



Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Schiller looks like he's doing a bit of birdwatching here. Not so. He's officially opening the 1979 season of the Richmond Hill Slo-Pitch League at the Town Park Sunday night. It takes a while for the ball to get there. That's why they call it slo-pitch. (Photo by P. C. Brickell).

Ronald's would vacate if subdivision okayed

By RON WALLACE
Liberal Editor

A major industrial firm may move out of Richmond Hill if a proposed residential subdivision is built north of Crosby Avenue. Ronald's Printing, with frontage on Yonge Street and 18 acres of land extending east to the railway tracks, would be the neighbor of the subdivision. Plant Manager Bruce Humphreys said it is unlikely the company would be allowed to expand without additional costs to protect the residential environment, and he's not sure the company is ready to assume the additional expenses.

Already, architects have plans showing the Ronald's plant to double in size in the next 15 years, with a huge warehouse planned for construction later this year. The 91-unit subdivision, a proposal by W. A. Stephenson Holding Company Limited, would consist of 21 single family lots and 35 semi-detached lots.

Of that number, 16 semi-detached lots (or 32 residences)

would back onto the land owned by Ronald's Printing.

If the residences are approved, environmental regulations would force the printing company to install additional equipment at additional costs.

The company is hesitant to do that, Mr. Humphreys said.

"It seems strange that the Town would approve a residential subdivision at the risk of losing this plant," said John Hissink, vice-president and general manager of Ronald's.

"We employ 350 people, most of them from Richmond Hill, and we pay some \$5 million a year in salaries," he said.

Mr. Humphreys said anyone who moved into the subdivision, if it is approved, would be subjected to the noise of the printing plant 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We don't want to upset anyone," he said, "but those people wouldn't be very happy if they moved in then found out our expansion plans would put us right in their back yards."

Meanwhile, Al Duffy, Chairman of the town's planning committee, is a bit surprised by Ronald's intentions.

"I tend to agree with the subdivision," he said, "because we haven't heard anything about expansion from Ronald's."

Mr. Duffy said a public meeting, slated for the council chambers next Tuesday night, would likely bring all the problems out into the open.

The meeting is to consider an official plan amendment, designating the property from 'industrial' to 'residential'. Everyone in town must be

notified about the planned amendment, Mr. Duffy said, and that was done in newspaper advertising last week.

If that hurdle is passed, then another meeting on rezoning would be held, and everyone

within 400 feet of the proposed change would be notified.

Next Tuesday's meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 7:30 p.m.

"I expect lots of input at that meeting," Mr. Duffy said.

Light pollution bugging telescope

Lights from developments in Richmond Hill are causing some concern to the David Dunlap Observatory.

Dr. Tom Bolton, Assistant Director of the observatory sent a letter to Mayor Dave Schiller calling the problem to the attention of the town, citing specific examples and asking the matter be looked into.

The assistant director said the observatory had asked where possible, residents be asked to control the color of the light, lights be shielded to direct the light downward, and lights be turned off whenever possible.

Light gets scattered on dust and water in the sky, said Dr. Bolton, and causes a bright haze which comes down the telescope tube along with star light, interfering with astronomical observation.

Dr. Bolton said he had noticed

in the last several months some areas do not have controlled light, and it was his understanding the town had put light control clauses into site plan agreements to be signed before building.

Mayor Dave Schiller said Councillor John Birchall, within whose ward the observatory is located, had looked into the problem before the letter was received from Dr. Bolton.

The mayor said there was little problem where site plan agreements had been signed, the town must only request compliance, but if a light was installed without a permit the town must "attempt to persuade the owner to co-operate".

Mayor Schiller was confident those involved would respect the wishes of the observatory to curb the light pollution.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Lights won't cause observatory to move

So far, technology has been able to keep up with technology.

Although the different kinds and colors of lights as well as the numbers and intensity of these lights cause problems at David Dunlap Observatory, assistant director, Tom Bolton says improved equipment works to subtract these sky lights from the telescopes.

Not only does the observatory ask the town and developers to take steps to minimize the light, "but we take steps to improve our equipment," he said.

Last year, said Dr. Bolton, the observatory spent \$100,000 on new equipment.

Dr. Bolton said he did not think lights would be the limiting factor to research work at David Dunlap.

"It would be the obsolescence of the telescope," he said.

Some research projects have been moved to darker sites as far back as ten years ago, he added.

The assistant director said it is unlikely other kinds of work would ever be stopped.

It was more difficult with the increase of light in the sky, he said, but not impossible.

"The observatory will have a very long life span in Richmond Hill," he predicted, "well into the twenty-first century."

Performer ill

Theatre play postponed

Gerry Crack is responsible for yet another first for the Richmond Hill Curtain Club.

More than a week ago, Mr. Crack, one of the main performers in the Curtain Club's current production, "The Haunting of Hill House", came down with an undetermined illness showing itself in a fever of 103 degrees.

