



Grade 6 students at Beverley Acres Public School admire their handiwork (hungrily). From left to right, Kathy Butt, Linda-Lee DeFazio, Scott Yonge, Ward Irvine and Jim Hughes inspect their project, a complete gingerbread village made by the class.

Markham aligns cab bylaws

The Town of Markham has amended its taxi-cab bylaws to bring them into line with such surrounding municipalities such as Richmond Hill and Metro Toronto.

Markham cab drivers who hold owner's licenses won't have to renew them for five years. The bylaw previously allowed ownership for four years but the amendment will allow local drivers to be compatible with taxi companies in adjacent districts.

Ward 5 Councillor Ron Dancy was opposed to the change, which was one of five approved.

"I think five years is too long for one car to be on the road. You can compare the time with your own personal car — most people are ready to trade their cars in after three or four years," said Mr. Dancy. "Some cabs in Markham are in such poor shape, it's not safe to ride in them."

He asked Building Director Bill Walker, who is also responsible for bylaw enforcement, what else the town requires

besides an annual certificate of mechanical fitness.

"We do a visual inspection of every vehicle when the renewal is due, including general appearance and a mechanical check of the meter," Mr. Walker told council.

Despite the protest from Mr. Dancy the amendment passed. Also changed, from three to four years, is the renewal date for drivers using cabs belonging to owners other than themselves.

Under Section 2.2 of the bylaw, owner's licenses will now be issued to those who hold an airport (MTC) license and operate outside of Markham. Formerly, the licensing officer wouldn't issue a permit unless he was satisfied the vehicle was to be operated primarily within the town.

Under the new bylaw, an owner, with sufficient reason, is allowed to be represented by an agent at the Licensing Officer's office for a cab owner's license or renewal. A sworn affidavit proving

authorization by an owner is now required where the owner himself once had to appear on his own behalf.

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Police Briefs

York Regional Police arrested five men and a juvenile female within hours after a break-in at the Honeypot Ski Lodge and Tavern in Vaughan. The break-in occurred about 1 a.m. December 21 and the burglars triggered the alarm.

The accused are from Toronto, Mississauga and Scarborough. The juvenile is a runaway from British Columbia.

They are charged with break, enter and theft, possession over \$200 and possession of burglary tools.

BREAK-INS

Break-ins in the Thornhill area are on the increase. Last week the home of Plem Gandy of Simonton Blvd. was entered and a safe containing jewelry and cash was removed.

Ronald Samuels of Appleton Road had a large amount of stereo equipment taken from his home. The items are valued at \$6,000.

Two residents of 110 Inverlochy Blvd. were also the victims of break-ins last week.

Jewelry was taken from one apartment and it is still unknown what is missing from the other. Police will continue to investigate.

CONSTRUCTION SITES

Thefts from construction areas are on the upswing and Concord and Thornhill are prime areas.

Someone walked off with \$9,000 in surveying equipment from a construction site on Old Yonge Street in Thornhill.

More than \$2,000 in electrical underground wire was taken from a site at Dufferin and Steeles in Concord.

Another site on Basaltic Road, Concord was the scene of a theft recently, when \$750 in welding cable and ground cable was taken.

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