

Board defers fate of two Hill schools

The York Board of Education last week refused to deal with the Richmond Hill Study Committee's recommendations of last November 30, delaying the fate of McConaghy school at least another two weeks.

Before any appreciable debate could take place, Richmond Hill Trustee Bev Breslow asked that the matter be deferred until the next board meeting. She claimed

that would allow all trustees access to necessary information from board staff and give concerned residents a final chance to make written presentations defending or objecting to administration's intention.

A staff report presented at the meeting recommended McConaghy be closed this July 30, that Crosby Heights Senior Public School be made a K-8 school effective next

September, wipe out the attendance zone of McConaghy now east of Yonge Street and close Jefferson Public School on July 30, if parents are in agreement.

The final study committee report, a compendium of two years of meetings, delegations, enlarged committees and debates, questions whether any school should be closed in the Richmond Hill area and is not in favor of closing

McConaghy. Members do accept that Crosby be made into a K-8 as long as the McConaghy boundaries are kept intact. They are also requesting an option for any Grade 6, 7 or 8 Richmond Hill student to attend a senior wing at Crosby and that the board provide the necessary transportation.

That request essentially contravenes the board's transportation policy.

Last week's motion to defer carried with a 10-6 tally and three abstentions.

Local trustees voting in favor were Mrs. Breslow (Richmond Hill), June Armstrong (Richmond Hill), and Patti Grand and Margaret MacDonald (both from Thornhill).

Bill Monroe felt the report should have been discussed and voted on right then and there and John Stephens, separate School rep. from Thorn-

hill and Richmond Hill, had to abstain because he's not allowed to vote on matters solely affecting public elementary schools.

"I have some basic concerns with the (staff) recommendations," said Mrs. Breslow. "Some members of the board and those in the community may not be familiar with the latest population projections in the Richmond Hill

area. I also feel a section on utilization of space should be included in the report..." she said.

She claimed she did not receive access to information about when and what kind of recommendations were to be brought to the board to make a decision. She felt the extra two weeks would allow anyone interested to review all the available facts.

"I don't think a deferral should give us any problem," said Director Sam Chapman. "One thing I hope I didn't hear in the criticism of staff, was the inability of staff and the trustees to cooperate. I understand Mrs. Breslow's difficulty in dealing with the recommendations in such short notice and a deferral wouldn't hurt." Bill Monroe took exception to comments staff had been unco-operative.

He said he has been able to retain notes and documents for the two years he's been involved with the committee.

"What I want to know is when do we stop studying and start acting? I'm opposed to deferring because we're creating additional unnecessary anxieties. We're going to have to face the fact some schools will have to be closed and not just in this community," he said.

