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York approves portion of Maple interchange

The Region of York has approved a portion of an interchange construction project for the new Maple Theme Park and councillors are heaving a sigh of relief the firm selected for the work is unionized.

Family Leisure Centres of Canada Ltd., the subsidiary of an American corporation building the 320-acre park, has already experienced labor problems at its site. The Toronto Building Trades Council created a situation last August that denied non-union laborers the right to work on the project.

The company asked the Region to intervene on its behalf but it was informed council's policy of anyone having the right to work, had to stand. Though Family Leisure is footing the bill for the costs of the park and related roadwork the Region refrained from entering any labor dispute.

The approval of the \$510,000 contract to low-bidder Starnino

Construction Company Limited, was a routine item at last Thursday's council meeting.

However, Markham Councillor Carole Bell objected to one of the clauses, claiming it could set a precedent York Region would be loathe to abide by in future calls for tenders.

The clause read: "It is recommended that the tender of Starnino Construction Company Limited in the amount of \$510,761.30 be accepted subject to receiving a letter from Family Leisure Centres of Canada Ltd. accepting Starnino Construction Company Limited's tender and the approval of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications."

"If the Region were to pass this with such a statement, it could look like it was subject to Family Leisure's approval of a union firm. But what if Starnino wasn't union? Surely a company like Family Leisure would suggest we

go to the next lowest bidder — and that's contrary to Regional policy," she said.

Her point, is the Region could have been locked into allowing firms in future contract bids, pick and choose the prospective contractor almost at will, had Family Leisure been allowed or appear to have been allowed to approve Starnino before the Region and the Ministry endorsed it.

Before the meeting, Mrs. Bell managed to get concurrence of both Engineering Commissioner Bob Hodgson and Committee Chairman Ron Moran to remove the "offending clause".

The total cost of the project is \$1.2 million, the latter half scheduled to begin late next Spring or early Summer. The embankments and interchanges for the current segment to be built in the winter will be used to carry traffic into the park under Major Mackenzie Dr. Both will be west of Jane St. in Vaughan.

Signs tell all

You'll know when you arrive

Motorists driving into the Region of York are finally going to know where they're going.

However, the Regional Engineering Department says it will take another two years to install 23 new identification signs with the "corporate logo" at major points of entry to the municipality.

The holdup is a lack of funds in this year's budget. The design, after considerable debate, is complete and will eventually replace the existing blue-and-white "Region of York" standards now used. The new logo is a predominantly earthy brown color.

Total cost of producing and installing the new signs is about \$5,500. There is enough in the 1979 engineering budget to manufacture and erect six signs. They will go up at places not

already having the old ones and in order of highest traffic count priority.

First on the roads will be signs at Woodbine and Steeles, Bayview and Steeles, Kennedy and Steeles, Warden and Steeles, Bloomington west of Highway 47, and McCowan Rd. north of Steeles.

Georgina Councillor Michael MacDonald said the appropriate departments should be congratulated on the final design of the markers. He noted how large corporations generally have a corporate image or logo and how important it is for York to convey such an image not only to neighboring municipalities but to those travelling in and out of the Region.

"I was at a party recently given by Mayor of King Margaret

Britnell and while speaking to someone who works at the Metro Toronto Tourist Bureau, he informed me he didn't even know where York's boundaries are. It's for these sorts of reasons we should be displaying our logo as frequently as possible," he said.

He also mentioned how a number of other bodies and areas use the name York as a result of a splintering of the original geographical area once dedicated by Governor John Graves Simcoe — the Borough of York, the City of North York, York University — among dozens, he said.

Councillors Angus Morton and Ron Moran perked up and added York Sanitation to the list, at which point council burst into laughter. Members likely felt the new sign colors were more than appropriate.

United Way adds 4 agencies

"United Way of York Region has added four new agencies to its 1979 appeal for funds," said Dr. John Denison, Chief Volunteer Officer of York's United Way.

"Participation by the Sutton & District Association for the Mentally Retarded, Yellow Brick House (Project Hostel), Big Sisters of York, and the York Centre for Learning Disabilities greatly increases the opportunity for more York Region people to benefit from donations by their fellow citizens."

Speaking to Barney Danson's Campaign team at its 17th meeting, Dr. Denison brought a message of appreciation and thanks for the job they were doing.

"The community," he said, "must be made aware of the breadth of volunteer participation — from individual donor to Campaign Chairman Barney — that has characterized 'Say Yes for York'."

"As a rapidly growing com-

munity, York Region possesses its own share of community needs to be served," Dr. Denison said, "and the agencies asking for our support represent the concern of many people to voluntarily ensure that these needs are met".

"May I take this opportunity to call upon every York Region resident to 'Say Yes for York' in response to the example of your strong leadership", he told the committee.



How we passed the time before television's arrival

"Whatever did you do for entertainment before there was television?" my great niece asked me recently when her television was out of order. Since my memories go back beyond radio, too, she really thought that I had had an underprivileged childhood.

However, we did have a gramophone with a goodly supply of records. Ours played flat discs and had a big tin horn to amplify the sound, but the white and black dog didn't come with it. A handle on the side had to be turned many times to wind up the spring in the

interior which provided the motive power.

Our neighbor had an Edison which used black cylinders and I was often invited to listen to my favorite selection, "The Preacher and the Bear". This song appeared on the charts again a few years ago with the preacher who had been chased up a tree by a bear, pleading in each chorus, "O Lord, don't You help that bear."

Another neighbor had a large classical collection including several records by Enrico Caruso which were my introduction to the beauty of operatic arias.

We also had a piano

around which the family and my older sisters' boy and girl friends gathered for a singsong, usually on a Sunday evening. Mother was the pianist most of the time but on occasion one of the visiting group would spell her at the keyboard. After I started taking piano lessons and attained some proficiency I took my turn.

In his youth Dad had been a member of a glee club and we sang his favorites such as "Just A-wearying For You", "The Minstrel Boy", "Annie Laurie" and "Sweet Adeline", to which Mother added a few children's songs including "Captain Baby Bunting of the Rocking Horse Brigade."

On a cold winter evening as we clustered around the base burner stove in the livingroom every nose would be buried in a book or magazine. Occasionally a list of 12 words to be spelled correctly, plus the number facts of the day, was assigned. This could consume from a half to a full hour each evening.

And then there was school homework to be done every night. Even in the primer (now Grade 1) a list of 12 words to be spelled correctly, plus the number facts of the day, was assigned. This could consume from a half to a full hour each evening.

As the youngster progressed through elementary school the assignments became heavier and included history, geography and literature, so by the time high school was entered the pupil was conditioned to spending time on even more homework, although I don't believe that anyone along the way instructed us on how to study. That was a skill that each individual developed for himself or herself.

Of course, the introduction of spare periods in high school cut down on the number of text books to be carried home and also on the amount of precious evening hours which had to be spent in study.

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