

# CAG didn't ask council to use chambers — Amos

It appears the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) has stepped on someone's political toes.

Councillor Dave Amos indignantly complained to The Liberal last week that he felt the CAG's public meeting, scheduled

to be held tomorrow night in council chambers, was just another attempt of the group to 'gain credibility' within the town.

They are attempting to use town hall for a platform, said Councillor Amos, and 'I don't want to add credibility to that

organization'.

Councillor Amos objected to the fact the group did not go directly to council for approval of use of the chambers for the public meeting suggesting it now looks like they have council's endorsement.

"To the best of my knowledge council has not endorsed it," he said. "The mayor must have known, but he did not inform council."

He said he felt it was unfortunate as a local member of council he had to find out about a

public meeting in council chambers through his local newspaper.

The brochure sent out to advertise the meeting also offended the Ward 1 councillor.

The event was billed as a 'Public Meeting, Thursday,

November 29, at 7:45 p.m. Richmond Hill Council Chambers' and Councillor Amos said he felt it looked official and as such was 'misleading to the public.'

Councillor Amos said he feels CAG is a small group of 'politically oriented people' and as such should not be allowed to use council chambers "at any time".

The councillor suggested as a private group they should have held their meeting in a hall "away from the political arena".

"Most organizations who use the chamber, request council's permission, or at least make standing arrangements, approved by council," said Councillor Amos. "Why was council not approached?"

This particular CAG meeting features local developers as guest speakers and Councillor Amos said although he was not against the topic of the meeting, he did feel the CAG was getting ready to do a "complete about face".

"They realize a 'no growth stand' is not popular in the next campaign — they know their candidates are in trouble," he said.

Councillor Amos supported his opinion the CAG is a political organization by saying CAG have supported candidates in the past, most of the members actively campaigned for some candidate, and even the president herself (Janet Fayle) was a defeated candidate in the last election.

When contacted by The

Liberal, Chairman of CAG, Janet Fayle, challenged Councillor Amos to supply proof to support the fact CAG had ever supported any candidate for office.

Individuals may be involved in working on their own behalf, said Mrs. Fayle, but CAG usually publicly declare they are not supporting candidates.

The current chairman never takes part in a campaign for any candidate, she added. At the time of the last municipal election, Rosemarie Smillie was president of the group.

About the use of council chamber Mrs. Fayle said the suggestion came from the Parks and Recreation Department when the group was unable to find other accommodation.

The evening was booked through Town Clerk, Dave Weldon, said Mrs. Fayle. She did not speak to a politician.

About the topic of the meeting, the developers point of view, Mrs. Fayle said CAG have never taken a 'no growth' stance, "it is part of CAG's policy to present information in an educational way, and this is one more aspect we haven't yet covered".

Mayor Dave Schiller replied to Councillor Amos' reactions by saying he too heard of the meeting by reading it in The Liberal, and added, in his opinion council chambers are primarily for use by council and committees of council, but they are owned by the town and should be available to the public.

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## Industrial park okayed

The government has approved Richmond Hill's industrial park and by the spring of 1981 the area should be humming with activity.

Last week, the last of the objections was removed and the Minister of Housing approved an amendment to the existing official plan of the town changing the zoning from agricultural to industrial.

The area in question is to be called Beaver Creek Industrial Park and encloses 700 acres of land bounded by Highways 7 and 404, 16th Avenue and a line west of Leslie Street.

This amendment to the existing plan falls in line with the policy of

the new official plan now before the minister.

A brochure is being prepared for companies interested in establishing in the industrial park, but at this time Commissioner of Finance, Bill Rice, said his staff is merely providing a list of landowners to the many inquiries.

Now that the amendment has been approved the town will complete negotiations with the Town of Markham for joint sanitary sewers to serve the industrial park and process individual plans of subdivision to fit into the plan, said Mr. Rice.

## Lack of leaders, program postponed to December 14

Richmond Hill's Friday night youth program will not get off the ground this year if organizers don't find some leaders soon.

Lynton Friedberg, Director of Recreation for the town, said the municipality advertised three weeks in a row for a supervisor over 18 to co-ordinate the program, and youth leaders, over 17, to operate the program under supervision.

So far, there have been no suitable replies.

The town had planned to begin the event last week, but opening day has been postponed to December 14.

"We can't run the program without staff," Mr. Friedberg said.

He was at a loss to understand why teens were not applying for the job.

"We're not paying that badly," he said, "more than they can earn at the mall."

Last January the town initiated the Friday night youth program for kids between the age of 12 and 15 at Don Head Secondary School.

Activities such as sports, crafts, games, and the most popular, disco dancing, drew from 25 to 250 youngsters.

## Hydro rates climb by \$3

The average homeowner in Richmond Hill will pay about \$3 per month more for hydro beginning January 1, 1980.

Chairman of the Richmond Hill Hydro Electric Commission, Sam Cook, announced new hydro rates reflecting an average increase of 12.1 per cent for residential customers and 12.7 per cent for the commission's general service customers.

Mr. Cook explained this increase was necessitated by Ontario Hydro's recent announcement that the wholesale power rates to municipal electric utilities in Ontario will be increased by an average of 16.4 per cent.

In Richmond Hill's case, said Mr. Cook, the wholesale cost of power represents 80 per cent of the commission's total expenses.

One other change coming up in the new year will be a monthly billing plan, to be instituted during the month of April.

"We trust this will help those

## Seniors say no to group

A proposal by Councillors Dave Amos and Lou Wainwright to use Richmond Hill Senior Citizen Club 35 headquarters as an office for Energy Action Richmond Hill has been vetoed by club members.

Club president, Dorothy Price, said the club room was used daily, and seniors would have to curtail their programs to accommodate an office for the energy conservation group.

Mayor Dave Schiller said in the meantime other arrangements have been made for the project within the town offices.

Energy Action Richmond Hill can now be found in Committee Room B, in the basement of the town hall and can be reached by calling the town number 884-8101.

Catherine Hunt, the project leader, said once they get settled in their new home a limited amount of reference material will be available in the town hall office but most of the books and pamphlets have been channelled to the library for accessibility.

customers who are experiencing budgeting problems with our present bi-monthly billing system," said Mr. Cook.



Playing major roles in Richmond Hill Curtain Club's latest production are, left to right, Marg Smith, Iris Stringer, Clive Ryland and Bryan J. Moore. They'll join other cast members in "The Lady's Not For Burning" which opens at the Curtain Club tomorrow night (November 29) at 8.30 p.m. For tickets, call 884-3703. The show runs through December 15. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

## Bus loses control, 10 hurt

"Everything happened so quickly; it was frightening, but it could have been much worse." "It's a mercy only nine children and the driver were injured."

Those were a few comments heard after a school bus went out of control and crashed last week.

The bus, driven by Judy Boneschanker of Aurora, lost its brakes as the driver attempted to turn onto Yonge Street northbound from Highway 7.

The driver yelled to the students to hold on as she drove the bus across four lanes of traffic, over a curb, through a 12-foot ditch, finally bringing it to a halt in a field.

Mrs. Boneschanker smashed her head against the windshield and was taken to hospital.

Nine injured students, including six-year-old Bonnie Boneschanker, were also taken to York Central Hospital, where Dr. Barbara Alexander treated them.

Mrs. Boneschanker and her daughter were admitted as were Kelly Knowles, 16 of Richmond Hill and Cynthia Albin, 16, of Maple.

## Not driver's fault — student

By DOREEN LIVINGSTONE  
Liberal Correspondent

"The bus driver yelled 'hold on', we were going down the hill and it seemed like we weren't slowing down enough to make the turn. She geared down and

nothing happened," said Helen Reeve, a passenger on the bus involved in an accident that sent several students to hospital last week.

Helen is a student at Thornlea Secondary School and boarded the bus as usual last Tuesday

afternoon at 3:40 p.m., en route to her home in Richvale. The ride was uneventful until the bus driver, whose young daughter was strapped in a seat beside her, yelled "hold on".

The bus was heading west on Highway 7 towards Yonge Street preparing to make a turn north on Yonge.

"When we started to turn, we were on two wheels, it seemed," said Helen. "We went into an island and went straight through and nicked a car that was stopped going south."

The bus then landed upright in a ditch on the west side.

While all this was happening there was not much yelling on the bus, "everyone was too shook up to panic". The backs of seats were flying all over the place.

Helen was lucky to come out of it with a lot of bruises and a bump on the head, but the bus driver cracked her head on the windshield, and had to be taken to York Central Hospital along with the students.

