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Wednesday, October 17, 1979

From a cab to bus fleet

Thirty years ago Larry Needler, driving a battered cab in Newmarket, probably didn't see himself responsible for about 2,300



Larry Needler

buses, six related companies and \$45 million annual volume—but Travelways Limited, with their head office in Markham is the company which has grown from the days of that old taxi.

In 1948 Mr. Needler heard the Town of Newmarket was looking at public transit so he took a chance, bought a bus and successfully applied for the contract.

Since then he has never looked back.

Travelways now operates 24 bus operations in the Southern Ontario area, serving the public with school transit systems, highway coaches, municipal transit and tours all over North America.

The 2,300 units include school buses, highway coaches and transit buses, but do not include town owned buses operated by Travelways. These town owned buses include 14 in Markham, five in Richmond Hill and one in Vaughan.

In 1957 Travelways started a run down Bayview Avenue from Elgin Mills Road to Steeles Avenue, continuing down Yonge Street to Union Station to serve the new community (in those days) of Beverley Acres.

This service was not subsidized and operated successfully on the

fare box alone.

Shortly thereafter they started an in-town transit system in Richmond Hill which ran until 1976 when an operating deficit necessitated either abolishing the private bus service or increasing the fares. The Town of Richmond Hill decided to retain the service and rather than increase the fare they subsidized the system.

The Bayview Avenue bus service was taken over by GO transit at the same time.

Travelways operates the service and maintains the vehicles for GO Transit, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham.

Municipal Transit plays only a small part in the overall operation as 65 per cent of this bus company's business comes from school bus transit.

Approximately 100,000 children are carried on Travelways school buses each day, said Vic Webster, president of Travelways Limited.

Highway coach operation accounts for the next largest part of Travelways' business with bus sales and bus tours following close behind.

In conjunction with the tour part of the company, Travelways' is putting on a promotion for Richmond Hill Transit offering a four day tour to Nashville to celebrate the millionth

rider on the transit system.

This tour offers modern air conditioned coach, two nights first class accommodation in Nashville, reserved seats at the Grand Ole Opry, and a tour of Nashville.

Recently Travelways was sold to Laidlaw Transportation and Larry Needler has become chairman of the board for the company he had the vision to begin many years ago.

This new ownership associates Travelways with a western Canada bus company called Grey Goose Coachlines.

Mr. Webster sees this move as having the potential of establishing a national bus company.

The fact the company is progressive in its thinking is evidenced by two moves across the ocean.

Travelways is actively marketing their tour program in Canada throughout Europe, offering visitors enticing packages to Canada. Last year volume was in excess of \$1 million representing 1,000 European passengers.

"We'd like to see that doubling next year," said Mr. Webster.

Travelways also hooked up with a company in Texas and put in a proposal for a transit system for the whole of Saudi Arabia.

Traffic lights may be synchronized on Yonge Street

It took world-wide awareness of energy conservation to move the Town of Richmond Hill into working toward synchronizing traffic lights in the centre of town.

Maintenance Manager for the town, Merv Perkins, pointed out to the Energy Management Committee last week the traffic situation on Yonge Street is not only time consuming, hazardous and aggravating, but it is also "energy inefficient".

Consequently Mr. Perkins suggests a traffic study by experts and possibly the purchasing of a mini computer to co-ordinate signals.

There are eight signalized intersections on Yonge Street between Major Mackenzie Drive and Elgin Mills Road set so a car travelling south, at or slightly under the speed limit, can theoretically go the entire distance without stopping, said

Mr. Perkins, but there is no arrangement made for northbound traffic — resulting in congestion.

Now that Yonge Street reconstruction is nearly completed and traffic more efficiently directed to the centre of town, Mr. Perkins suggested it is time to move traffic through the town more efficiently.

Funds are available from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) for traffic studies, said the maintenance manager.

Traffic co-ordinator for the town, Bud Newton, said he felt a traffic study was "long overdue" in Richmond Hill.

The committee voted to recommend to the Engineering Committee they suggest to council that a traffic study be done on Yonge Street.

HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR October-November 883-2234

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
<p>17</p> <p>York Centre Progressive Conservative annual meeting, 8 p.m. at Hillcrest Mall auditorium.</p> <p>"The Jazz Corporation" at Hillcrest Mall, 5.30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Mary Immaculate Church craft night, 8 p.m.</p> <p>St. John Ambulance training, Richvale Community Centre, 8 p.m.</p> <p>St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCW meeting, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Radio Amateur Club meeting, 8 p.m., Thornlea Secondary School.</p> <p>Thornhill Community Centre Library Evening Book Discussion Group at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce, exec meeting, Victoria & Grey Bldg. Noon.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Richmond Hill Minor Ball general meeting, Consumers Gas Bldg, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Crochet lessons, Chas. Connor Library, 773-5533, 1.30 p.m.</p> <p>R. Hill Senior Citizens bazaar display at Hillcrest.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Lions meeting, 6.30 p.m.</p> <p>B'Nai B'rith meeting, 8 p.m. 881-2027.</p> <p>York Central Assn. for the Mentally Retarded, Adult Coffee House, St. Mary Immaculate Church 8 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>York Central Association for the Mentally Retarded Teen Drop-In, Thornhill Baptist Church. Info: 889-0536.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Senior Citizens Club 35 bazaar display and sale of raffle tickets at Hillcrest Mall.</p> <p>"Create a Pinata" for children 8-12 years of age, 4-6 p.m., Chas. Connor Library.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Naturalist Club, Blue Flame Room, 8 p.m. Info: 884-2787.</p> <p>Scottish Club Fall Dance, Lions Hall, Centre St. 8.30 p.m. Tickets: 884-2908 or 221-1637.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Rummage sale, Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, 1-3 p.m.</p> <p>"Create a Pinata" for kids 8-12, Chas. Connor Library, 10-noon.</p> <p>YCAMP bowling, Newkirk Bowl, Juniors & Seniors.</p> <p>Bazaar, Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Bayview Ave. 1-4 p.m.</p> <p>Garage sale, Royal Orchard Public School, Thornhill, 9.30 a.m. - 2 p.m. for Thornhill Community Band.</p> <p>Volleyball tournament, Thornlea Secondary. Info: 297-1075.</p> <p>"High Class Auction" Emmanuel Anglican Church, Thornhill. Preview 2-4 p.m., Auction, 7-8 p.m.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Peewee hockey team, refundable bottle collection, 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Horse & Pony Hunter Show at Maple Equestrian Centre, 9.30 a.m. Info: 832-1777.</p> <p>OMHA Thornhill Thunderbird Hockey Assn. bake sale & skate-a-thon, 1-6.30 p.m. Thornhill Community Centre.</p> <p>Cantabile Chorale at Thornhill Baptist Church, 7.30 p.m. 881-1105.</p> <p>B'nai B'rith Women Leora Chapter gift & craft sale, Thornhill Community Centre, 1-5 p.m. 881-5404.</p> <p>"When Parents Grow Old", a film at St. Mathew's United Church, 7.30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Heintzman House Auxiliary presents mixed card party at the House, 8 p.m. Tickets: 889-5465.</p> <p>"Art of Cooking" with Pol Martin, Consumers Gas, R. Hill, 8 p.m. 884-0073 or 889-2843.</p> <p>Crafts for the Mentally Retarded, Richvale Community Centre, 7.30 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Orff music, Richvale Comm. Ctre. 12 & under at 7 p.m., Over 12 at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Canadian Federation of University Women meet at the Aurora Library. Guests welcome. Info: 884-3348.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Scone Tea, Burr House, Carrville Road 1.30 p.m. 884-0327.</p> <p>York Floor Hockey League, Crosby Heights Public School, 6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.</p> <p>CNIB parents and children with eye problems meet at Consumers' Gas building, Elgin Mills Road East, Richmond Hill.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Turkey Dinner, Carrville United Church, 4.30 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>"Jake Turner's Good Time Ramblers" at Hillcrest Mall, 5.30 p.m. - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Canadian Progress Club, York Central, 7 p.m. 884-3888.</p> <p>St. Mary Immaculate Church craft night and bazaar preparation, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Right to Life meeting, 384 Tyneview Lane, Richmond Hill, 1 p.m. Info: 884-9431.</p> <p>Co-op Babysitting annual dinner, 8 p.m. Info: 884-0210.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Rotary TV Auction: In honor of the Year of the Child, the Richmond Hill Rotary Club is holding a TV Auction in the first week of December on Cable 10 to raise money for the York Centre for Learning Disabilities. For donations or more information, call 884-1868 or 884-6274.</p> <p>Coffee & conversation for single adults, sponsored by St. Mathew's United Church at 53 Rockport Crescent, 8-10 p.m. Info: 884-3606 or 884-5831.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Library exhibition of watercolors by Brenda Boddy. At Chas. Connor: a collection of models by John Chapman, and an exhibit by Diana Styrm, until Nov. 3.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Millionaires Night at Richmond Hill Lions Club, 8.30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Mary Immaculate Church craft night to prepare for bazaar, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Charles Connor Library "Witches and Goblins Mobile Workshop" 4-6 p.m. Ages 7 and up. Pre-registration. Limit to 20.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Hallowe'en Dance, Richvale Lions Majorette Corps, Richvale Lions, 8.30 p.m. 884-5097.</p> <p>"Family & Faith" seminar at St. Paul's Lutheran, 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 884-6844.</p> <p>Bazaar at Holy Trinity, Thornhill, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>Senior Citizens Club annual bazaar, 10149 Yonge, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>Crest Club, Centennial Pool, 1-2 p.m.</p> <p>Hallowe'en Costume Dance for King David Lodge, B'nai B'rith. Tickets: 497-3525.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Richvale Lions Bingo, 31 Spruce Avenue, Richvale, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>"Beyond Shelter" lecture at St. Mathew's United Church, 7.30 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>York Region Camera Club critique showing, Nature Ricks with Duplicating by Paul Fitzsimmons, Richmond Hill High School cafeteria, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>YCAMP crafts in the craft room, Richvale Community Centre from 7.30 to 9 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Scone Tea, Burr House, Carrville Road, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m. Info: 884-0327.</p> <p>York Floor Hockey League, Crosby Heights Public School, 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.</p> <p>Tattooing Course to be set up at Burr House. If interested, call 884-8574.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Nicol Brown Trio with Irene King and Billy Meek at Hillcrest Mall, 5.30 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Canadian Progress Club, York Central, 7 p.m. Info: 884-3888.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Langstaff Secondary School, parents' night, 7 p.m.</p> <p>YCAMP adult coffee house, St. Mary Immaculate, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Block Parent Assn. meeting, police station, Major Mackenzie, 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Lions meeting, Lions Hall, 6.30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Richmond Hill United Church "Nostalgia Night" 8 p.m. Info: 884-3611.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>One Parent Family Association, Dance, Thornhill Community Centre, 8 p.m.</p> <p>"Scarecrow Workshop", Chas. Connor Library, 8 & up. Pre-register, 20 limit, 11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.</p> <p>YCAMP bowling, Newkirk Bowl, Juniors & Seniors 2-4 p.m.</p> <p>R. Hill minor hockey skate & equipment resale, 1-3 p.m. new arena.</p>				

