

'Pied Piper' leads in new Council

By PAULA CROWELL
Staff Reporter

Following the lead of a piper, Markham Council marched to a new tune as it held its inaugural meeting Tuesday night to kickoff a three-year term.

Pipe Major Norm Shearer led the procession into the Markham Theatre followed by Mayor Carole Bell, the rest of Markham Council and the hydro commission.

Mayor Carole made an address on the past accomplishments of Markham Council and the outlined the goals of this Council.

Her priorities include the reconstruction of 14th Ave. to handle increased traffic and two Hwy 404 interchanges — one at 16th Ave. and another between Steeles Ave. and Hwy 7.

The implementation of the 911 emergency number throughout the region and the continuation of fund raising for the Markham Stouffville Hospital are other important issues for the Town.

Mrs. Bell outlined her personal priorities as sod turning for the new municipal building, reforestation of roadsides and valleys, quality daycare for Markham residents and a Seneca College campus devoted to high technology.

Among the accomplishments of the last term Mrs. Bell listed, "The creation of two new major parks, Bishop's Cross and Centennial; the beautification and restoration of Yonge St. in Thornhill and Main St. in Unionville; the improvement of various roads, including the Unionville by-pass; the opening of Unionville High School (and) the construction of

Warrant issued

York Regional Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of a Willowdale man after more than \$5,000 worth of video tapes were not returned to Movie Movie Inc.

According to police, a man leased 150 movie videos from the Woodbine Ave. store during September and failed to return them.

Investigation revealed that the man no longer lives at the address given to the store. Attempts to locate the man have been unsuccessful.

Police are investigating.

the Markham Theatre — a show case for world class entertainers on our doorstep."

On Tuesday night the councillors were the entertainers. Mrs. Bell announced that all the elected representatives would be given the opportunity to introduce their families because "It really does become a family affair."

Mrs. Bell's guests included her mother, husband, five children, two sons-in-law and a family friend.

She asked Regional Councillor Ron Moran to begin but he hesitated, suggesting Mrs. Bell might want to make the first introduc-

tions.

"I'll introduce mine later," she said, to which Mr. Moran replied with a laugh, "I don't know if we can stay that long!"

Committee chairmen were appointed at the meeting and Mr. Moran was made Acting Mayor as the Regional Councillor with the most votes.

Chairmen for committees are Tom Newall-Building, Mike Popovich-Engineering, Doreen Quirk-Finance, Alex Chiu-Fire, Fred Cox-Parks, Elson Miles-Planning, Gord Landon-Transit, Bob Sherwood-Public Works and Ron Moran-Administration.

Mayor, MPP seek explanation over car plant location

By GREG COATES
Staff Reporter

Premier David Peterson owes Markham an explanation, say Mayor Carole Bell and York Centre MPP Don Cousens.

While disappointed that Toyota Motor Corp. will not build its \$400 million car assembly plant in Markham, Mrs. Bell and Mr. Cousens are more upset with the decision process used by the provincial government.

It was announced Thursday that the new plant will be located in Cambridge, currently an area with high employment.

According to government sources, Markham's bid was ruled out because the proposed lands east of Hwy 48 and north of Hwy 7 are currently zoned Class 1 agricultural. The land is owned by the Ontario Land Corporation.

Mayor Bell said she's disappointed with the decision and concerned with the reasons given.

"If it's a clear cut move to help an area that needs help, just come out and tell us that," she said. "Don't give us a big crock about prime agricultural land when it's a known fact that the province has been trying to unload these

lands."

A few years ago, the lands were expropriated for the ill-fated Pickering airport.

Mayor Bell said it'll be interesting to see what the government does with the land. She also plans to express her concerns with Premier Peterson.

No discussion

Mr. Cousens said the decision to locate the plant in Cambridge was arbitrarily made at Queen's Park with no discussion between the province and the Town of Markham.

"At this point I distrust the process," he said. "It's evident there was no discussion. They didn't involve the mayor or council. I'm not concerned that Cambridge is getting the plant, but with the process in which it was decided."

"Markham is one of the highest growth areas in the province and there must be a close working relationship between the community and the province," added Mr. Cousens. "What happened here was that the government closed the door on discussions and that worries me."

A copout

The York Centre MPP described the government's reasoning of Markham's land being prime agricultural as a bit of a copout.

"We know that Markham has always had good agricultural land, but we also know that Markham has prime industrial land for growth north of Metro," he said. "You can't always use the excuse of prime agricultural land."

