

Secret session to hear tapes

Tapes of a private school board meeting won't be played in public after all. An Ontario Labor Relations Board (OLRB) panel decided yesterday to hold a private session to hear the tapes of the Sept. 4 meeting when the York County Board of Education voted to shut down its 15 high schools.

The OLRB hearing, which had been adjourned Nov. 9, reopened yesterday in Toronto before a three-person OLRB tribunal. The members of District 11 of the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF) are suing the school board for two days' lost pay, claiming the board illegally locked them out on Sept. 4 and 5.



Richmond Hill's Good Brothers — again — came up with the honors at the town's 16th annual awards banquet held Friday night. Councillor Dave Barrow, left, makes the presentation to, left to right, Larry Good, Michael McMaster, Bruce Good, Brian Good and Peter Davidson. The group won another Juno this year. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg).

Town honors special citizens

Eighteen outstanding citizens received recognition Friday night at Richmond Hill's Sixteenth Annual Awards and Volunteer Recognition Banquet.

Sports awards to salute individuals who had achieved provincial or higher awards in sports activities were presented to Steve Schorsch, Canadian School Boys Wrestling Champion for 1979 and winner of the World School Boys Wrestling Competition Silver medal; Bradley McKenzie, winner of the Canadian National Wrestling Competition Juvenile Free Style Championship, and the Canadian National Wrestling Competition Juvenile Greco Roman Championship; and Steve Penyige who won the Canadian National Wrestling Competition Junior Greco Roman Championship for 1979.

This year the town honored citizens who volunteered on committees of the town or organizations which have worked hard over the years.

Representatives from the Richmond Hill Santa Claus Parade Committee, Heritage Richmond Hill, Richmond Hill Historical Society, the Lions Club of Oak Ridges, The Kinsmen Club of Richmond Hill and the Richmond Hill Rotary Club, all accepted citations to be taken back to their organizations.

Special citations were given to Jaye Green, the humanitarian who rescued a drowning victim in 1979; Lori McDowell, Richmond Hill Winter Carnival Queen; Jane Sikorski the Richmond Hill Spring Fair Queen; Joan Rason who made a generous gift of paintings to the town; the "Good Brothers" Larry, Brian and Bruce Good, and Michael McMaster and Peter Davidson, for winning the 1979 Juno Award for the Best Country Group; and Alex Lifeson, Neil Peart, and Geedy Lee, members of "Rush" who won the Juno Award for Best Group of the Year.

Three people, Dick Edmunds, Ann Gold and C. Russell Tilt, received special awards for voluntary contributions to the town over an extended period of time.

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Bayview bus back

The public really does have a voice in government.

Because of that voice, Minister of Transportation and Communications (MTC), James Snow, has instructed GO Transit to reinstate the Bayview Avenue bus service.

Head of Marketing Communications for GO Transit, Tom Henry, said January 2, 1980, is implementation day for full seven day service on Bayview Avenue.

Both the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill received a letter this week from MTC, saying the ministry felt that because of public criticism, the current service on Bayview Avenue was "not responsive to the public need".

The ministry advised the municipalities that the transit operating authority will be reinstating the service on Bayview Avenue, as it existed prior to the take-over by Markham Transit, complete with an open door policy south of Highway 7.

The Honorable James Snow told *The Liberal* his decision to re-implement the service on Bayview was because of input from the public in the area "and a need for a better transit service on the Bayview Avenue corridor," he said.

The original changes (that upset some residents) made were not proposed by GO Transit, he said, but on a request of Markham Transit.

"GO Transit agreed to changes which proved to be inadequate and unsatisfactory," he said.

Alf Stong, York-Centre provincial representative, who was responsible for bringing the issue to the attention of the minister in the first place, said Monday he had not formally heard of the minister's instructions to GO Transit, but he was glad the minister "had finally come around to realize what was going on and do something about it".

Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Stong asked the minister if he had restored the bus service on Bayview Avenue.

Mr. Snow replied, "I believe it will be after New Year's before it can be re-implemented."

"If we don't have it verified that the service will be reinstated," said Mr. Stong, "the issue is far from finished. I'll keep putting the pressure on him."

Mr. Stong said he felt before re-implementation, Mr. Snow had to check the legal ramifications of a transit service agreement that has existed among Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and TATO.

In a letter from Mr. Snow to A.T.C. (Cam) McNab, the Chairman of TATO, dated November 28, the minister said he had decided under the present conditions it was obvious the people "were not receiving a level of service considered adequate over the Bayview inter-

regional route".

He asked TATO to reinstate the service as it was prior to October 1 although he realized it would involve operating in competition with Markham Transit to the Finch Subway.

"I recognize that this will impact on Markham's revenue, but I consider it necessary to insure that transit users of both municipalities are provided with an acceptable level of service," the letter states.

The Town of Markham is unhappy with the ministry decision, but will look at the whole situation next Tuesday, December 11, at the Standing Committee meeting.

Richmond Hill Council passed a resolution Monday night stating the town agreed with the minister's decision.

Councillor John Birchall called the decision "a victory for public transit in Ontario" while Councillor Mike Burnie took a more personal message, saying "I've learned a valuable lesson — people CAN make things happen".

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Developers reveal their side of story

The Citizens' Advisory Group Public Meeting last Thursday night was rather uneventful, but informative.

President of the Urban Development Institute, Malcolm Wardman, shared his experience of urban development and the problems encountered with municipal governments (viewed from the developers' side of the table) with the audience of about 40.

