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Metro Discusses Flood Control For 950 Square Mile Region

Approval in principle of an overall program of flood control, which would involve either acquisition of all flood plain land in a 950-square mile area of Toronto and region or the construction of a series of dams and channels, has been given by Metropolitan Toronto Works Committee.

Decision as to which alternative to take would be made on the basis of a cost-benefit study ratio.

It followed a meeting between the works committee and the Flood Control Co-ordinating Committee of the Metropolitan and Region Conservation Authority.

Purpose of the meeting was specifically aimed at discussing a \$6,891,000 program of channel improvements to the Black Creek water course which flows seven miles through three Metro Toronto municipalities. However, the works committee approved passage of a resolution requesting the Conservation Authority to prepare a flood control plan for the entire region, embracing four watersheds. The plan would set the stage for municipal-provincial-federal government participation in a massive scheme that would end for all time the menace of flood danger, such as resulted during Hurricane Hazel, to the 950-square miles administered by the Conservation Authority.

The broad program would include ground mapping of flood plain lands; controlling the use of these lands to prohibit any building upon them; maintenance and improvement of channels; construction of large and small reservoirs, small dams and also the building of large reservoirs where favorable cost-benefit studies indicate their desirability.

Still to be worked out is the financing of the program.

Metro Chairman Fred G. Gardiner suggested that the Conservation Authority should prepare a preliminary brief on the overall program and present it to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources to determine the interest of the Federal Government in participating in the scheme.

In a report to the joint meeting, A. H. Richardson, P.Eng., chief conservation engineer of the Ontario Dept. of Planning & Development and acting chairman of the

Authority, outlined the provincial government's role in a flood control scheme. In the past, the provincial government's policy has been to contribute 50% of the cost of flood control programs.

Eric W. Baker, chairman of the flood control co-ordinating committee, revealed that the Authority would be able to present a brief to Ottawa on an overall program within 90 days.

Dick Riddall Is New Lions Club President

Dick Riddall is the new president of the Lions Club of Georgetown following an election of officers at a dinner meeting at the Jack-O-Lantern, Tuesday, May 7th. Other members of the 1957 executive include: Ab Tennant, 1st vice-president; Ernie Alcott, 2nd vice-president; Dick Miller, 3rd vice-president; Clarence Kennedy, secretary; Al Cornish, treasurer; Stan Wade, lion tamer; Walker Cleave, tail twister.

The one year directors are Al Currie and Bob Hamilton; two-year directors are George Hewson and John Mathies, and Lloyd Marks is bulletin editor. Ed Pries is P.A. custodian.

At the meeting two donations of \$25 were made to the Halton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society and the Institute for the Blind. It was also reported that tickets for the big June 13th Garden Bros. 2-Ring Circus should be available some time this week.

A good number of club members acted as campaign captains and canvassers for the Cancer Society "campaign blitz" last Monday night under campaign chairman Ernie Alcott. Tonight's rally, night in Oakville as all clubs in the region gather for the election of a zone chairman. About twenty from town will be journeying to the rally by bus.

Autos "Cost" Less Than 10 Years Ago . . . Chrysler Head

Today's automobile costs a Canadian factory worker about 40 percent less in terms of man-hours of labour required to purchase it, than it did 10 years ago, according to Ron W. Todgham, president of Chrysler of Canada.

Mr. Todgham was addressing the Quebec division of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. "Taking our most popular low-priced model as an example," he said, "the average industrial worker in Canada had to work 2,200 hours in 1946 to buy such a model. Ten years later, in 1956, he had to work only 1,576 hours to purchase the much-improved model available to him."

On the subject of economic affairs, Todgham said that there is no reason why Canadians should accept the premise that periodic depressions are inevitable.

"Digging into the reasoning behind such a prediction," he said, "one frequently finds nothing more substantial than a kind of fatalism that assumes that since depressions have occurred intermittently in the past, they are bound to recur in future. In other words,—it is suggested that our economic life is a giant roulette wheel with one stop labelled 'depression'."

The Canadian future, Todgham said, is predicated upon four "ifs"—population growth, capital investment, education and speculation.

Last year, he said, approximately \$1,200,000,000 of foreign capital came into Canada to help develop this country. "In the years ahead we are likely to need a good deal more; more, by far than Canadians themselves will be able to find to devote to this purpose," he said. "The important thing for us is to place this matter in its proper perspective."

Citing the tremendous developments in Canada during the past 10 years Todgham suggested that Canadians not "kid" themselves as to the source of this progress and new wealth.

