

Editor's mail

Fireman tells of threatened revolt

Dear Editor: Recently, the Markham press carried a front page story concerning the Markham Town Fire Department. It was unfortunate that statements made by the Fire Chief (suspended) were not checked out since the article, on the whole, was quite misleading. As a member of the volunteer brigade, I feel the citizens of Markham have the right to know the

facts. The facts are as follows: Statement: "The men at no time ever complained to me". Fact: A special meeting was called by the men to complain of the unwarranted dismissal of a member of 17 yrs. service. The Chief stated two reasons for the dismissal which upon investigation were both proven false. Due to this, and other

evidence of misrepresentation of so-called facts by the Chief, the volunteers lost all respect and confidence in him. Rather than simply walk out and leave the town unprotected the matter was turned over to Council. Statement: He refused to believe the men were against him. Fact: On May, Council suggested the Chief resign. Chief refused. On May 5, Chief agreed. On May 7, Chief changed mind again. On May 7, the men on the brigade voted (by secret ballot) whether or not they would work for the Chief if he was retained by the town. The result was 15-1 "NO".

Statement: "Somebody has to be boss and call the shots". Fact: The Chief has also called the men some very uncomplimentary and unprintable names when they were actually doing exactly as ordered by an Officer. Statement: The town deserves a better fate than a loosely run big beer society. Fact: On Tues. July 7 the siren rang at 4.02 p.m. In less than five minutes the fire truck was at the scene with 8 men. (16th Ave. 1/2 mile east of 48). Ray Coxworth, who is now Fire Chief as far as the men are concerned, was at the fire with the car ahead of the truck. This is only one example of the alertness of the brigade.

Statement: "A Volunteer is one who works for nothing". Fact: The men on the brigade have volunteered their services to the town to fight fires at any occasion, at any time, day or night, winter or summer, to drop whatever they are doing at a moments notice, and proceed to the hall, and perform any task assigned. There are a number of self-employed men on the brigade who in a strictly financial point of view could lose money every time the siren blows. Needless to say none of the men are here for the money we receive. Statement: The men on the brigade averaged \$700 a man. Fact: There was not one man on the brigade that received \$700 fighting fires last year. Statement: The Chief's salary is \$8,500. Fact: The Chief also received the same rate of pay as the volunteers for all fire calls answered between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. plus any fires on the weekends. The Chief was also paid for all fire calls answered by the brigade while he attended the course in fire prevention for 8 weeks.

Statement: "I am not a spit and polish person". Fact: The gold braid on his hat alone cost the taxpayers \$27.00. The gold on the coat and shirt cost extra. Statement: He has enjoyed working for the Town and trying to make the brigade a fine one. Fact: The Markham Fire Brigade has been a fine one for more years than most of us can remember. Chief Gough can hardly claim credit for the fact that a fatal fire for thirty years since he has not yet reached two years as Chief. Some credit must surely go to Chuck Hoover (17 yrs. as Chief) and the men before him, who evidently thought a brigade could operate efficiently without all the so-called discipline. There is no time in any fire brigade, whether it be full time or volunteer to sit on your fanny and depend on luck.

One additional fact. There are at present two men on the brigade who wrote and passed the same examination for Fire Chief as Mr. Gough. One of them has been elected Chief by the men of the brigade. The other is also an officer on the brigade. Don Shank, 31 Joseph St., Markham, Ont. Member Markham Volunteer Fire Brigade



One region — nine areas
Area boundaries within the new County Region are set out here in a map prepared by the Oshawa Planning and Development Council. When finalized, public meetings will be arranged in August and October when suggested changes will be considered. A meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for July 16 (today).

Kathleen Beatty

Canada Council grant

By Pat McClennan
CEDAR GROVE
Kathleen Beatty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beatty, Burkes Falls. Many in Cedar Grove will remember attending the little schoolhouse with Robert, when his father, George, ran the store. Having received her B.C. degree from the University of Toronto in 1969, Kathleen was awarded the Woodrow Wilson award. This year, with 1st class honors, she received her M.A. degree in Near Eastern Studies and a Canada Council Grant will enable her to attend the Goethe Institute in Luneburg, West Germany this summer. In the fall, Kathleen will begin work on her Ph.D. at Munster University.

Public school days are behind Karen Tapscott, David Whittamore and Robbie McCowan who graduated from grade 8 this June and enter MDHS in the fall. Laura Smith returned on Saturday from a Father special ten days at camp. A select group of CGIT (fifty including counsellors) from all parts of Ontario were chosen to attend Camp at Thessalon. Outdoor cooking and camping, a tour to Sault Ste. Marie and a Music Day which included guests from Manitoba were all part of a thrilling trip for Laura. Audrey and Enie MacIntosh's daughter, Louise Richardson, and her husband Ron are home for the summer to avoid the monsoons in India. They have been living in

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Christian lady
STOUFFVILLE — Funeral service was conducted on Tuesday for the late Mary Elizabeth Thomas, widow of the late Thomas Edward Thomas, who passed away at Scarborough Centenary Hospital, July 12. Deceased had made her home in Stouffville for the past five years with her daughter, Mr and Mrs John Armstrong. Mrs. Thomas was in her 86th year and had come from England in 1904. She is survived by one daughter Ellen (Mrs. J. W. Armstrong) Stouffville and one son John of Niagara Falls. There are three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

6, 8, 10 or 11 years from now, we expect to have some nice used Volvo 144's.

Volvo 144's have just become available in Canada, so we don't know how long they'll last here. But we do know how long Volvo usually last—an average of 11 years in Sweden, where it's tough being a car. Since Volvo 144's are built the same way, they ought to last the same way. Which means that if you want a used Volvo 144, you may have to wait quite a while for it. If you don't want to wait, come in and test-drive a new one. Or test-drive a Volvo Canadian. We've been selling that model longer, so we've had time to get some nice used ones.

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