

Eight PA days for teachers okayed by York

After what has become an annual debate, school board trustees wrangled with each other for an hour last week and then approved eight PA (professional activity) days for the 1979-80 school year.

This year, the majority of trustees seemed less concerned with the concepts and value of PA days than with the number of days students would be out of the classrooms.

In the end, that's why a motion by Vice-chairman Dorothy Zajac to increase the number to nine days, allowing for inter-action between elementary and secondary levels for curriculum development on a county-wide basis, failed.

The board has spent valuable time over the past five months giving principals a workshop to help them improve the public relations aspect of promoting PA days.

According to results shown in local school newsletters, its PA day action plan, appears to be working well.

The plan was drawn up last summer and lists definitive steps and goals the board has for the professional development of its teaching staff, public involvement, awareness and acceptance of the benefits of PA days.

Vaughan Trustee Don

Cameron was adamant in adding an extra day for such purposes.

He claimed it would instantly cost the board \$240,000 by keeping 2,400 teachers away from schools — roughly at a salary cost of \$100 per teacher per day.

"Mr. Chairman I must say this is a very strange board we have this year. It seems to give, give, give and not want to take anything in return."

"One trustee recalled it's the first time our budget has ever increased after the first draft and now this will

cost taxpayers even more money," he said.

"I've been in one type of business for 15 years and in our industry, employees are not given eight days every year to receive instruction on how to do their jobs. We have management set up a task force for this purpose and carry it on throughout the year. I can't support the motion knowing the extra costs involved," he said.

Richmond Hill Trustee June Armstrong mentioned Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday this

year and felt an extra PA day would be "a trade-off for that holiday" in response to Norm Weller's concern of teachers having too much time out of the classroom. "Mr. Chairman, I'm appalled that we could have someone on this board equate November 11 with a holiday, or something that could be traded off," said Georgina Trustee Bill Laird. "It tells me where this board is at..." Mrs. Armstrong admitted later what she said

about Remembrance Day came out wrong, saying it was a public relations blunder.

A simple question by Richmond Hill Trustee Bill Monroe, to Director Sam Chapman, apparently made up the minds of undecided trustees.

"Can the integrated day (cross-level) be held within the eight days we have allotted over each of the last three years? Preferring the short answer, Mr. Chapman said, "yes".

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Not many entries for senior crown

Senior Citizens in Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Oak Ridges and Woodbridge better get their act together.

April 27 is the closing date for applications for the Senior Fair King and Queen Competition for Richmond Hill's 130th Spring Fair May 11, 12, and 13.

Ellen Clark of Thornhill, in charge of the seniors contest, said there are only four applications in so far, two from the Maple club and two from

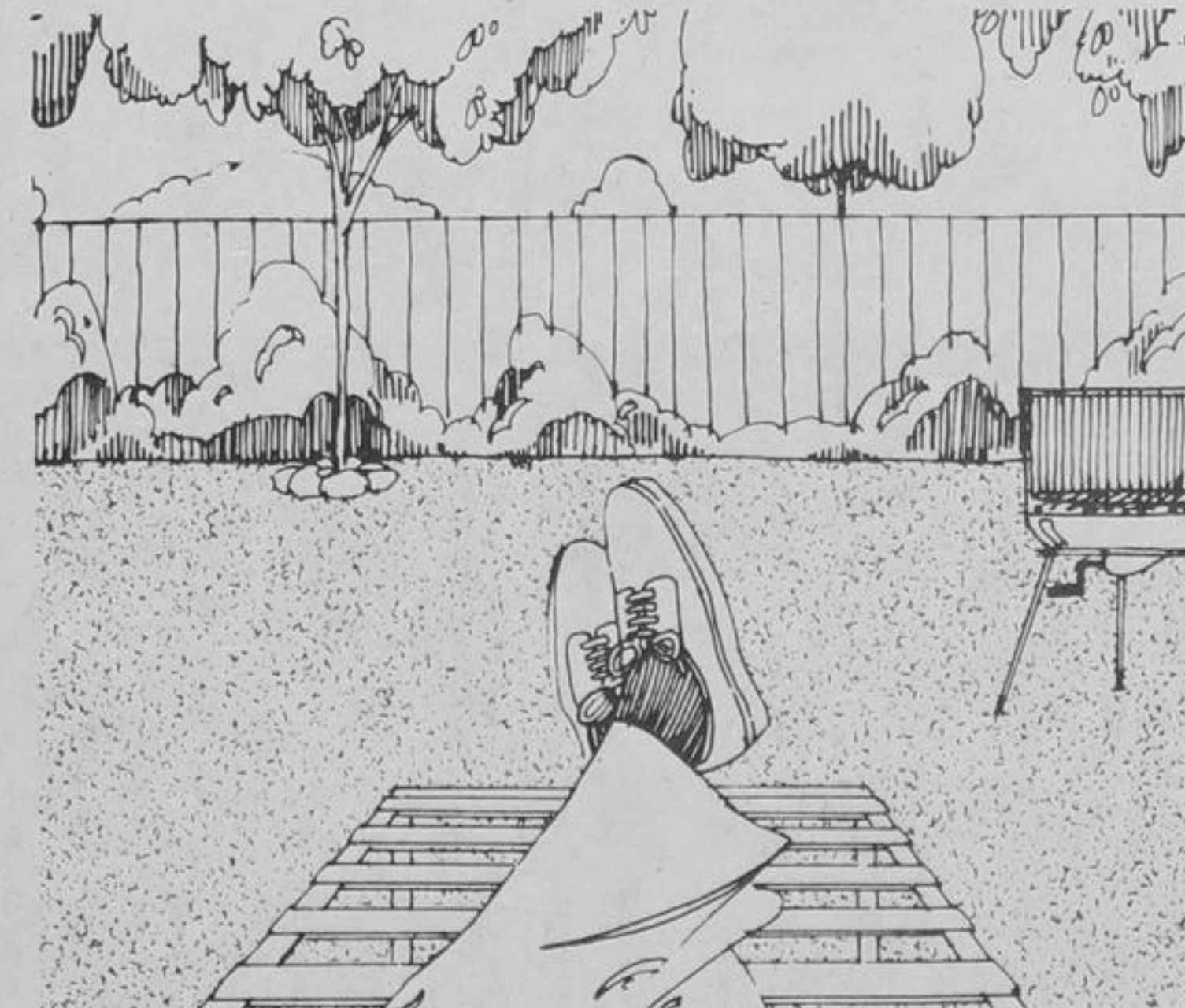
Unionville.

Judging for the contest will be based on personality and appearance. Any senior citizen 65 years of age or over may enter.

Trophies for the king and queen have been donated by Wes and Ellen Clark and this year Stop and Shop in Richmond Heights Plaza has donated two more trophies.

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MILLIKEN Ebenezer United Church Basement Mon. 7:30 p.m.	AURORA Aurora United Church Yonge St. Thurs. 7:30 p.m.	THORNHILL Saint Paschall Baylon Church 92 Steeles Ave W. Mon. 7:30 p.m. Tues. 9:30 a.m.
NEWMARKET Community Centre 221 Cedar Street Wed. 7:30 p.m. Thurs. 9:30 a.m.	UXBRIDGE Salvation Army Auditorium 114 Brock St. W. Wed. 7:30 p.m.	KING CITY King City Community Centre Doctor's Lane, King City Mon. 7:30 p.m.

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