

Region planning committee favors Spring Mills Estates

The York regional planning committee voted 3-2 last week in favor of the controversial Spring Mills Estates subdivision.

Its recommendation will be before regional council for approval tomorrow.

The committee adopted a regional staff report which reversed the position taken in opposition to the development last January.

At that time, the Region and the Town of Richmond Hill successfully opposed the development at a lengthy Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

But this year's Richmond Hill council reversed its stand by a single vote and so has the regional planning staff.

Gormley resident Eric Baker

told the planning committee last Thursday that it was not following the regional policy of a minimum of two acre lots in rural residential development.

He particularly opposed the development of eight lots at the rear of the 105-acre development that would be only one acre in size.

He said that a 14-acre lot at the Bayview Avenue end of the property looked like a "gimmick" to get the plan approved.

"There is no way that that development could alleviate pollution a mile away," he said.

Mr. Baker said he was not anti-development, in fact, he is a director of a development company.

He was also on a committee

which studied the rural-residential development policy for Richmond Hill council three years ago.

Mr. Baker was also concerned that salt from water softeners would go through tile beds and turn the sandy soil into salt flats.

The regional staff is asking for 40 lots, a reduction from 52, for the property on the east side of Bayview Avenue three quarters of a mile south of the Gormley Sideroad.

The staff recommended that no further development take place in the area. Mr. Baker said this would be a disappointment to both sides in the controversy since those in favor of development wanted it for their own property some day as well.

Planning commissioner

Hershel Weinberg said that the revised subdivision plan now met the criteria of both the Richmond Hill and regional official plans.

But Ann Gold, another Gormley resident, was concerned about the creation of a new community which would demand urban services, which was also the main concern in the Ontario Municipal Board decision.

Planner Terry Kelly, representing Spring Mills, said that the OMB had been satisfied with water and soil tests and that it was not true that the 14-acre lot was used to average out with the one-acre lots.

Regional Councillor Gord Rowe from Richmond Hill continued his support of the project, saying that he and Richmond Hill council had heard the objections before.

Mayor Eldred King of Whitchurch-Stouffville said that the proposed lots were too small.

He was amused by one part of the OMB report that stated the land was no longer useful for farming as the fences were down.

"Anyone could build a fence," he said.

Chairman Bob Forhan said that the case had been decided by the OMB. It was up to the OMB to hear an appeal. His hand could not be seen when the vote was called by chairman George Timpson.

Penned Thornhill's history

Noted local historian Doris Fitzgerald dies

Thornhill has lost one of its best friends.

Author and historian, Doris Marion Fitzgerald died Friday at the Altamont Nursing Home in Scarborough.

In July 1935 Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to Thornhill and lived at 22 John Street where they stayed until 1953.

They moved to Colborne Street for a few years and then took up residence at 7616 Yonge Street where they lived until 1973.

For most of those 38 years Doris Fitzgerald was dedicated to researching the history of Thornhill.

She had written articles for *The Liberal* since 1941, as well as more than a dozen U.S. and

Canadian magazines and newspapers.

Her last article appeared in *The Liberal* May 10, 1973, a long history of the interesting old landmark formerly known as Soule's Inn.

About 1944, a neighbor, Mrs. James Pearson, asked her to help with the Tweedsmuir History for Thornhill Women's Institute.

Research in Provincial Archives, the Reference Library, the Registry Office for York County and numerous other sources, resulted in a wealth of historical data.

This information later became the basis for her first history on Thornhill.

In 1955 Mr. Fitzgerald was called on to write the history of Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Church, 1830 - 1955.

Centennial year, 1967, was the year when most Canadians became aware of their "roots" and the wealth of history in Canada.

But the people of Thornhill became aware of their hometown history when Mrs. Fitzgerald's first book was published in 1964.

"Thornhill, An Ontario Village" relates the history of the village from 1793 to 1963.