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Alateen — Aurora United Church 8 p.m. — 773-4539</p> <p>Craft Evening, St. Paul's United Church — 7.30 p.m. 773-5603</p> <p>Thornhill Farmers Market Bingo 7.30 pm</p> <p>R.H. Public Library Pre-School Story Hour 10 — 10.45 a.m. Pre-registration</p> <p>Legal Aid Clinic 7-10 p.m. 884-9148</p> <p>Mother's Break 9.30-11.15 a.m.</p>	<p>Richmond Hill United Church 884-2671</p> <p>Yoga — 7.15 — 8.30 p.m. beginner 8.30 — 9.45 p.m. intermed. Richmond Hill United Church 884-2671.</p> <p>Richvale Lions Drum Corps & Colour Guard, Lions Hall, 31 Spruce Ave, 7.00 — 8.00 p.m.</p> <p>York Choral Society Rehearsal, McConaghy School, 8 p.m. 884-4532</p>	<p>Community Cir 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Parent Concern Meeting 8 — 10 p.m. Call Joyce 884-3503</p> <p>Pre-School Story hour, R. Hill Library 2-2.45 p.m.</p> <p>Counterweight — at R.H. Public Library, 7.30 p.m. 255-4421</p> <p>A.M.O. at Richmond Hill United Church — 9.30 — 11.15 a.m. 884-5542</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, St. John's Anglican Church, 12125 Yonge St. — 884-1689</p>	<p>Seniors Euchre Game, 1.30 p.m., Club Room, 10149 Yonge St., R.H.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Legion Bingo Legion Hall, Ohio Rd. Richmond Hill — 7.35 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Village Artists, Gallanough Library, 7-10 p.m. 889-6320</p> <p>Yoga Class — R.H. United Church, 9 — 10.15 a.m. beginner, 10.15 — 11.30 intermed. 884-2671</p> <p>Weight Watchers, Concord</p>	<p>Community Centre — 7.30 pm 669-2173</p> <p>Thornhill Recycling Depot Bayview & Green Lane 7 — 8.30 p.m.</p> <p>Air Cadets, male & female 13-19 years — Royal Canadian Legion, Ohio Rd. 7.00 p.m. 884-4521</p> <p>Richmond Hill Youth Concert Band Rehearsals 7.30 p.m. — St. Joseph's School, Roney Ave. 884-8873</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge St. John's Ang.</p>	<p>Church, 12125 Yonge St. 1 p.m. 884-1689</p> <p>R. H. Recycling Depot, Elgin Mills Rd. E. at Leslie, 10 a.m. till noon</p> <p>Thornhill Recycling Depot Bayview at Green Lane, 10 a.m. till noon</p> <p>Euchre — 1.30 p.m., Seniors Club Room, 10149 Yonge St. Richmond Hill All Welcome.</p>