

HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE Liberal

A Metrospan Community Newspaper

December 26, 1979

22 pages

25 Cents

Non-union staffers get raises

With a recorded vote of 10-6, Regional Council approved salary increases for all the municipality's non-union staff last Thursday.

Effective January 1, members of the non-union staff will get an 3 per cent raise and an additional 1.5 per cent more will come next July 1.

Included in the package is a dental insurance plan covering 50 per cent of the cost of all dental work. The current plan in force is extended to give private accommodation if a stay in hospital is necessary.

Three years of service to the Region will accrue 15 days' vacation and 20 will be given to those who have been with the Regional Corporation for 12 years.

Chief Administrative Officer Jack Rettie told council a number of factors were considered during discussions with the Chairman of the Non-Union Employees Association, one of its directors and the personnel co-ordinator for the Region.

He recommended council deal with it last week, considering it was the last meeting of the year and the new pay schedules were designed to go into effect at the

beginning of January.

"Our union employees (CUPE Local 1953) were requesting a 20 per cent increase in 1978-79, which meant there was a great possibility of a strike. The non-union people, including all of your middle management, were aware of the problems that existed and were quite willing to carry on the business of the corporation," he said.

He noted the raise is not intended to serve as a bonus and that it has always been the Region's policy that staff "work for their pay and get paid for their work".

Mr. Rettie felt the settlement was a fair one. The two-year deal works out to 16.41 per cent whereas the contract for the CUPE local totals 17.43 per cent over two years. Compensation, with the latest adjustment, is identical, so the basic differences come in the benefits package.

Several councillors felt more discussion was needed, since the non-union agreement was only concluded in mid-November.

Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller questioned the CAO's method of calculating the total compensation package. He felt rather than a straight arith-

metical totalling of the wage increase, it has more of a cumulative effect on the budget.

That prompted Georgina Councillor Michael MacDonald to request deferring the matter until the New Year. He was supported only by Councillor Carole Bell (Markham), Margaret Britnell (King), Tom Taylor (Newmarket), Garnet Williams (Vaughan) and Mr. Schiller.

Mr. Rettie referred to the potential labor problems the Region had and said though it was never expressed, the non-union people were known as "scabs" because they were willing to go on working in the face of a possible strike.

"Non-union employee acceptance of the compensation offer is an indication of their goodwill toward the corporation even though there is a difference in the salary package of 1 per cent," he said.

By approving the increase, the administrator claimed it was in the council's best interest to deal with the matter since all union contracts for 1979-80 except one, (nurses union) had been finalized.

The salary schedule for non-

union employees is divided into 18 major groups ranging from the Chief Administrator's position (number 19 now worth \$58,908) to laundry supervisor at York Manor in Newmarket, (\$15,164 with the increase).

Each group has three levels — a minimum, job rate and a maximum and after four years, employees should achieve the job rate, which is the mid-point of the salary range.

Mr. Rettie noted there are no raises for merit but in the rare case, exemplary employees are paid above job rates. There was a group, however, sitting below the job rate, when this system was instituted earlier in the year.

So next year (1980) several non-union employees will actually get increases larger than the 9.5 per cent agreed to in the contract. In this way, they will reach the job rate by 1981.

All senior officials get increments over and above the 9.5 per cent, except for Mr. Rettie, Medical Officer of Health Dr. Owen Slingerland and Solicitor Ed Oakes. The amounts range from \$1,000-\$3,000.

Here are salaries of senior

staff: Clerk Bob Vernon \$40,266 (\$35,034 in 1979); Associate Medical Health Officer Dr. Eric Holowaty \$40,023 (\$34,590); Treasurer John Hlynski \$45,745 (\$38,884); Engineering Commissioner Bob Hodgson \$46,888 (\$40,957); Planning Commissioner Hershel Weinberg \$46,441 (\$40,153); Solicitor Ed Oakes \$49,908 (\$45,529); Medical Officer of Health Dr. Slingerland \$53,642 (\$48,935) and Mr. Rettie (CAO) \$59,908 (\$53,737).

A Canada week, but...

Richmond Hill Civic Improvement Committee is planning a big bust for Canada Week, June 26 to July 1, 1980.