As old landmarks disappear, interest in the past seems to grow and Mrs. Fitzgerald's first book went into its second printing a few years ago.

In 1970 her second history, "Old Time Thornhill" was published.

Although her books and newspaper articles were undertaken as a labor of love, no one will ever know of the endless hours of research involved.

While most of her articles in *The Liberal* were of a historical nature, she also wrote many interesting accounts of local events.

She is survived by her son David Hugh Meredith McLean, and his wife Diana; grandchildren, Sara Jordan Meredith (Mrs. R. De Groat), Judith, High, Patricia and John McLean, by sister Eleanor (Mrs. Arthur Van Winkle), W. Geoffrey Chapman, Betty (Mrs. H. Duke Scott), Kenneth W. Chapman and Shelagh (Mrs. George Patterson of Ireland).

A private funeral took place on Monday from the B. E. Ring Funeral Home in Thornhill, followed by cremation.

The service was conducted by Rev. Robert Grisdale of Holy Trinity Church.

The church was theirs

Where better to hold a wedding than in your own church.

Especially if you own the church.

Frank and Marilyn Rodwell of Willowdale were able to provide the perfect place for their daughter Cathy to be married to Lee Greek of Scarborough Saturday.

The Rodwells have owned the 140-year-old former Thornhill Wesleyan Methodist Church for eight years and in the last two, have been using part of it for a dance studio, renting the hall out to community groups.

They have also made it available to the choir of Thornhill Presbyterian Church for its own use on Festival day.

But there was still a lot of cleaning up, painting and putting the sanctuary back together to do before the wedding, mostly by Mr. Rodwell and his son-in-law.

"Lee may be the only groom in the world who had to practically rebuild his own church for the wedding," Mr. Rodwell said.

The church was built on Yonge Street in 1838 and moved to Centre Street in 1875.



There was plenty to see and do Saturday as Richmond Hill's Loyal True Blue and Orange Home celebrated its 58th anniversary with an open house. Above, Tom McQueston of King City, left, and Bert Mulholland of Stroud join forces with Mrs. Mulholland to entertain visitors. And enjoying the music in an awkward, but apparently comfortable position is Tammy Payou, 12, of Newmarket. A barbeque and track events were also part of the day's program. (Liberal photos by Alex Bruyns)



Teachers may be locked out

By STEVE PEARLSTEIN
Liberal Staff Writer

Though he doesn't feel it's what all the trustees want, Chief Negotiator for the Board of Education's secondary team Bill Monroe says the board will seriously have to consider locking out its 1,005 high school teachers if there's no contract settlement by September.

The team has already been given permission by the full board to send a Form 6 to the Education Relations Commission, the provincial body which aids school boards and federations in mediations.

As outlined in Bill 100 (legislation governing contracts between the same two groups) Form 6 is a formal request to the teachers' team to submit its final proposals.

Five days after the ERC receives the form, the board can legally lock the teachers out of the schools, even though it is still summer break time.

Once the teachers are informed Form 6 has been received, they are given a chance to respond to the request on a Form 7.

Since both sides now refuse to go to binding arbitration because of one outstanding issue (the board formerly refused to go to arbitration at all), such a response is unlikely.

The major dispute, which came to light only at the July 9 board meeting, is the amount of time teachers actually have to spend in the classroom. They want it written into the contract that 20 per cent of their time be unassigned.

The board asserts such a condition would make programming and administration of

individual schools impossible and give principals little control of their responsibilities.

It refuses to include unassigned time in contract negotiations, though it has acceded and will allow all other outstanding issues to go to binding arbitration.

Once the teachers' team heard unassigned time would not be included in the mediation, it decided not to accept the board's offer of binding arbitration, though that's what it wanted originally.

"Personally, if it does come to a lock-out, now is the time to act. There's no sense in wasting any more time, if the teachers plan to carry out the work-to-rule the same way they demonstrated on the last days of school, they deserve to be locked out," said Mr. Monroe.

