

## 1050-home subdivision would join civic centre

Just one week after council approved concept plans for the new 135-acre Richmond Hill civic centre, drawings have been presented for the subdivision which will abut the centre.

A representative from Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited, consulting engineers for the owner of the property, BAIF, appeared at planning committee

last Tuesday night with detailed plans for the subdivision to include approximately 1,050 homes.

Housing in the proposed subdivision to be bounded by Major Mackenzie Drive, Bathurst Street, May Avenue and the Civic Centre will be typical urban housing, including single family dwellings, semi-detached and street town houses.

"The market and the builder will have a strong say about the type of housing," said Bill Power, Planning Commissioner for Richmond Hill, "but the potential is there for that range of home."

Mr. Power said he was pleased with the plan presented as the developers have taken full advantage of the valley lands.

Thirty-three acres of valley lands have been left as open space opening a trail system to follow the Don River from the south limit of the property, through the subdivision and carrying on to the new civic centre.

Eleven acres of parks and walkways and a six-acre school site have also been included in the plans.

Mr. Power said he suspects the developer would like to have approval of the plans so drawings can be shown to prospective users showing the total property use to include retail, commercial, municipal and housing.

BAIF representatives have requested the right to proceed with 150 units before the advent of the York-Durham pipe, scheduled for the end of 1980.

Plans for subdivision will now be reviewed by staff and negotiations will begin with the owners on how to integrate the total development of these lands, said the planning commissioner.

Chairman of the town's planning committee, Al Duiffy said a meeting will be scheduled for some time after Easter to deal with this complicated subject.

The Planning Commissioner, Mr. Power, said the subdivision plan completes the total concept for development of the property and he believes it to be a good design.

But, he added, "The Civic Centre is by far the most exciting thing this town will get into from a planning point of view."

## St. John needs members

Richmond Hill Annual Spring Fair, coming up May 11, 12 and 13 might not be covered by the local St. John Ambulance group.

David MacLean, Division superintendent for York Central St. John Ambulance said there are three events in the area his group has been asked to attend, but as yet he does not have the people required to staff the vehicle and he is looking for recruits.

"Right now I couldn't do it because we don't have enough proficient members," he said.

His group meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Don Head School for training and instruction, and the next meeting will be today April 11.

A person could attend meetings and spread their training out over a year, said Mr. MacLean, or a person could become proficient in two weeks by attending two, four hour courses for two weeks, a total of 16 hours.

Classes in respiration, circulation of blood, function of the body and how injuries affect these functions as well as bandaging and treating fractures make up the classes said the superintendent, and there are many side advantages.

Instruction would make a person safety conscious; it gives a background of how systems work in the body showing how to care for one's own body; and it gives a great feeling of accomplishment, he said.

"Ninety-five per cent of the training is common sense," said Mr. MacLean "and five per cent is instruction."

"And we're trying to induce the five per cent knowledge."

New recruits would be sent along with an efficient first-aid to something like the Spring Fair, said Mr. MacLean, to tell them what is expected and to help make necessary quick decisions.

## Richmond Hill Green

### Park name passes its first hurdle

Richmond Hill's proposed new town park should be much easier to find than its new name has been.

Members of the Richmond Hill Parks and Recreation Committee have agonized over the naming of the park, to be located on Leslie Street at 18th Avenue, for the past few months.

Their agonizing came to a fitful conclusion last Thursday night when they surrounded one of several names and forced it to surrender.

The name? Richmond Hill Green.

It won out over a number of other vibrant titles such as: Gormley Park, Gormley Park & Recreation, Gormley Recreation Park, Fun Time Park, Richmond Park and Richmond Hill Park.

The first four above names resulted from a request sent out to all Richmond Hill Public and Separate Schools asking for their students' suggestions.

Enthusiastic replies poured in to the extent of four entries from Lake Wilcox Public School, three

of the children being in Grade 6 and one in Grade 5.

This sent recreation members back to their original three names of Richmond Park, Richmond Hill Park and Richmond Hill Green.

Councillor Al Duffy produced his own list of Leslie Street Park or Elgin Mills Park.

Member Ted Spence thought such names would be "too local. It'll be our main park and Richmond Hill should be in it somewhere."

Someone else came up with "Major Park" but this was shot down with Councillor Dave Amos venturing "Major who?" It was decided Major Mackenzie Drive was major enough.

"Maybe we should have a plebiscite," said Mr. Spence who didn't appear to be serious about it.

