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Recycling depot destroyed in fire

Four years of hard work and the hopes of many were almost lost Saturday, when fire destroyed the barn at 18th Avenue and Leslie Street, used by the Richmond Hill Recycling Committee.

The cause of the blaze is unknown, but fire department officials are still investigating. Damages are estimated at \$75,000 for the building and more than \$6,000 for the contents, all of which belonged to the Recycling Committee.

The barn was on the property owned by the Town of Richmond Hill and scheduled to be the site of a new Town Park and fair grounds.

The buildings on the property were insured, and the Town will either be able to build another building for the Recycling Depot or find it another home.

One site that has been suggested is the old Spruce Avenue Fire Hall in Richvale.

Marlene Turner of the Recycling Committee, upset over the fire because the Recycling Committee lost so much in the blaze, was thankful no one was hurt.

The truck used for the newspaper pick up, which is the main money maker for the committee, was parked elsewhere.

Mrs. Turner says the pickup of newspapers will continue as usual, and if a new depot is found, things should be back to order soon.

Meanwhile, the recycling depot will be open on Saturdays at the same location, but will operate from a two-car garage attached to the house on the property.

An input meeting is planned soon so the public can bring forth ideas and suggestions about what should be done.

Disaster today

York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill is holding a disaster education day today (September 26) at the hospital.

From 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. the parking lot at the hospital will be jammed with every conceivable type of rescue vehicle and the crews to operate them.

The Helicopter Ambulance is expected to be part of the proceedings and staff at the hospital and visitors will be able to see for themselves what an amazing piece of equipment it is.

Also included in the day's proceedings will be the O.P.P. rescue helicopter, Richmond Hill Fire Department's rescue unit, The Canadian Red Cross and many others.

Demonstrators of rescue techniques and rescue equipment will go on all day for the benefit of both staff and visitors.

In the Lecture Hall on level one of the hospital, there will be a series of lectures and slide presentations, which will show actual rescues and how they were handled, and how similar rescues should be handled.



Preparing for the first show of their 25th anniversary season, members of the Richmond Hill Curtain Club are ready to present "There Goes The Bride", which opens tomorrow night

at 8.30 p.m. Involved are, left to right, Stephen Turl, Kim Ruutberg, Clive Ryland, Pera Miller (at rear), Dilys Rubow and Brian Stainer. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

Elementary teachers to vote today

York Region's 1,160 elementary teachers will vote on a tentative contract agreement today (Wednesday) reached with the Board of Education last July.

A settlement their federation executive has recommended they reject.

The vote will be by secret ballot conducted by the Education Relations Commission and the York County Elementary Teachers Association of Federations (YCETAF) should have the results by 4 p.m.

Wilhelmine (Billy) Hurley, executive officer for the federation, said the position of the executive council's Economic Policy Committee has not changed from a general meeting held September 6.

"I guess it's fair to say the council still recommends rejection of the agreement. Those feelings were conveyed again at last Wednesday's meeting (September 19)," she said.

The teachers are voting on a contract which will give them a 6.5 per cent pay increase.

Salaries in the agreement which expired on August 31 ranged from \$9,990 for a teacher in the lowest category with no experience, to about \$28,400 for a teacher with a master's degree and specialist certificate with 12 years experience.

The increase for the last contract averaged 5.9 per cent. One Area 4 vice-principal who attended last week's general meeting noted many teachers agreed with the stand taken by their executive.

He felt however, the board isn't necessarily "out to screw anybody" since its negotiating team has made some concessions in staffing and class size.

"The elementary teachers haven't really been militant but we're cognizant of falling behind in our conditions and salary items," he said.

"At this point, the arbitration award which will be made to the secondary teachers is crucial. We have worked hard in trying to achieve some sort of parity with them and we realize the days of coat-tailing are gone — we have to be responsible for ourselves.

Town forces developer to use proper streets

The Town of Richmond Hill showed its teeth to a developer last week and got results.

Technor Sales Limited, developer of a subdivision northwest of Garden Avenue in the Richvale area called Omega Farms had been asked by the town not to use Garden Avenue or Langstaff Road for deliveries by heavy trucks.