He still gave the teachers the benefit of the doubt when they wouldn't adhere strictly to a list of restricted activities distributed by the provincial takeover negotiating team.

"The object of a lock-out isn't dirty pool — the board has to be firm. It has already accepted going to arbitration and now the teachers say that isn't enough by throwing additional issues in. At the same time we have to wear velvet gloves or else the public thinks we're being too harsh."

He said the ERC would step in almost immediately if a lock-out did occur, but he plans to have the form sent in sometime this week anyway.

There are no special meetings or mediation sessions set up until at least the August 13 regular board meeting.

In a recorded message, the teachers' federation office (District 11 OSSTF) said the team could go back to mediation only upon call from mediator Harvey Ladd. It also claimed mediations ceased because the board refused to allow any working conditions to go to arbitration.

Once the teachers made their salary demands public on June 18, both sides have been about 6.3 per cent apart over the two year deal, including annual increments for experience. In the first year, the board has offered an increase of 6 per cent, an increment of 2.4 per cent and no increases for either benefits or responsibility allowances.

In the second year, the board has offered a straight 6 per cent plus 2.2 per cent for increments and a 3 per cent COLA (cost of living allowance).

Its total package, including 80 per cent of benefits and responsibility allowances would cost the board an average \$5,887 for 1979-80.

The teachers want 7.4 per cent, a 2.4 per cent increment and a 2.7 per cent COLA in the first year and 6 per cent in the second year, plus a 5.2 per cent COLA and the increment (the board has offered 2.2 per cent).

Besides the changes in the salary grid, the teachers' team is demanding 100 per cent of benefits, an average of \$463 more for responsibility allowances and an average of \$80 for extra degrees for an overall average cost to the board of over \$29,200.

That's approximately how much a teacher with an honors degree plus a second degree in the A4 category would make in 1979-80, having a minimum of six years' experience.

York reaches a tentative settlement

A tentative settlement has been reached in the contract dispute between the Region of York and representatives of Local 1953 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Following marathon bargaining meetings last Tuesday and Thursday a memorandum of agreement was signed on a tentative pact at 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Terms of the settlement have not been released pending ratification by Local 1953 members and York Regional Council.

The settlement was reached on

the day that the 280 members of Local 1953 were legally able to strike.

The local represents plumbing inspectors, planners, day care workers, welfare officers, roads, water and sewer employees.

Jack Rettie, chief administrative officer of the region, said that he could not reveal the terms of the settlement under an agreement with the mediator.

"Everybody worked at it (negotiations) pretty diligently," Mr. Rettie said. "If I hadn't thought it (the settlement) was reasonable I wouldn't have signed."

Union members met to ratify the pact last night and regional council will vote on the agreement tomorrow afternoon.

The region was offering 6.8 per cent in the one-year contract and the union was asking 15 per cent retroactive to January 1979.

Annie Neal, 75, dies

Annie Neal, wife of Richmond Hill's first mayor, William Neal, died Monday at Sunnybrook Medical Centre.

Two weeks earlier, Mrs. Neal entered the centre after a kidney failure.

Mrs. Neal, born Annie McCallum in Elders Mills, was 75

years old.

A resident of Richmond Hill for almost 50 years, Mrs. Neal had five sons, William, Sandy, Jim, Robert and George.

She is also survived by six grandchildren.

Bill, her husband, died last month.

Stephenson plan "unacceptable" Ronalds Printing spokesman states

The Ministry of the Environment and the Town of Richmond Hill are both trying to minimize conflict which might arise between a residential and an industrial use of land.

W. A. Stephenson Holdings Company has approached the town about developing a residential subdivision on property adjoining the Ronalds Printing plant on Yonge Street, extending east to the CN tracks and south to Crosby Avenue.

Ronalds Printing objected to the subdivision plan, saying they disagree with having a residential use next door to their industrial use.

