



Fill 'er up

Here's a garage that only takes play money for imaginary gasoline. Nadine Ballan, 3, enjoys playing with Kindergarten toys while her mom is busy with the other half of the Parent-Pre-schooler program held at St. Mary Immaculate for the past 8 weeks. It was a great success. (Liberal photo by Steve Pearlstein)

At Buttonville

Helicopter ambulance to live another year

A pilot project that saves lives in some cases and gives others the chance to live normal lives has been granted a continuation by the Government of Ontario. The helicopter ambulance service, started 19 months ago and costing more than \$1 million in manpower and equipment, has been given the go ahead for one more year at least.

The helicopter, a Bell 212, is capable of transporting a critically ill patient from a hospital some distance from Toronto to the specialized facilities in the large Toronto teaching hospitals in a fraction of the time it would take by land ambulance.

In some cases it is more advisable to take the special help to the patient, and this is a common occurrence. The neonatal team from The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto spends much time in the helicopter being transported to their tiny patients in hospitals as far as 200 miles away.

Once the babies are stabilized, they will

transport them to Toronto. Of this about 35 to 40 per cent have been neonatal critically ill.

By getting these tiny mites to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and into the neonatal ward there, they will have an excellent chance of growing up to be healthy adults.

Otherwise, they may have suffered severe damage to the brain, nervous system or both, thus costing the parents years of heartache and the province a fortune to keep them in an institution.

With the severe cut-backs in the health care program in Ontario, only the essential operations have been granted the funds to continue, and by proving its worth, the helicopter ambulance can now be considered essential.

Plans are underway to extend the service to a 24-hour a day operation, but additional pilots and critical care attendants will be required and the training takes more than six months for every person, who will work with this team, so it will take time to make the change over.

To operate the helicopter ambulance for an additional year on its present 12-hour a day schedule will cost the province an additional million dollars, but the service has proven its worth.

In 19 months, 222 critically ill patients have been transported to

the annual awards dinners will take place May 14 and anyone wishing information or tickets should call Robin Stuart-Jones at 727-3254.

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Parents, pre-schoolers learn together - almost

For the past eight weeks, St. Mary Immaculate Separate School has offered a unique chance for parents and their pre-school kids to come to class and learn together.

Well, almost together.

As part of a Canada Works Program under the direction of Martha

Lloyd-Smith, speakers on varied and pertinent topics for new mothers and mothers-to-be have been invited in for discussion on the rearing and handling of young children.

At the same time, principal Bob Zoskey has managed to get the use of the school's Kindergarten to allow the tots to romp

around and get used to a setting they'd have to get used to in a year or two anyway.

He enlists the help of some of his better and more patient senior students, and they supervise the weekly visitors.

Last Wednesday, John MacRae, co-ordinator of student services for the Separate School Board, spoke to a group of 10 mothers about reading and developing a child's attitudes and feelings towards books.

Today (Wednesday) at 11 a.m., Rhelda Stockall of Helpmate Information Services will be at St. Mary's to talk about

community services and involvement.

Over the last two months some of the discussions were based on the following subjects: nutrition and health, first-aid in the home, children's behavior and discipline, the community and the family and an Orff music workshop (musical bells using mallets).

Mrs. Lloyd-Smith said she has enjoyed this part of her program and that it has received as much or more response than some of the arts and crafts workshops she has run.

Once her six-month grant runs out this month, she plans to take a break.

The next meeting of the York Regional Camera Club will be held Monday, April 23 at 7.30 p.m. at the Richmond Hill High School.

The annual awards

Nearly 85 grand from Wintario comes to York

Grants totalling \$84,817 have been approved for 27 projects in York from Wintario proceeds.

To date in 1979, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation has allotted \$8.1 million to more than 1,129 groups and projects across the province.

Following is a list of some of the York grants:

A grant of \$1,033 will go to the Walter Scott School playground committee to aid with the construction of a creative playground.

A grant of \$455 will be made to the Town of Richmond Hill to assist with the cost of establishing a creative playground in Sussex Park.

The Unionville Slo-Pitch League will use a grant of \$301 towards the purchase of bases and softballs.

The Kleinburg-Nashville Softball Association will receive a grant of \$476 to share in the purchase of trophies, plaques and equipment.

A grant of \$533 will go to the Unionville Minor Hockey Association to help purchase equipment for 27 teams.

The Maple Minor Hockey Association will use a grant of \$777 to share in the purchase of equipment and awards.

The Town of Markham will use a grant of \$1,240 towards construction and lighting of three double tennis courts.

A grant of \$3,000 will be made to the King Township Public Library to share in the purchase of Canadian books, records, films and French books.

The Town of Markham Public Libraries will receive a grant of \$3,223 towards the purchase of furnishings.

A grant of \$3,795 will go to the Town of Markham Public Libraries to be used for renovations of the pre-confederation

house being used as a library to make facilities accessible for the handicapped.

The Town of Markham will receive a grant of \$5,960 towards improvements to the Heintzman House Community Centre.

The Town of Markham will use a grant of \$12,759 towards the cost of constructing three lighted tennis courts at a municipal park.

The Railway Scout House Committee will receive a grant of \$14,852 towards renovations and rebuilding part of the clubhouse.

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