The Tribune

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Markham Village volunteer firemen withdraw threat of resignation

Ulimatum by brigade

MARKHAM — In an unprecedented move, members of the Fire Brigade gave notice to the Village Council that unless a new fire chief was chosen from among the ranks of the brigade the firemen were determined to resign. The deadline given was August 28. The former Chief Chas. Hoover is retiring.

Ross Lawton, spokesman for the brigade members, said the men felt strongly that the position should be filled by their own members. "They are concerned about the term 'professional' which appeared in press reports.

Councillor Rod Stewart, chairman of the fire committee replied that the Fire Marshall's office lays down the standards for fire chiefs. "This is an important job in the village which is growing. If a man can meet the tests which are both written and oral it doesn't matter where he comes from."

Mr. Lawton suggested that this would automatically eliminate the present members of the brigade. He explained that while they were quite qualified in the practical application of the fire-fighting equipment, they had not been attending school and would find difficulty in such examinations. Why would a qualified man from outside the village have any more interest than a member of the brigade, Mr. Lawton questioned council.

Councillor Stewart said council was quite aware of the capabilities of the brigade members but he said he did'nt think such reports from the present chief were enough to go on.

Reeve Stands by Brigade

Reeve Alma Walker said she had been against a full-time chief orginally but would like to see the position filled by a brigade member.

"Getting a chief who is qualified is what we have to do," declared councillor Stewart.

Following the brigade's ultimatum to resign, councillor Stewart said, "I know how you feel, you think it's a slap in the face if we don't choose one of your members, but I assure you it is not that way. I am asking that you see our choice before you make up your mind to resign.

The firemen after a brief private discussion reported to council that they would not alter their deadline of August 28.

Councillor, Rod Stewart —Staff Photo

Demand test for chief

MARKHAM — Following three meetings in as many nights, members of the Fire Brigade have voted to remain on the job until a new Fire Chief is named by village council. The decision came Friday night. Previously the brigade members expressed determination to resign on August 28.

Reeve Adjourns Meeting

Amid a storm of protest Reeve Alma Walker suddenly adjourned Thursday's special council meeting and left the chambers. "In all my 14 years here I have never had to do this before, but I am doing it now, it's my right", she declared.

Leading up to the sudden adjournment, tempers were beginning to show. In the midst of the dispute, Reeve Walker raised the gavel and declared, "I am not taking any more of this, the meeting is adjourned"

An attempt by Deputy Reeve Laidlaw and Councillor Allison to have a previous resolution covering written examinations for the Chief, rescinded, was defeated.

Councillor Stewart said he couldn't see what the village had to lose by asking the men to write an examination. "We can only stand to lose $200,000 if we have to hire a new brigade, that's all," replied Deputy Reeve, Laidlaw.

Reeve Walker said she believed council was putting the village in a dangerous position. However, councillor Stewart continued to press that the village required a full-time Fire Chief. He said the men got paid even if the money was put into a pension fund.

"If it amounts to $300 a year, they're lucky," retorted Reeve Walker. "Remember they are volunteers," she said.

Councillor Stewart, visibly upset, retorted, "even if they get $10,000 or nothing, they sign an agreement to serve the community."

Tests Would Help

Members of the brigade had been informed by N. J. Atkins of the Fire Marshall's office that the tests set by the department would if anything, be an advantage to any applicant from the brigade. He said his office would be glad to help in any way to iron out the dispute.

Maureen O'Connor from Prince Edward Island strikes a pleasant pose in Stouffville Park. Maureen is the young lady adopted by the Hi-C organization. The adoption is a new type project, a pilot program being tried by the Ontario Christian young people. See page Nine. —Staff Photo

Milk store armed robbery

MARKHAM — Two men, one armed with a 22-gauge shotgun and the other with an automatic revolver, wearing stocking masks, held up Macks Milk store on the South side of #7 Highway in Markham Village late Saturday night.

