

Being crushed once apparently wasn't enough for these wrecks — the tractor trailer taking them to their junkyard grave at Industrial Waste Metals flipped over and mashed the demolished cars one last time. And driver Gordon Arnold's trailer narrowly avoided becoming a wreck itself.



Tractor trailer tipped

Gordon Arnold of Keswick suffered a sore shoulder and a bump on the forehead when the tractor trailer he was driving tipped over on the Hwy 7 southbound turnoff ramp to Hwy 404. The trailer was hauling a load of wrecked cars to a Toronto scrap yard. Mr. Arnold, who has taken this route

many times before, said: "It's the first time in 17 years of driving anything like this has happened." Access to the ramp was closed for more than four hours by the OPP due to the accident.

— Bill Lanning

Markham is second in Canada

Markham residents have one of the highest average annual incomes in the country at \$26,273, according to Revenue Canada.

But for the third straight year West Vancouver topped the list with an average personal income of \$30,742.

Markham was the highest wage-earning community in 1979, 1980 and 1981 and was then overtaken by West Vancouver.

The latest figures are based on 1984 tax returns.

Trial date postponed in fatality

The trial of Darren Hall, 18, charged with impaired driving causing death in the mishap that took the life of Markham youth Jeff Nihda, has been postponed to March 3 in provincial court.

Mr. Nihda, a Grade 12 student at Markham District High School, died May 18, 1986. He was a passenger in a car that crashed into a utility pole on McCowan Rd. south of 18th Ave. He was thrown from the car and pronounced dead on the scene.

New official plan under attack by ratepayers

By STEVE HOUSTON
Staff Reporter

Markham's unreleased official plan review has already come under fire by a local ratepayers group which says the town is premature in its plan to expand the town's urban boundary.

Colin Creasey, president of the Unionville Ratepayers Association (URA), says Markham should bring existing levels of service up to par to accommodate its present population.

The town is publicly presenting

the review in a series of meetings in the next few weeks and hearing public input before making any five-year changes to the official plan.

The URA's concerns centre on the designation of additional lands for growth and the town's currently unacceptable levels of service (roads, transportation, schools, sewage capacities).

According to a town summary on the official plan review, additional lands for residential growth are identified as Buttonville North, Rouge north (east of Hwy 48), Rouge South and portions of the Parkway Belt lands.

Projected population capacities estimate the residential land will house up to 17,700 people.

Proposed additional industrially designated lands include Woodbine North, Warden Ave and Mount Joy. Planning staff estimate the lands will employ 46,000.

The URA contends that the expansion is premature and offers

developers the luxury of choice in locations to build on.

"There's still room within the present urban envelope without expansion," said Mr. Creasey. "They're having another review five years from now so why not do it then?"

He referred to the review and its summary as a "vague document" that is unrealistic in its objectives.

The URA also says the potential for growth will further clog Markham roads and accused Council of being determined "to bring the city to us."

"There's a feeling that a lot of people in the community have," he said. "(That is) Markham Council does whatever the hell it pleases."

However, he said the association isn't anti-development. The URA wants orderly growth so services and infrastructures can be put in place to later support expansions, he added.

Town staff bans pool petition from arenas

By PAUL PIVATO
Staff Reporter

A lobby group pushing for a 50-metre swimming pool has been banned from gathering names for a petition at Town of Markham arenas.

In a decision sure to cause a political uproar, Chief Administrative Officer Joe Pickard said the Markham Citizens for a 50-metre pool cannot solicit signatures inside town buildings.

The group had been planning to gather names today at the local arenas.

Mr. Pickard said he knew of no bylaw that prohibited such activity but added that the town doesn't "let anybody solicit petitions for any reason" in town arenas.

"We don't want people being harassed," said Mr. Pickard.

Markham's Bylaw Supervisor Ken Spence told the Economist and Sun there was "no municipal bylaw prohibiting" such action.

Regional councillor Bud Bonner, however, agreed with the banning order. "Arenas are for

recreation," he said. "Politics take place in the council chamber."

Mr. Bonner also said he was unaware of any law prohibiting the circulation of a petition, but called it a "generally accepted practice of the town."

"This petition is nothing more than an attempt to hold a club over our head," said Mr. Bonner. "It's gathering ammunition to put political pressure on us. That's not the way we do business."

Mr. Bonner said Chief Administrative Officer Joe Pickard "certainly has the authority" to order the committee's from entering the arena with petitions.

"We don't need Queen's Park to tell us if we can do that," he said.


Jim Jones, a leading member of the Citizens' Committee for a 50-metre pool, was angered by the order to deny access. "We've tried to do everything above board," he said, adding that the committee would seek legal counsel before deciding what action they should take.

"Whoever refused access has created a political blunder," said Ernest Dyck, a Markham litigation lawyer. "It seems the town is trying to apply pressure to the committee. Tactically, if I were advising them, I'd tell them to go there anyway."

Town Solicitor Ray Kallio said the municipality "can prohibit any activity that it doesn't want (on town property). It's irrelevant to talk about bylaws. In essence it's private property which the public has access to."

Roland Parker, legal counsel for Metropolitan Toronto, said that Metro has no bylaws prohibiting the circulation of petitions in arenas. "It's a dangerous area for a municipality to go into. The municipality should be careful to steer away from any suggestion of censorship," he said.

Mr. Jones of the citizen's committee said he was not going to give up. "All we want to do is to go in there and get people's opinions," he said. "We're not rabble-rousers."



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