

McConaghy, Jefferson to live one more week

In what must have been a record, the York Board of Education heard six public presentations Monday night, five of which had a common theme representing the board's most critical problems over the next several years — shifting student enrollments, shifting school

boundaries and school closings. For two of Richmond Hill's parent groups, the McConaghy Association and the Jefferson Parents' Association, it was a final chance to re-emphasize their positions before the board makes a decision on the Richmond Hill Study Committee's

recommendation vis-a-vis a staff report on the same subject. There is a possibility the bell could toll for both McConaghy and Jefferson at the board's next regular meeting, March 12. In a staff report received February 12, it was recommended that both McConaghy

and Jefferson be closed June 30, a stripping of the current attendance zones for both and redistribution of the students among Crosby Heights, Walter Scott, Beverley Acres and O. M. MacKillop depending on where they live in the new boundary set-up and living in Richmond Hill must be

school. McConaghy has been fighting to stay alive since the board announced its "intention" to close the building early in 1978. Spokesman Bruce Langstaff's point of contention has been all along that if schools must be closed in Richmond Hill because

of empty pupil places, why is the board just considering McConaghy. He has worked with the association, the Richmond Hill Study Committee, Area 3 administrators and the board and even after his short presentation Monday, he was not satisfied with the methods used by staff to reach their conclusions or the way parents have been treated over the issue.

students would have to contend with three railway level crossings on their way to assigned new schools. He said staff either didn't consider or failed to reply to the question of up to 40 trains passing a school walking route where 200 students would have to pass.

"I want to ask staff if this question was considered, if the agreement set out by staff and the study committee was followed and if the committee's recommendations were included in the report," said Mr. Cameron.

Newmarket Trustee Craig Cribar said it was against procedure to get an answer from staff which is directed to a delegation. Mr. Langstaff finally said the answer was no on all three counts.

Marilyn Rumble of the Jefferson Parents' Association also made a short presentation. She asked the board not to overlook the unique "small" quality and close atmosphere found at Jefferson. She said parents, who are coming in as volunteers to relieve teachers from yard duty so special noon-hour programs can be held, feel the benefits of the small environment outweigh the absence of extra, optional programs.

"Since the story came out about the possibility of closing Jefferson, our principal Mr. Woodger has received 25 letters in support of keeping the school open. Our parents will not waive their right to a one-year deferral of the intent to close the school. They feel that closing it now would not only be premature but irresponsible," she said.

One point in Mr. Langstaff's presentation prompted Vaughan Trustee Don Cameron to ask a related question to staff, which he found was not answerable by them because of a board bylaw. Mr. Langstaff claimed the administration ignored the fact that if McConaghy were to close,

questions from concerned citizens. May Avenue residents questioned the location of collector roads, expressing concern for increased traffic in their area but were reassured by the planners this is not the case.

The proposed major collector streets circle the complex running off the extension of Arnold Crescent and Harding Boulevard, with access to residential areas and the civic centre core running off this main road. Sid and Eileen Dinning of Kerrybrook Drive expressed a concern about the co-operation of the owner of the land, BAIF Associates, but were advised by members of council as well as the planners, this was not a problem as the area is protected by the new official plan, as well as the fact the developer was part of the team that created such a plan.

Mayor Dave Schiller saw the next five years as a possible "tug of war" between the town and the private developer to establish an order for proper development. He suggested the developer would probably want the public buildings constructed to attract retail and commercial investment while the town would naturally like the revenue produced by the private sector to build public buildings.

Recommendation from Planning Committee for the final Civic Centre Study will go to council March 26 for final approval and land purchase negotiations will begin at an appropriate time thereafter.

Councillor Mike Burnie said he could not understand why York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford's meeting with Richmond Hill town council had to be "secret". "Nothing was said that he couldn't say publicly," said Councillor Burnie.

At the February 5 council meeting, regional councillor Lou Wainwright, who is also a police commissioner, brought an invitation to council to meet with the police chief, "in camera", meaning no public or press allowed.

