

Hostel may be located in York

NEWMARKET — An emergency hostel could soon become a reality in York Region.

At least that's the hope of a small group of social service agency workers who've banded together to form a non-profit corporation called Project Hostel.

They're hoping to secure government grants that will enable the project to get on its feet.

While the workers — who originally comprised the Emergency Housing

Registry — all have backgrounds in provision of short-term emergency accommodation in private homes, the hostel proposal is an entirely new concept.

But they aren't going into the campaign without some experienced help. Anne Cools, executive director of Women In Transition, a Toronto hostel geared to helping mothers and children moving out of their homes and into lives of their own, met with

Project Hostel members last week and promised the group both moral support and any resource material needed to launch the program.

The York project will fill a definite need, according to Ms Cools.

"In outlying areas there is a lack of emergency housing," she noted.

That vacuum deprives people of the right to solve their problems without moving far from their home area,

added the director of the Toronto hostel.

To Helen Hamilton the lack of a York Region shelter is more than just a matter of rights.

With no hostel available, the battered wives Mrs. Hamilton hopes to help can only be given temporary shelter before being forced to return to their homes.

"Most women have to go back to their husbands because we don't have a place for them to go," she said Sunday. "You just try to take them out of the emergency situation."

In Georgina Township alone, Mrs. Hamilton has been called in to aid an estimated 20 battered wives during the past six months.

Lyn Robertson, the Family and Children's Services volunteer director who chairs Project Hostel, said a shelter, while serving more than mothers and children, will initially draw its largest response from women and their youngsters.

"We can place a lot of the singles up here," she explained, "but who wants a mother with four kids? The evidence we have at Family and Children's Services is that every month or two months we have mothers who have been evicted."

Currently FCS sends the most urgent cases to Toronto shelters such as Women in Transition.

In doing so, the mother's case is assumed

by Metro Toronto social service agencies.

"They're right outside our jurisdiction so we lose them," explained Mrs. Robertson.

The mother suffers from more than the loss of contact with her home social service agency.

"Many are lost in the big city," said the project chairman, "and to them that's scary."

That doesn't mean that mothers should remain in their home community, however.

The most likely location for a shelter is the heavily-populated Yonge St. corridor.

Helen Hamilton, accepting that fact that Georgina mothers will have to go south for help, favors an Aurora — Richmond Hill locale.

Such sites are closer to jobs, counselling and social services that prove valuable in helping a mother get established on her own, she explained.

Buoyed by informal discussions with Ms Cools last week, Mrs. Robertson said staffing the York shelter should prove no problem.

"The applications you get for these kinds of positions are astounding," she noted.

Ms Cools stressed the need for a staff that can work well with people and, at the outset, accept the low wages associated with such fledgling projects.

Not only do staff

members have to be dedicated and committed, there has to be a dedication within the organizing committee before the project gets off the ground, she added.



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The above is a scene from the upcoming Nativity play Birth of Kings. The puppet show will be seen this Friday, Dec. 16 at the Stouffville United Church. Tickets can be

purchased at the Whitchurch - Stouffville Library or from UCW members. The puppets were created by Mary Baggs and Diane Passafiume.

New Pickering taxi bylaw

PICKERING — The new Pickering taxi bylaw, to be approved by council Monday night,

represents a radical change in the Pickering bylaw. Under the old bylaw,

an applicant would apply for a license, would be put on a waiting list and as licenses became available or were created the people at the top of the list would be offered the licenses.

There could, in effect, be an unlimited number of taxi cab licenses.

The town requirements are that the applicant be able to read and write and speak English, be over 18, pass a test on knowledge of the town's geography and supply a doctor's certificate verifying that the

applicant is physically able to drive a cab.

The fees are: for driver's license \$10; owner's license is \$75; and to renew owner's license is \$100 per annum.

The taxi industry in the town is expected to make its comments on the new bylaw at Monday night's council meeting.

Sylvia Moustacalis, co-ordinator, said there

were 15 placements in November for people who needed a place to stay for a week or two.

She said the service is needed because there is a lack of low-cost rental housing in the region.

"This is only a stop-gap measure. It doesn't end the housing problem."