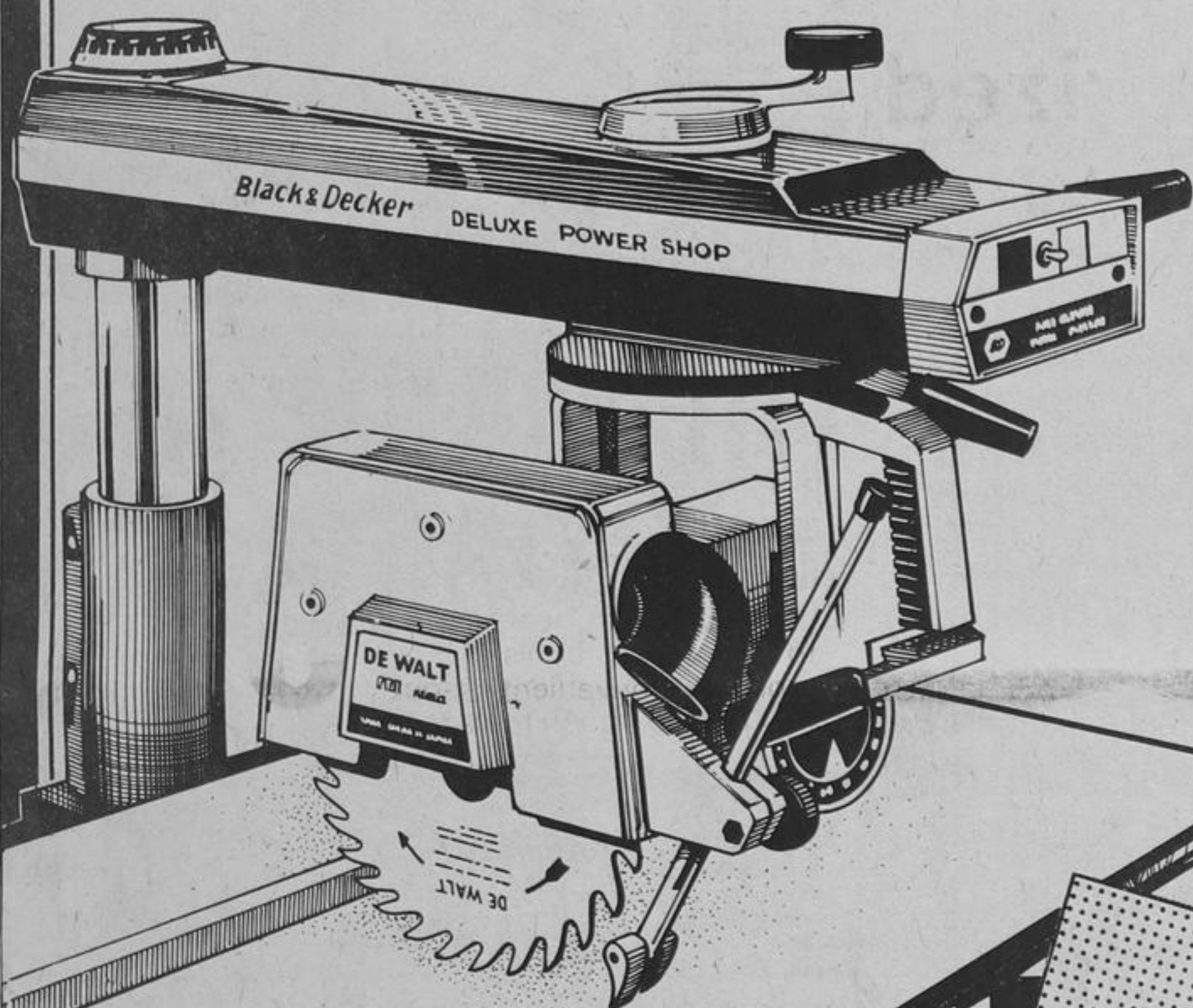
He'll have to wait another week to see if that's the case.



