



"Buckwheat" a resident of the Oak Ridges area, dutifully mails his license fee as requested by the town of Richmond Hill. The Clerk of Richmond Hill, Dave Weldon, explained this was an experiment, hoping to save taxpayers money by not employing people to track down dog owners who must buy licenses. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

Jamaican ortanique returning to Richmond Hill

While the weatherman appears to be giving us a break (and just about time, too) it's still winter out there and it's still cold.

The ideal answer, of course, is a trip to Jamaica, but if you can't handle that, there's a man in Richmond Hill who plans to bring a bit of Jamaica to you.

For the second year in a row, the Jamaica "ortanique" will be available in Richmond Hill and district supermarkets, probably some time this week.

But you forgot what an "ortanique" is, didn't you?

Richmond Hill's Danny J. Powell, a trade commissioner with the Jamaican government, introduced the ortanique to our area in March last year.

The ortanique is a fruit that's part orange (OR) part tangerine (TAN) and is unique (IQUE) to the island of Jamaica.

And it's delicious. The Jamaican ortanique is so popular in England and Australia

that crops are purchased years ahead of time.

Last year, the fruit was on sale until mid-May, but some shoppers found the price (about 49 cents a pound) a bit too steep.

Obviously, not enough of them, according to Mr. Powell, who said the fruit sold very well at most stores.

William D. Branson Ltd., Newkirk Road in Richmond Hill, will again handle the distribution of the juicy sweet Jamaican fruit.

CAG keeps adding to a heavy agenda

March 8 promises to be a block-buster evening. A film entitled "No Act of God", showing negative hazards of nuclear energy, will be included in the program being set up that night by the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG).

Until this week, presentations from Joseph Bogden, architect for the planning consultants involved in the civic centre plan, and Dave Hamilton, parks and recreation director describing the Master Parks Plan, made up the biggest part of the agenda.

The meeting has been called to appoint a new slate of officers for the GAG and explain current planning issues in the town of Richmond Hill.

This same film was shown to a select group of councillors from Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill February 3 and is intended to give information pertaining to the hazards of an inevitable leak of deadly radiation — the infallibility of humans and the problem of getting rid of the toxic and potent waste from this source of energy.

They'll try new tag system

Richmond Hill is trying an experiment that, if successful, will do away with door-to-door dog license collections.

The town has mailed out notices to names on record of people owning dogs and needing 1979 licenses, asking them to reply before the deadline

of March 1. For the last two years the town has paid senior citizens to knock on doors selling dog tags where applicable.

"This worked," said Dave Weldon, clerk of Richmond Hill, "the revenues jumped \$10,000."

But, said Mr. Weldon, the canvassers were paid \$1.50 for each license sold and "It's much cheaper to do it this way".

Last year 3,500 dogs were licensed in town. Using a measure of ten per cent of the population, the clerk said he felt the municipality had done well.

As the notices were just mailed out, Mr. Weldon said it is too soon to tell if the latest idea will be successful.

If the written request does not work, the clerk said the town will probably send people knocking on doors again. Mr. Weldon is considering recommending to council a discount for early payment for dog license and a reduction for animals having proof of a recent rabies vaccination.

"To provide some incentive for payment," said Mr. Weldon "and it gets to the health problem."

The clerk asks residents to buy licenses before March 1 saying it gives the owner a better chance of retrieval for missing or injured animals.

The penalty for not adhering to the bylaw to license your pet is a maximum fine of \$1,000. Information concerning licensing can be obtained by calling 884-8101 extension 62.

What to do with kids on Friday

The Town of Richmond Hill is looking after the problem of what to do with school age children on Professional Activity Days (PA Days).

An afternoon of games, crafts and drama has been set up by the Parks and Recreation Department at Richvale Community Centre for the PA Day coming up this Friday, February 16.

Dan Moore, supervisor of the program said he hopes to set up a "mini

olympic" for the kids while their parents work. Timing for the event will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The charge for the afternoon activity is \$1 per person for children aged 6 to 14 years.