So far, unofficial plans include a musical concert at the Mill Pond to kickoff the week of celebrations; Art in the Park featuring the works of the children of the town; a big town picnic at Mill Pond with centennial prizes for ice cream and hot dogs; and a fireworks finale at Don Head Secondary School.

Joan Hooper, Chairman of the Canada Day Committee, said everything is still at the planning stages right now but she is very excited about suggestions that have come forward.

She said she felt clubs and organizations in town were overloaded with requests to put on events and she hoped the town would "take care" of Canada Week so that everyone could just "enjoy".

...Discovery Days canned

Discovery Days has been cancelled in Richmond Hill due to lack of interest.

Civic Improvement Committee spokesperson, Joan Hooper, said the committee sent out 75 letters in October asking clubs and organizations to respond if they wished to participate in a Discovery Days celebration September 1980.

Only 17 replies were received. People were also asked if they could forward names of volunteers willing to work in Discovery Days — no replies were received.

The first and only Discovery Days celebration was held September of 1977.

The idea was to give residents a chance to discover what was available in the town in the way of clubs and organizations, sports facilities, parks, churches, historical buildings, bicycle paths, golf courses and libraries.

For a week residents were invited to take the opportunity to participate in scheduled open houses, tours, demonstrations and dances.

Mrs. Hooper said although Discovery Days 1980 will not happen, the committee has not cancelled the concept totally. "Maybe some day we'll take up the idea again," she said.

shovelling is required especially on weekends.

Mr. Gove said most people understand natural ice is different from outdoor ice.

"And mostly, the kids shovel the rinks on their own. I know one father who brings his four-wheeler over with a blade on it and all the other kids benefit from that," he said.

His ward happens to have the largest number of rinks in it and he has received seven calls from parents asking they be retained.

Ward 1 Councillor Ron Femson said he was prepared to lose a rink from his area. When Mr. Gove asked him if he called around to get opinions of some of his constituents, Mr. Femson admitted he hadn't.

Bob Sherwood was also willing to accept the deletion of the Pioneer Park or Royal Orchard rinks, because of their close proximity.

The only new rink to be added this year will be in the Risebrough subdivision, which is still in the process of being completed. The town will discuss the possibility of the Box Grove and Victoria Square Community Centres preparing their own rinks, with the respective advisory boards.

The following locations will have rinks put in: Morgan Park, Reesor Park, R.H. Crosby School, Robinson Park, Armstrong School, Walker Park, Unionville P.S., William Berzcy P.S., Toogood Park, Duncan Park, Bayview Lane Park, Bayview Glen School, Royal Orchard P.S., E. J. Sands P.S., Grandview Park, Simonston Park, Hughson Park, Pioneer Park, Stone Farm Park, Paddock Park and Glencrest Park.

Council refuses to chop any ice rinks

Thanks largely to the efforts of Ward 7 Councillor Tom Gove, Markham will flood and maintain at least as many natural ice rinks this winter as it did last year.

A recommendation last month from Parks and Recreation Director Brian Wrigglesworth was to delete 13 of the pleasure and hockey rinks for what he felt were justified reasons.

Through an unofficial survey of last year's rinks, his staff noted particular locations were more popular than others. He stressed Markham uses its parks staff to flood and shovel the surfaces

where many other municipalities hire extra staff specifically for this purpose.

Besides the cost factor involved, said Mr. Wrigglesworth, during a heavy snowfall, priority for staff is on snow removal. Since most plowing of major arterial roads is done at night, it tends to clash with flooding and maintenance of the ice rinks.

While the intent was to cut over a dozen rinks from town responsibility, councillors preferred not to deal with Mr. Wrigglesworth's suggestion at the meeting which it was

presented. Instead, they voted to individually submit a list of the rinks they felt should be in use this year.

"I wasn't prepared to make any change from what we had last year," said Mr. Gove last Tuesday. "I can't see any substantial saving being made by not putting in a few rinks."

The consensus was maybe having fewer rinks of a higher quality would be better than letting skaters put up with barely adequate ice. Staff is already spread thin for doing the flooding and depending on snowfalls,

Teacher seeking Liberal nod

By SANDRA DIGIOACCHINO
Chris West, a political science teacher at St. Robert's Catholic High School in Thornhill, is running for the Liberal nomination in the federal riding of York North.

