

Scarborough fights three months for extra three minutes

With Queen's visit comes a lesson in protocol

By PETER MOSHER

Planning their 15 minutes with Queen Elizabeth next Friday has taught Scarborough politicians and civil servants a thing or two about protocol, security and the extent of public enthusiasm for the Queen's visit.

The Queen officially will open the borough's new \$14-million Civic Centre, and although neither her visit nor the building will transform the borough's suburban image overnight, the event has been planned for four months as the greatest moment in the borough's history. The 15-minute agenda looks easy, but there were problems to be solved at every step.

Amid an unusual blend of sounds—workmen hammering, trucks roaring, school choirs and bands rehearsing outside and inside the building—R. F. Anderson, Mayor Paul Cosgrove's executive assistant, spoke with some amusement and some amazement of the planning process.

The borough was told first by Buckingham Palace staff it had only 12 minutes with the Queen. But Mr. Cosgrove "fought for three months for 22 minutes, then 20, then 18, and finally got 15 minutes. We all cheered the extra time," Mr. Anderson said.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will arrive at the front of the building at 10:15 a.m. to be introduced by provincial Education Minister Thomas Wells, a Scarborough MPP, to Mr. and Mrs. Cosgrove and Gerald Phillips, chairman of the Board of Education, and his wife. On the platform will be about 200 senior citizens, a choir and a band.

The problems? By protocol, the Queen must step out of and into an automobile from the right side. The Queen's car cannot be driven in reverse while she is inside. The turning radius of the car she will use—either a Cadillac or a Lincoln—is wide, and a last minute check was needed to make certain the car could turn on the narrow driveway.

Among other "little things that threw us off," Mr. Anderson said he expected "two or three" cars in the entourage.

There are 13, including cars for the Queen's lady-in-waiting and personal physician, Prince Philip's private secretary, the official photographer and four security cars.

How were the representative senior citizens, the choirs and the bands selected? Borough officials went to senior citizens' homes and clubs, Mr. Anderson said, and asked for "six here, 10 there. It was completely improvised until we filled 200 places."

Staff will be on hand to look after the older people, who will have to be seated before 9 a.m., when police will close off roads in the area.

The music department of the Board of Education picked the six choirs and bands.

Assistant director of education Fred Cooper, spending the day arranging where the groups would stand while workmen still occupied most areas, said he did not want to be critical of the Queen's staff, "but it would be nice if she could be here to listen to these fine groups play something besides 'O Canada' and 'God Save the Queen.'" Most of the music will come before and after the Queen's visit.

Before the party enters the building, a flower girl will present flowers to



Carol Tidd

the Queen, who "prefers whatever flowers are in season in each place she visits," the protocol notes say.

Picking the flower child could have been complicated by jealous parents, but the Board of Education neatly resolved the potential trouble by picking the borough's centennial child, the first born on July 1, 1967. She is 6-year-old Carol Tidd, and although the decision was made a month ago, her name was not released until last week to avoid a possible negative reaction from her kindergarten classmates.

She said she is not nervous about meeting the Queen. She had been practicing her curtsy at home and has picked out a new white dress with appropriate red and blue trim for the occasion.

Carol, who attends Lord Roberts Junior Public School, is the daughter of Frank and Edna Tidd of Kennedy Road. They have been living in Scarborough since they left Essex, England, in 1966.

(Picking the clergyman who would consecrate the new building before the Queen's arrival was also easy; the borough asked Rev. George Watt, the Baptist minister.)

Borough Clerk Clifton Tripp and his wife will be introduced to the Queen before she enters the building.

Inside the building the Queen will meet architect Raymond Moriyama, contractor Charles Nolan, and two workmen—Stanley Barclay, a foreman plumber, and Manuel Raposo Da Silva, a laborer. There was to be only one workman, but the Queen's deputy personal secretary, Philip Moore, told the borough she likes to meet workmen, and the plan was changed.