Everyone took a deep breath and voted unanimously for Richmond Hill Green. It still needs council approval.

Phew.



Hydro facilities suffered much of the damage in Friday's hurricane-like windstorm, but the odd bus shelter fell victim, too. In the top photo, the shelter at Yonge and

Carrville Road was uprooted by the winds, while power lines came tumbling down near Buttonville (bottom photo). One death in the area was attributed to the storm.

## York Board reluctant to study itself

Several York School Board Trustees were reluctant Monday night to endorse an evaluation of county school board systems realizing it would take a change in the regional form of government to alter school boards as they're set up today.

However, there were enough trustees interested who agreed with the idea of having Education Minister Bette Stephenson make "a thorough evaluation of existing board systems".

Just what is to be evaluated was not made clear by the mover

of the motion, Aurora Trustee Norm Weller.

For that reason, the second part of his proposal was referred back to him — he wants an ad hoc committee set up to study and evaluate the York County Board and make recommendations to the whole board by the end of June.

Thornhill Trustee Margaret MacDonald felt 10 years of operation is more than enough time for the board to sit back and take a look at what it has accomplished and the direction it

intends to take.

She used the word "evaluate" several times and although not being specific, it was understood every aspect of the board's operations should be examined to see if the needs of all the communities in the region are being met.

June Armstrong of Richmond Hill agreed, but had a different approach.

"It seems to me, from a political point of view, this is not the way to do an evaluation. I want to amend the motion to say

we should pass our recommendations onto ALSBO (Association of Large School Boards of Ontario) and if they agree, the study should be done by the ministry with their endorsement. Coming straight from us, the idea would probably get a flat 'no'," she said.

Mr. Weller accepted that Vaughan Trustee Jim Corcoran claimed any such evaluation would be premature. He said when he first came on the board two years ago, he felt like the

system was just getting over the fact it had been put together from a number of smaller boards in 1969.

Thornhill Trustee John Stephens warned the whole concept of evaluating one board or the whole system could be a gross waste of time.

"Quite frankly, I don't think you realize you're dealing with a theory of regional government; I don't see how the evaluation of large boards of education is going to make any difference to the system. . . I can see a study of our board, that makes some sense. . . an ad hoc committee would be a complete waste of time because you'd go around in circles for days before you came up with what you want," he said.

Mr. Stephens acknowledged a growing north-south split among trustees on the board and made reference to one trustee who wrote he was attending "the Markham Board of Education", after the last regular meeting.

"Who knows what's going to happen to the municipalities in the end of the region — for all we know they could become part of a different political area. We're not experts in municipal politics," said Mr. Stephens.

Vaughan Trustee Don Cameron was unabashed in his feelings on the board's performance. He claimed the diverse geography of the region makes it too tough for trustees or the board to function well.

"I think we should seek the minister's advice on how we can best split this board up into smaller bodies so we can serve the needs of all our communities. . . I've been on this board for 4½ years and trustees with some experience must admit there is a point within each agenda we have, where trustees simply lose interest," he said.

As he spoke, at least three trustees had momentarily stepped out of the meeting.

### Up 20 cents

## Taxi group seeking increase in fares

Subject to approval by Markham and Vaughan, Richmond Hill council has agreed to allow a tariff rate increase to local taxi cab owners.

Carl Linton, president of the newly formed Region of York Cab Owners Association, sought the hike which would amount to a ten-cent increase in the initial fare and an additional ten cents per mile.

Presently those using taxis pay 70 cents for the initial fare and

ten cents for each additional one-seventh of a mile, or \$1.40 for the first mile. The proposed tariff would be 80 cents for the initial fare and ten cents for each additional one-eighth of a mile, or \$1.60 for one mile.

Mr. Linton said the group requested the increase because "the everyday cost of living has outstripped the cost of operating a cab".

The cost of gas has gone up, the cost of insurance has increased

and so has the cost of repairing vehicles, said Mr. Linton, "and there is no way we can survive."

The town of Richmond Hill has recommended the taxi bylaw be amended to reflect the adjustment in taxi tariff rates — just as soon as they have been advised by the towns of Markham and Vaughan they have agreed to similar rates.

The cab association president said the proposal is to go to Markham council April 24 and he does not yet have a date the issue

will come before Vaughan council.