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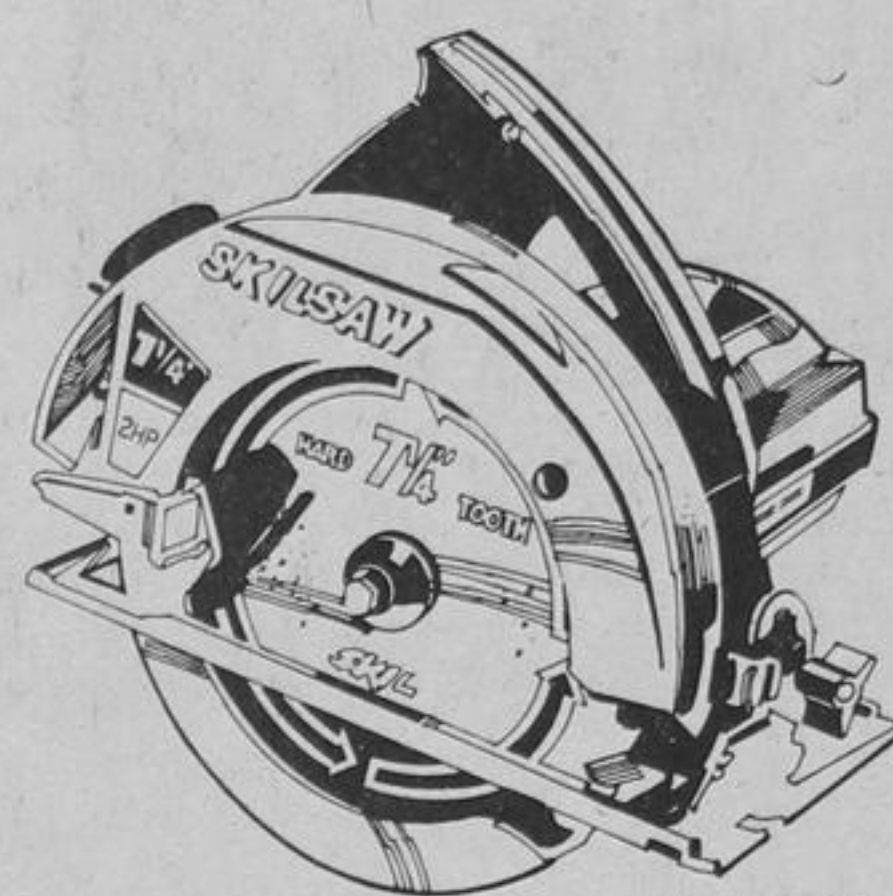
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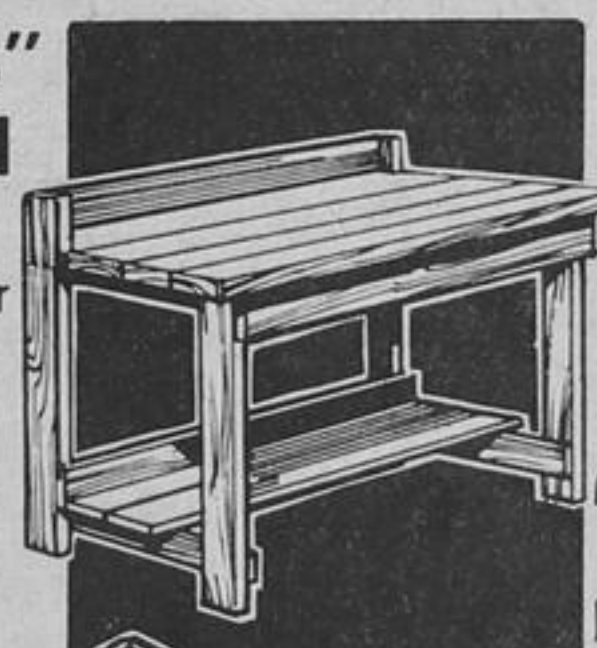
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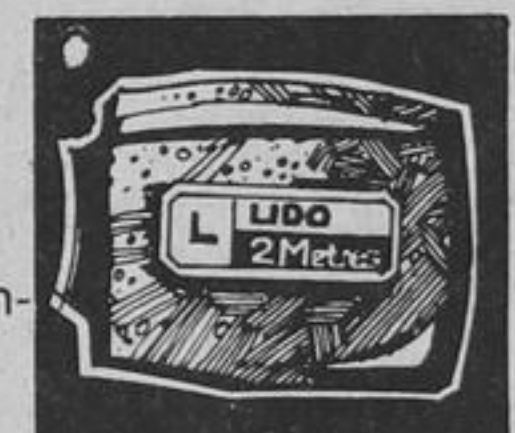


