

# York Regional politicians working for health council

ROGER BELGRAVE  
Staff Reporter

Regional Councillor Gord Landon is hoping York will play a major role in the provincial government's plans announced last month to reform its long-term care system for the disabled and elderly.

## York Council takes 5.9% pay increase

After months of waiting, representatives on York Regional Council have started the process to increase their annual salaries by 5.9 per cent.

Pay rates for councillors would be raised to approximately \$21,238 from \$20,055 annually, while the chairman's salary jumps to about \$82,957 from 78,336 a year.

In past years it has been practice to wait until other staff negotiations and employee contracts are settled before councillors voted themselves a pay hike.

But at last Thursday's regular council meeting, Regional Councillor Ron Moran introduced a notice of motion to proceed with wage increases now. The notice received majority support from many impatient councillors.

Councillors have been waiting about six months for the increase since a recommendation was made for the 5.9 per cent hike in the region's 1990 budget.

Although Aurora mayor John West disapproved of raising remunerations before other negotiations are complete, Mr. Moran said councillors have waited long enough for the cost of living increase. "Each member of council should have their pay adjusted accordingly," he stated.

"Usually once we've got the majority of staff negotiations settled we go ahead," said regional Information Officer John Scott. But some resolutions on the new Pay Equity legislation is partly responsible for the current status of negotiations between some staff, according to Mr. Scott.

The pay raise is retroactive from Dec. 1, 1989 and would come into effect after passage of the bylaw which may be done as early as the next regional council meeting.

## Police report more break-ins

Police are looking for suspects in a Main Street business break-in on the weekend, after more than \$600 worth of merchandise was taken.

York Regional Police report \$650 worth of clothing and other merchandise was stolen from The Good Mother maternity store on Main Street between the hours of last Saturday's closing at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 7 a.m.

**More break-ins**  
Orchard Park Public School was broken into again last Saturday after three young offenders were seen leaving one of the portables at about 3 p.m., police reports show.

All three children are under 12, and cannot be identified under the Young Offenders Act.

A window was broken and the inside of a portable was vandalized, causing about \$150 damage. Police said there is no proof the weekend break-in is connected to the previous break-in at the school a week ago. Charges are pending police investigations.

In the past, co-ordination between the provincial ministries responsible for such care and the region have been sorely lacking, believes Mr. Landon.

While York welcomes the long-term care initiatives, he says, it is important that the region have a say about where facilities are located and how funds are administered.

As a member of the regional district health council steering committee, Mr. Landon says the public has complained about problems created by the bureaucratic division between health and community and social services.

"Obviously with long-term care programs there are going to be a lot of health services required and there needs to be more co-ordination in the region between the health services and community and social services," he predicts.

Mr. Landon suggested some degree of integration with the two ministries, perhaps a pilot project utilizing a regional district health council.

To assist the government's implementation plans, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health have formed a new Community Health and Support Services Division.

"That is unique because these two ministries have never worked together like that before," community and social services minister Charles Beer told York regional councillors at last week's meeting.

But Councillor Landon believes any co-ordination plans need to include the region to be effective. "The ministries were going to try themselves to coordinate their programs better," he says. "But I think

it's important they have the local priorities and input from the regional people to do that."

In implementing its plan, the Ontario government will invest more than \$2 billion over the next six years.

By the fiscal year 1996-97, new funding will increase to \$640 million annually for long-term care. In the current fiscal year \$52 million will be committed to the initiative.

Funds will begin to reach communities this September and the following amounts have been designated:

- \$10.9 million for Homemakers wages and benefits.

- \$7.4 million for Homemaker agencies' expenses.

- \$7.4 million for close to 1,000 new Attendant Care Outreach spaces and to enhance Supported Living.

- \$4 million to agencies providing Home Support and Alzheimer's Programs.