Also inside the building will be 1,400 invited guests, all cleared by security checks. They will stand on five floors overlooking the central hall but not on a walkway directly above the Queen, for security reasons.

Except for about 200 special guests on the outside platform where the Queen will officially open the building, the inside guests are everybody who is anybody in Scarborough—former council and board members, city and board officials, representatives of ser-

vice and veterans clubs, unions, the board of health, committee of adjustment and library board, teachers and principals, student council presidents. Spouses and children older than 6 are included in invitations.

Despite this, Mr. Anderson said every day brought a revision because somebody had been forgotten.

The Queen will meet two officials of the Metro Zoo, now under construction, and view a model of the zoo before the party moves outside.

On the platform will be 200 guests, expanded from 120 as first planned to accommodate "must" guests who were first left out—the mayors of other Metro municipalities, for example. Also on the platform, with spouses, will be council and board members, MPPs and federal MPs from Scarborough and top civil servants.

There will be no lengthy introductions, on instruction from Col. G. P. Marriott, provincial tour co-ordinator.

From the first meeting, Col. Marriott told borough officials firmly that the Queen "does not want to go through a ritual of receiving lines, meeting VIPs," Mr. Anderson said. "The key words for Col. Marriott are that she wants to see and be seen by the public, including children."

The general public will fill the square, up to 50 feet from where the Queen stands on the platform.

Arranging to record the royal signature in the official guest book caused some problems. Protocol, Mr. Anderson said, calls for a desk and chair and a fountain pen with medium nib and blue ink. A ballpoint pen is specifically ruled out, causing Mr. Anderson to send back "an excellent desk set" because it had a ballpoint.

There will be no presentation of gifts to the Queen, although protocol allows her to accept from private individuals (but not companies) such items as books "of a non-controversial nature" if offered by their authors "provided they are of reputable character."

"We had countless letters from people with reasons why they should meet the Queen," Mr. Anderson said. "One man wanted to give her a gold padlock because he works at a locksmith's. School children—and teachers—wanted her to autograph projects. A man phoned me and asked whether the Queen would sign his stamp book if he placed it under the guest book."

Senior citizens made most requests

to meet the Queen, Mr. Anderson said. "Some of them said they met her in England. Others knew her father. Or they knew her when she was a little girl. It wasn't easy writing them to say she is not meeting people. You might think the feeling toward royalty had subsided. We had no evidence of that."

Then comes the official opening of the building. The problem was to find something the Queen could do as a symbol, since the building has been open for a month. Philip Moore, the deputy personal secretary, ruled out anything "gimmicky" (his term), Mr. Anderson said.

The answer: Her Majesty could push a button to start a waterfall, the kind of action Mr. Moore told Mr. An-



Manuel Raposo Da Silva

der son the Queen likes to perform. But to Mr. Anderson the waterfall "is colorful, but really not too significant in size. It would look rather dinky on television."

So, with Buckingham Palace approval, 3,000 helium-filled balloons will be released at the same moment the Queen starts the waterfall.

The Queen will make no speech. The borough originally proposed that the Queen step into a circle of 20 children, take the hand of the child on each side to complete the circle, and deliver a brief speech which referred to the future of Scarborough, "freedom and tranquility," the "magnificent" building and "the ideals envisioned by those who dreamed this dream and made it a reality."

The proposed dedication ceremony got no further than the first meeting with Mr. Moore, who, Mr. Anderson said, "just struck that out with one stroke of the pen and told us the Queen will not be speaking."

The Queen will then walk to her car through a path in the crowd 30 feet wide (for security reasons). While the band plays "God Save the Queen," she and Prince Philip will enter the car and drive around and away from the building, their quarter hour in Scarborough over.

There is one other factor which might worry most people: What if it rains?

"Oh, Col. Marriott has been very clear about that," Mr. Anderson said. "He's told us about six times in so many words, 'It will not rain. Please make no alternative arrangements. It will not rain.'"



Stanley Barclay