Mr. Wardman said he felt the growth of Richmond Hill had been restricted for some years by the lack of sewage treatment facilities, but with the York Durham trunk sewer operating, Highway 404 completed, the GO train in place — "this town could be the prime growth area in Southern Ontario."

It will require co-operation rather than confrontation among developer, politician, civil servant and citizens groups, he said, adding "the development industry is ready to co-operate and

I hope the citizens groups are also".

Ken Mitchell, manager of BAIF Associates and planning consultant Gerry Courey from Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited spoke on their 11 years of development in Richmond Hill, outlining the big time factor for procedures, "from the dream to finality".

BAIF with Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited are in the process now of creating a residential, commercial and civic centre subdivision taking up 304 acres in the Richvale area which will generate a population to fill 2,300 units.

The three speakers sparked a good discussion afterwards looking at both specifics and the philosophy of development.

Anyone who missed the CAG developers meeting will have the opportunity to view it on Classicomm, Cable 10 Sunday, December 15 at 6, 8 and 10 p.m.

Proposed rate structure may hurt Seniors — Gold

Richmond Hill Social Planning Council responding to a Bell Canada proposal, is looking after residents of the community but Bell says there is nothing to worry about.

At their last meeting the Social Planning Council looked at the potential problems of Bell Canada changing its rate structure.

A member of the Council, Ann Gold, said members looked at the repercussions of Bell Canada charging customers on a per call basis and she encouraged citizens to give it some thought.

One big fear, suggested Mrs. Gold, is the possibility of isolating senior citizens even more than they are now.

Presently the town encourages the use of the "Buddy System" where seniors are urged to call their buddy to make sure they are okay.

Many seniors use the telephone for shopping.

Mrs. Gold also suggested isolation in the rural community, the possible failure of the transit system being set up for the disabled in Richmond Hill, where people will telephone for rides to and from events and facilities in town, and the effect it will have on small businesses that depend on the telephone, as results of the change in structure.

Community events, volunteerism and community fund raising would also suffer, suggested Mrs. Gold.

"The people it will affect most are the ones who can least afford it," she said.

Information Supervisor for Bell Canada, Ron Devaney, said the public should not get upset over the suggestion which became public November 14.

What Bell Canada is looking at is a trial in 1982 with a lot of safeguards built in for the customer, said the information officer.

One exchange in Ontario and another in Quebec will be monitored, sometime in 1982, with customers receiving two bills instead of one.

The first billing will be based on the present method, the



ANN GOLD

second will have the customer pay a small network charge, probably lower than the present charge, plus a charge for each local call, on a per call basis.

This system would apply to local calls only with long distance calls charged on the same basis now in effect.

Mr. Devaney said the system, which has not yet been worked out, could include 10 to 15 free calls each month.

He said it was a system in common use in Europe and some places in the United States.

Most important, Mr. Devaney wished to stress, Bell Canada wish at this time just to look at advantages and disadvantages to both the company and the customer.

"We don't know whether a customer would pay more," he said "this might be a fairer way to charge for the service — the user would pay".

Even after the trial in 1982, and after all data has been compiled for a thorough study, any change would have to go to the CRTC, said Mr. Devaney where the public would be invited to submit briefs on their comment in a public hearing.

"The public is well protected by the public body (CRTC)," said Mr. Devaney, and finished by saying "the public is reacting in fear to something they do not know too much about."

Community Pulse

Rotary auction

Glue yourself to your television set this Thursday and Friday nights because there are going to be some great bargains in Richmond Hill Rotary Club's First TV Auction.

About 300 items will pass through Classicomm, Channel 10's studios on which residents may bid.

Rotarians, their wives, and some staff and children from York Centre for Learning Disabilities will be auctioning goods and services, answering telephones and moving items in and out of the studios between 6 and 12 p.m. both Thursday and Friday night.

Last minute items will be sold at a 'midnight special' on Friday evening.

All proceeds will go to the York Centre and the Rotary Club are depending on all of you to make their first attempt an overwhelming success.

Carnival dates set

It's now official, the 12th annual Richmond Hill Winter Carnival will be held February 8, 9 and 10, 1980.

Last Monday council members granted permission to have Mill Street closed for the duration of the carnival, as well as allowing snowmobile rides during daylight hours and three sky divers to parachute onto Mill Pond Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Council has proclaimed the week of February 4 as 'Winter Carnival Week'.

Weather delays bike path

Bicycle Path in Richmond Hill called on account of weather.

Engineering Administrator for the town, Bud Newton, said construction of the bicycle path on the east side of Yonge Street from 16th Avenue to Harding Boulevard, will be delayed until spring — because of weather.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has given approval for a bicycle path on Yonge Street to be located about ten feet east of the curb line and the \$18,483 estimated cost of construction will come from the town's General Reserve Fund in the 1979 budget.

Town asks Region to begin separation

The Town of Richmond Hill has asked the Region to get moving on plans for the Markham Rd. grade separation as soon as it can.

In a letter to the Commissioner of Engineering, Clerk Dave Weldon requested negotiations be started with Bond Steel so the necessary land acquisition can be made to construct the project.

Regional Engineering Committee met yesterday (Tuesday) in a marathon all-day session. It received Richmond Hill Council's resolution on the grade separation and in a further letter, Mr. Weldon asked that working drawings for the Markham Rd. — CNR site be prepared and tenders for the work be called early in 1980.

Further information from the committee wasn't available since it was still in session yesterday at press time.



Rev. Dr. Bruce McLeod, seated at the piano, led 50 members of the congregation in carol singing Monday night, when CBC was at Richmond Hill United Church filming a segment of

Take Thirty. The program host is seated on the floor in the foreground.

(Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)