He added that Metro Toronto is going to be one of the significant industrial centres in North America and Markham is going to benefit accordingly.

"I just hope there are better discussions in the future than what we've witnessed here," said Mr. Cousens. "I don't want to see ourselves shortchanged by the same process."

The Toyota plant will open in 1988 and employ 1,000 workers.



Pipe Major Norm Shearer led the way into the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Markham Council. The Markham Theatre was the forum for this first-class event. Mayor Carole Bell announced goals to improve transportation routes, daycare and the environment.

Paula Crowell

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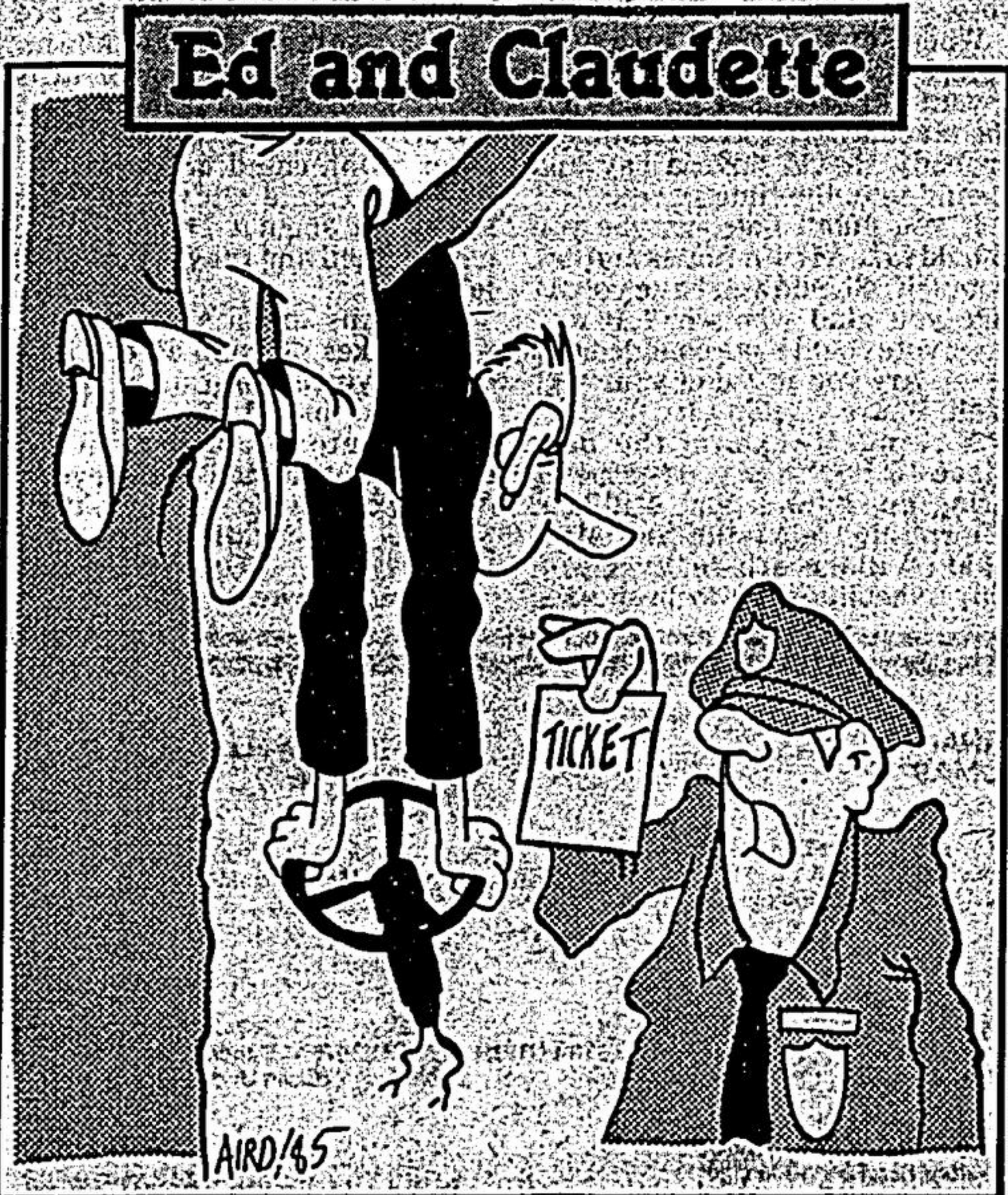
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