



Sale preparation

Laura Edwards, 9, (left) and her friends Tracey Sherman and Sarie Lowe (centre), also 9, prepare for the Saturday, Oct. 1, rummage sale which will help raise money for the Ontario Deaf Scholarship Fund. The rummage sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 113 Westwood Lane — Jill Janson

Richmond Hill group enters dome derby

By KEVIN SHEEHY
Richmond Hill has entered the domed stadium competition.

Last Tuesday Richmond Hill representatives made their presentation to the provincial Stadium Study Committee, touting the former Langstaff Jail Farm, near Hwys. 11 (Yonge St.) and 11, as the ideal location for the proposed facility.

The town's proposal was unveiled to the press last Wednesday, with detailed explanation of the advantages of the location by Mayor Al Duffy, MPP Don Cousens, Regional Chairman Bob Forhan, town planning commissioner Bill Power and town consultant on the proposal, architect Joe Bogdan.

The town's proposal centres on three points — the jail farm is centrally located in the Metro Toronto area, it's already well served by public transit and highways, and development of the remainder of the property, by the province, could help pay for the facility.

Mayor Duffy summed up why the town thinks the sight is right noting, "We're talking about it being on Yonge Street which is really main street, Ontario."

One of the keys to the town's submission is its strategy in the financing of the stadium. The town suggests that the province secure ownership of the property from the City of Toronto, the current owner.

A crown corporation could then develop the 500-acre site, which would help pay for the stadium, the town proposal suggests.

"The town's plans for the property call for a mixed use development of industry, commerce and housing," said Mr. Bogdan. "This would permit a plan for financing of the stadium."

"There's a total of five million square feet of developable land," he said. "So the possibilities of financial trade-offs are very excellent."

Mr. Bogdan, who devised the town's submission, said the stadium would use about 40 acres of the jail farm. It would be immediately served by 10,000 parking spots with an additional 11,500 parking spots available at surrounding industries.

Transportation to the stadium would be simple, he said, noting the property is adjacent to Yonge Street and Hwy. 7, while Hwy. 404 is a short distance away.

The new Hwy. 407, approved by the province, will run along the southern bound-

ary of the property, Mr. Bogdan pointed out.

Mr. Bogdan said GO Transit plans to build a new commuter rail station on the jail farm, which could have an enclosed pedestrian walkway which leads into the stadium.

As well, Yonge GO buses service the jail farm, he said.

"It can also accommodate parking for 160 buses," he said. "What this site means is it would not be necessary to develop an expensive transit system to the stadium."

"The site could have as many as eight access points from the surrounding road systems," he said. "We believe this is a major asset in clearing the site after an event."

The jail farm is already served by the York Durham Sanitary Sewer System which allows for development to start immediately, he said. As well, the water table is low on the property so it won't hamper any development of the property, Mr. Bogdan said.

"THE BEST SITE"

"We are absolutely convinced this is the best site in the Metro area and in southern Ontario," he commented. "It could serve as a northern landmark of Metro Toronto."

Mr. Power noted the site is centrally located and is a short driving distance from Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke.

"In those three municipalities, there are 1.5 million people right on our doorstep," he said.

Mayor Al Duffy said the province should also consider adding sports training facilities next to the domed stadium.

"I think the one need for our amateur athletes is training facilities," he said. "I think the province should build the stadium and there would certainly be the potential to add more facilities."

Mr. Cousens called the site "one of the major places for a domed stadium in Ontario."

He pointed out that "Canada's Wonderland (in Maple) picked their site because of its centrality to a large population. The same applies to this site."

Mayor Al Duffy emphasized that while Toronto owns the jail farm, the city has no objection to Richmond Hill touting the property as a site for the stadium.

"I think the province has many options in acquiring the land," the mayor added. "They can buy it, trade sites or whatever."

Region makes report for economy hearing

By DENNIS SMITH
Federal job funding is frequently not used by municipalities because program criteria are too narrow and approval delays too long, says York Regional Chairman Bob Forhan.

