

Bond Steel relocation needed, president says

By SHAARON HAY
Liberal Staff Writer

For more than five years Bond Structural Steel has been on the

verge of moving the plant, and last week president, Leonard Prusky said he can't work under present conditions much longer. Bond Structural Steel on

Markham Road has expanded four times since 1964 and now because of cramped office space and restricted plant capacity it needs to expand or relocate.

This Richmond Hill company fabricates, supplies and erects structural steel for the construction industry. Many industrial plazas, schools

and factories in Richmond Hill have used their services, all the residential steel for the BAIF subdivision behind Hillcrest Mall was supplied by Bond Structural

Steel. They even put the new roof on Richmond Hill Arena.

Mr. Prusky said if they were able to have larger plant and storage facilities, his company would do more volume and employ more people. Presently they employ 60 people from the area.

The Town of Richmond Hill and the Region of York would also like Bond Structural Steel to relocate, providing the necessary land for a grade separation at Markham Road and the CNR level crossing.

Now, because of a special meeting held in town hall last week, the necessary expansion and relocation look possible.

Mr. Prusky is now negotiating with a developer for a piece of land adjacent to Highway 404, north of Markham Road and behind the Ministry of Transportation and Communications Works Yard.

Mr. Prusky said this particular piece of land presents a problem because of a low, wet area running approximately through the middle.

The company president said he has asked the Metropolitan

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) to look at the site and approve the filling in of this low area.

If approved by MTRCA, Mr. Prusky said he will approach council asking for a motion to support rezoning of the property as well as asking council to approach regional council for the same support.

One more consideration before going ahead with the purchase, Mr. Prusky said he will approach council asking for a motion to support rezoning of the property as well as asking council to approach regional council for the same support.

Mr. Prusky estimated it would take about eight months for Bond Structural Steel to relocate after it had received a building permit.

The steel company now owned by the steel company extending from Markham Road north to a point just south of Centre Street and including Roseview Avenue and west from the CNR tracks to the sewage plant will be sold to a developer for residential use, said Mr. Prusky — if present negotiations are successful.

"If it doesn't work out we're right back to square one again," he said.

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Finally, board, teachers agree schools re-open

York Region high school students finally got back to the classroom on a regular basis Friday after a series of bizarre decisions taken by trustees and the teachers' federation.

A tentative settlement to the 18-month contract dispute between the York County Board of Education and its secondary teachers had been reached late on Labor Day — paving the way for a punctual beginning to the school year.

However, after operation reports of the 15 schools for the day were appraised by the trustees at a special meeting last Tuesday, the board voted 16-3 to close the schools.

At a press conference the following day, Chairman Don Cousens said there had been "substantial interference with the operation of a normal school day — to the detriment of students", so the board used a section of the Education Act to close the schools.

That part of the Act allows for such measures where the safety and well-being of students are in question.

"It was the toughest meeting any trustee could attend," said Mr. Cousens, "but I feel very right in what I did and justified in the action taken by the board. We had a verbal agreement put forth by mediator Harvey Ladd which said the teachers would allow as normal a school day as possible under the circumstances — but that's not what happened on Tuesday."

He listed a number of functions not carried out the first day at a majority of high schools: no timetable corrections made; reports of students not allowed to take home textbooks; no attendance taken; "complete chaos"; according to one student — they didn't even know my name.

In an earlier interview, Mr. Cousens said he was unaware any of the work-to-rule tactics imposed by the teachers' federation the final three days in June (over the same contract dispute), would be in effect on September 4.

"HAD FAITH"

He later admitted he understood the federation couldn't

lift the work-to-rule without having a membership vote on the issue.

"... we had faith in that verbal agreement and that it would allow the schools to operate as normally as possible. We wanted an agreement (on a new contract) and we were sure the teachers wanted to settle this as well. It came down to who is running the system — the federation, through the teachers, or the elected officials of the Region," said Mr. Cousens.

Teachers were out of the schools for both Wednesday and Thursday last week.

At a meeting September 4, they had voted overwhelmingly to keep the work-to-rule in place.

Then at about 11:30 p.m. on Thursday in a vote conducted by the Education Relations Commission, they lifted the sanction and balloted 620 to 221 in favor of ratifying the tentative settlement with the board.

Earlier that night, trustees had voted 16-1 in favor of accepting the new contract, although all monetary issues will now go to a third-party arbitrator.

"We're not unhappy with the settlement," said Chief negotiator Bill Monroe. "I hope the arbitrator doesn't go crazy. Hopefully, the bargaining will be a little better next time but at least this time we didn't give up the things we didn't want to give up."

A letter of intent accompanies the agreement, which will establish board-teacher committees to examine procedures for cross-panel transfers,

Gasoline soaked car explodes

A man nearly blew himself up when he lit a match near a gasoline covered automobile last week.

William Barr of Station Street, Unionville, thought he saw someone in his car late one night and went out to investigate.

He lit a match and his car blew up. Mr. Barr suffered first and

second degree burns to his face, arms and body.

He was taken to York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill and is expected to be released today.

York Regional Police investigation turned up a destroyed gasoline can near the damaged vehicle.

While police suspect arson, no charges have yet been laid.

While Mr. Monroe said he was pleased with the solidarity of the board in the three votes — two to close the schools and one to ratify the agreement — Mrs. Grand said she had no animosity toward the board's negotiating team. She feels the trustees have been forced into signing a blank cheque.

The arbitrator, a mutually agreed upon person by one appointee from the board and District 11 OSSTF, should hand down a decision within three or four weeks. The two-year contract expires at the end of August, 1980.

Negotiations for a new contract between the two parties begin in January.

