

MARKHAM-WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE-UXBRIDGE, THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1973

## Driving survey

**YORK REGION** — Motorists will be stopped while driving through the region, but not just by police or for traffic signals. The region and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications want to ask questions.

During the remaining days in May and for the entire month of June, at locations along major roads, "a sample of drivers passing each survey station will be required to stop for a short time and answer a few simple questions concerning their trip," reported a planning department notice last week.

The purpose is for gathering information for the Regional Official Plan "to aid in the solution of short and long range transportation problems."

## Slaven sentenced

**MARKHAM** — Randolph James Slaven, Station Street, Markham, was sentenced, May 18, to ten years in penitentiary by Judge Clair Morrison of Richmond Hill Court.

The 27-year-old man admitted guilt two weeks ago to attempted theft of a truck, Feb. 8, owned by Clarence Rose of James Speight Road; robbing Constable William Miller, Buttonville Division, York Regional Police of his firearm, after disarming and manacled the P.C. with his own handcuffs near Woodland Motor Court, Hwy. 7; discharging the firearm at Francis Hill, a caretaker, in Participation House. He pleaded guilty to a further charge of escaping lawful custody, April 27, while in a cell at Richmond Hill court.

The judge assessed one year for attempted theft, five for robbery, two for escaping custody and two years for discharging a firearm.

## Child abuse

**MARKHAM** — 'Parents Anonymous' was formed to give immediate help to parents who abuse their children either physically, verbally, emotionally or sexually.

It is geared, along the lines of Alcoholics Anonymous, on group meetings; self-help through discussion of problems.

Parents Anonymous groups have been formed throughout the U.S., in Toronto and Burlington.

This week the founder, Jolly K., is visiting the Toronto area. She will speak at Markham, May 25, in St. Patrick Hall, at 8 p.m.

## Board answers to town council

**MARKHAM** — York County Board of Education trustees and staff met with the Town's Finance Committee last week to explain why Markham's educational taxes in 1973 will hit the taxpayers pocket harder than in previous years, but the board's explanation was basically the same as when it brought down its budget last month.

Recently, Councillor Carole Bell suggested that Council request the board's attendance to account for its action.

Trustee Jack MacKay said that the situation for Markham is "unusual" compared to any other municipality in the county. "Starting with 1973, the board is using the current year's assessment to calculate educational taxes."

"The ministry of education before required the board to use the previous year's rate, but now we are required to use the 1973 rate," explained York County Board of Education Treasurer George Ford.

Mr. Ford said this change would mean a two-year increase



Don Thomas, (left), Church Street, Markham, a driver for Reesor's Marmill Limited, was honored, May 17, at a meeting of the Markham-Unionville Lions Club. He was presented with an engraved plaque by Carman Lewis, in recognition of one million

accident-free miles, as an employee of the Markham firm. He was introduced by M.O. Shepherd, a club member and head of the Markham Safety Council. The plaque was signed by Mr. Shepherd and Anthony Roman, Mayor of Markham.

## Warns against accepting grant from department

**MARKHAM** — Councillor Alma Walker warned last week, that the Town should not be so hasty to accept a \$5,000 offer from the province for repairs to Robinson Street, because "so far, not so much as a pick or shovel has been raised to reconstruct Hwy 7 that they promised would begin May 1."

The councillor, angered over the promises by the provincial government to finish

construction by July 1, explained that one night she counted six out of nine vehicles turn along Robinson Street to avoid the Main Street and Hwy 7 traffic signals.

According to Councillor Walker, the province denied any responsibility for damages caused to Robinson Street as a result of the detour, "but it sure is their fault."

Should we be so quick to approve this report from the engineer to accept the \$5,000 offer?" asked Mrs. Walker.

However, Town Engineer Dippen Mukherjee explained that the government had estimated this cost and "I think it should be enough."

Mayor Tony Roman warned Council about rejecting the offer, indicating that Markham should take every cent from the province it can get its hands on. "The province doesn't usually

do this sort of thing," added the Mayor.

So the Town will get at least \$5,000 toward Robinson Street repairs, following the adoption of the engineer's report.

## More parks

**PICKERING** — In an effort to increase its parklands, Pickering Township will start asking developers to dedicate a higher percentage of their lands to the township.

Pickering, along with other Ontario municipalities, requires five per cent of the land, or a cash equivalent in any development be dedicated for parkland. This requirement increased to 3.5 acres of land per 1,000 population for development in excess of four units per acre.

## Union Villa

**UNIONVILLE** — To make Union Villa a reality was a long-sought dream of Keith Kennedy of Unionville.

Having achieved this goal, Mr. Kennedy has continued to give much of his time and effort towards the successful maintenance of this project. Quite naturally then, he was the logical choice as Chairman of the Board for 1973. The vice-chairman is Mrs. Dorothy Jenner, secretary, Mrs. Doris Bourrie and treasurer, Dennis Hawley.

