



One killed, one injured in Bloomington Road crash

A 71-year-old Bobcaygeon man was killed and his wife seriously injured in a head-on car-truck collision, Tuesday, on the Bloomington Road near the 9th Concession of Whitchurch-Stouffville. John Plumbtree, driver of a west-

bound 1976 Chevrolet, was pronounced dead at the scene. Marjorie Plumbtree, 67, a passenger, was injured in the crash. Driver of the eastbound gravel truck was Peter Kontosoros, 55, of Toronto. He escaped injury. — Bill Lanning



Air ambulance rushed Mrs. Plumbtree to Sunnybrook Hospital, where she remains in critical condition. Force of impact caused the gravel truck to ride overtop the car, pinning the driver and passenger beneath. A heavy derrick had to be employed to lift the truck high in the air so the victims could be released. A section of the Bloomington Road was blocked to through traffic almost two hours. — Bill Lanning

'Bylaw discriminates against religious group' lawyer says

By STEVE HOUSTON
Staff Reporter

While accusations of discrimination were hurled in council chamber Tuesday, members vetoed a local solicitor's exemption request for a religious group from Markham's interim control bylaw.

Gary Kay, a solicitor represent-

ing the Sanatan Mandir (All Faiths) church, said the town's bylaw discriminates against his clients.

He bases the accusation on exemptions given to three other churches.

The bylaw was passed in May, 1985 to halt development in certain areas of the town until "the

town decides what they want to do" with the land, according to Regional Councillor Ron Moran.

The group's plan to build a church on land purchased near 16th Ave. and Warden Ave. was cut short when their application was submitted three days after the control bylaw passed.

"The reality is that we are the only religious organization... that has been caught by the bylaw," said Mr. Kay in an interview.

His deputation at council Tuesday was aimed at having members arrange a special council meeting to consider the church's exemption to the bylaw.

The bylaw has been officially objected to and is scheduled for an Ontario Municipal Board hearing later this month.

Despite Mr. Kay's misgivings, council maintains that the three churches exempted from the bylaw were organizations that submitted applications prior to the May cutoff date.

Mayor Carole Bell said any implications of racial or religious discrimination in connection with the application's denial are "shocking" and "insulting."

The proposal for the All Faiths church was simply applied for too late in the game, she added.

"There have been no racial or religious prejudices since I've been on this council," she stated.

But Mr. Kay emphasizes that his client had worked "in good faith" with Markham planning staff in its proposal and thought the plan would be duly processed.

He said members are concerned about this exemption opening up the area the control bylaw governs, thereby setting a precedent for others affected to follow.

"If we had been given any forewarning we would've had plans in prior to the May 5 date," said Mr. Kay.

And he said the discrimination issue is evident — primarily in the way the bylaw affects the organization.

"It is fair to say that these people do feel they're being discriminated against... the effect of the bylaw discriminates against them," he concluded.

Catholic teachers reject final offer

A sweeping majority of teachers rejected the York Catholic school board's final offer 1,106 votes to 103.

Voting was conducted in the York Region Roman Catholic schools Thursday and ballots were counted and scrutinized by representatives of the provincial Education Relations Commission (ERC).

Marshall Jarvis, president of the York unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association called the result, "A clear indication of the teachers' views of this board's offer."

The teachers' chief negotiator,

Ed Chudak, will be asking the ERC to call both sides back to the bargaining table. But Mr. Jarvis said there is always the possibility of a strike, although teachers would prefer to work out their differences through further negotiations.

Teachers say the issues still disputed are class size, pupil teacher ratios and working conditions. The board hasn't met those demands nor has it agreed to the teachers' salary increase proposals.

The teachers have never gone out on strike during past labor disputes.

Two CUPE locals have region's OK

York Regional Council Thursday approved new contracts with two of its three CUPE locals, which represent 200 members of regional staff.

Each local will receive a 4.25 per cent general salary increase in 1987 while 131 workers at York Manor, who agreed to a two-year agreement, will receive the same in 1988.

Also approved by council at the meeting were adjustments to rates of pay for specific positions, improvements to vacation scheduling and vision care allowances.

Region Chief Administrative

Officer Bob Forhan said vacations will now be calculated based on anniversary date of hire and employees will be allowed \$200 bi-annual allowances for eye-glasses.

Bargaining between the region and CUPE began in late October last year and concluded last week. Mr. Forhan noted that this was the earliest that negotiations had been settled.

Still outstanding are agreements with York's local of the Ontario Nurses Association and the region's non-union employees.

Murder weapon handed over by accused: Crown

By ED ROGERS

The Crown began the second-degree murder trial of Steven Greig, 22, by alleging Mr. Greig handed the murder weapon — a tire iron — to Charles Gloster.

Security guard Mulk Raj Ghandi, 70, was murdered April 15, 1985 at a new home development near McCowan Rd. and 16th Ave. He had apparently surprised two men trying to steal a generator.

Mr. Gloster, 24, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder last March and received a sentence of life imprisonment with no chance for parole for 10 years. Mr. Greig has pleaded not guilty in Ontario Supreme Court in Newmarket.

In his opening statement to the nine-man, three-woman jury, Crown Attorney Garth Burrow said that Mr. Greig's police statement, while not admitting complicity, "points to the accused being a party to the murder."

The Crown called 10 witnesses to the stand in the first day of the trial. Witnesses included

the couple who discovered the body and three York Regional Police officers who came to the scene.

Mr. Burrow, defence lawyer Bill Trudell and Mr. Justice Wilfert Dupont extensively referred witnesses to a map and aerial photographs of the area to determine the location of the body and police movements on the scene.

Mr. Ghandi, found face up in a pool of blood with the tire iron six inches above his battered head, was discovered by Stephen and Nancy Connor at about 9:30 that night. The couple was in the unlit construction area to check builders' progress on their new home. Police arrived a half hour later.

An earlier witness, Gordon Chesney, who was also checking progress on his new home that night, testified he saw a beige Ford pickup truck hauling a flatbed trailer enter the subdivision as he was leaving.

Both Mr. Greig and Mr. Gloster were arrested early the next morning.



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