Ms. Moustacalis said York is notoriously lacking in low-rent housing, with Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) apartments only in Sutton and Aurora.

OHC also subsidizes 13 senior citizen apartment buildings in the region.

Ontario Housing requires the support of municipal councils, and most councils in York have been reluctant to cooperate.

But 12 residents have not been reluctant to offer their homes for emergency housing.

People on welfare, children's aid wards, and others have thus had a place to say-temporarily at least.

Jane and Laurence Wilson of Richmond Hill are one couple who helped the situation, taking in five homeless people.

"We saw the service mentioned in the newspaper," said Mrs. Wilson. "Our house is bigger than we could use, so we thought it was the least we could do."

The Wilsons have one child, a 2½-year-old girl who "breaks the ice" when someone new moves in for a week or two, Mrs. Wilson said.

Housing service places one a day

NEWMARKET — York Region's emergency housing service is now finding accommodation for about one person every working day.

Sylvia Moustacalis, co-ordinator, said there

Stephens elected chairman

AURORA — Thornhill trustee John Stephens will soon be known as Chairman John Stephens after winning election to the York County Board of Education's top seat Monday night on the first ballot.

Opposing the separate school representative for the chairman's position were vice chairman Doreen Quirk and Markham trustee Donald Couens.

Stouffville trustee Harry Bowes ran unopposed for the vice chairman's seat and was elected by acclamation.

Prior to the vote, Craig Cribar put forth a motion that the elections of chairman and vice-chairman take place in the same manner, that is, by a secret ballot as opposed to the way they used to be run.

Prior to the meeting the chairman elect took the chair and then the

vice-chairman was elected.

Aurora trustee Norm Weller said in a jocular vein, that as the new chairman and vice chairman won't officially take office until the initial meeting in January, "If we have a change

of heart between now and then, can we take another vote at that meeting?"

To which, Mr. Cribar, the outgoing Chairman, responded, "This board has been known to change not only its heart but also its kind and several other parts of its anatomy in the past, so that

possibility is a distinct one."

After his election, Mr. Stephens said he was moved by the trust shown in him by the other trustees and he extended his thanks to Mr. Couens and Mrs. Quirk for the way they ran their campaigns.

Students could be charged for materials

AURORA — The York County Board of Education wants to charge elementary students \$4 a year to pay for pencils, paper, etc., and also wants to levy a security deposit on textbooks.

The boards finance committee made the recommendations to the board at its last regular meeting Monday night.

"Recommended that all elementary students be charged the sum of \$2 per student twice a year, with a maximum of \$8 per family per school," said the recommendation, "for miscellaneous consumable supplies such as pencils, paper etc., and that a security deposit of \$3 per student, to a maximum of \$6 per family, be collected to ensure the return of text

books in good condition, or to otherwise cover the cost of replacement."

The deposit will be refunded at the end of the year on satisfactory receipt by the school of the text books.

It was also recommended that a deposit fee of \$7 per year be collected from all secondary school students to ensure the return of their text books in good condition.

Same members for museum

BROUGHAM — The 1976-77 Pickering Museum Advisory Committee members have been re-appointed for 1978 by Pickering Executive Committee.

The appointments are to be confirmed at Pickering council this coming Monday.

The members are Wally Biernacki, Chairman; Ron Hoar, Joan Marr, Gwen Mowbray, and representing the town are Tom Quinn, director and Joan Alfrey, and Tom Quinn, director.

In Mr. Quinn's monthly report to council

he points out that the committee is still in deliberation on the consultants' reports for moving the museum from Brougham to Greenwood.

He said hopefully they will choose the consultants within the next few weeks and a recommendation to council will be coming in the next month.

The present museum site has been expropriated for the proposed Pickering airport.

Under the new bylaw that is all thrown out and anyone who meets the requirements and who lives in the town, can get a license to own a cab.

Donut shop damaged

A Stouffville man has been charged with mischief, after the Country Style Donut store on Main St. E., Stouffville was damaged early Wednesday, Dec. 7.

A disturbance was reported at the shop at 3:10 a.m., and when police arrived they found holes punched in the walls of the premises.

Terence Stephen Cogar, 19, of 101 Tindale Rd., Stouffville, was arrested and charged, and will appear at court Jan. 17.

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