



York Philharmonic Choir, this year celebrating its 10th anniversary, is presently rehearsing weekly at Richmond Hill Baptist Church, for Handel's "Messiah", to be performed

December 15. The director, Edward Luka, said he feels the region is fortunate to have people with such talent and dedication. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

York Philharmonic celebrates 10th year

Ten years ago the late Rev. David McGuire had a vision which today has become a successful reality. York Philharmonic Choir, this year celebrating its 10th anniversary, has gained national recognition for the high quality of performance and choral excellence, shown by the fact it has received a Canada Council grant.

"The Canada Council does not give grants unless it is convinced of higher standards," said Edward Luka, the choir's director since its inception.

The group was known originally as the Richmond Hill Ecumenical Choir and began with 90 to 100 members, a number which has remained static over the ten years and which makes it the largest performing group in York Region.

Mr. Luka, a native of Egypt, conducted at the Cairo Opera House at an early age and later studied with the world-renowned Sir Adrian Boult in England.

He came to Canada in 1966 and began his career here as a church organist and choirmaster at St. Mary's Anglican Church.

A resident of Richmond Hill, Mr. Luka is a teacher, composer,

arranger and head of the Arts Department at Cawthra Park Secondary School in Mississauga.

During the past ten years the choir has performed many major works such as Verdi's "Requiem", Mendelssohn's "Elijah", Rossini's "Stabat Mater", and Haydn's "Creation".

December 15, the choir will perform Handel's "Messiah" with the York Symphony Orchestra.

The "Messiah" labelled one of the most demanding of choral works has been rehearsed for three

More crossing guards needed

Two more areas of town will soon be protected by school crossing guards.

Last Thursday at Richmond Hill Engineering Committee, members looked at surveys conducted at the intersection of Carrville and Avenue Road, as well as the intersection of Markham and Newkirk Road, to determine if gaps in the traffic are such that they warrant the employment of school crossing guards.

Surveys did indicate the need for some type of control at the intersections, and school crossing guards were authorized.

Police recover \$100,000 worth of stolen goods

Police arrested two people and recovered stolen goods valued at close to \$100,000 in a search of a Willowdale residence on November 30.

The search came about as a result of a complaint from A. Warren Scott, 15 Village Squire Lane, Thornhill. He had some

items stolen from him. In the search, police found china, fur coats, jewelry, silverware, stamp collections, coins and cameras believed to have been taken in several break-ins in the Thornhill area.

A 53-year-old man and his 38-year-old wife have been charged with

possession of stolen property over \$200.

The man was held in custody for a show cause hearing December 3 and his wife appeared in court yesterday.

The recovered items are being held at 28 Division Headquarters of York Regional Police until owners can identify their property.



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