At least three of the councillors and Mayor Dave Schiller expressed the thought they did not see a need for a closed meeting but agreed to attend.

Councillor Burnie explained to council and Chief Crawford that he would attend but would bring the results of the meeting to

council where it would be public information. Councillor John Birchall called the meeting "a candid and informal meeting" where there was dialogue about problems in the municipality from both points of view.

The normal concerns about parking, radar and enforcement of municipal bylaws were brought up, said Councillor Birchall, "but nothing explosive".

One point brought up by Chief Crawford which pleased councillors present was the fact there was a zero per cent crime rate increase in Richmond Hill last year. As these were the only points discussed in the "secret" meeting, Councillor Burnie questioned why the meeting could not have been made public at regular council.

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Proposal for Civic Centre survives public scrutiny

Surrounded by sketches, graphics and various other diagrams, 45 residents and all but one council member Monday got a peek at what the town's proposed civic centre will look like.

Joseph Bogdan, Architect and Urban Design Consultant and Peter Smith from the firm Williams and Smith Associates Limited, Town planners and Urban Design Consultants brought their drawings, a scale model and slides representing the finished product after one year of study.

The area studied by the planners for the huge complex is bounded by Major Mackenzie Drive on the north, the southerly extension of Trench Street and the valley of the North Don Creek on the west, existing residential development along May Avenue on the south and Yonge Street on the east — approximately 130 acres.

Included in the complex are office, commercial, municipal and public buildings, special retail areas, high density residential housing, transportation, facilities and open space uses.

The town's goal as stated in the new official plan is to develop a core area for Richmond Hill which will serve as a focal point for the town and neighboring municipalities.

Mentioned by the planners in their presentation was the need to preserve the historic view of Richmond Hill along Yonge Street as well as establish a

connection between the new centre and the old Yonge Street business district.

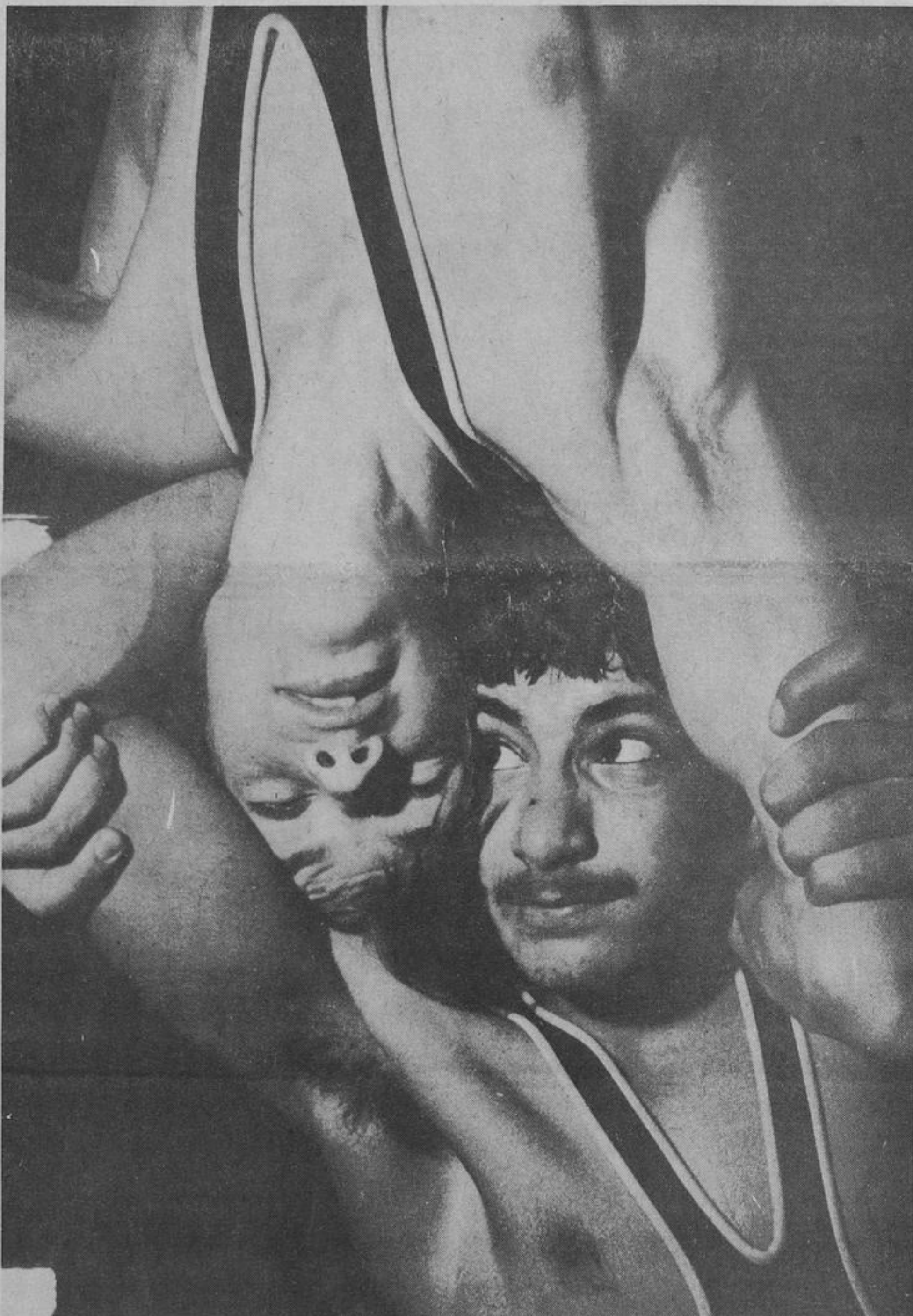
A Civic Plaza at the corner of Major Mackenzie Drive and Yonge Street is intended to open up the square to the old town and