Trucks had been advised to use an entrance to the subdivision off Bathurst Street.

Maintenance Manager for the town, Merv Perkins, said not only did the proliferation of heavy truck traffic disturb residents, it was very hard on the municipal roads.

Last Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. town trucks were put across entrances to the subdivision at Garden Avenue and Langstaff Road, turning contractors and deliveries away.

"We had to show them they can't do that," said Mr. Perkins. The road was opened again at

10 a.m. when the developer agreed to terms which include the putting up of a permanent barricade at the north entrance off Denham Drive, a manned barricade at Garden Avenue and a sign at Garden Avenue and Yonge Street, advising no trucks allowed and the entrance to the Omega Farm Subdivision was off Bathurst Street.

Technor Sales Limited also agreed to notify all contractors and suppliers in writing (with carbon copies to the town) routing to the subdivision under construction is by Bathurst Street only.

The issue may come up again, said Mr. Perkins, but if it does the town will block the road to protect residents' interests.

Asked why the federation executive didn't decide to postpone today's vote until the arbitrator for the secondary teachers' salary dispute could make a decision, the vice-principal said:

"I think teachers just want to get on with their work."

As a result of the federation executive rejecting the settlement, its chief negotiator, Kirby Brock resigned.

Hill girls hurt when bus, car collide

Two Richmond Hill girls are in critical condition in hospital today after a vehicle, in which they were passengers, was involved in a collision with a school bus Thursday.

The driver of the car, a Toronto man, and his two passengers: Marcia Hubbard, 15, of Axminster Drive and Linda Schneider, 16, of South Taylor Mills Drive were all taken by ambulance to York Central

Hospital, Richmond Hill. The collision occurred at 8:50 a.m. September 20 at the intersection of 17th Avenue and the 7th Concession in Markham.

The car was eastbound on 17th Avenue and it failed to stop at the 7th Concession resulting in a collision with a Travelways bus driven northbound on the 7th Concession by Emile Arnott of Bay Ridges.

Town's millionth bus rider could board in October

Fame and fortune awaits some Richmond Hill resident in the near future — sounds like a Chinese fortune cookie.

About the second week of October, Richmond Hill Transit service expects to clock its one millionth rider, and the town and Travelways, who operate the service, are set to honor the lucky passenger.

Transit Co-ordinator for the town, Bud Newton, said records show that very soon now the service will carry its millionth rider in three years of operation.

This number is determined by dividing the fleet into the amount of revenue taken in.

A count will be taken at the end of September and then revenues will be monitored weekly so the town can be as accurate as possible, said Mr. Newton.

Aside from the fleeting fame the one millionth rider will receive a one year free pass on the Richmond Hill bus system. Travelways and the town have

donated a weekend for two in Nashville, Tennessee including transportation to Nashville, accommodation and tickets to attractions there.

According to Travelways the trip is worth about \$285.

Richmond Hill Transit initiated the service in May of 1976 with three brand new orange, green and white Mercedes diesel buses.

Since then the fleet has been doubled by the addition of a "Rekvee" and two new "Orion" buses.

Ridership has shown a steady, if not spectacular growth, said Mr. Newton, carrying 224,000 riders the first year, 270,000 in 1977 and 281,000 in 1978.

The millionth rider is actually about the 225,000th rider in 1979.

Mr. Newton said when they know they are close to reaching number one million, he will ask the mayor and a number of councillors to join him on the bus to welcome the one millionth rider aboard.

Businessman objects to parade held on Sunday

Not everything is peaches and cream as far as the Richmond Hill Santa Claus Parade committee is concerned.

In a letter to the committee last week, a Richmond Hill businessman refused to support the parade because it will be held on a Sunday, "The Lord's Day" he said.

The writer also took exception to the theme "Christmas is for Children."

"If you would state Santa Claus is for children, I believe you are closer to the fact," he said. "But Christmas, the time we remember the birth of Christ, the fact that He came to this world, you reduce his coming to be only

for children."

Parade committee chairman Frank Gallant said if the parade isn't held on a Sunday, it won't be held at all, "because held on any other day of the week, it would disrupt the life of the community and it would be an inconvenience time for most people."