"Foreign capital in the past has meant but good for Canada," he said. "As long as we are growing, it can mean nothing but good in future."

The Canadian Government has the power, if it wishes to use it, to cut off the flow of investment capital to this country. The Gordon report, Todgham said, hinted at some sort of compulsory liquidation of foreign holdings in Canada.

"This power, if unwisely applied, could set our standard of living back 20 years or more," he said. "It could destroy for all time to come our nation's reputation as a country offering all investors a business atmosphere in which decency, fair dealing and stable government are synonymous with the name, Canada."

Pay Phone Calls Increase to 10c

To standardize all local calling from public and semi-public telephones throughout its territory in Quebec and Ontario, the Bell Telephone Company of Canada plans to adopt a uniform charge of 10 cents per call in Georgetown and all other communities where this rate does not now apply, Lloyd G. Denby, Bell Telephone manager for this territory, announced this week. The new rate is expected to become effective toward the end of June.

Approval in principle of the 10-cent rate for local calls from all of Bell's public and semi-public telephones was given in November, 1951, by the Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada. However, because of equipment shortages at that time, the Bell asked for the higher rate to be applied immediately only in the larger centres. With equipment now available to modify the public telephones in the smaller centres also, the company decided to complete the application of the standard rate throughout its territory.

Introduction of the uniform 10-cent rate for local calls would follow the approval of tariff revisions, filed by the Bell company with the Board of Transport Commissioners of Canada.

Conversion of public and semi-public coin boxes in the areas concerned now is under way. The date for introducing the 10-cent local calling rate throughout these exchange areas has been set tentatively for June 29, 1957.

HIGH PRAISE FOR SINGER "VOICE CHARMS TIME"

"A voice so lovely it could almost charm time to a standstill" is the flattering description of the singing of Margaret Barrager, of Aurora.

Adjudicator Jeanne Pengelly made these remarks at the Peel Music Festival in Port Credit last week, where Miss Barrager, a public school teacher at Lake Wilcox, received an 88 mark and the first place award in the soprano solo class.

The singer is sister of Tracey Barrager and niece of Don Barrager of town.

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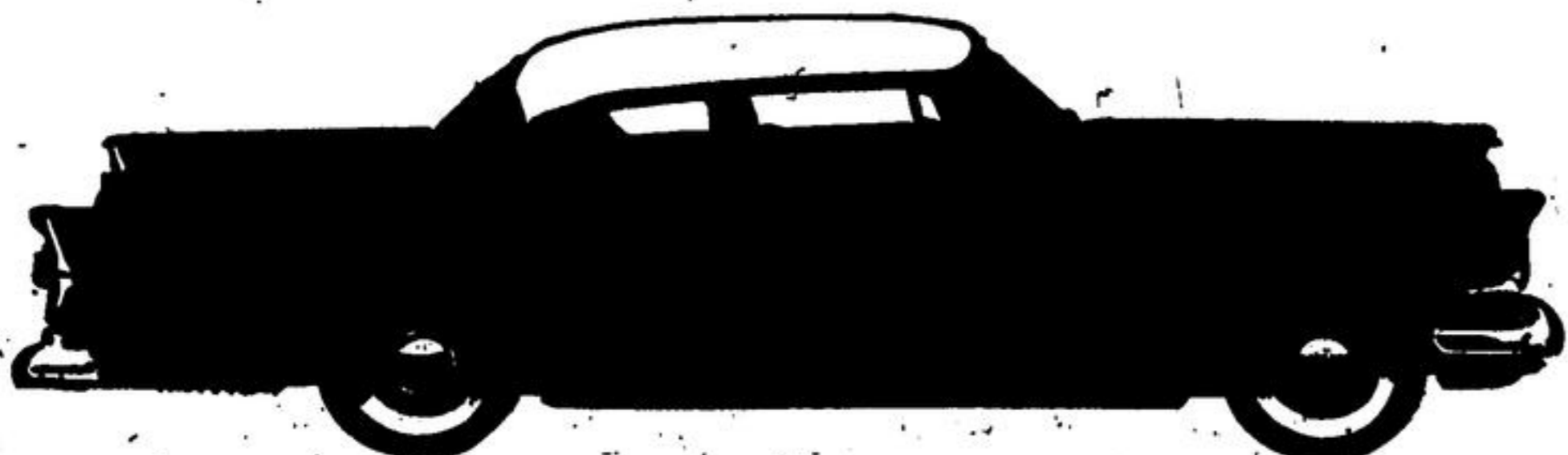


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