

Music great, but few heard it

The Richmond Hill Rotary Club's concert Sunday at Minkler Auditorium, Seneca College, was a success and a failure.

It was a success because the quality of the groups performing was "excellent and of outstanding quality," said Buster Vermeulen, president of the Rotary Club.

The failure was only 300 people attended.

"It was a shame when so many excellent people were performing," said Mr. Vermeulen. The Rotary Club had sponsored the concert so local groups could play in an "acoustically good auditorium" and Richmond Hill residents would have a chance to enjoy such excellence.

The club had hoped to raise sufficient funds to pay the expenses incurred by the groups and allow some monies to be the basis for a fund to build a concert hall in Richmond Hill.

Last night the Rotary Club met to discuss the concert and to tally up the income and expenses. At press time exact results were not available.

But, "a surplus seems unlikely," said Mr. Vermeulen. When asked if the club would initiate another such concert, the president said he felt they would need a greater commitment from the community before they would attempt it, but many of the performers indicated they would like to participate in another event.

THE RICHMOND HILL Liberal

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Community Pulse

McConaghy yearbook

The final yearbook at McConaghy Public School — known as "McConaghy's Last Students", will be made available to the public at \$3.50 a book. However, a count of the number of copies required is necessary prior to the book going onto the presses.

If you wish a copy, or copies, call Joan Connolly at 883-3901, within the next two weeks, and place an order.

Books are expected by the end of June.

The 52-page yearbook is loaded with interesting facts, photos and history.

Bring your questions

With Oak Ridges and district ball teams joining an interlocking league with Richmond Hill and Richvale this year, several parents have questions on the how's and wherefore's, according to President Jack Ward.

That's why he's holding a public information meeting Thursday, May 17 at the Bond Lake Arena, beginning at 8 p.m.

Hopefully, all the questions will be answered at that time, he said.

Holiday hours

Because of the Victoria Day holiday, some deadlines have changed at The Liberal.

To book space for display and real estate, call The Liberal before 3 p.m. this Friday, May 18.

Our classified advertising service will be available to you on the holiday Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Classified deadlines remain the same — 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The editorial department will also be open on Victoria Day, May 21.

Meet on park areas

The Richmond Hill Parks and Recreation Department will hold a meeting tomorrow night (Thursday) dealing with Lennox Park and Glen Brae creative park areas.

Recreation Director Lynton Friedberg said the meeting was called to "get input from the public as regards creative area playgrounds and their equipment."

The meeting will be in the Town Hall council chambers beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting today

Today a government mediator is meeting with representatives of local 847 of the Teamsters Union and Stran-Steel Building Systems of Richmond Hill.

Fifty-two workers from local 847 have been on strike since April 18 demanding higher wages and benefits.

Glenn Hurst, Industrial Relations Manager for Westeel-Rosco Limited, the parent company of Stran-Steel, said he is optimistic about the outcome of this meeting.

Spring Fair draws 10,000

About 10,000 people took advantage of the weather last weekend to attend Richmond Hill Agricultural Society's 130th Spring Fair.

Saturday night rain cancelled the horse drawing contest, but all other events went on undisturbed.

A new event this year, the Olde Tyme Fiddle Contest drew 20 entrants and large crowds both Saturday and Sunday.

After the finals on Sunday, 12 finalists combined their talents to entertain 200 clapping, foot-tapping fair goers.

Another first this year was the potato peeling contest which went on all weekend.

Twenty-three year old Debbie Ingles won the "peel-off" with a peel measuring 108 inches.

"I've got to practice," said Debbie. "I'm getting married in September."

The Spaghetti and Pizza Eating Contest, also a first for the fair, was a success, at least for the 50 contestants who chomped their way to such glories as "neatest eater", "sloppiest eater" and "one who ate the most".

Stella Lekx, publicity chairperson for the fair, said she hopes all three contests will become annual events as they drew many spectators.

The fair committee was

York cab rates up 12 per cent

Cabbies have gone metric in York Region, and their rates have gone up 12 per cent.

Carl Linton, president of the Region of York Cab Owners Association, said there has been a fare increase of ten cents across the line in the region, to bring taxi fares into line with rates charged in other municipalities, and in Metro Toronto.

In metric measure, the increased charge comes to ten cents for every one-fifth of a kilometer, with an initial fare of 80 cents.

In imperial measure this is ten cents for every one-eighth of a mile, plus the initial fare.

"Whatever way you look at it, it's a 12 per cent increase, said clerk Dave Weldon after the town passed a bylaw permitting the increase.