Helen's brother yelled to her to open the emergency door at the rear and she was lifted out of the bus by a GO Transit driver. The next thing she remembers is talking to one of her friends. She thinks she blacked out for about five minutes.

The next morning Helen couldn't get her nerve up to take the school bus and got a lift instead, but she noted a much better bus came to pick students up after school.

Helen emphasizes the accident was not the driver's fault.

scene in minutes. Before they arrived, a GO bus driver helped some students get out the Emergency Door.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications inspected the Langdon's bus the next day and found a defective booster brake.

No charges have been laid against the driver or Langdon's



Brake failure on this school bus was responsible for injuries to nine school children and the bus driver, when the vehicle failed to make a turn from Highway 7 onto Yonge Street last Tuesday. The injured were taken to York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill, where most were treated and released. Three students and the driver of the bus were admitted. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

## Community Pulse

### Majorettes score

You'd think the excitement of getting a trip to Montreal to participate in the Grey Cup Parade would knock the discipline out of 22 young girls, but not so our Richvale Lions Majorettes.

They marched in the parade Saturday and finished third in an open competition among all majorette groups in the extravaganza.

The group won a trophy and cash. How much? No one knows. They were so excited about the trophy, they forgot to ask. A cheque will be mailed.

### Flukepik?

Don't forget to check the birth announcements this week in your Liberal.

Flukepik?  
Winter carnival?

### Tank springs eternal

Complaints about the underground springs in Oak Ridges have been many and varied over the years.

Here's one to top the list. A new gas station, under construction at the corner of Yonge Street and Lake Avenue, recently had four large gas tanks lowered into the ground and partly filled with fuel.

The constant rain and pressure from an underground spring caused one of them to heave, Monday, and a bulldozer had to be used to hold it in place.

At the time, the tank contained 2,000 gallons of fuel.

### Speakers added

The Citizens' Advisory Group (CAG) has added two more speakers, advocating development in Richmond Hill, to their public meeting tomorrow night, Thursday, November 29 at 7:45 in the council chambers.

Ken Mitchell the manager of BAIF Associates and their planning consultant Gerry Courey from Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited will speak along with a representative from the Urban Development Institute.

## Planting 300 trees on Yonge not easy

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) has a beautification program planned for Yonge Street, but the Town of Richmond Hill sees problems.

Because of interest shown by the local Horticultural Society, representatives from MTC Landscaping and Design Division were in Richmond Hill Friday morning, to talk about their refurbishing program.

About 300 Norway Maple trees, between 10 and 15 feet in height, were to be planted next spring on both sides of Yonge Street from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive.

Trees will be planted in groups of twos and threes for "vertical relief" to the roadside and

Crimson King, maples will be planted at bus bays for "color relief".

The Hill's Maintenance Manager Merv Perkins, raised the problem of trees planted on the future civic centre development at Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive.

The Town's Design Administrator Ray Floyd, brought up the proposed bike path on the east side of Yonge Street between Highway 7 and Harding Boulevard and the problem of space.

As no immediate solution to these problems could be found, plans for planting were left with the town staff who will work out problems with MTC.

## CRTC member denies Gamble charge

York North Conservative MP John Gamble has accused Jean-Louis Gagnon of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, of being a Communist and having been in the company of a Soviet spy.

The statement, which was flatly denied by Mr. Gagnon, came in the House of Commons Monday. Outside the House, Mr. Gamble refused to repeat the charges, claiming the lack of privileged comment could leave him susceptible to a slander suit.

Mr. Gagnon noted the charges had been raised before in the Commons and had been dealt with. At that time, he was supported by former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Tuesday he was backed by Minister of Communications, David MacDonald.

He said he had never been a

Communist and knew nothing of the mention of Russian spies.

In his question to the Minister, who is the Secretary of State, Mr. Gamble asked if he was aware "of a certain Jean-Louis Gagnon, as a member of the CRTC, was observed while in Paris by the French security forces in the company of a KGB agent who was apprehended transmitting missile secrets to the USSR."

He also called Mr. Gagnon a "card-carrying member of the Communist Party" and asked if it were proper he hold such a sensitive communications position.

Mr. MacDonald answered there is nothing in Mr. Gagnon's career disqualifying him from sitting on the CRTC.

"He has given rather outstanding service on that body," he added.