At the annual meeting, April 26, the following directors were elected: Mario Bartoletti, Mrs. Doris Bourrie, Mrs. Aleta Burgess, Fred Cook, Mrs. Trudy Creamer, Robert Dowse, Harry Fitzsimmons, Everett Harper, Dennis Hawley, William Hood, Mrs. Dorothy Jenner, Keith Kennedy, Michael McCaul, Russell Pearson, Rae Perigoe, Anthony Roman, Harold Schmidt, Dr. Robt. Seaver, William Thomas and Donald Ziegler.

## Residents oppose heavy traffic on local roads

**MARKHAM** — Robinson Street residents are not long in their fight against heavy daily traffic, at least that was the indication from a delegation of the Unionville Ratepayers Association at a council meeting Tuesday.

Mrs. Mary Neill, association member, told Council that there is a "deep concern among Unionville residents over the heavy traffic on Fred Varley Drive and Sciberras Road," and to prove her point, the delegate dropped a 200-name petition on the council table.

The member refreshed council's memory of a Markham traffic study conducted back in 1971 that revealed an estimated 1,200 vehicles utilize Sciberras Road daily, "and in the same year, a child was killed on the same street."

Mrs. Neill pointed out that these roads are "bearing the brunt" of heavy traffic heading for Hwy. 7.

But the heavy flow of traffic isn't as a result of a construction detour as it is on Robinson Street in Markham Village, it's simply a case of taking the quickest route.

The seriousness of the problem has been amplified by the recent completion of Mark 11

and John XXIII schools in the Carlton Village area. "This add to the child pedestrian flow," said Mrs. Neill.

Also she said, the recent Markham transit study has recommended bus routes along Fred Varley Drive and Sciberras Road. "We have a serious problem."

The association member suggested that the paving of Carlton Road would alleviate the traffic problem on the other two arteries.

"The Town recently approved the addition of 100 houses in Block K in Village in the Valley and this will certainly add to the seriousness of the matter," added Mrs. Neill.

"It would cost as estimated \$5,000 to black top Carlton Road."

Later, Mayor Tony Roman explained that he had recently met with association president Aleta Burgess and at that time, the feelings of the residents were made known. Also, the ratepayers group came before Planning Committee five months ago, again strongly objecting to the heavy traffic flow.

Council received the delegation's report, however, no action was taken.

## Twinney, Crawford, battle over stopwatch radar

**YORK REGION** — York Regional Police will use stopwatches to catch speeding motorists throughout the region, following a decision by Chief Bruce Crawford, and the issue was objected bitterly by two police commissioners at a meeting recently.

But Chief Crawford, despite objections from Ray Twinney and Garfield Wright, told the commission that the practise will go into effect immediately in about 60 points throughout the region.

"If this is the way we are serving and protecting the people, by reverting back to stopwatches, having men hiding behind trees, I think this is a step backwards," charged Commissioner Twinney, also a regional councillor from Newmarket.

However, the chief corrected the commissioner, saying his officers will not be hiding behind anything, but in full view of the driving public. Chief Crawford claimed that the stopwatch practise has been

used as a speed-measuring device for at least 20 years, and evidence gathered by the watches is accepted in the courts.

"My job is to enforce the law and use every legal means to do it," he explained, "and if I have to use stopwatches to control speeders, I think it's my obligation to do it."

Commission Chairman Judge William Lyon and member Stewart Rumble agreed with the chief, and after questioning the chief, Judge Lyon received assurance that officers would not be hidden from motorists.

"A visible policeman, by his mere presence helps keep the speed down," commented the chairman.

Mr. Twinney objected strongly to the first check point indicated by the chief. He said the stretch-south of Vandorf on Don Mills Road is "on the downhill grade with no houses and no people around it."

"I can't see anyone objecting to someone speeding down there because there's nobody around," said Mr. Twinney.

Mr. Wright, regional council chairman, informed the chief that he witnessed radar cruisers parked in the traffic lanes of a street on three occasions and "this makes for poor public relations."

The chief reported that he receives more complaints about speeders than any other complaint encountered by the force and he feels the public wants him to use "every legal means" to check speeding.

Judge Lyon admitted there was nothing the commission could do to prohibit the stopwatch practise, so all the board could do was to accept the chief's report and take no action.

## Pool bylaw

**MARKHAM** — Before Markham residents can have a swimming pool installed on their property or even apply to the Town for a building permit, they'll have the site plan approved by the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission.

For some time now, the Town have been looking for a strict bylaw to control residential swimming pool installation and following a decision of the Bylaw Committee last week, Markham has found it.

The bylaw will now be presented to Council for approval.



Marion Sale, 18, was crowned May Queen for 1973 at the Markham District High School prom, held at the Firefighters Club, Esna Park Drive, Friday night. Last year's queen 19-year-old Hilje Knot, performed the crowning ceremony. The first and second runners-up were Janet Byrnes and Inta Strauss, respectively. — Michael Gerhardt