Taxis in York Region have not had an increase for two years and cab owners approached the town

citing increased cost of gas, maintenance and insurance.

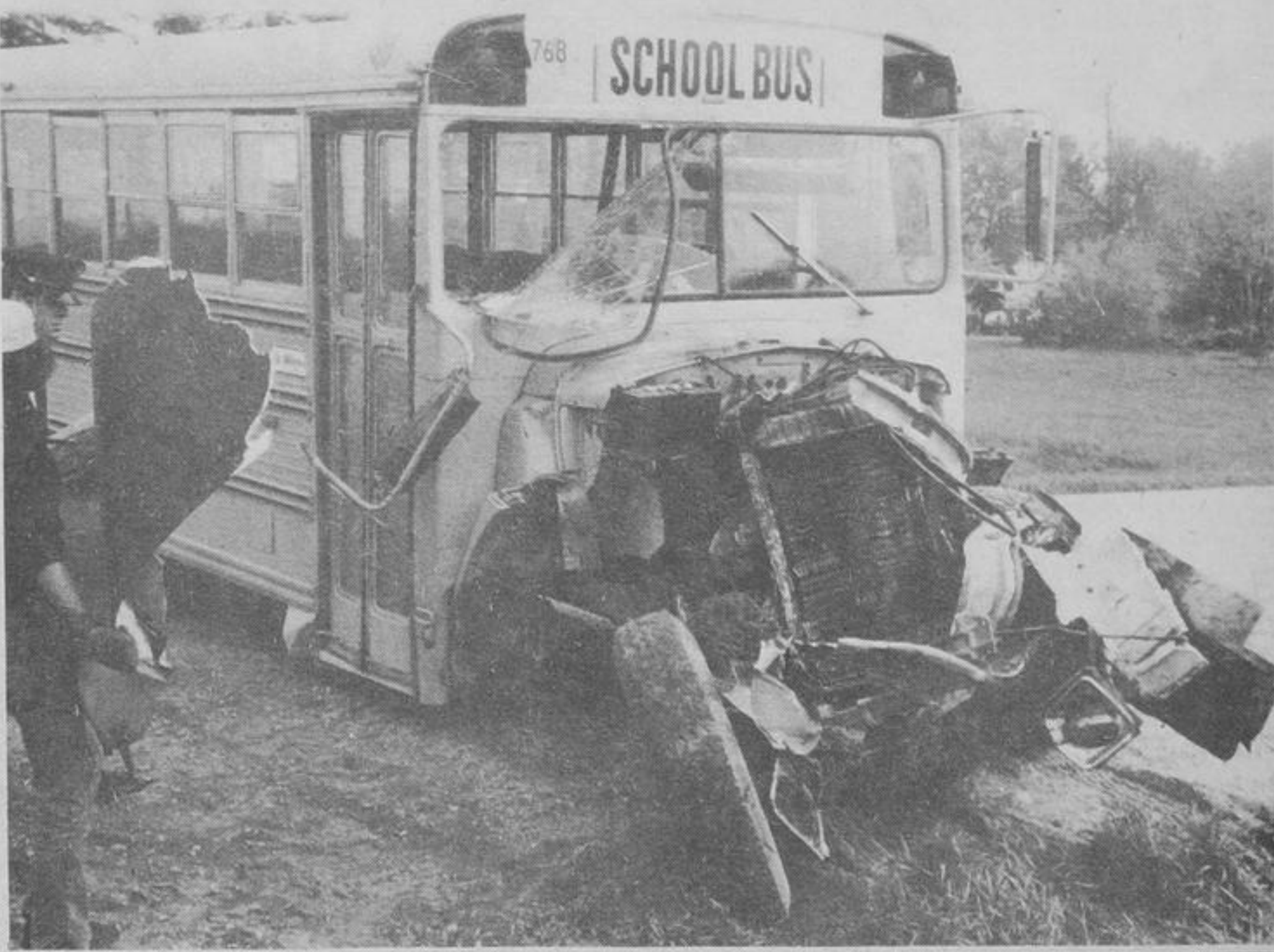
"Costs have risen," said Mr. Linton. "and we haven't really gained anything with the increase."

A bylaw was also passed by the three municipalities, Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill, that would keep Metro cars from crossing the boundary to pick up fares in this area.

This presents a problem to cab owners, because one municipality, for example Metro, cannot be specified in the bylaw, meaning now all boundaries are closed.