Clerk of the town of Richmond Hill, Dave Weldon said the local cab owners have not had an increase in two years, so if the proposal was not passed by the other municipalities he would suggest the council members get together to see what they could agree on.

"Twenty cents over a two-year period is not bad considering increases you and I have paid over the same period," he said.

## Woman dies in collision

Ivy Hilda Nixon, 57, of Palmer Avenue in Richmond Hill was driving north on Bayview Avenue near Markham Road at about 5:30 p.m. on April 8, when she lost control of her car. She went into southbound traffic and collided with another vehicle.

Mrs. Nixon was taken to York Central Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival at 7 p.m. Coroner Dr. Bernard Granton said the cause of death appeared to be the result of chest and heart injuries. A post mortem was held on April 9.

## Some GO Bus fares to rise

GO Transit fares will increase April 29 by half-a-cent a mile on all services except two Richmond Hill routes.

The local GO Transit service from Richmond Heights Plaza to the Finch Subway Station will remain at 40 cents, exact change, and the Bayview service from Richmond Hill and Thornhill to the subway will stay at 60 cents.

The bus service originating in Newmarket and stopping at the GO station on Newkirk Road to

pick up Richmond Hill residents will increase from 80 cents to 85 cents and the coach service to the Bay and Dundas Street terminal in downtown Toronto from the same station will increase to \$1.60.

The increase, the fourth in as many years, is designed to bring GO Transit fare revenues closer to 65 per cent of the operating costs of the system.

GO Train fares remain unchanged.

## Time running out for poster contest

There are less than two weeks left for public school children to get posters ready for Richmond Hill's 130th Spring Fair poster contest.

Information on the many classes for art competition is available from the schools but there are three special classes for

the 1979 fair which are getting special attention.

A poster illustrating a theme for the International Year of the Child; the progress of agriculture in Canada from past to present; and the 50th Anniversary of Mickey Mouse and His Friends are the three new classes open to

all grades in primary school, and the deadline is April 23.

Richmond Hill cartoonist, Jeff Wakefield and Arn Saba, an authority on Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse, gave a demonstration of how to draw comics, and a history of Mickey Mouse last week to Grades 6 and 7 at

McConaghy Public School.

This week Mr. Wakefield, who draws the Bubblegummers' comic strip, took copies of model sheets to the class showing how these all time favorites were actually drawn.

Mr. Wakefield said he would be

happy to show other classes the skills. If teachers are interested in a cartoon demonstration they should contact Mr. Wakefield.

"If there is one thing I love to do, it's stand before an audience and talk about comics," said the Centre Street resident.

## Community Pulse

### Hurricane winds

David McVie, Manager of Richmond Hill Hydro said winds last Friday were as severe and did as much damage as Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

Problem areas were Richvale, Leslie Street north of Highway 7 and the Jefferson area, where wind toppled trees, poles and lines.

Mr. McVie said his men started emergency work Friday morning at 1:30 a.m. and it was 11 p.m. before they were cleaned up.

All primary service was back on by that time, he said.

### No spare trains

The snow storm last Wednesday was not the reason for the absence of GO's 5:03 commuter train to Richmond Hill.

Head of Marketing Communications for GO Transit, Tom Henry, said it was an unexplained mechanical failure to the locomotive that left Richmond Hill residents waiting at Union Station for the third train at 5:30 p.m.

"It had nothing to do with the weather," said Mr. Henry.

The equipment used on the Richmond Hill to Toronto run spends the day on the Lakeshore run, between Pickering and Oakville.

Last Wednesday the train in question failed to start on the return trip from Pickering at 4:37 p.m. and Mr. Henry said, "we just don't have a spare train to pull out of a hat".

### Get rich

If you want to increase your income (who doesn't?), Elizabeth Clyde of Maple will tell you how but it'll cost you a phone call. She's holding a free business seminar at her Maple residence next Wednesday, April 18, at 8 p.m. In addition to the meeting, wine and cheese will be served. To register (and to find out where the Clyde residence is) call 832-1721.

### Date changes again

Last week The Liberal noted the Richmond Hill Engineering Committee meeting had been changed to April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

That time was given by the town to meet our press deadline, but had not been approved by Mayor Dave Schiller.

Because of other commitments April 10 was not suitable, consequently the meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m., the first open date for council members.

Improvements to Highway 7 at Doncrest and Rockwell Roads, and engineering study on German Mills Creek and the Bayview Avenue bus service are just three of the controversial items which appear on the agenda for this meeting.