

## Health, social briefs wanted

**NEWMARKET** — They're still after your opinion on planning for the health and social needs of York.

The Review Committee on Health and Social Planning has been meeting over the summer to consider what sort of planning body—if any—might be appropriate for the region.

Briefs from interested agencies or members of the public are now being received, and can be presented or spoken about at the regular meetings Sept. 6 and 20.

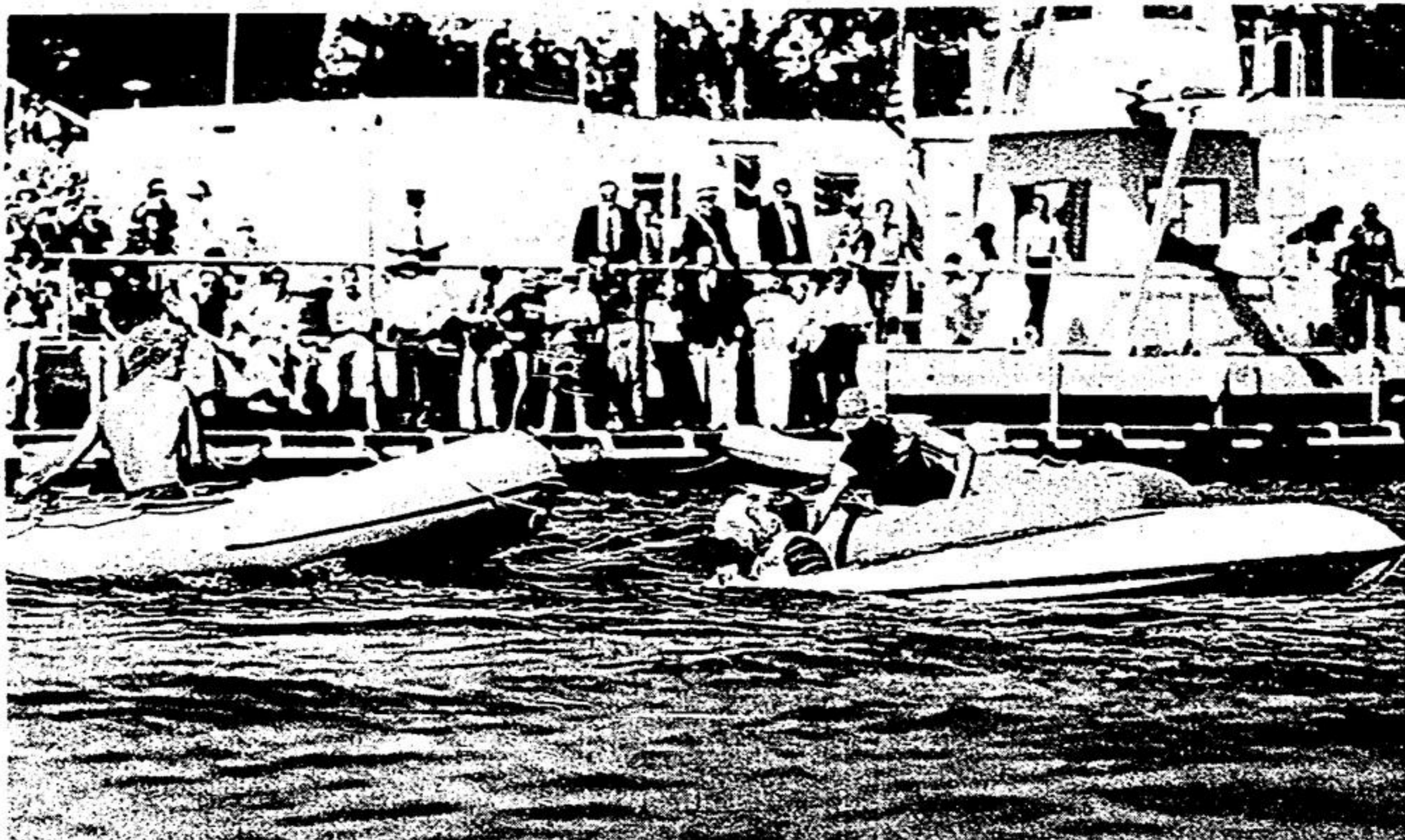
Following receipt of submissions, the committee will draft a list of alternatives for such a body, and present them in a series of public meetings to be held in both the north and south of the region.

The committee's meetings are open to the public and will begin at 9:30 a.m. on both dates in September, at the Health Unit, 22 Prospect Street.

Briefs may be addressed to Alan Wells at the Health Unit.



"Better safe than sorry" seems to be the motto of Mayor Gord Ratcliff as he anxiously watches "trainer" councillor Eldred King, fasten his life jacket. As it turned out, he made good use of it.



