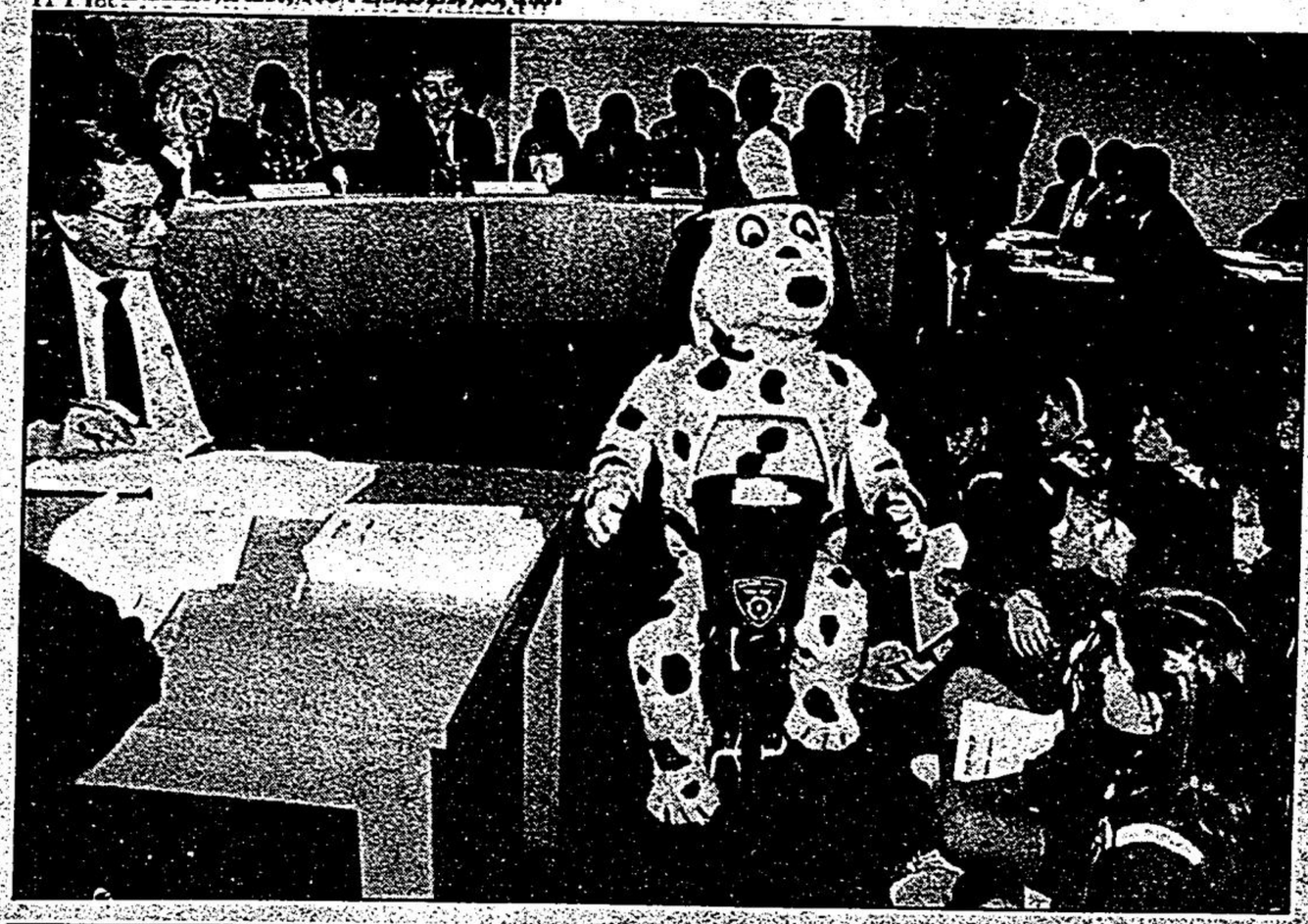

Sparky goes to Council

Sparky is Markham Fire Department's brand new fire prevention puppy. He's the department's latest promotional toy and barks up all sorts of wise advice for children and adults alike. Sparky, a friendly robot, will be making the rounds to local schools and shopping plazas to meet as many people as he can.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

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Markham Council in brief

Woodlot police station bid nixed

Markham Council has refused York Regional Police Chief Don Hillock's request to consider the sale of a town-owned woodlot to make way for a local police station.

Members vowed Tuesday to preserve the tiny McCowan Ave. copse of trees and directed the police chief to consider other McCowan Rd. sites.

Markham has been slated for a new York Regional Police station.

New porn laws may hurt library

Town Council has backed Markham libraries in petitioning Federal Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn to voice concerns about the effect of Bill C-54 on public library boards.

Markham library board officials fear literature and materials would have to be reorganized into over 18 and under 18 age categories if the bill is passed in its present form.

Officials also fear employees could be liable to prosecution for loaning materials considered pornographic under the legislation's definitions.

Home restoration work wins award

Heritage Markham Chairman Bill Wylie has been given an Ontario Renews Award honorable mention for his work in restoring a home originally built in 1850.

Wylie, who slowly restored the house over a seven-year period with his family, was given the award last month under the provincial program's 'do-it-yourself' category.

Award recipients received the honors from Housing Minister Chaviva Hosek at Toronto's Harborfront.

School museum plan decided on

Markham council has reached a development agreement between a local developer and York's education board to locate an historic schoolhouse in the Buttonville area.

The school — Markham Township's S.S. 5 — will be moved on the site and converted into a museum to showcase the history of education in York Region.

The commercial development on the site will provide room for buses and tours for area students.

Pet leash bylaw to be stepped up

Markham pet owners will have to keep their pets leashed in future or face penalties from Markham Animal Control officers.

Council vowed Tuesday to step up enforcement of its leash bylaw to prevent accidents or attacks.

Members directed building and bylaw staff to be on the lookout after a request from Thornhill resident Diana Marrello.