Regional officials will suggest that these problems and others be rectified, in a brief to the MacDonald Royal Commission on the economy.

Council agreed at last week's meeting to have the brief drawn up, brought before it, and then sent to the commission.

Mr. Forhan said concern over federal job-creation programs is a major reason the submission is being made. Canadian municipalities have left \$28 million unspent for such projects, he noted.

"The bottom line is to create jobs," said the chairman. "We're saying 'Don't narrow the projects so much, because it leaves no flexibility to apply for funds.'"

For example, federal money has been offered to municipalities recently to plant trees and build washrooms. However, many local municipalities had already done so, and couldn't use the funds, said Mr. Forhan.

He'd like to see federal job creation projects broadened, so local municipalities

can use more of the funds offered.

Mr. Forhan also feels the job programs move too slowly. Spring building projects often don't get final approval until the fall, he noted.

"The federal government should be dealing more directly with the municipalities," he suggested.

Mr. Forhan also cited uncontrollable spending increases, such as in welfare payments, as another major worry for the Region.

He'd also like to see Canada adopt a well-defined economic strategy and deal better with changes in technology and trade patterns.

Markham mayor Tony Roman feels government deficits and overtaxation are two important problems the MacDonald commission should examine.

"In Markham we attempt to watch dollars closely," he said. "We're not perfect yet, but we're paying more attention to coming up with real dollar savings."

He feels there may be better ways of providing services in the country, without raising taxes.

Mr. Roman would also like to see Canada improve its productivity and become more aggressive in world trade.

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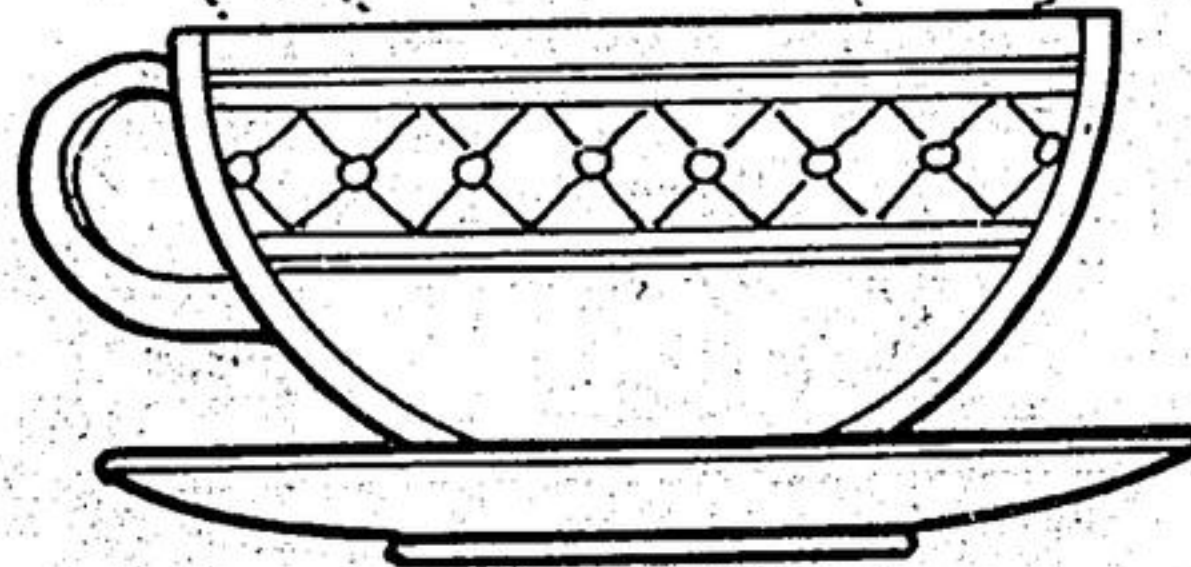
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