



How scouting began

Opening festivities for Scouting Week were held at the Markville Shopping Centre last Monday evening under the direction of Red Carlson. Jonas Pennell of the First Milliken

Mills Troop recites the history of scouting and Baden-Powell in front of the gathered troops and packs. — Sjoerd Witteveen

Region of York passes 300,000 population mark

The Regional Municipality of York surpassed the 300,000 population mark late in 1984, according to estimates prepared by the Region's Planning Department.

In a report to Regional Council on February 14, Planning Commissioner Hershel Weinberg noted the figures were estimates only, since actual enumerations are done by Provincial officials only in years when there are municipal elections. However, the estimates are based on the number of housing units and historical information on the average number of people per unit.

In September of 1983, the Provincial Assessment Office had calculated York Region's total population to be 278,140. The Planning Department's calculations for September of 1984 indicated a population of 299,544, or an increase of 21,404 over the previous year. The report indicated 4,379 housing units had been completed between January and September of 1984.

By the end of December 1984, the population was almost certainly in excess of 300,000, said Mr. Weinberg.

Commenting on the population figures, Regional Chairman Eldred King suggested the 300,000 population level marked a milestone in the Region's continuing growth and maturity. At this rate, the Region's population will have doubled between 1970 and some time in 1986.

Underlying the pure statistics of this report are the indicators that York Region

continues its powerful attraction," the chairman said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that proximity to Metropolitan Toronto is a major factor in York Region's success," he continued. "But, whether people move here for our jobs, our affordable housing, or our unique lifestyles, the fact remains they made a positive choice to re-locate in York Region. That is what is really important: people want to live in York Region and share what we have here."

The estimated September 1984 populations of each of the area municipalities, with the Provincial 1983 estimates in brackets, were: Markham - 97,196 (87,841), Vaughan - 46,096 (40,833), Richmond Hill - 42,306 (40,042), Newmarket - 32,341 (30,996), Georgina - 20,703 (19,171), Aurora - 17,580 (16,763), King - 15,603 (15,331), Whitechurch-Stouffville - 14,097 (13,560), East Gwillimbury - 13,653 (13,057).

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Banish bathroom doldrums

It's easy to banish doldrums from a well-lit bathroom. Just awaken it with living color by selecting greenery that flourishes in warmth and high humidity caused by showers and baths.

Patterned leaves make a decorative statement whether used alone or in a grouping of plain foliage. The caladium is possibly the showiest of foliage plants and earns it keep by providing flamboyant vitality with a wide variation of colors and splendid, delicate markings on tissue-thin, arrow-shaped leaves.

Be sure to situate away from drafts and direct sun. Keep the soil moist but never waterlogged, and fertilize with fish emulsion (it doesn't smell!) every two weeks when actively growing.

If a focal point is desired elsewhere, just raise humidity levels by giving a tepid water spray daily and set the pot on a moist

pebble tray. Placing humidity lovers around an aquarium is another avenue that is not only beneficial, but the area is un-



iquely brightened at the same time.

Caladiums need a vital three to five month annual rest. When leaves begin to wither, it's time to start the weaning or drying off process so reduce watering frequency and cease completely when all foliage is gone. Remove the tuber from dry

soil, dust with a fungicide/insecticide and store in perlite or dry peat moss in a dry area at 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Restart in a fresh peaty mixture.

My favorite is the delicate-looking, red-veined Prayer Plant as it's particularly exotic in appearance with a distinctive pattern on olive green leaves accented by purple undersides.

'Rabies epidemic handled well by Region', doctor

York Region should be proud of its performance during the rabies outbreak of 1984, the Region's Health and Social Services Committee was told recently.

Speaking at the Feb. 6 meeting, Dr. John Hodgkinson, Associate Medical Officer of Health, said the Region responded well when rabies in wildlife was at epidemic proportions.

He noted, even though a total of 93 cases of rabies in animals were confirmed in 1984, human exposure remained much lower than it could have been.

In total, 98 people were given vaccine treatment during 1984, compared to 51 in 1983. There were 50 confirmed cases of rabid animals in 1983.

"There could have been double the number of people on vaccine," Dr. Hodgkinson observed, "were it not for the Region's ability to contain a serious problem last summer."

Several key factors spelled the difference, he said. Heightened awareness and a commonsense approach by the people of the Region, a high level of co-operation by local councils and staff and the success of the rabies immunization clinics were all cited.

"The citizens of York" are now doing what should be done, not just dealing with crisis situations," the doctor stated. "They are aware that they have to be ready ahead of time."

Response to the public clinics for cats

and dogs was outstanding, the doctor said. Clinics conducted by members of the Toronto Academy of Veterinary Medicine and the York Veterinary Society resulted in 2,871 animals being immunized.

In addition to stemming the threat of rabies, the York Region campaign is continuing to produce positive results, he said.

For its part, the Ontario Veterinary Association is examining the possibility of establishing a Rabies Awareness Week across the Province. During that week, low-cost clinics would be combined with in-school and local media education programs.

Dr. Hodgkinson said he particularly welcomes the commitment of the local veterinarians and the close working relationship that has developed between the veterinarians and the medical officers of health in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

Symbolic proof of that relationship was evident in the fact Dr. Hodgkinson has been made an honorary member of the Toronto Academy of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition, he has been asked by the Society of Medical Officers of Health to prepare a position paper regarding guidelines for animal control practices. In this capacity, Dr. Hodgkinson told the committee, he will be working with federal veterinarians, representatives of local veterinary groups, animal control officials and municipal representatives to draft recommendations.

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