

New flood control plan outlined for Oak Ridges

Thirty Oak Ridges residents gathered at Oak Ridges Public School Thursday to hear Mike Garrett of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Mayor David

Schiller of the Town of Richmond Hill tell them about a new plan for flood control. The area of Oak Ridges in question is from Wendy Way to a point just west of Blyth Avenue.

behind Bostlund Industries. The flood control plan includes the construction of a ditch designed to handle the spring run-off. The site of the proposed ditch will be where the existing

Lake Wilcox channel winds through this area. In constructing the ditch, the MTRCA will straighten the channel, and make it deeper and wider.

All this is expected to cost in the \$120,000 range with The Town of Richmond Hill paying 45 per cent and the remainder coming from the province. Mayor Schiller explained that

the Town's share could come from general revenue if available and, failing that, there would have to be an increase in taxes. This upset some members of the audience, because Oak Ridges residents will be looking at hefty tax increases when the sewers finally arrive somewhere between 1981 and 1983.

SWAMP DEBATE

Two areas of swamp were also discussed at the same meeting. One area is east of Schomberg Road with frontage on the King Sideroad.

Of major concern was the amount of fill going into this swamp area. Residents are concerned about what too much fill will do to the water levels and where the water will go.

The MTRCA spokesman assured the audience there are restrictions about the amount of fill that can go into this swamp.

What they are planning to do is use the muck from the ditch construction as some fill for the existing swamp areas, but this particular swamp will get very little of it because there has been quite a bit of fill dumped there already.

The second swamp area is west of Schomberg Road, and here residents show the most interest.

Some people want the swamp area to remain as it is now, because ducks and geese use it as

a landing area. Part of this swamp was designated as parkette several years ago, but the MTRCA, who owns the land has not had the necessary funds to maintain the parkette and it has gone to weed. The MTRCA wants the Town of Richmond Hill to take over the swamp areas and the responsibility for maintaining parkette areas. The Town seems a little reluctant to accept.

WEEDS AND BUGS

Other topics discussed at the meeting were the problems of weeds in vacant lots including the edges of the swamp land.

Mayor Schiller assured the residents that if the weeds were noxious, the Town would take measures to have them cut or sprayed, but only if the weed inspector considered them noxious. All questions about weeds must go directly to the weed inspector.

Another issue was the problem of mosquitoes.

With natural water channels all over this area of Richmond Hill the mosquitoes breed everywhere, and York Region will not spray the areas.

No concrete answers were forthcoming either from the mayor or councillors.

It seems as though the bugs will be sprayed only if they are considered a serious health hazard.

THE RICHMOND HILL Liberal

A Metrospan Community Newspaper

Wednesday, June 27, 1979

25 Cents

24 pages



Organizer Joan Connolly didn't believe it, but literally hundreds showed up Thursday to share in McConaghy School's memories night. Part of the crowd is shown above. Scheduled to wrap up at 9 p.m., the event carried on until nearly 11. For more photos, see Page A-4. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

Hello there, stranger

New education centre is too rich for Board

The Separate School Board will have to scale down its tastes if it wants to build a new Education Centre it can afford.

That's basically what Committee Chairman Con Thompson was telling his colleagues when he informed them the lowest tender received for the construction of the centre is nearly \$400,000 more than the board wants to spend.

A sum of \$800,000 had been set aside in various forms of financing but on June 12 the lowest tender submitted to a

handful of anxious trustees and staff was more than \$1.1 million.

"Our architect has been asked to contact the four low bidders to make modifications to the plans, deleting several items. Some of these would include the elevator (and shafting), high grade carpeting, an expensive painting job in some areas that includes ceramic tiling and the stand pipe system," said Mr. Thompson.

At that point, he claimed the costing should be cut to just over \$1 million. With further changes such as knocking \$50,000 off the

cost of a more expensive heating and air conditioning system by using a "more conventional set-up" and by deleting the possibility of having a seating and special roofing for a future third storey, a substantial saving can be made.

"Even if Mr. Saccoccio (the architect) has to redo the drawings, which could take two months, and we re-submit the plans to the board and the four preferred bidders, I'm sure the project can be appropriately scaled down to the \$800,000 level

we have to work with," said Mr. Thompson.

Trustees had two fervent discussions about details of the building that now must be left out. Much research and discussion went on last January about the need to accommodate handicapped people with an elevator.

The cost was given as \$27,500 and trustees decided the elevator, or at least the shaft, would be a necessity.

Three different types of air conditioning systems were also discussed and several firms were contacted for designs and price quotes. Depending on the system chosen, that would have cost anywhere from \$25,000 to \$60,000.