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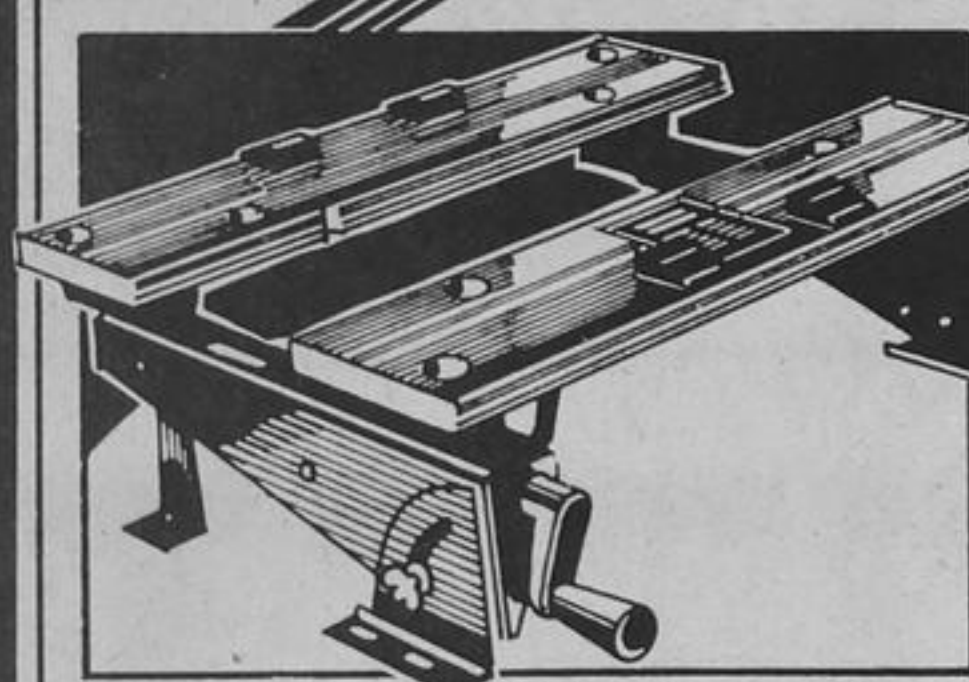


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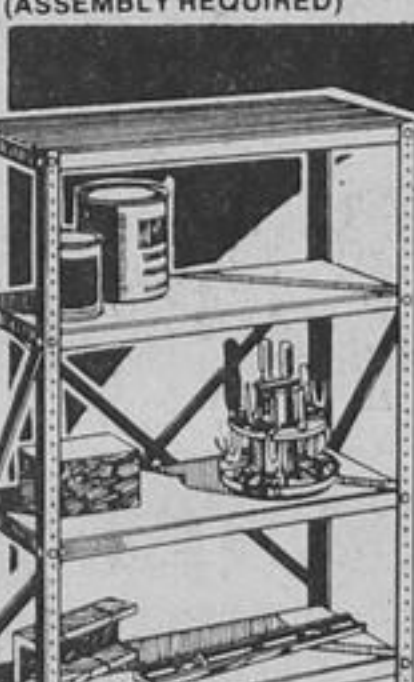
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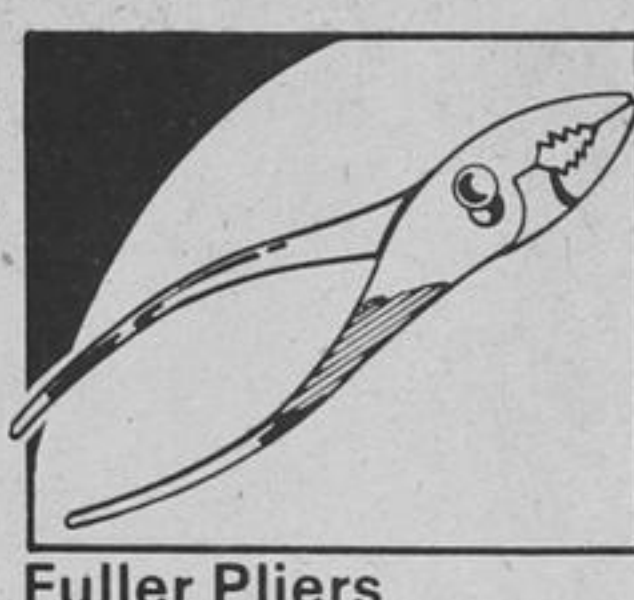