The printing firm which has been in Richmond Hill since 1964, has plans for expansion, plans they say are unlikely if the residential proposal is approved

because of environmental regulations necessary.

Last week a meeting was held in town offices with Dave Stephenson and his planner representing W. A. Stephenson Holdings, representatives from Ronalds Printing and their solicitor, town planning staff and a delegate from the Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Stephenson presented an alternate subdivision proposal which would reduce a road allowance and apply additional land to the northerly lots abutting Ronalds property.

His proposal is to create a natural barrier, with berming and landscaping that could be used as a parkette by residents as well as Ronalds' employees.

Mr. Stephenson said his proposal would create a strip of

land 12 feet wide.

If Ronalds were willing to add 13 feet of their property, said Mr. Stephenson, a ridge of land six feet high and 24 feet wide could be formed.

With a four foot fence on top and trees planted down both sides, this would give an adequate visual and noise separation, said Mr. Stephenson.

Bruce Humphries, Plant Manager at Ronalds Printing, said his company was "not too pleased" with the alternate proposal.

A "lump of land" doesn't make much of a difference, he said of the new proposal.

Mr. Humphries, who is also a resident of Richmond Hill, said he was concerned about people being housed in the "right habitat" in Richmond Hill, as

well as being concerned about maintaining his business.

"Quite honestly, we find this proposal unacceptable," he said.

Dave Collison of the town planning staff, said he felt Mr. Stephenson's proposal would effectively reduce noise from the plant to residents, but said he felt the Ministry of the Environment was more concerned about emissions from the plant.

Don Pirie, Chief of Approvals and Planning for the Central Region of the Ministry of the Environment, said the aim of his department was to insure no adverse effect on residents by an industry.

In this particular case, the problem seems to be one of odors, said Mr. Pirie, and distance seems to be the only suitable way of handling the problem.

"We would have no option, but to recommend sufficient distance to protect home owners," he said.

Sufficient distance to the main city is about 90 metres, (nearly 300 feet) said Mr. Pirie.

No amount of berming or planting will be effective, said the government representative, distance is the only alternative to expensive controls.

He added the government tries to avoid situations where industry would be penalized by high cost equipment and operations to control such emissions.

Town staff are now preparing a report and recommendations to go to planning committee July 31.

Mr. Pirie said his department would make recommendations to the town when a plan of subdivision was received.



DORIS FITZGERALD

Community Pulse

Art in Park Sept. 16

Thirty members of the Richmond Hill Group of Artists are all working hard this summer on works to display at the annual Art in the Park, scheduled for September 9, or in case of rain, September 16 at Mill Pond Park.

Last year there were over 200 pictures, including oils, acrylics, water colors, pen and ink drawings and some sculpture.

Any Richmond Hill artist interested in participating should call Bob Jordan at 884-4035 or Elsie Edmed at 889-1362.

The Richmond Hill Group of Artists meet each Monday during the school months at Crosby Heights Senior Public School at 7:30.

Deadline extended

The deadline for the 4th annual Liberal Beautification Awards has been extended until the end of July. If you're planning to nominate a property, see the notice on Page A-2 of your Liberal this week.

Ma Bell irks John

Four Progressive Conservative members of parliament in Ottawa are without a link to their constituents — a telephone, and York North's representative, John Gamble is one of them.

Mr. Gamble who is spending two to three days each week in his Ottawa office, said he finds the situation "intolerable".

Mr. Gamble's early duties in Ottawa include sitting on a caucus committee looking into economy in government and another committee studying economic development in the country.

CBC finds Doreen

Liberal Correspondent, Doreen Livingstone became a radio and television personality Monday because of an article she wrote for the Liberal.

Mrs. Livingstone is chairperson of the Miracle Food Mart Consumer Committee for the store at Markham Place Mall, and she was invited to be a guest on CBC's Metro Morning radio show and again on News Hour on CBC television from 6 to 7 p.m.