Mr. West, 28, has been an active supporter of the Liberal Party both federally and provincially since 1967, when he worked in one of Barney Danson's early campaigns.

"I've always been a Liberal — both big 'L' and little 'l'," he said. A former Trudeau Youth member in the 1968 election, he has a degree from the University of Toronto in political science.

"Political science gives me a better understanding of the system," said Mr. West, "and teaching enables me to work with people — just like politics."

When asked why he decided to run for the Liberal nomination, he simply stated he is "concerned enough".

"The Liberal Party itself needs some new blood, and the riding of York North could use some active help."

His main concern is the effect the Progressive Conservatives are having on Canada.

According to him, the major problems facing the nation today are the economy and Canada's international image.

"The Tories are destroying the credibility of this country, and they have pitted the eastern part of Canada against the western part," he claimed.

In the upcoming election, Mr. West believes "Ontario will swing the vote, just as it did in the

Mayor, McLeod say no to Grits

Write two names off the growing list of Liberal Party nominations.

The Very Rev. Bruce McLeod, minister at Richmond Hill United Church, when asked by The Liberal said he had not yet heard the rumor that he might be running, and in fact had not seriously considered the matter. "I'm just into a new job," he said, "and it is extremely important and very satisfying."

Dr. McLeod said it would have to be a pretty strong request before he would consider running for the position.

last election. Only this time we are hoping that it will be in our favor."

Experienced members of the Liberal Party faithful are supporting him in his efforts.

The nomination meeting to pick the York North Liberal representative will be held tomorrow (Thursday) at 8 p.m. at the Thornhill Community Centre.

Commission regrets Harkness resignation

York Region's police commission reacted with sorrow last week on learning that Deputy Chief Wally Harkness had resigned.

"It's a great loss," said Gladys Rolling, vice-chairman of the commission, after Chief Bruce Crawford advised that Deputy Chief Harkness planned to submit his resignation.

The formal resignation will be dealt with at the commission's first meeting in 1980, the chief said.

Deputy Chief Harkness has accepted a position as security director for Magna Corporation, an international manufacturing firm.

The chief said he is aware of

the salary and benefits that Magna offered Mr. Harkness, and "I must say that he really has very little choice but to accept it."

The deputy chief is "an extremely hard-working person who has done a very admirable job," said Chief Crawford.

All members of the police commission echoed those sentiments and Commissioner Gordon Cook suggested some form of special recognition be given the deputy chief.

Mr. Harkness, a former Toronto detective, joined the York force in 1971, its first year of existence, and became a deputy chief two years later.

See earlier story, Page A-3.



Welcome to winter. Officially it landed last Friday, but the advance warning belted the area Wednesday morning. Still planning to get some use from his bicycle, Stephen Green of Millpond Court, Richmond Hill, changed his mind after a few unsuccessful attempts to get mobile. (Liberal photos by Bruce Hogg).

Chamber will sponsor all-candidates meeting

The Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce doesn't even know who the York-North candidates in the February 18 federal election will be yet, but already the executive has set the date for an "All Candidates' Meeting".

Nomination meetings for the various parties are expected to be held within the next few days, and as soon as a candidate has been selected, he or she will be invited to attend the meeting.

The Chamber has arranged to use the auditorium at Don Head School for

the meeting, which will be held Thursday, January 31.

Similar in concept to the meeting arranged by the Chamber for last year's May 22 federal election, the forum will consist of questioning from members of York-North media and the audience.

Glen Alton will act as Master of Ceremonies, while Bob Saunders has been selected as Moderator.

It is expected that members of radio, cable television and community newspapers will participate in the quizzing of the various candidates.

Community Pulse

Award plaques?

The Town of Richmond Hill is considering awarding Civic Design plaques to architects or builders for buildings in the community.

Councillor Al Duffy brought up the suggestion at a planning committee meeting, suggesting the town review the program for recognizing civic design now being followed in Scarborough.

Councillor Duffy said he felt this was an appropriate time to institute such a program in Richmond Hill because of the development of the Beaver Creek Industrial Park scheduled to begin next year.

Early deadlines

Holiday hours will again be in effect at The Liberal next week.

Deadlines for classified and display advertising will be 10.30 a.m. Saturday, December 29.

All offices of The Liberal will be closed Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.

Normal delivery of your Liberal will take place Wednesday, January 2.