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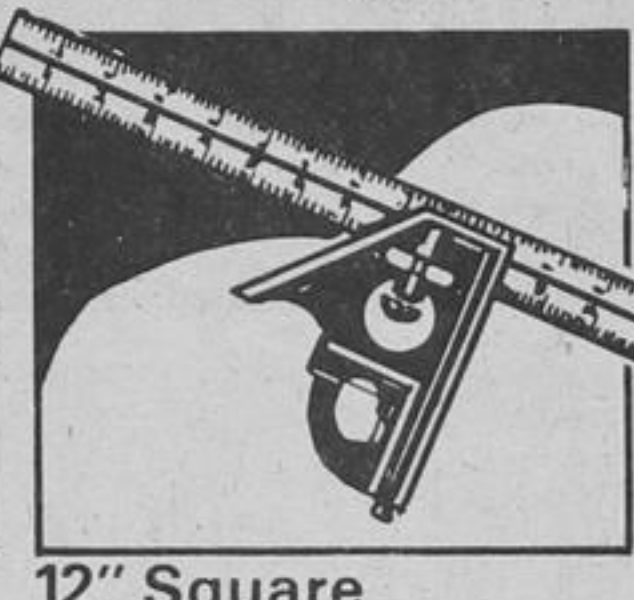
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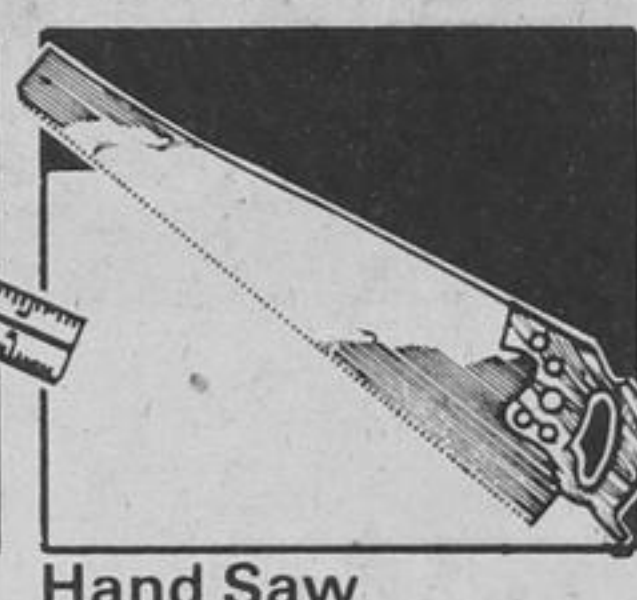


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Carnival numbers are still missing

Richmond Hill Winter Carnival committee members are still looking for two people holding lucky carnival buttons.

Numbers were printed on the back of the carnival buttons this year, entitling the holder to a chance in a lucky draw for three prizes - a color television, a weekend for two at the Skyline Hotel and a CB radio.

The weekend trip was claimed but the television and the C.B. are still available.

Number 0377 will win the television if it can be found and number 2193, the C.B. radio.

Lucky button holders can call 884-2371 to claim their prizes.

Marg Barrow, publicity chairman for the carnival committee, said if the prizes are not called for the committee will have to decide whether they will hold the prizes until next year's carnival or perhaps hold another draw.

The problem with a second draw for numbers, said Mrs. Barrow, is "many people have probably already tossed their button into the garbage".

Thornhill teachers attend conference

Two Thornhill teachers, Ruth Lavender of Bayview Glen Public School and Barbara Lambert of Royal Orchard were among 400 who attended a weekend conference "Focus on Self".

The conference sponsored by the Women Teachers' Association of Ontario included workshops on "determining your own destiny, body language, self defence" and others.

Janet Willis of Centennial College and Renate Krakauer of Humber College presented a workshop on "saying what you mean".

Constance Beresford-Howe, author of The Book of Eve and A Population of One, addressed the topic of self in her presentation of "The Self, Womanhood and the World".

The conference ended on Sunday morning with an exploration of the topic "Beyond Ourselves" by Rev. Donald Lowery.

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