Somebody cares, it seems. The Richmond Hill Ponderosa Restaurant read the appeal and decided to do its share.

The staff is going to hold a car wash next Saturday, September

15, in the parking lot at the Ponderosa on Yonge Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It will cost \$1 to have your car washed and the Ponderosa will supply free coffee to anyone using the service.

All proceeds will go to the Richmond Hill Volunteer Bureau.

If it should rain that day, the car wash will be held the following Saturday, September 22.



Constable Brian Abraham shows the style which the good guys sometimes use to win. Tuesday night in Town Park members of the York Regional Police Association beat the radio station CFGM players in a benefit ball game with proceeds to Project HOSTEL, the organization responsible for "The Yellow Brick House" — an emergency housing facility for women and children in York Region. The night was full of surprises — grapefruits used for baseballs, and prizes — for the lucky spectators. Project HOSTEL collected over \$100 from the baseball game. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

Volunteer Bureau gets a boost

The Richmond Hill Volunteer Bureau asked the Richmond Hill reading public a few weeks ago in The Liberal for money.

Funds were needed to keep the Volunteer Bureau alive, and if no one helped, the bureau would have to fold.

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Already three cars in Rotary's auction

Richmond Hill Rotary Club is getting some pretty impressive donations for the TV Auction coming up this December.

Already three cars have been donated by local dealers — one brand-spanking new, one a good used vehicle, and one special interest, said Buster Vermeulen, past president of the Rotary Club.

Contributions total a value of about \$5,000, said Mr. Vermeulen, and include such items as lamps, footstools, gift vouchers and cameras.

The TV Auction will be held in co-operation with Classicomm Cable 10 the first week in

December. Items will be described and shown on Cable 10 and anyone interested can telephone in their bid.

Originally the goal to be reached by the Rotary Club was \$6,000 with proceeds to the York Centre for Learning Disabilities.

Because of the response from local business, the goal is now \$10,000, said Mr. Vermeulen.

Anyone interested in making a donation should call Mr. Vermeulen at 884-1868, Dennis Stainer at 884-7062, Doug Davies at 884-6274 or Jim Abraham at 889-4957.

He'll show you how to save electricity

Richmond Hill Hydro has extended a special service to make consumers aware of where hydro savings can be made.

Consumer Service Supervisor for Richmond Hill Hydro, Harold Ground, said originally the main concentration has been on factories and businesses in town, but they will go into homes on request.

"We will go anywhere and advise how hydro may be wasted," said Mr. Ground, stressing the utility's interest in helping conserve energy.

Mr. Ground gave several examples of areas in the home where savings could be made.

Dripping hot water taps keeping the element in the hot water heater on, and poor door gaskets on refrigerators, (not making a good seal) are two

areas most would not think of, said Mr. Ground.

He also pointed out many are not aware that instant-on television sets use power all the time.

The attaching of a line switch, or the simple pulling of the plug, are easy ways to make savings, said the hydro representative.

Small things such as having the proper size cooking utensils to fit

elements on stove burners, and the turning out of unnecessary lights will result in big savings, said Mr. Ground.

Richmond Hill Hydro holds conservation and safety seminars for industry and retail merchants to show areas where savings can be made, and Mr. Ground said films are available to demonstrate savings to any school or organization.

Village Festival takes place Saturday

"F Day" is almost here and if you haven't got your 19th century costume ready, time is running out.

F Day is the Thornhill Village Festival, an annual five hours of fun and merriment to commemorate and preserve the historic and cultural value of the Village of Old Thornhill.

A host of activities will be kicked off by the festival parade up Yonge St. at noon this Saturday. The place to be is at the intersection of Yonge and Highway 7B, roughly the centre of the old village.

In its third year, the festival is community-oriented, hoping to

attract residents dressed in 19th style. The previous celebrations were attended by more than 10,000 people.

Admission is now charged due to increased costs and the fact a Wintario grant has been discontinued. Entrance is \$1.50 for adults, 50 cents for children (which includes a program) but anyone wearing a costume can save 50 cents. Family rate is \$3.

Highlights of this year's festivities include Highland bands, "country kitchen" food, dancing, arts and crafts sales, best costume contest, sheriff of the festival contest, antiques

displays, garden parties, roving companies of minstrels, jazz bands and singers and the regular Festival Raffle.

The festival is produced largely by the volunteers of the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill and most of the activities going on at Holy Trinity Church are thanks to them.

One of 18 sites for Saturday's auction, here's what will happen at the church on Brooke St: SPHT Victorian Tea, 1:30 — 4:30 p.m.; films of Festivals '77 and '78; audio visual history of Thornhill; artifacts display; homebaking stand — Thornhill Newcomers; Towns of Vaughan and Markham

LACAC display; Cantible Chorale at 3:30, 4:30; Thornhill Village Artists exhibit, 3-5 p.m.; German Mills Co-op Nursery School demonstration; choir hot dog stand; Canadian Legion Pipe Band and Dancers, 12:45 p.m.; Al and Ina Harris Country Music at 1:30, 3 and 4 p.m.; ballet at 2 p.m.; York Cycle Players at 2:30 p.m.; talent show at 3:30 p.m. and the Festival Raffle Draw at 4:30 p.m.

All the activities are within a 1,000 yard radius of each other so get dressed up and come one out, bring your friends and have some fun.



Khatcho Yazdjian of Springhead Gardens in Richmond Hill works on a still life oil painting during the Art in the Park show at Mill Pond Park last Sunday. The show was put on by the

Richmond Hill Group of Artists and sponsored by the Civic Improvement Committee of the Town of Richmond Hill and although the weather was chilly, attendance was good.