To the delight of hundreds of spectators, Mayor Gord Ratcliff ended up in the drink at the CNE Mayors Bathub race. A combination of poor seamanship and bad luck proved his undoing.

## Councillors fear regional transit control

**NEWMARKET** — It was the "thin edge of the wedge" for the region's eventually take-over of municipal transit systems and Aurora Mayor George Timpson didn't like it.

Together with Markham Councillor Ron Moran, the mayor led a fight last week against recommendations of an engineering staff report that outlined York's future role in local transit.

They lost. Why were the two men, supported by Richmond Hill Councillor Louis Wainwright, so opposed to a report that suggests nothing more for the present than that the region act as co-ordinator for transit in York?

Simply put, they don't believe it will stop there.

And they're afraid for local control of municipal transit.

They feel that local

residents have carried, through their taxes, the cost of the transit deficits so that local routes could be built.

And they don't want to see control of the routes pass over to the region.

The Regional Transit Role Study was put together at the request of council in March of 1975.

The idea was to identify what role York should play in satisfying present of future transit needs, and how it should assume such responsibilities.

Its major finding was that transit systems need to be better co-ordinated.

And its major recommendation is that, "as the next step in this evolutionary process", York assume the role of co-ordinator.

Among its 10 recommendations, passed by a 43 vote at committee last week and due to come before

council for approval tomorrow, were:

that the region initiate additional transit studies to improve existing service;

that area municipalities advise the region before making changes in their systems;

that regional staff continue "conceptual" transit planning (short and long-range transit network plans);

that regional staff assist area municipalities when requested; and

that regional staff annually assess transit responsibilities.

Although the report points out that it asks only for co-ordinating authority for York, it also states that "the assumption of a full transit role by the region, is seen as an evolutionary process which must begin now with the region assuming effective co-ordination type

responsibilities in transit".

It was the latter comment that had Mayor Timpson and Councillor

### Expansion feared

(Continued from page 1) people must be hired on a grant, and they must be unemployed people hired through Canada Manpower offices.

While Mayor Schiller said that he thought the chief administrator was "going to buck this thing till it fades into the woodwork," Chairman Wright argued that all tenants had leases and lawyers to help them sign the forms.

While social service director Alan Wells explained that the Canada Works suggestion had been made last month by the committee itself, Councillor Moran continued to argue for more qualified personnel.

Moran talking about the "thin edge of the wedge". "You're offering technical advice now. So in 1977 it's going to be

free. In 1980 we're going to be paying—it's the thin edge of the wedge," said Mayor Timpson.

"If you're recommending only an advisory role, that's fine. But I really think you're going farther," Councillor Moran added.

Both men received criticism from committee chairman Ray Twinn, who accused the two of "thinking only locally" instead of considering the transit needs of the entire region.

They denied the charge, arguing that municipal autonomy over transit systems was of importance to all areas.

And councillors and staff on both sides of the dispute left grumbling in private that the issue is really more than the establishment of a landlord-tenant bureau — that it was one of expansion of the region's social service department, and whether the branch was attempting to "empire build."

Behind the position is the argument that because the region raises its money through property taxes, its responsibility lies in the provision of physical services. Social services should be provided either through private agencies, or through the region.

Supporters of the bureau, in speaking privately, feel that social services are given no more than a token nod, with the real aim of the region being a sharp containment of service expansion.

They argue that York takes a backward approach in restricting itself to roads and sewer construction, and that the provision of social services — the first to be cut in financially hard times — becomes more important when money is scarce and social problems multiply.