When the fever had not lifted by Thursday morning, the president and executive of the Curtain Club made the formidable decision not to open Friday night, so all ticket holders had to be reached — immediately.

Four Curtain Club members spent about three hours notifying the 100 subscribers who usually book first night.

Ticket holders were told of the decision to cancel, advised of the reason, apologies extended and offered a special show on Sunday.

Carol Moore, one of the callers, as well as being another of the main performers, said she was delighted by the response, saying there was definitely no anger shown by anyone.

Mr. Crack, recovered and back to work Monday, told The Liberal, amateur theatre groups rarely have understudies, mainly because there are not enough people in the club and also because "who would like to learn all those lines and not get to go on?"

This is the first time in the 25-year life of the club a play has not gone on, said Mr. Crack, who has been with the group all but one of its years, so he said he felt the club was not taking a "long-odd gamble" by not having understudies.

On the Wednesday before the show, the director, Ron Solloway,

"walked" the absent Mr. Crack's part of Dr. Monague for the cast at rehearsal, and next day came down with similar symptoms.

As a result Mr. Solloway has not yet seen the finished production.

"They were petrified the rest of the cast would get it," said Mr. Crack.

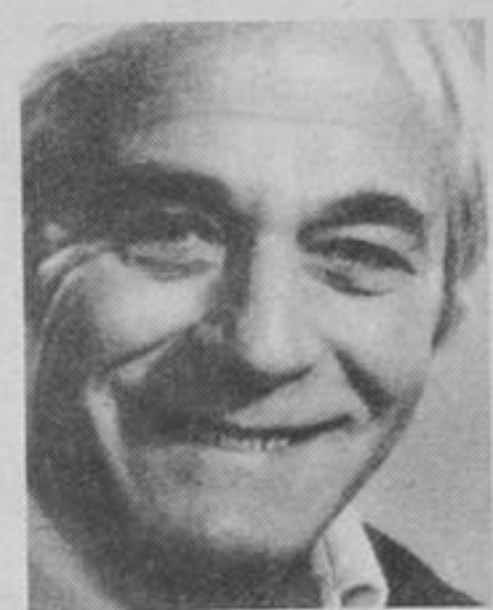
But, Saturday, May 26, formally became the first night of the play — with the full cast.

The play, about a house with a ghostly reputation which had proven to consume people if they had any tendency to be psychically receptive, will play again tonight, May 30, through to Sunday of this week and from Thursday to Saturday of the following week.

For Tickets call Madge Nicholson at 884-3703.

About the play Mr. Crack said he felt it went off well and he encouraged people to come out to see the lighting and sound effects which he felt were better than anything the club had attempted before.

"So far, the audience seems to be thoroughly enjoying it and has been gripped by it," he said.



GERRY CRACK

Bus advertising problems caused by communication breakdown, they say

It appears the problem with the advertising on Richmond Hill town buses was only a lack of communication among the company responsible for the advertising, the town and Travelways, who operate the buses.

In March of this year a firm called National Transit Cards, operated by Frank Brouwer, was awarded a contract granting exclusive rights for advertising on the five Richmond Hill Transit buses.

National Transit is to pay the town \$6,200 for these sole rights for two years and all ads must meet certain standards.

Recently the town received calls from business people in the area who have bought ads on the buses, complaining their ads were never placed on the bus or if present the ad was of poor quality.

Advertising was to be displayed on the sides and rear of the five buses as well as inside above the windows.

Recently, ads have appeared inside and out of the largest bus, the new "Orion", but only some brackets have been added to the small Mercedes-Benz buses.

Transit Co-ordinator for the town, Bud Newton, said National Transit Cards has met the requirements of the agreement with the municipality, but the town is concerned about the complaints from the business community.

"I told Mr. Brouwer, if I was an advertiser I would be very disgruntled," he said, in one of his many meetings about this problem.

Mr. Brouwer told The Liberal, the reason the ads are not up yet is because the local firm he has asked to install the brackets or frames has not been able to get the co-operation of the town to get all the buses in the same location at the same time to make one trip for the installation.

"We have had nothing but trouble from Richmond Hill," said Mr. Brouwer.

Mr. Newton replied to The Liberal by saying Mr. Brouwer has been informed, four of the five buses are in the Travelways garage on Doncaster Avenue in Thornhill every night between 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 p.m.

The fifth bus, a town operated "peak hour service" bus is always in the town maintenance yard each day between 8 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., said Mr. Newton, and Mr. Brouwer was advised of this fact when he first tendered for the contract.

Advertising inside the buses is of two different types, explained Mr. Brouwer, the positive ads, like a print, will be installed on the small buses — when the frames are installed, and negative signs, to be lit from behind, are already in place on the Orion bus.