As a result of the "pick-up" legislation, a Richmond Hill cab delivering in Markham, could not pick up a fare to return to Richmond Hill.

"It's unfortunate," said Mr. Linton. "but we had no choice. Because of Metro's bylaw, we had to keep Metro cars out."



Bus (top) and truck (bottom) were involved in a collision at Leslie Street and the Gormley Sideroad Monday morning. The bus hit the truck broadside. Apparently brakes failed on the bus. There were no children on the bus at the time of the collision, and the driver of the truck was the only one injured. (Liberal Photos by Bruce Hogg).

Man injured when bus slams into pickup truck

Mechanical failure is suspected in the crash of a school bus as it rushed to York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill and remains in satisfactory condition with multiple fractures.

The southbound bus, which was on its way to pick up students at 7:45 a.m., failed to stop at the intersection and plowed into the side of a westbound pickup truck towing a small boat on a trailer.

The driver of the bus, Jocelyn Pratley, 21, of Gormley, walked away from the mishap which ripped the front axle away from the frame of the bus.

The driver of the truck, Robert

Marshman, 31, of Stouffville, was rushed to York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill and remains in satisfactory condition with multiple fractures.

York Regional Police estimated damage to the bus at \$8,000. Damage to GMC club cab pickup truck, and the boat and motor, totalled \$2,000.

A witness who asked not to be identified said "the truck was just demolished and the boat and camper part of the truck were totally wrecked."

"Police on the scene said they couldn't believe a bus could lose its front axle without injuring

anyone inside."

The witness claimed the bus driver felt there was a malfunction of the brakes.

"She said they wouldn't function and I didn't see any skid marks in the area," the witness said.

A police spokesman said yesterday that mechanical failure is suspected, and an investigation is in progress.

The school bus, owned by Travelways, was under contract to the York County Board of Education at the time of the accident.

Group starts planning for Discovery Days '80

Residents of Richmond Hill can look forward to re-discovering their town, but not until September of 1980.

In 1977 the Civic Improvement Committee sponsored "Discovery Days", a week when local groups, clubs and organizations were available to show residents what the town has to offer in the way of programs, sports facilities, parks, churches, historical buildings, bicycle paths, wood lands, golf courses and libraries.

Exhibits were set up in Richmond Hill arena and many

groups with their own facilities held open houses, tours, and demonstrations.

Monday night 25 representatives of local organizations met with the Civic Improvement Committee to discuss plans for another such event, this time September 1980.

After the 1977 "Discovery Days" celebration, the Civic Improvement Committee recommended a chairman should be appointed at least one year prior to the event to allow time to co-ordinate all groups. In 1977 more than 70 organizations

participated.

A Steering Committee, made up of six representatives from local organizations and two members of the Civic Improvement Committee, was established with plans to meet in June and review the situation.

Suggestions for the new committee to look at include narrowing the time from one full week of displays to a weekend, and making "Discovery Days" a celebration for the residents of Richmond Hill complete with a dance to heighten community involvement and participation.

Media panel grills North-York candidates, but...

The All-Candidates Meeting held at Don Head Secondary School Friday night fulfilled the criteria set out by moderator, Bob Saunders, past president of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce — it was informative and entertaining.

Mr. Saunders said the purpose of the evening, which attracted about 300 people was to allow the undecided to hear candidates speak on campaign issues.

This was accomplished in three different ways.

The night began with an opening statement from five of the six candidates running in York North riding.

Paul Herman, the Marxist-Leninist Party candidate was absent.

Barney Danson, the Liberal Party candidate supported the 11-year Liberal government with statements describing how Canada had weathered times of inflation and unemployment better than other countries and how with our resources we had the potential to do better.

Libertarian candidate, Dan Davidson quoted statistics to show excesses in government spending, adding his party would cut both government size and taxation. He also suggested private enterprise should be allowed into government strongholds such as the post office and Air Canada.

Progressive Conservative candidate John Gamble, used many statistics to show the errors of Pierre Elliot Trudeau

and quoted cases to show how he felt the Prime Minister was dividing the country rather than uniting it.

The one independent candidate, Neil Katzman, used his time to expand on his theory that Canada has a drug-oriented society adding that 80 per cent of the crimes committed in this country were drug or alcohol related.

Bruce Searle for the New Democratic Party began his speech by saying he felt that gradually each candidate was adopting a plank of the NDP platform. He went on to talk about the relationship between the country's natural resources and energy.