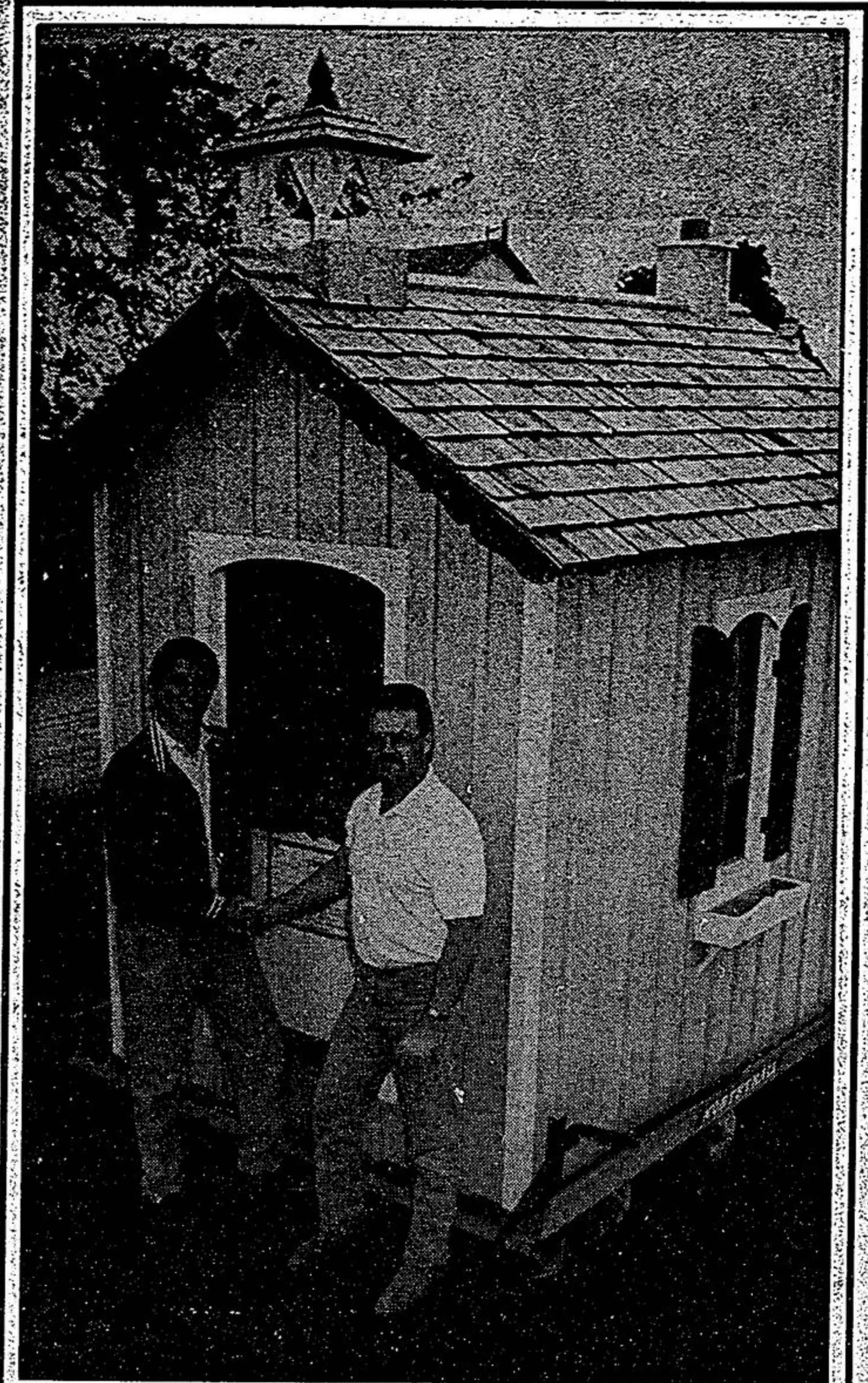
The money will also be used to improve and expand services to Elderly Persons' Centres.

- \$10 million to provide immediate in-home services and community supports.

The government's intention is to strengthen community supports and services, build local networks and make single-entry access much more available in all communities.

"We want to make sure that we beef up in-home and community based services," said Mr. Beer. "What we're trying to do is make the service more affordable and give people easier access."

But he admits there will still be a need for nursing homes and chronic care beds.



photo/ANDRE WOLBERT

## Making progress

Brian Yantz was all smiles recently when he took over presidential duties with the Stouffville Progress Club. He shakes hand with outgoing president Brian Ziegler. Behind them is a playhouse being raffled off in July. Call 640-6552 for information

# Stouffville Council update

Pangman Springs Conservation Area on Aurora Road won't be hosting members of user groups such as Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD) it was confirmed last week.

The Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) which owns and operates the new wildlife land informed Town officials that CARD's proposed use of Pangman Springs is unacceptable.

"Horse riding trails are not conducive to the Master Plan for the Area as determined by (Consultants) Totten Sims Hubicki Associates Ltd.," the LSRCA stated in a May 4 resolution.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council, which had earlier requested use of Pangman Springs by the disabled riding therapy group, received the authority's response last Tuesday.

Councillors say they regret the fact Pangman Springs can't accommodate CARD and Ward 3 Councillor Nick Tatone asked if there was anything else the Town could do to help the group.

But Ward 1 Councillor Margot

Marshall explained that as far as Pangman Springs is concerned, there are too many negatives working against CARD.

"No organization is going to get any special treatment at Pangman Springs," she said. "There are no facilities or required structures at all for any of these special groups," Councillor Marshall concluded.

### Deer Signs

Deer-crossing signs are to be erected at the Hwy. 48/Vandorf Road area following a request from a concerned eight-year-old resident. Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury acted on the matter after Tara Boland voiced concern about the threat traffic poses to the deer population in that part of the municipality.

### Town honor

Town tax collector Ruth Armstrong received a 10-year service pin at the outset of Council proceedings May 22 by Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

### Settlement studies

Gartner Lee has received Coun-

cil's okay to undertake the Balantrae-Musselman Lake settlement study at a cost of \$35,000. Tentative completion date is four months from the project's start.

A decision on who'll conduct a related study, focusing on Vandorf-Preston Lake, will be delayed until the settlement capability study selection committee has clarified more details with the consulting firms bidding on the contract. Four firms have been interviewed by committee members.

### Bylaw to OMB

A town zoning bylaw prohibiting construction of office units on aggregate-zoned properties is on its way to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The bylaw is being challenged by Ken Sandiford (in trust purchase from Champion Management Inc.)

The subject property is located on part lots nine and 10, Conc. 8.

According to a letter from Mr. Sandiford's solicitor, "it would appear the bylaw was passed specifically to prevent such development (business offices) by our client and to frustrate its efforts to develop the land accordingly. There is no indication of any investigation of any passing of the bylaw, and further our client was not given any opportunity to address Council on the issue prior to the passing of the bylaw."

## 'Trash' sought for sale

Stouffville's Latham Gallery needs local residents to think of the three R's of ecology while spring cleaning cellars, attics, drawers and closets this year.

By reducing accumulated "treasures" in the home and recycling unwanted "trash," residents can clean their homes and offer used items for sale at the Latham Gallery's first annual Trash and Treasure sale being held Saturday, June 9.

Items being donated can be dropped off at the Gallery in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library on Main Street in Stouffville between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. from Tuesday, June 5 until Friday, June 8.

Gallery Director Vanessa Perry will be able to arrange transportation of any large items being donated.

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