Pre-registration at the centre is required and Mr. Moore said pre-registration will be taken by telephone right up to 1 p.m.

For more information call 884-0855.

Students study council

A regular council meeting became part of the Grade 8 history course last Monday.

Twenty-eight students from Crosby Heights Senior Public School attended the first afternoon regular council meeting at the invitation of Councillor Dave Amos.

Councillor Amos said he called all schools in his ward offering the opportunity to attend council meeting during school hours and said that although many expressed interest the room in council chambers is limited and thus only one group came for the first meeting.

Students attended early enough to take part in the regular one-half hour question period before

the regular meeting asking questions about town committees, the agenda and procedure of council and the new civic centre.

Their teacher Kel Tonner explained it was an excellent opportunity as the students were studying all levels of government in their history class.

He might have had a special interest himself as Mr. Tonner is councillor in the Town of Aurora.

Councillor Amos, responsible for the class being present, expressed a wish to carry the exposure to schools one step further, suggesting council meetings be held regularly in schools rotating among the three high schools in town.

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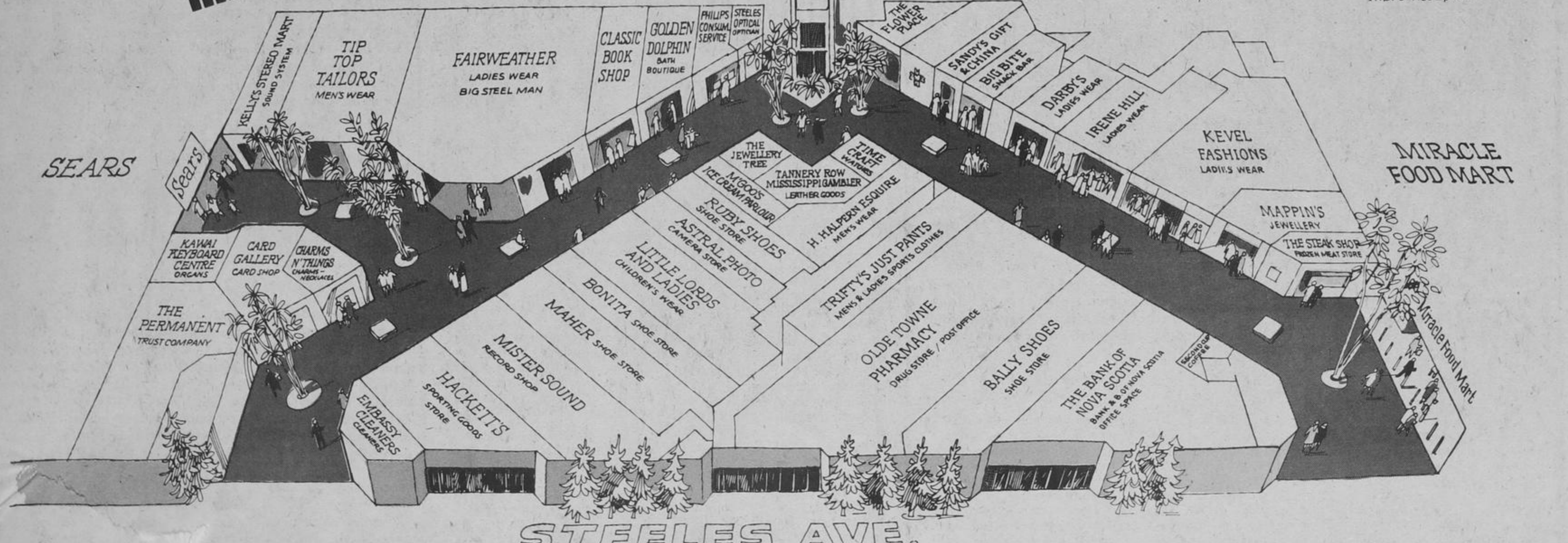
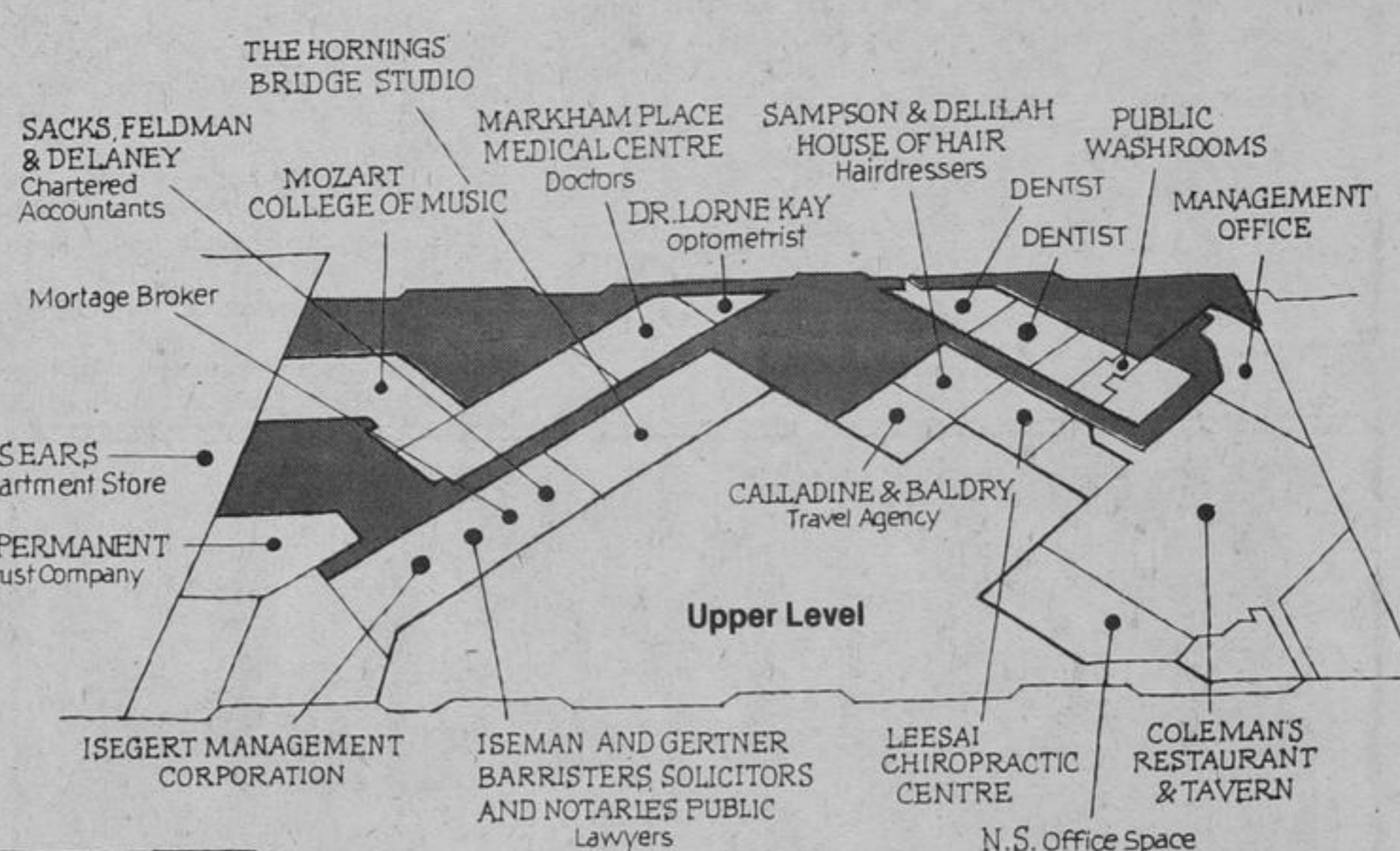
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