Regarding the theme, Mr. Gallant said the committee made its selection "recognizing this as the Year of the Child."

"Christmas is for children is just a theme to give direction to those designing and decorating floats for the parade," he said. "It does not suggest that Christmas is only for children and not for anyone else. I think everyone is a child at heart."

Community Pulse

Train ties traffic

It was a mechanical failure on the second commuter train that held up traffic on Crosby Avenue for 20 minutes last Thursday morning.

Go Transit representative, Tom Henry, said the second commuter train to Toronto developed mechanical trouble while in Richmond Hill and had to be coupled with the third train, running the two together to get passengers into Toronto.

French for tykes

Parlez-vous Francais? Many pre-schoolers are being introduced to the French language at an age when they are most receptive.

A series of classes in French is being held at the Richmond Hill Public Library for pre-schoolers.

Registrations may be made by telephone at 884-9288 or in person at the library.

There is a fee of \$20 for the 10-week program.

Teachers, board lack in trust for each other

By RON WALLACE
Liberal Editor

It all boiled down to trust, or the lack of it.

That seemed to be the result of an interesting meeting Thursday that brought members of District 11 of the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF) and Trustees of the York County Board of Education to the same table for an open discussion on the recent teacher lockout in York.

Neither trusts the other. Richmond Hill Trustee June Armstrong said trustees were "surprised and dismayed" when teachers continued their "work-to-rule" on the first day of school.

"You didn't trust us and we didn't trust you," she said to District 11 president Tony Bulson and OSSTF negotiator Stewart Cole.

About 30 people were on hand for the meeting sponsored by the Richmond Hill Citizens Advisory Group and chaired by Janet

Wayle. In his opening remarks, Mr. Bulson documented the events which led to the opening day of school.

"We were negotiating under a supposed blackout and we tried to comply," he said. "Most of the information in the newspapers has been coming from the board."

At 2:30 p.m. on the Friday prior

to school opening, "we had an agreement we were willing to sign, but the board wasn't," he said. "The board wouldn't sign their own document."

On Tuesday, the opening day, the teachers, because the agreement hadn't been signed, continued working to rule to carry out "as normal a school day as possible under the circumstances," he said.

Teachers would work longer if they worked to rule," she said.

Richmond Hill Trustee June Armstrong told of other students who "were laughing at the teachers on the first day, and that's not good."

The comments were made during a public

meeting last week which saw members of OSSTF District 11 and trustees from the York County Board of Education discuss the ramifications of the recent lockout in York.

The meeting was sponsored by the Richmond Hill Citizens Advisory Group.

and because of it, the board felt the work-to-rule was substantially interfering with the operation of the schools.

"Why wouldn't the board sign its own document?" asked a member of the audience, Jack Wilson.

"Because the teachers would not lift the work-to-rule," answered Mr. Bowses.

"It boils down to a lack of trust," Mr. Wilson said. "That's a heck of a group of teachers you have working for you."

Trustee Armstrong said the climate between the two groups is bad, and "both sides are suffering the bruises."

"Maybe it's because of large boards," she said, "but Bill 100 (which gives teachers the right to strike) is a badly conceived piece of legislation."

"When trust breaks down, it'll take a long time to build it back up," she said.

Mr. Bulson admitted the first day of school was easy.

"My first day was more normal

than most normal first days are," he said. "That's because I was a professional teacher, not a clerk."

Trustee Bowses said that had the work-to-rule been modified a little, "there wouldn't have been a problem; and they modified it three times over the summer."

Thornhill Secondary School teacher Kathy Costello told of overcrowded conditions at her school ("some students sit on the windowsills").

"People have the wrong impression of what teachers do," she said. "You're getting a lot of value for your money."

York Centre MLA Alf Stong, who had been invited to join the audience, said he was concerned that teachers "seemed to have lost their professional status in the community."

With the two sides now at arbitration, "it's irrelevant how far apart we are," Mr. Bulson said.

Hopefully, the whole thing will be finalized in November, he said.

Students laughed at teachers when schools opened

The students laughed at their teachers when high schools opened earlier this month.

Richmond Hill resident Barbara Cox said youngsters at her house that day "were doubled up with laughter at the teachers."

"Some believed the