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Oldtimer talks about early days

Continued from page 1
 and long pole. "Just a strong back and weak mind was all you had to have then," joked Mr. Jennings.

The brigade only responded to calls in the village where hydrants were close until a chemical truck was purchased around 1930. It was a half ton truck equipped with a 100 gallon tank compared to the 3,000 gallon tank on the present pumper truck and it really wasn't much of an improvement.

Only two men could ride on it according to Mr. Jennings and pressure was built up by dumping sulphuric acid and soda into the water. The two inch hose provided slightly less than a torrent of water.

"You get the damn thing pretty nearly out and you'd run out of water," he reminisced. The first modern pumper was not purchased until after World War 11.

After every fire the hoses had to be strung up in the 40 foot bell tower, which has since been torn down, to dry and in winter a fire had to be lit in a pot bellied wood stove at the base of the tower to keep the hose from freezing.

Back then practices were once a month and washing down Main St. with the hose was one of the major exercises.

There never has been much monetary incentive to be a volunteer fireman and when Mr. Jennings started pay was 25 cents per hour.

"It's not the money," said Mr. Jennings. "Very few ever quit. There's little excitement to hold you there. Whatever the hour of the night you could always depend on your men to turn out."

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C.W. (Wes) Brillinger is about to stir the large iron pot containing sap from the Maple trees located near the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. The syrup was boiling over the open fire most of the day Saturday and Sunday during the annual Maple Syrup Festival. The museum has also been conducting demonstrations for school children on week-days during the sap-running period from the middle of March to the mid-part of April. — Don Bernard

Olympic pool rejected

Not economically feasible

MARKHAM — The Markham Parks and Recreation Department is standing firm on its original recommendation that an Olympic-size swimming pool (65 meters) for the Markham Unionville area, is not economically feasible.

The Pool for '75 Committee, however, is insisting on the larger facility, even if it means waiting an extra year to afford it. In a presentation before Council, last month, it was stated that not "one iota of support would come from local service clubs if the Town opted for the 25 meter project". A lottery was suggested as a means of raising additional funds.

In a recent report, Dan Costea, outgoing recreation director, said such a stand indicated the committee was interested only in satisfying the needs of a minority group, "namely the competitive swimmers". A pool study indicates, he said, that an indoor facility, 25 meters in length, is needed immediately. He pointed out that in a recent aquatics registration, there were 430 on the waiting list. Mr. Costea recommended construction be started no later than the fall of 1975.

Regional Councillor Bob Adams expressed disappointment in the stand taken by local service organizations. He urged the setting up of a committee "to start the ball rolling".

Nominated were councillors Carole Bell, Bud Bonner and Hi Lawrie. They will conduct interviews with architects on preliminary work.

The final decision on the ultimate size of the pool, will be made at the next committee meeting.

Region posts signs

Buckling up urged

YORK REGION — Road signs reminding people to buckle up their seat belts will be installed in four locations on regional roads.

Regional council last week agreed to have the signs erected at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on the Gormley Road, on the 9th Concession in the vicinity of Musselman's Lake, at the exit from the Boyd Conservation Area on Islington Avenue and on Park Road at the exit from Sibbald's Point Provincial Park.

The signs, which show two hands fastening a seat belt, will be paid for through provincial subsidy. The Engineering Department has been authorized to erect the signs in the future "at exits from various facilities as is deemed necessary."

In addition, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications will be supplying signs to the operators of businesses adjacent to provincial highways which generate large volumes of traffic. This would be shopping plazas and industrial parking lots.

The program, which includes a public school education package, a public broadcast campaign, printed material, lectures and surveys, is to promote increased use of seat belts as a means of reducing automobile accident injury severity and fatalities.

Police accept 16.5% increase

YORK REGION — York Region's policemen voted April 4 to accept a 16.5 per cent wage increase for 1975.

The one-year contract will give a first class constable a \$15,728 salary, up from \$13,500 last year.

In March, the police association rejected a proposal offering the same pay increase. The agreement that was approved included improved fringe benefits.

The benefits include time off in lieu of overtime pay if approved by the chief; an increase of \$10 for the annual cleaning allowance; advancement of promotions for officers receiving 80 per cent on police college examinations; drug planning providing 100 per cent payments; increased mileage allowance from 15 to 18 cents for officers using their own cars; and an improved pension plan.

The contract was approved at a police commission meeting last week.

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Armed forces Otter lands in muddy field

BUTTONVILLE — An Armed Forces Otter power was lost. The emergency landing was executed with no damage to the plane or injury to the three passengers.

The craft, piloted by Capt. William Purdy, was carried out by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and Canadian Forces Base Downsview and Trenton Canadian Forces investigators.

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