



'Sale'ing along

Bake and crafts sales are doing brisk business locally, as Christmas draws closer. ABOVE: Linda Dennis and Betty Keeling serve customers at the recent annual bazaar held by

Grace Anglican Church. BELOW: The annual Christmas craft show of the Markham Guild of Village Crafts, drew good crowds to the Markham Community Centre. — Francis King



Twas the month before Christmas
And all through the town
Pens were heard scratching
Getting story ideas down...

Enter the
Economist and Sun/Markville
Christmas Story Contest

Resident El Francis King invites all you budding Dickensians to enter the first Annual Economist and Sun/Markville Christmas Story Contest. This is your golden opportunity to dust off the old Underwood, put pen to paper and wax poetic. For your trouble you could win the personal satisfaction of seeing your effort in print in the Economist & Sun, or the pecuniary satisfaction of a \$50 gift certificate from the merchants at Markville. Simply follow the rules below and mail or deliver your entry to the Economist & Sun at 728 Main St. N., Markham, before the entry deadline. Good luck and good writing.



- Rules:
- Contest is open to all residents in Markham, Unionville or Milliken in three categories - 12 and under, 13-17 and adult (18 or over)
 - Maximum length of each story must be: 12 and under - 1,000 words; 13-17 - 1,500 words; 18 and over - 2,000 words
 - Stories must incorporate Christmas or the Festive Season into their storylines, but need not deal with a Christmas related topic.
 - All entries must be original and should be submitted no later than Wednesday Dec. 7 at 5 p.m.
 - Decision of the judges is final. Entries will be judged on originality, interest and entertainment value.

Economist & Sun
markville
SHOPPING CENTRE

Land division powers change

BY FRANCIS KING
Staff Reporter

York Region's nine municipalities — including Markham — have made their wishes known about the regional land division committee, with several deciding to drop out of it.

Five municipalities — Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Georgina and Aurora — have stated they want the land division powers for their areas. Vaughan, East Gwillimbury, Stouffville and King Township have opted to leave their land division with a regional committee.

(The land division committee looks after applications to divide up land lots for housing and other developments. Markham taxpayers have contributed about \$70,000 to run the committee, but under the province's new planning act, municipalities can take the responsibility back from the regional level.)

"The sooner we get rid of it up there (in Newmarket, where land division committee hearings are held), the better," said Markham councillor Doreen Quirk at a recent planning committee meeting. "We can at least save people a trip to Newmarket."

Regional Councillor Carole Bell agreed, noting trips to committee meetings are often unnecessary. "Sometimes the matter is just set aside," she said.

"It's a pain in the butt, and I don't see why we can't provide the service down here," added Ward 4 Councillor Bud Bonner.

However, councillors expressed concern about the Town being forced to continue paying its share of the regional committee costs, even after it takes back the responsibility.

(All five municipalities opting out must continue paying until the Region of York Act is revised.)

Because of this, planning committee and Council approved a resolution that will mean higher land division fees when Markham takes over land division. The higher fees will offset the regional costs the Town will have to pay.

At the regional level, councillors voted to end the present land division structure at the end of next March and request the province to change the Region's act.

Regional Information Officer John Scott said that date was picked, "in order to give the staff time to make the adjustment."

He added it will be up to Housing and Municipal Affairs Minister Claude Bennett to change the Region's act, and because of this, the region will make its request as soon as possible.

"When you're trying to get legislation changes through, you have to work quickly because there's a fairly long lead time (before the changes are made)," said Mr. Scott.

Town addition nearly finished

The new look at Markham's town office building will likely be completed by Christmas.

James Brown, office superintendent for Markham's building department, estimated the new addition to the town offices (to cost \$225,000) will be finished by early December, and ready for occupancy shortly afterwards.

"The idea is to move as soon as possible, before the weather gets bad," he said.

The addition is being built on the northwest side of the building, which will be extended right out to the parking lot. The garden area in front of the building will be retained, although some repairs will be necessary near the addition site, said Mr. Bennett.

Departments to be housed in the addition include parks and recreation (basement); building and bylaws (ground floor); and administration (second floor).

Roofing and duct work has been done recently, and floor tiling and carpet installation will follow.

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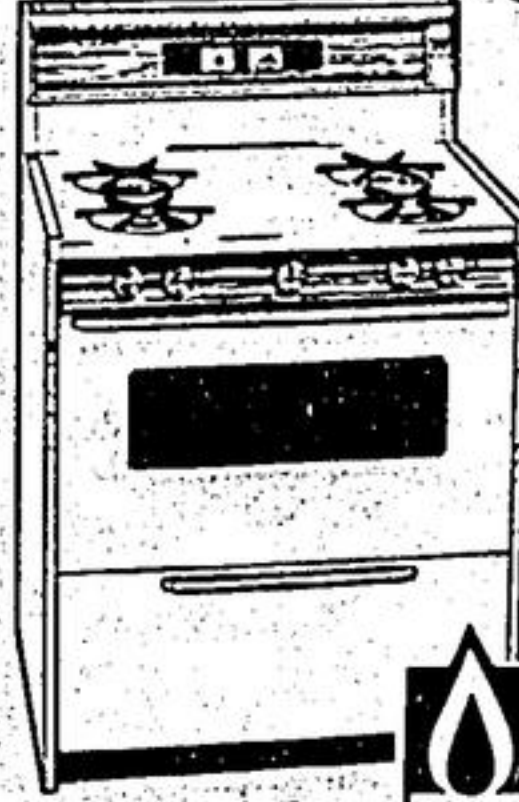
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