Each member of a media panel, made up of Peter May, radio station CFGM; Kevin McLean, the North Star; John Montgomery, Classicomm; John Scott, Markham Economist and Sun; and Ron Wallace, The Liberal; had a chance following these general statements to ask a specific question about the candidates platform.

Peter May questioned Mr. Danson about the Prime Minister's recent statement about referenda to which Mr. Danson answered by talking about how fortunate Canada was to have the opportunity to write its own constitution.

A question to John Gamble about mortgage interest deductibility from Kevin McLean, got the most audience interest and support.

Mr. Gamble quoted statistics to show how the cost of the scheme would be more than offset by jobs created.

Bruce Searle explained how the NDP program was superior to the PC proposal.

Barney Danson confronted both candidates by saying his party did not see either proposal

as equitable and although it might provide a spurt for the construction industry, he felt the country would have to "pay dearly" for such a scheme.

Dan Davidson answered John Montgomery's question about the reason for lack of public interest in this particular campaign by saying "Most haven't heard of

the Libertarian Party".

John Scott drew Mr. Davidson out further by asking specific questions about the Libertarian Party stand on government participation in a variety of health and welfare schemes.

Ron Wallace tried to pin candidates on a local issue by asking about the situation in

Thornhill of train noise and "shunting".

John Gamble said he would have CN move the marshalling yards to Maple; Neil Katzman cautioned about chemical storage; Dan Davidson suggested bad planning or bad management and said the Libertarian Party would take CN

to court; and Barney Danson tried to explain the whole situation was much more complicated than it looked.

The Liberal government had instituted regular monitoring of trains said Mr. Danson and already spent two and one-half million dollars looking at ways of handling the situation.

...audience gets in its licks

Two dozen interested but confused local residents were all that remained at the end of a York North all-candidates meeting Friday night at Don Head Secondary School.

The evening began late, though the crowd of 300 brought with them an aura of anticipation. Only one-third said they had attended other such political gatherings for the May 22 election.

It was the job of five members of the media to ask questions to stimulate debate among hopefuls Barney Danson (L), John Gamble (PC), Bruce Searle (NDP), Neil Katzman (Independent) and Dan Davidson (Libertarian). Paul Herman, representing the Marxist-Leninist Party, was absent.

That didn't stop him from getting some recognition,

however. When host Glen Alton introduced the candidates and noted Mr. Herman was not there, one man yelled: "Paul Herman should be in jail, not sitting up there."

Each man was allowed a three-minute opening address, which was followed by more than an hour of questioning by a media panel.

Then the candidates entertained questions from the floor, the main reason most people were there.

The first question was from a former Board of Education information officer Marg McLean, who claimed she had four children who all had good jobs paying more than \$25,000 annually and two others living comfortably; she had no friends who didn't own at least one color

television and had few monetary problems. She asked John Gamble if he could believe an editorial appearing in a Markham paper which said the country is badly in debt, is going broke and is bereft of any hope.

"Madam, I will tell you we have a national debt approaching \$1,000 billion," said Mr. Gamble. "Last year's budget hit \$48 billion. The government is not accountable for your tax dollars and my party believes it is time to change the concept of government. That is precisely the point of this election."

Richmond Hill resident Tony Voutinos wanted to know how the PC's intended to reduce the federal deficit and the trade deficit.

Mr. Gamble said he would chop 20,000 people off the 600,000 federal civil servants' ranks for

three years, which could save \$1.9 billion, cut federal advertising budgets and consulting fees by \$250 million per year and lower taxes for private sector business incentives.

"I think we must try to achieve a periodic balancing of the budget and increase our current \$3.5 billion balance of trade," said Mr. Danson. "Using our balance of payments is the only way to increase productivity and upgrade manufacturing. The Liberal Party has pledged to triple research and development in areas like shipbuilding and forestry and we have also tripled small business loans under the Small Business Loans Act," he said.

An Aurora High School teacher claimed Mr. Gamble had likened Pierre Trudeau to Adolf Hitler at a meeting at Markham arena last

week. He wanted to know if Gamble had serious reservations about the abilities of Joe Clark.

Moderator Bob Saunders, of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, dismissed the question as ridiculous.

Another woman, whom Mr. Gamble accused of agitating on behalf of Barney Danson, asked him for a complete explanation of his party's platform. After waving her off as a heckler, she stormed out of the meeting.

A man wearing a PC button accused Mr. Danson's department of "being on the take" with respect to commissions from the sale of a nuclear reactor to Argentina, which allegedly ended up in a numbered Swiss bank account. Mr. Danson naturally denied the charges as unfounded.