

Lawyers apologize to police

NEWMARKET — In regret over the adverse publicity resulting from its allegations of police misconduct, the Commission was read a letter from Robert F. Evans, president of the Association. He told the chief "I know that other members of the association regret, as I do, any embarrassment to the regional police force caused by unfortunate publicity."

Mr. Evans emphasized that only one or two criminal lawyers have received complaints from clients regarding police treatment. He told the chief a special committee has been established to determine whether there is any substance to such complaints.

Charges of police misconduct were brought to light Dec. 1 when Alf Stong, a Richmond Hill lawyer and Liberal M.P.P. for York Centre, read a letter in the Legislature which he explained, was being circulated to lawyers in York by the North York Law Association.

The letter stated certain members of the association had advised the executive that cases of misconduct by the York Regional Police Department have become so frequent and involve so many officers that lawyers are now concerned regarding the standard of police protection.

Mr. Evans however in his letter to the police chief informed him "As of yet it has not been determined that there has been any problem and I personally am not aware of any problem." Mr. Evans pointed out that the executive of the law association feels it is the responsibility of the association to consider matters of concern to the lawyers of the area.

Mr. Evans said "I suppose that all organizations and associations from time to time consider matters of concern to their members, and that was simply our intention."

The president assured Mr. Crawford "I personally have the greatest respect for the York Regional Police Force and all the Police Forces and with the individual officers that whom I have had dealings over the years."

The special steering committee set up by the association last week will be headed by Newmarket lawyer Bruce McChesney, who made it very clear last week, that "We do not want to be in conflict with the York Regional Police Force, we do not intend to be witch-hunting or to blacken the reputation of the force." Mr. McChesney pointed out "We all live in this community and want to do what is best for it."

The above Markham Bus is ready to roll with a full load of public school passengers. The bus is part of the Dickson Hill Public School annual Christmas program. The home made vehicle is used in a sketch put on by the grade five class. The passengers, from left to right are: Joey Risk, Robert Reeser, Teresa Toews and Ken Burrows. The program got underway yesterday (Wednesday) for the grade five to eight classes. The kindergarten to grade four classes hold their programs today, starting at 9 a.m. —Keith Bolender

CUT THIS OUT AND TUCK IT IN YOUR CHILD'S STOCKING.



Dear.....

Sometimes when I look at you sleeping or playing, it's like Christmas all over again.

I think how lucky I am to have a child who is so loving and so healthy.

And sometimes when I look at you and my eyes fill with pride and joy, I lose sight of the fact that there are other parents who are not quite as lucky as I am.

They have children who cannot run and play the way you do. In fact there are children who are not spending today with their parents because they are sick and need to be in the hospital.

I know that if you were able to yourself, you would want to help these children and lots of others like them. That's the kind of person you are. And because I know this, I have made a small gift in your name to the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation. The money they receive from you will help a lot of boys and girls, not just today, but in the future.

Through gifts like yours,.....thousands and thousands of children have been helped to overcome their illnesses and lead a more normal life. Thanks to your gift they will be able to help many more.

Today when some of your friends drop by, before you tell them what Santa got you for Christmas, tell them what you gave to a lot of children. Maybe they will give too.

I love you.....
And Merry Christmas.

Love,.....

TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN FOUNDATION.
P.O. Box 3939, Terminal "A", Toronto M5W 1G8

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The Hospital For Sick Children Foundation

This ad has been paid for by Friends of the Foundation.

Trustees reject junior high schools director submits recommendations

AURORA — The York County Board of Education is going to stick with its position adopted several years ago, to develop a school system with two levels of schooling, kindergarten to Grade 8 and Grades 9 to 13.

The board agreed on this decision at the regular meeting Dec. 12. Known as the two tier system, it recognizes the special needs of adolescents and every effort will be made to meet them in the administrative organization.

Director of education Sam Chapman proposed five recommendations that were approved by the board: the two tier system be continued; Grade 7 and Grade 8 programs be upgraded; no new extensive study of the problem be undertaken; parents are to be involved early when changes in grade accommodation or in boundaries are contemplated and that it be recognized that many people in the community have strong convictions on such matters and they should be "heard out."

Oak Ridges, Trustee Bob Houghton added a sixth recommendation that staff report on what is needed and where, in the way of upgrading Grade 7 and 8 programs.

The director told the board that senior public school, or as they are sometimes known as, junior high schools, were set up in various jurisdictions at a time when the school systems were expanding.

"Since these schools draw their students from beyond the local community, in a time when enrolments are declining it would be necessary for them to draw from an even wider area, requiring changes in boundaries and increased busing costs. They would also be drawing students away from local community schools which are themselves emptying because of declining enrolments," said Mr. Chapman, in a four page report to the board.

He also mentioned it is impossible to determine if the two tier system or the three tier system produces more competent students, despite the fact there have been various studies of both systems.

"One study did purport to show that the three tier arrangement produced better students," he said, "but included the information that these students had higher intelligence ratings than the group they were compared with."

Stouffville trustee Harry Bowes said it is ridiculous to start thinking about this, noting that Ottawa is planning to close six senior public schools and that both North York and Toronto are considering merging their middle tier schools.

"We have to have a flexible position," he said.

Booze survey to go down the drain

AURORA — The York County Board of Education refused to allow Info Results Limited, a Toronto-based research company, to conduct a survey among elementary and secondary school students.

Info Results, which is currently conducting a study under contract with the Ministry of Education on the effects of alcohol use on students, classrooms and school activities, sent the board a sample of the questions it would use in the survey.

Questions such as: During the past six months, how many times did you drink beer, wine or liquor with teachers from this school? and Since Sept. 1977, how many times did you steal something worth more than \$5 at this school because you drank beer, wine or liquor?

Gormley trustee Eric Baker said the questions were leading and said the way the questions were worded "suggests that children should have these experiences."

Vice Chairman Doreen Quirk said she would be prepared to permit the survey, provided the questions were changed from things like, During the past six months, how often have you used tranquilizers? to "Have you used tranquilizers in the past six months? If yes, how often?"

Faces drug charges

NEWMARKET — An illegal immigrant living in the Mount Albert area has been convicted on a charge of failing to report his presence to the immigration authorities, and has also been sent for trial on charges of drug trafficking following his appearance in provincial court here last week.

Bruno Prezto was arrested and charged last November after police went to his Mount Albert home with a search warrant and discovered a quantity of cocaine and marijuana.

The court was told that Mr. Prezto entered Canada illegally from the United States and though working here has never obtained a work permit.

Mr. Prezto will appear for trial in a Toronto Court Feb. 6.

Illegal immigrant convicted

\$3,000 fire at car wash

STOUFFVILLE — A faulty extension cord has been blamed for starting a \$3,000 fire at Stouffville Car Wash, Sunday evening.

Police said the fire broke out in the control room of the premises, located on Winona Dr.

Stouffville Fire Department were called out. The \$3,000 estimate of damage came from Fire Chief Walt Smith.

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