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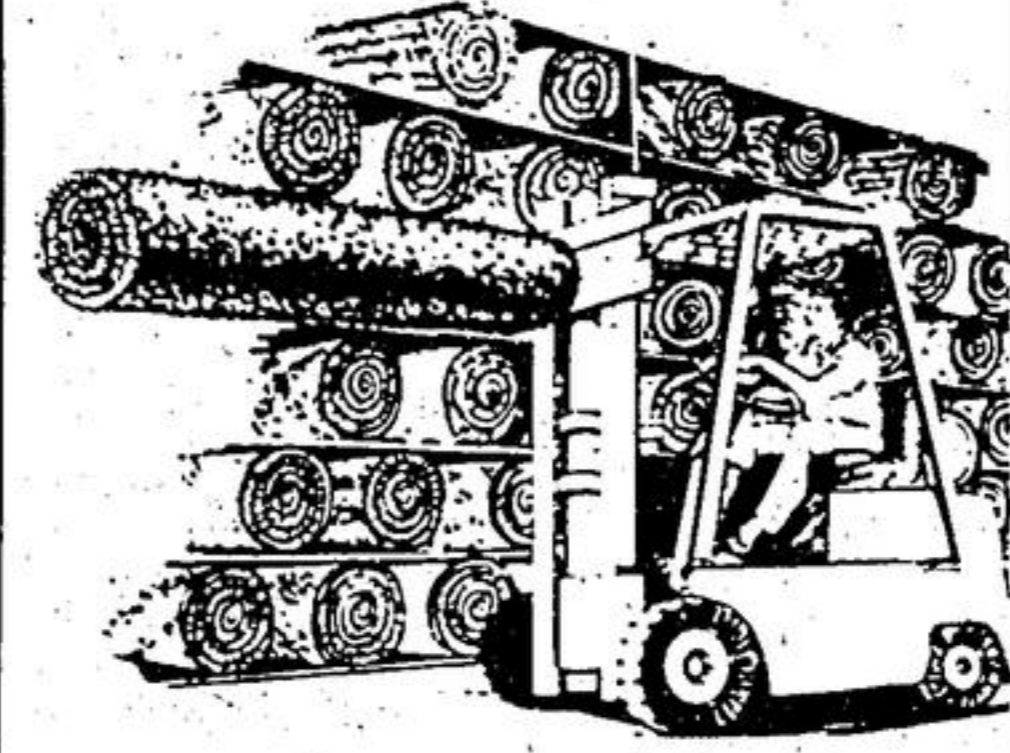
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## Development bank will lend cash to entrepreneurs

The Canadian Development Bank visited Markham recently to help out people wanting to start their own business.

Ron Leavitt, representing the Bank, was at a Markham motel last Wednesday to discuss just what the bank does for small businesses.

"We are an information service as well as a financial one," Mr. Leavitt said. "If someone has gone to a chartered bank and been refused a loan concerning a business deal then they can come to us as a last resort."

He explained there are certain criteria involved before the company will give out a loan, and they are: management, earning power, ability to repay debt, the person's own investment in the business and his security.

"Not every one of these have to be met absolutely. If you had good management and earning power, but are bad on capital investment, we still might go ahead with the loan, depending on how strong you were in the other areas. We deal with each case individually," Mr. Leavitt commented.

The company represents basically a last chance for many who want to start their own business but have been turned down for any reason. However, the bank does charge higher than usual interest rates for their loans, partly because they are in a higher risk situation.

"We have to be sure that the business stands a good chance of succeeding before we commit ourselves. There also has to be a definite financial commitment on

the person's part to prove to us he is serious about his business. Depending on the amount of money involved, we sometimes expect a 50 per cent involvement on the part of the person," he said.

Mr. Leavitt commented that businesses have been turned down, usually because of an unstable market for the business.

"If someone came in wanting to start a furniture business we would be very reluctant to help them because of the economic situation. Very few homes are being built so the market for furniture is tight. We would probably offer them some advice to consider other alternatives."

Information is the other big part in the bank's function. They hold seminars on different business subjects and they are available

one day a month to talk to people with business problems. They are also willing to go out to a person's place of business to talk and see the operation.

Besides operating in Markham, which also covers anyone in Whitchurch - Stouffville, the bank travels to Newmarket, Sutton, Aurora and surrounding areas.

The next date in Markham is September 14, and anyone is welcome to come down and talk. If one wishes to get in direct touch before that date, call 1-638-0823, the main office at Bathurst and Sheppard Ave. in Toronto.

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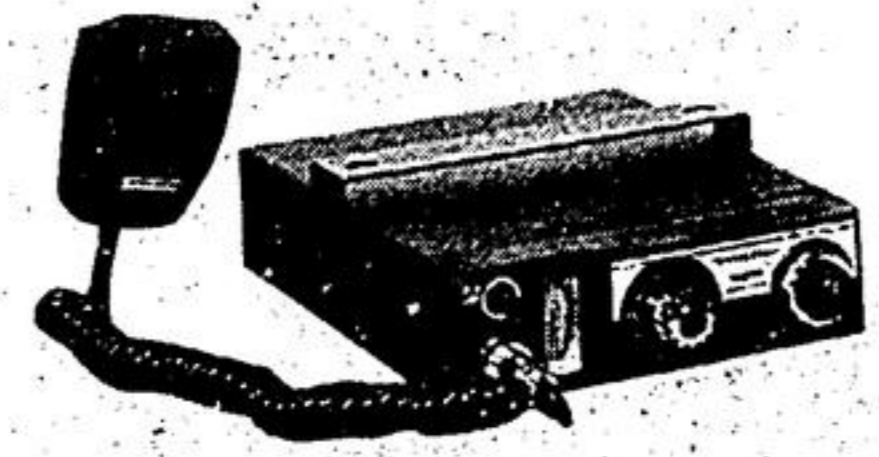
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