budget Day, Monday, council sitting as committee of the whole passed the figure further to the increase of about 5.7 per cent.

"Frankly, I'd hoped to have it under five per cent," said Mayor Dave Schiller, "but, I think it's a reasonable per cent increase."

The town has budgeted \$6,867,581 to be spent in 1979

under headings of general government, protective services, transportation services, environmental health, health and social services, environmental development and recreation and cultural.

This amount is to cover all foreseeable expenditure in the town this year.

The planning department had the largest increase in terms of per cent forecast for 1979.

The increase included an amount of \$20,000 which has been

set aside for legal fees to defend the new official plan before the Ontario Municipal Board at hearings and fees for expert witnesses at these hearings.

At this time there are 12 objections on record.

Commissioner of Planning, Bill Power said he felt "this is the lowest estimate we dare make."

Inflation certainly has affected the budget, said the treasurer, especially on the maintenance budget where the town must pay for items and services, but on the

whole, Mr. Rice said most departments have not fluctuated too much on the percentages they take of the total tax dollar.

He felt strongly that the local mill rate has not kept up with the present rate of inflation.

Council members set themselves an increase in the 1979 budget, of three per cent.

Mayor Dave Schiller said he felt this increase which was less than the increase given to staff, was reasonable.

The budget will go to council

for approval.

York County Board of Education and the Region of York have not yet passed their 1979 budgets.

The town treasurer said he expected to receive the tax levy for the school board by the end of March but the region might be much slower — maybe April or May.

Mr. Rice said he suspected the regional budget would be up very little but hesitated to forecast for the school board.