

Scathing remarks

Staff increase heavily attacked

NEWMARKET — Region Commissioner of Health & Social Services, Dr. Owen Slingerland, was the subject of some scathing remarks from Aurora mayor Evelyn Buck at the last meeting of Regional Council.

The controversial recommendation from the Health and Social Services Committee, already deferred from an earlier meeting, provided the only fireworks of a dull council session. The three-part report recommended hiring new personnel: a Director of Administration, at a base salary of \$19,000 a year; a Special Projects Officer, at \$12,400 a year; and a clerk-stenographer at about \$6,000.

"I can't tell you what Dr. Slingerland is doing," she said. "I don't find it difficult to believe that he is busy...but I do find it hard to believe he is so busy he doesn't have time to do the job he was hired to do and we now have to hire another man at \$22,000 a year to help him."

Mrs. Buck reminded members that the doctor's dual role had been discussed before, and he was compensated for it in a higher salary.

"Now we're told the job is impossible for one man," she said. "You can't have it both ways. I don't believe we're getting value for our money now, and I can't support this recommendation."

Newmarket, sought a middle position.

"I agree there may be a need for extra help," he said. "But I can't go along with these recommendations. I don't feel we need a special projects officer to dig up new demands for social services."

Chief Administrative Officer Jack Rettle gave a lengthy background to the proposal, claiming that "there just aren't enough people" to carry out some of the projects that council wants.

"If you're willing to accept those limitations, then we'll live with that," he told members.

Regional chairman Garfield Wright also lent support to the proposal, but further discussion was cut off by Georgina representative Joe Dales.

"We're discussing personnel here," Dales observed. "Traditionally, this kind of thing is discussed in committee...if we're going to take potshots at our staff, it should be done in committee."

He formally moved that the recommendations be referred to executive committee for debate. After some discussion, council voted 9 to 6 in favor of referring the matter.

Committee chairman Bill Lazenby outlined the reasons for the new positions. A chart submitted to council showed that Dr. Slingerland is both Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health — an unusual dual role. Lazenby said that, for example, he had been trying to arrange a meeting between a Richmond Hill group and Dr. Slingerland.

"It has been almost impossible to find a date when we can all get together," he said. "Assistance of this sort would free Dr. Slingerland from the many routine duties he now must take on."

Mayor Buck pointed out that the corresponding provincial ministry has recently assigned three more officials to York Region affairs, and strongly criticized any duplication of effort.

"I can't see why we need a projects officer when there are so many people in the provincial operation doing the same thing," she said.

She went on to wonder if Dr. Slingerland was really "all that busy."

The Aurora mayor quoted recent remarks made by Ontario Health Minister Miller about the soaring costs of health care, and suggested the council should be trying to hold costs down.

"It seems we're being asked instead to endorse every fool notion that's put before us," she concluded.

Two Richmond Hill representatives, Gordon Rowe and Mayor Lazenby, both defended the recommendation. Mayor Bob Forhan, of



The Stouffville Lions Club bus has been the victim of some senseless vandalism lately. There is a long list of things stolen from the bus, along with the fact that two fires were sent on the floor of the bus. Here it sits parked at Neil Patrick Motors.

Don Bernard.

Councillor seeks regional seat

MARKHAM — Roy Muldrew, Ward 2 councillor in the Town of Markham, has announced he will seek the position of Regional councillor in the Dec. 2 elections.

He has served as Chairman of the Markham Finance Committee for the past four years and is also chairman of the Markham Transit Committee.

"I think the next two years will be very important," he told The Tribune. "Some of the regional issues will directly affect the Town of Markham."

He said that one of the main problems is the lack of understanding on the part of the public of how regional government works. He said it should "relate closer to the people."

He said that Markham pays 34 per cent of York Region's levy.

"When we're paying that share of the cost, I think we should know what regional government is all about," he added.

Precedent set at Thornlea S.S.

Joint project works well

By Don Bernard
THORNHILL — Thornlea Secondary School could provide the pattern for a proposed Recreation Complex to be built at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

The York County Board of Education and the Town of Markham teamed up to build a swimming pool at Thornlea that was paid for by the town, and sits on school property.

Thornlea Principal, Art Murch, explained the setup in an interview with The Tribune.

He said that the school needed an addition that would have included a gym. The school board wanted to build an indoor swimming pool, but could not qualify for provincial grants. Provincial officials view swimming pools as frills on schools, he said.

If the Town of Markham built the pool,

it would qualify for grants under another provincial government department. After some negotiations, a co-operative venture was decided upon.

The pool and a gymnasium were built in a separate building on school property. According to Mr. Murch, the school uses the facilities in the daytime and Markham Recreation people use it in the evenings, on holidays and during the summer.

The Town has an extensive swim program and "use the facility as much as they can get their hands on it."

The school use is limited to swim programs as part of the physical education course. The extra gym is used for phys-ed classes by the school.

Mr. Murch said that the system is running very well. The school board maintains the pool and looks after maintenance. It opened in the Spring of 1973.

Cousens to run for board spot

MARKHAM — Incumbent Markham Trustee Donald Cousens has announced that he will again seek a spot on the York County Board of Education.

He said in a press release that the "next two years will be very significant," and that "much work will be required if we are to continue to improve the quality of our educational system."

He said that improved lines of communication are needed between the trustees and the teachers' federation.

"I would like to be a trustee for another term so that I can participate in the building process," he added.

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