Both those debates were unnecessary, in light of the financial squeeze the board now faces. At this point, the centre will cost \$69 per square foot to build, something Mr. Thompson said the board can't handle.

They want the sidewalk on their side of the street

Town of Richmond Hill engineering staff came across the exception to the rule last week.

Commissioner of Works, Bernie Toporowski, said it had been the town's experience residents usually want sidewalks — but on the other side of the street.

Bruce Smith, speaking for the residents of the east side of Trench Street, between Mill Street and Richmond Street, appeared at engineering committee meeting last week in what

he called a "last ditch" attempt to have the proposed sidewalk moved from the west side to the east side of Trench Street.

Mr. Smith said one of the homeowner's reasons was the fact that homes on the east side were built closer to the road and residents felt the sidewalk would provide a buffer from the traffic.

Residents argue the east side is a natural as it would link up to the existing sidewalk on Mill Street and would be on the same side as the hydro utility poles.

Commissioner of Works,

Bernie Toporowski said the town circulated a questionnaire in which nine out of 14 homeowners on Trench Street said they wanted it on the west side.

Mr. Toporowski added that the impact or damage to trees would be reduced if the sidewalk was put on the west side.

Mr. Smith countered by saying, "We all love trees but they shouldn't dictate all aspects of our lives."

The engineering committee agreed to review the situation and get back to residents before construction.

Nine color parties mark Legion Week

Richmond Hill Branch 375 of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted the first annual color party revue, competition and parade Saturday in honor of Legion Week, now under way.

A reviewing stand was set up on Yonge Street at Elgin Mills, and Alf Siong, MLA for York Centre and Mayor Dave Schiller were among the guests on the reviewing stand.

The parade was led by the Richmond Hill Legion Centennial Pipe Band.

Nine color parties took part in

the competition. They came from St. Mary's, Woodstock, Toronto, Mount Dennis, Weston, Highland Creek, Brockville and Aurora.

A visiting color party... the Imperial Knights from North East Pennsylvania were the first place winners. Second place went to Branch 31 of Mount Dennis and Branch 11 of East Toronto captured third.

All competitors and their guests were entertained at a dinner and dance at the Richmond Hill Legion.



Richmond Hill Branch 375 of the Royal Canadian Legion Centennial Pipe Band leads their guests in a parade north on Yonge Street Saturday as they launched Legion Week in Richmond Hill. Guests brought color parties from nine com-

munities including one from north east Pennsylvania to compete in the first color party competition of its kind.

Community Pulse

Holiday hours

Because of the July 1 holiday this weekend, the deadline for all display advertising has been set at 5 p.m. Friday, June 29. The classified advertising department will be closed Monday, July 2, but will open until 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 3. Only the editorial department will remain open Monday, July 2.

Polo, anyone?

The Toronto Polo Club based in Gormley has arranged five consecutive days of "the best polo action in Canada" with all proceeds going to charity.

July 5, 6, and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and continuing Sunday afternoon, July 8, top players for the local polo club will compete against teams from New York, Michigan and Virginia, at the Markham Fair Grounds.

Admission is \$2 and includes two polo matches each evening as well as half-time entertainment and refreshments available.

All proceeds will go to Thornhill District Lions Club.

Gone fishin'

York Central Anglers and Hunters are sponsoring a "Fisherama" for boys and girls under 15 years of age, on July 7 at the — believe it or not — Mill Pond.

They plan to give prizes and trophies for the biggest fish caught by a boy and the biggest fish caught by a girl. Don't worry — the Anglers and Hunters will stock the pond first with up to 100 Large Mouth Bass.

Everyone is welcome, festivities begin at 8 a.m., bait is available — just bring your own fishing rod.

More growing pains, Liberal moves again

After two long, hot summers and a couple of cold winters in a building too small for the needs of an expanding operation, The Liberal is moving.

Our new, spacious location is at the north end of the Richmond Heights Plaza. It's an enlarged edition of a former newspaper office from which staff will produce both The Liberal and The North Star.

The paper had been at its familiar spot on Yonge St. next to the liquor store at Crosby Ave. since August, 1977.

At that time, the move was described as giving The Liberal's various departments an opportunity to expand to handle the

prosperous, growing community of Richmond Hill.

However, space problems became acute, as an editorial staff of eight found itself crammed into three rooms.

Before the old white house at 10395 Yonge St. became our home, the newspaper spent 28 years living next to the theatre at 10101 Yonge. Before an addition there in 1949, the newspaper was at the same site in another old house.

Moving out of the "old house syndrome", our new address is 10520 Yonge St. Telephone numbers for the office will not change and our Box number — 390 — remains the same.