

ITEM 1

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 39

COUNCIL MEETING May 22/72

Re: Willingdon School for Girls

We are advised that the Parks and Recreation Commission at its meeting of May 9, 1973, asked that Council be advised that it is very anxious to purchase for a reasonable sum, or acquire by gift from the Provincial Government, facilities at the Willingdon School for Girls. The object of the acquisition would be to develop the area and the buildings into a Parks and Recreation facility.

When the matter of the Municipal Hall extension was being considered, Council will recall that the question was raised as to whether or not the Willingdon School for Girls could be made available for the use of the Social Services Department. In Item 23, Report No. 27, April 9, 1973, the Municipal Manager noted that:

"As for the Willingdon School for Girls, the Social Administrator spoke to the Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Improvement on April 5, 1973 and was informed that the Willingdon School for Girls is to be used this summer for the "Summer Games" personnel and thereafter plans are in the offing for utilization for other Government endeavours. The Deputy Minister stated that the facility would not be available for leasing, purchase or any other municipal use, and he asked that Mr. Coughlin convey this information to Council. At the time of the discussion, the Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Improvement, the Honourable Norman Levi was in the office with the Deputy Minister."

On May 14, 1973, Council received a communication from the Honorable Norman Levi dated May 7, 1973 which read as follows:

"Thank you for your letter of the 3rd of April, 1973 regarding Willingdon School for Girls. We have already made a decision for the interim use of the Willingdon Girls School, and it is being turned over to the Canada Summer Games until the first of September. Certainly by that time we will have made a decision on its future use. I certainly do not think that we will consider that the building be used for the purpose that you are suggesting."

Since our first approach to the Province was specifically to use the school for a Social Services Department and since in Item 23 we were advised that "the facility would not be available for leasing, purchase of any other municipal use", we have again contacted the Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Improvement to make sure that when he made the quoted statement on April 5, 1973 that it would include or cover the subject presently being raised by the Parks and Recreation Commission. In a conversation with the Deputy Minister on May 16, 1973, the Social Services Administrator advises that the Deputy Minister has confirmed that the Government has in mind a use for this facility after the Summer Games have finished with it and this will not involve any municipal endeavours. It is not clear what the Government use might be of the facility after September 1, but it is quite clear that it will not involve turning the facility over to the Municipality.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a copy of this report Item be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission.