

Alma Walker

First woman fair president

By Keith Bolender
MARKHAM — Alma Walker has accomplished something no woman has done in 122 years.

Mrs. Walker has achieved the distinction of becoming the first woman president in the history of the Markham Fair Board.

She was voted the post last week at the annual meeting, following her position as first vice president.

Interviewed by the Tribune a few days after the meeting, Alma said she felt no added pressure in being the first woman president, and that her goal "is to be as good as the last 122 presidents. If I can do as well I will be delighted."

Alma has had a long history with the fair; she started volunteer work over 30 years ago, then worked into the directorship and also headed the ladies' exhibits.

Along with her fair work, she has also been Markham's regional councillor for the past four years, is a former mayor of Markham and has been a councillor off and on for the past 25 years.

When asked if she could handle the work load, she answered that "I'm sure I can, I know I'll be working very hard, but I enjoy work, and plenty of it. I know my job as president will be made easier by the wonderful people working for me. It's not the president that makes the fair, it's the people who volunteer their time and expertise that makes it go."

Alma, a very exuberant

lady, sees "great potential" for the Markham fairgrounds in the new location.

She noted exhibits are way up and the fair is much better planned now.

She did admit, however that small changes, such as more room for the horses and a bigger administrative building might be needed, although not for a few years.

The change in locations for many people, including Alma, brought mixed emotions.

"I admit I felt nostalgic about the move. After being involved in it for so long I wasn't sure if the move was for the best or not. But now I realize it was a great move, one that was needed, I have no doubt the fair will be better."

"However, I don't think the move will change the feeling of the fair," she said, "it will still be a country fair, a little bigger perhaps, but still with that country flavour."

Alma also conceded that she is glad she was not president last year, because of the immensity of the move.

As president, the one thing she doesn't want to be is a figurehead. "I wouldn't take the (see Lots page 3)



Alma Walker, above, was recently elected president of the Markham fair board. She is the first woman to hold the office in the fair's 122 year history.



Kim Mitchell, lead guitarist and vocalist for the rock band, Max Webster, gives a visual demonstration on how this Canadian band is taking off. The band played to an enthusiastic audience Friday night at S.D.S.S. — John Montgomery

Max Webster band rocks high school

By Bryon Hurtle
Leaping, running, jumping, the whirling dervish in the champion spark plug pajamas and red sneakers sneered at his captive audience. He repeated his performance again and again, bringing cheers. The crowd loved it!

Max Webster was in town Friday night, bringing with them the groups' lead guitarist and vocalist, Kim Mitchell. Mitchell, with his Alice Cooper style vocals, tall, skinny, freakish appearance and stringy blonde hair, provides most of the

athletic visuals for one of Canada's hottest new rock bands. The band, Toronto based, presently has two albums on the market with a third to be released March first.

With their second album,

High Class in Borrowed Shoes, about to turn gold and their third expected to be gold, Max Webster is just now taking off into the aura of stardom.

Despite this success, the band

(See Max page 3)



Three point landing

On first glance Jane Rutledge appears to be piloting this bridge at Bruce's Mill Conservation area. Such is not the case, though; Ms Rutledge was merely descending the slope off the bridge using the one method that guaranteed she couldn't

fall. A large crowd was on hand at the park Sunday for the African Ski-Fari held by the African Medical and Research Foundation.

— John Montgomery

Anderson Haulage study tabled for 'discussion'

It is amazing how long a potato can hold heat. The Don Anderson Haulage hot potato was gingerly juggled once again at the Jan. 17 Planning Board meeting.

The trucking company is applying for a zoning change in the official plan, a change supported by both town council and the planning board. The company wishes to move from their present site on Highway 47, north of Stouffville, to a new site on the north side of Highway 47 on the town's western approach. The new site is presently zoned rural and Anderson's application calls for the land to be zoned industrial.

A letter to the planning board from James Faulkner and Associates, town planning consultants, indicates that the study of the Stouffville approach area and the proposed Anderson amendment should be amplified to policy form and included as part of the interim official plan. The study should include all the land from Highway 48 to some point in the town, preferably the old village limits of Stouffville, and that this study envision the approach area as "essentially industrial and compatible with a highly aesthetic environment."

Essentially, the study would compare the effect of industrial development in the approach area, with and without hard services.

Eldred King, chairman of the planning board, seemed to feel that the interim official plan called for no hard services to be

provided in the approach area for at least five years. Councillor Bill Kamps pointed out that councils and planning boards can and do change their minds from time to time.

It was on the basis that the truck terminal did not need hard services that it was allowed to proceed with their application for amending the zoning. Councillor June Button pointed out that the provision of hard services to the approach area might entice businesses with higher assessments to the area, and Councillor Becky Wedley felt that the extension of services would mesh with the Dulverton development to bring more jobs and population to the town.

The board felt that provision of hard services to the area might result in a further extension of the sewage treatment plant as the interim official plan has the present plant and the new extension filled to capacity.

They also felt that the proposed \$3,000 fee for the study indicated the possibility that the planning consultant had overestimated the extent and depth to which the town wished to study the area.

Councillor Wedley pointed out that eventually a plan would be needed and that the board should go ahead with the study.

Planning board decided to have further discussion with the consultants before coming to a final decision.

Contractor defrauded couple three years ago

NEWMARKET — A former Toronto Construction Co. owner pleaded guilty to a charge of fraud before Provincial Judge M.A. Charles here last week.

John Marc Leblanc aged 52 has been given until Feb. 8 to come up with some of the money which he defrauded a young Whitchurch-Stouffville couple three years ago.

Leblanc, operating Blue Water Construction, defrauded Mr. and Mrs. Don Walker of \$2,700 for work which he never

completed at their Whitchurch-Stouffville home.

The court was told that the accused man disappeared with the money after a verbal agreement to complete the work.

"The principal concern here is for the Walkers to regain the money they lost," Crown Attorney Ken Murray told the court.

Judge Charles in agreement told Leblanc he has until February 8th to come up with \$300 "to show good faith" before being sentenced.

Says Chief Crawford

More police needed

NEWMARKET — York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford believes that additional men are needed for the Regional Police Force to combat an 11 per cent rise in the crime rate.

Crimes of violence, particularly, have increased according to statistics presented at last week's meeting of the Regional Police Commission. All categories of violent crime are up except those of murder and manslaughter, substantial increases are also noted in other categories including thefts, breaking and entering and vandalism.

Chief Crawford in his report told commissioners that one of the reasons for the increase in crime statistics, may be the population increase within the Region over the past year of 6,500 people. An increase which is only three per cent however

compared to the 11 per cent jump in crime rates.

Chief Crawford says the strength of the Regional Police Force has not been increased sufficiently to keep up with the increase in population, adding 13,500 people have moved into the Region since men were last hired.

The chief said it is difficult to compare York Region crime statistics with those of other municipalities as there are no

Silver Jubilee awarded grant

STOUFFVILLE — Silver Jubilee Club has been awarded a federal New Horizons grant of \$1,800.

The senior citizen's organization will use the funds to replace the heating unit in their centre on Main St.

standards. "Metro looks good this year, last year they were up 13.5 per cent," Chief Crawford noted, adding that he is unaware of figures for Peel or Durham Regions. "I don't know what formula they use for obtaining their statistics" he told the board.

Chief Crawford said that York Regions Police Force has been fortunate, however, in holding the clearance rate at 53 per cent. He described the jump in crime statistics as "alarming."

Board member Ray Twinney of Newmarket told the members that the type of crimes being committed is in accordance with the times. He noted that prostitution is up 100 per cent over figures for last year.

Chief Crawford warned the commission that cases of wilful damage "are almost out of control."



Don't let the two pucks in the above picture fool you. The shot was taken at last Saturday's Showdown competition and the puck travelling past the goalie and into the net is the one just fired by the Bantam player. The other puck in the foreground is a previously

unsuccessful attempt by the shooter. Each shooter had four attempts to score and the one-on-one situation provided numerous acrobatic poses like the one above. For further pic and results, see page 9. — Keith Bolender.