the location of civic buildings on the highest point of land offers no doubt of the dominance of these buildings to the whole complex, the planners said.

"It is a partnership with public and private enterprise," said Joe

Bogdan, architect for the consultant firm.

After the presentation, showing changes from previous public meetings on the centre, the meeting was opened up to receive



Liberal Photographer Bruce Hogg gets worm's eye view of Bayview Secondary School wrestlers Mehernosh Pestonji (bottom) and Brad McKenzie, as they

celebrate (?) victories in the Georgian Bay wrestling championships at Bayview on Saturday. See Sports B-1.

They seek improvement in bylaws

Several Richmond Hill residents are expected to crowd the council chambers Monday evening to continue dog control discussions with councillors.

One resident, Jack Ward, told The Liberal yesterday, dog control bylaws were expected to be revised a year ago, but still nothing has happened.

He said he hoped animal control services would be expanded to keep a closer check on strays and dogs running at large in the municipality.

"As it is, the bylaw isn't strong enough," he said. "When a charge winds up in court, it's usually thrown out by the judge."

Mr. Ward said he hoped anyone concerned about the animal situation in Richmond Hill would attend Monday's meeting.

Kinsmen celebrate anniversary with dinner dance at Richvale

Richmond Hill Kinsmen celebrated their 25th anniversary last Wednesday.

Anniversary celebrations were highlighted by a gala dinner and dance held at the Richvale Community Centre.

Kinsmen are men aged 21 to 40, and although a member may remain after age 40, he may not hold an executive position.

At present there are 29 members of the Richmond Hill Kinsmen, and the club president is Roger McCalmont.

The members of the Richmond Hill club represent various professions and a wide variety of interests, but all have one goal in mind — "Serving the community's greatest need," which is the Kinsmen motto.

The first St. John Ambulance chapter in the community was formed with help from the Kinsmen more than 20 years ago.

Boys clubs have been formed with the assistance of the Kinsmen, and for the past 24 years, Kinsmen ladies have belonged to the Kinettes.