The men on entering the store, ordered Mr. and Mrs. S. Henson who were behind the counter, to go to the back of the store along with the manager, Mr. C. Ellif who was also in the store at the time.

While one man covered the three employees, the other picked up a paper bag and stuffed it with money from the till, then both walked out.

Markham police were called and arrived on the scene within seconds, road blocks were set up by Markham Village, Markham Township, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch, Stouffville, Vaughan Township, O.P.P. and Metropolitan Toronto police forces, but the men escaped.

It was estimated that $350 was stolen. This is the first armed robbery the village of Markham has had in 5 years. Markham Village police are still investigating the case.

Furniture store operator dead

STOUFFVILLE — The death occurred at Newmarket Hospital on Sunday, Aug. 18, of Bruce MacLean, proprietor of the furniture store on Highway 48, just south of Ballantrae. Deceased was in his 56th year. Prior to entering business here he had been associated with an upholstering plant in Markham. Mr. MacLean was a member of Richardson Masonic Lodge, members of which conducted a special service on Tuesday evening.

Besides his wife, the former Mary E. Pegg, deceased is survived by two daughters, Betty (Mrs. William Sanders) of Moosonee and Helen (Mrs. D. Crittenden) of Markham. There are two brothers, Sandy of Mt. Albert and Willard of Toronto.

Funeral service was conducted on Wednesday from the O'Neill Funeral Chapel with interment at Churchill Cemetery.

Catches escapees

MARKHAM — Constable Rick Robertson of the Markham Village police force, found his night shift duty on Friday a busy one.

At 1.30 a.m. he received a call that an OPP cruiser was giving chase to a car along Highway No. 7 and was approaching Markham Village. Spotting the car Constable Robertson gave chase. His travels took him west and south of Markham and into Metro Toronto.

At times all cars were travelling at speeds in excess of 100 m.p.h. Constable Robertson was able to pull alongside the car and stop it. The occupants were found to be two juvenile escapees from Bowmanville Training School.

U.S. visitors hurt in car-truck crash

STOUFFVILLE — Mr. and Mrs. Louis Scafati of Roslindale, Mass., U.S.A. were rushed to Scarboro Centennary Hospital on Tuesday afternoon, after their car was involved in an accident with a gravel truck at the junction of Main St. E. and the tenth line.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Scafati were on their way from Kingston to visit her sister, Mrs. Tom Johnson of Second St., Stouffville, when their car collided with the right side of the truck. The driver of the truck, Harold Glen Nutter, Goodwood was not injured.

Mrs. Scafati suffered head injuries and multiple injuries to arms and legs. Her husband suffered severe head injuries. Latest report from the hospital was that Mr. Scafati was to undergo an operation in the evening.

Total damage estimated by Chief, Orland Keating, who investigated the accident was $6000. The truck was owned by M. B. Haulage, Markham.

Increase town police force

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville council has agreed to engage two more police constables for the Stouffville police force.

They are Harold Leslie Davis, 32, who has had 11 years experience with the Liverpool Constabulary, England, and David Rodney Blackburn, 23, of St. Mary's, Ont.

Review bylaw

MARKHM — Councillor Rod Stewart gave notice at the regular meeting of council on Monday that he would introduce a motion to have council review the transient traders' bylaw. It was stated that some persons licenses under this bylaw were in arrears of fees. Efforts had been made to collect but without success and the bylaw officer suggested that instalment payments be allowed. Council rejected this idea.

Engage officer

MARKHAM — The Village Council has agreed by resolution to add an additional officer to the police force and accepted the application of David T. Wade for the position. Mr. Wade comes from Marathon where the local force has recently been disbanded in favor of the O.P.P.

Say sub-dividers neglect park property

BUTTONVILLE — On Monday, Councillor A. R. Sumner had strong criticism for the state in which some township subdividers leave land required for parks in their subdivision.

"The township should start putting park property on bond until it is cleaned up," declared the Councillor for Ward 1 where most of the subdivisions are established.