Upon inspection, ads on the Orion bus were unclear and of poor quality.

But, this turned out to be only because the light bar behind the signs was not turned on and dust from the many trips through Yonge Street re-construction had adhered itself to the plastic covering.

Mr. Brouwer said Monday he had sent a letter to Travelways advising the light bar should be activated at all times.

Vice-President of Travelways, Ken Needler said Tuesday this letter had not yet been received and stressed advertising on these buses is totally between the town and the outside contractor and Travelways would do anything they could to ensure effectiveness of the advertising.

Mr. Needler said when the bus returned to the garage last night he would look into the problem. At press time the results of this inspection were not known.

He suggested the only problem with the lights being on at all

times might be glare in the evening hours for the driver.

Mr. Brouwer also indicated to The Liberal he had run into many problems with the business community in Richmond Hill.

"There must not be too many successful people there," he said, because he had had difficulty selling the ads.

However, all ads have now been sold, inside and out, he said, allowing 15 per cent of the display space available to remain vacant for the town or community organization to use for social events or messages.

Election vote finally official

The official count in the federal election in York North gave the riding to Progressive Conservative John Gamble by a 7,021 vote margin over incumbent Barney Danson.

The count taken on Friday showed:

John Gamble	PC	29,011
Barney Danson	Lib	21,990
Bruce Searle	NDP	7,591
Dan Davidson	Ltn	430
Neil Katzman	Ind	280
Paul Herman	M-L	46

More than 81.4 per cent of the eligible voters turned out, 59,348 in total, to elect a Progressive Conservative for York North for the first time in 17 years.

The results were not final until the official count was taken on Friday.

A spokesman for returning officer Joanne White said that three deputy returning officers had put their official statements inside the sealed ballot boxes.

The results for three polls could not be obtained until the seals could legally be broken and the

official count made on Friday, three days after the election.

Adding to the confusion, the returning office staff stopped answering calls on its publicized, telephone line about 12:15 a.m. Wednesday morning.

At that time, there were still nine polls out of 311 to be heard from.

Since then, callers have received either no answer or a recorded message from Bell Canada stating that the number is out of service.

The impression was left with party workers that the office was closed when the staff was actually busy cleaning up.

The final result had not been received in the chief returning officer's headquarters in Ottawa as of Monday either. It was supposed to arrive sometime this week in the mail.

(For background on the winner and losers in last Tuesday's vote, see page A3.)

Blitz underway

"Disastrous situation" as 17 die on York roads

Motorists beware — there have been 17 deaths as a result of traffic accidents on the roads of York Region this year and York police plan to spare no mercy for the speeding or impaired driver from here on in.

Chief Bruce Crawford said as of Monday, his department launched a campaign to strictly enforce all traffic regulations.

He announced a blitz of 24-hour-a-day vehicle and driver spot checks, including a step-up of the roadside breath analyses — now also a 24-hour-a-day operation.

"Right now we have a disastrous situation here," said Chief Crawford. "Our traffic

record has never been this bad — 17 fatalities so far this year and only four for the same period a year ago. It's the worst four months York has ever had."

During the period from May 19 to 28 six people have died in various traffic mishaps.

On May 19, Larry Easterbrook, 22, of Etobicoke was seriously injured when his car flipped over nine times as he was travelling on 19th Ave. at the 5th Concession in Markham. He died in hospital two days later as a result of massive head injuries.

A two-car collision at 14th Ave. and the 10th Concession in Markham injured two people and

killed passenger Marion Graham, 98, of Kingston Rd. in Pickering on May 21. That happened near Cedar Grove.

Neil Watson, 30, of King, was killed when the tractor he was riding on (which was being towed) rolled over on him May 22 as he headed for a grass-cutting job in Richmond Hill. The accident occurred on Bathurst St. just north of Elgin Mills Rd.

On May 21, Gary Montgomery, 23, of Rexdale, died instantly when his car first hit a telephone pole and then a tree after he lost control on Bathurst St. south of Poplar Banks Rd. in King. Two Richmond Hill passengers were

also hurt.

In two incidents where the victims were not driving cars, 19-year-old George Leathorn of Keswick was killed when his motorcycle was sideswiped on May 26; George Dawson, 66, of King City was struck from behind as he rode his bicycle northbound on Keele St. He died almost five hours later, after being transferred to Sunnybrook Medical Centre.

That nine-day period accounted for more than one-third of the number of traffic deaths this year.

"In 1973 we developed a similar poor record and we took steps to

improve safety on our roads," said chief Crawford. "Then, people said we were harassing them but the program worked well because we were able to reduce the number of deaths on the road by 60 per cent in one year."

That fact and the increasing disregard for the rules of the road prompted the chief to have his men tighten up their enforcement.

"The statistics are most uncharacteristic for York. The public can scream all it wants about stricter enforcement, but it worked once and it'll work again," he said.