At present, the Richmond Hill Kinsmen are involved in a five-year program of constructing creative playgrounds at area schools.

The Kinsmen contribute \$750 for each playground and each

school must match that amount. All materials for the playground and all labor are provided by the Kinsmen.

Six playgrounds have been built so far, with more scheduled to be constructed this year.

The weekend of March 9 and 10 will be a busy one for local Kinsmen as they play host to nine clubs from other communities at a zone conference to be held in Richmond Hill.

Complying with a judge's order, John Moorhead resigned Thursday from the York Regional Police force.

The former staff sergeant, 13½-year police veteran and president of the York Regional Police Association was found guilty Feb. 16 of two disciplinary offences under the Police act.

Both offences related Mr. Moorhead's involvement in passing confidential police information to former Thornhill businessman Douglas Sheldrake. After finding Mr. Moorhead guilty, County Court Judge Hugh O'Connor ordered him to resign within seven days or face dismissal.

Betty issues challenge to residents of the Hill

Betty Armstrong is issuing a challenge to residents of Richmond Hill.

Mrs. Armstrong has been the Red Cross Blood Clinic volunteer co-ordinator for eight years and now would like to find someone to take over the job.

"It's not a big job," she said, "but I'd hate to see it fall apart if no one comes forward."

The person would organize and run four clinics each year, arranging a location, co-ordinating volunteer help, put up posters and calling local newspapers with dates of clinics.

A progressive, creative person with ideas might just be able to raise awareness in the community for the Red Cross and reach the goal of 350 donors, a mark Mrs. Armstrong always tried to reach.

"I just never made it," she said.

One full day at the clinic is the longest continuous time spent in terms of hours, said Mrs. Armstrong, and then miscellaneous hours over the weeks before the clinic putting the wheels in motion.

The co-ordinator said she had had great volunteers over the years "making it easier for me" and she said many of the workers

Community Pulse

Last chance

Richmond Hill Winter Carnival committee is still calling button number 0377 and 2193 to come forward and claim their prizes.

Committee member, Ev Ruttle, said two or three people have called to check their number, "but no one has come to the door with the correct number," she said.

The committee will wait a little longer and then debate whether to add the color TV and the CB radio to next years prizes or hold another draw.

If you are one of the lucky winners, call 884-2371 and claim your prize.

Reason for delay

Canadian National Railways finally advised the town the reason for the three-hour hold-up January 12 on Elgin Mills Road. The delay was caused by a series of events, beyond their control, including a broken trainline, broken coupler, and a turned angle cock brake valve. CN was quick to point out at no time was there a blockage at Centre Street or Markham Road during this time, but did apologize for the inconvenience.

Club needs premises

Richmond Hill council was advised the Thornhill Food Club urgently needs premises to use for a few days each month to weigh out commodities and use for pick up purposes.

The Richmond Hill and Thornhill area food club is in the early stages of formation hoping to supply a community service along the lines of a co-op supplying basic foods at low prices.

If you have premises or an interest, contact Eric Smith at 881-1922 or Monica Neitzert at 881-5564.

It will be tough casting this part

It doesn't have to have previous acting experience. It's not necessary to belong to a long family line of actors or actresses. Only requirement for the part is that it not eat the marigolds.

The Richmond Hill Curtain Club, which, in the past, has put out some strange requests for some strange objects, has surpassed itself this time.

It needs a trained rabbit.

The successful candidate will join five females in the club's upcoming play "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds".

And the rabbit's performance will be considered a success if there are still marigolds left when the show ends.

If you have such an animal that has been itching to break loose in show biz, call Marie Nickel at 884-9088 for details.

Rehearsals are now underway for this Pulitzer prize winning play.

It's a powerful and moving study of an embittered widow and her two young daughters, and when originally presented on Broadway was hailed as one of the most significant and moving plays of our time.

The show may be seen between March 30 and April 14 at the Curtain Club.

Moorhead resigns