Mr. Sumner said that the land set aside for a park in the Wimpey subdivision on Bayview Avenue was the township's biggest problem at the moment, and was "no better than a garbage dump."

He also voiced the opinion that dedicated parklands at Varley Village on Unionville's outskirts were a disgrace and would cost the township $2,000 to clean up. "Parklands dedicated by subdividers need tighter control, he insisted".

The engineer suggested: "If they (the subdividers) don't clean up themselves,

The engineer suggested: "If they (the subdividers) don't clean up themselves, then charge them!" Another suggestion entailed holding a bond. Deputy-reeve Gadsby pointed out that the subdivision agreements call for "pay on demand," in such instances, "a far different thing than holding up a bond."

No government help for Pickering industry

PICKERING — Final refusal of the Ontario Development Corporation to include Pickering Township in its industrial assistance program sent Reeve John Williams into a stormy diatribe against the provincial government, and against one local newspaper, at a Council meeting Monday night.

John R. Mason, executive assistant of the Ontario Department of Trade and Development, advised council that the township cannot be included as an area eligible for assistance under the E.I.O. Program.

Mr. Mason said that the Hon. Stanley J. Randall and Hon. C. S. MacNaughton are concerned for the situation of Pickering and will continue to seek ways of alleviating the present tax burden.

"We have every right to know exactly what the reasons are," said councillor, John Kruger, "Exactly the way the Board of Directors made this judgment, and exactly what Mr. Randall and the others are going to do to help."

We want to know the logic and reason for this judgment.

Reeve Williams said that upon receiving the letter he spoke on the telephone with Mr. Mason and asked him those very questions.

"The more I listen to this man the more emotional I become," he said. "He stated that Pickering Township will need $46 million worth of industrial assessment to rectify the problem, and the Ontario Development Corporation did not feel it was in a position to get Pickering Township back on its keel."

"I told Mr. Mason," continued the reeve, "That we were not asking the O.D.C. to give us $46 million of industrial assessment. We were asking for some, no matter how small — the bigger the better, of course — but we wanted assistance. I told him we were prepared to meet with them and just lay some facts on the table."

"I told him quite a number of other things . . . Believe me, I am concerned about this because I think we are getting the run around. Mr. Mason is to call me back giving us an appointment with some one. If Mr. Mason does not call me back, I have some other plans which none of them are going to like.

"I think we can light a fire under this whole issue. As far as I am concerned I am not begging

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Contractor Ken Betz with hard hat is seen surveying the excavating of the new town water project on the town reservoir property. With him is Tommy Farr, chairman of the Stouffville PUC. Fred Castle is the shovel operator. Work on the project was begun last winter and will raise the water storage capacity to more than double the present figure. The new reservoir measures 110 ft. by 114 ft. and will cost approximately $45,000. Several new wells to feed this new storage will cost approximately $25,000. The work is expected to be completed this month. —Staff Photo

O. M. B. questions Markham spending

The Ontario Municipal Board has made a request this year that municipal spending be held to the estimates submitted in the 1967, "in view of the serious monetary situation."

Last year Markham Township officials estimated 1968 spending in $2,395,190. This year, when they submitted their new 5-year forecast, the estimate for the current year was raised to $2,805,000 — $409,808 above last year's figure.

This week the Ontario Municipal Board chairman asked for an explanation of the increase, and reminded Council of the need to hold the line. In view of this, Council asked for a written report from Treasurer Alex Barton showing the reason for the difference in the forecast.

Clerk, H. C. T. Crisp said part was the cost of new sewer installations, and part was for the increased cost of schools.

Oil leak damage falls on village

MARKHAM — Village council is faced with a considerable damage bill as a result of a fuel oil line leaking about a hundred gallons into the sewerage system. The oil eventually found its way into the disposal plant where it retarded the operation, stopping the chemical action. The Markham Village sewerage system is operated on a rental system with the Ontario Water Resources operating the disposal plant and engaging the necessary workmen. However, council found that in the case of damage the village was called upon to bear part of the cost and the village solicitor will be requested to investigate the account.