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**LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE**

**Clerk A. J. Hume Reviews Municipal Progress— Men Who Served In Council Played Important Part in Making Local History**

The Editor of The "Liberal"  
Dear Sir:—

I read with much interest the "Letters from the People" which from time to time appear in your valued paper, and I congratulate you and your correspondents upon the ready response that has been made to your invitation to use the columns of the "Liberal" in the presentation of public opinion, which use has, no doubt, been the means of bringing before the public many questions of interest and importance in relation to Municipal affairs in our Village. In your issue of November 17th last, there appeared a letter signed "Progress" which contained such a sweeping indictment of the Council of past years on the grounds of "inefficiency, incompetence, imbecility and blatant ignorance" (I quote from the letter) that I felt impelled by a sense of justice to those men who gave freely of their time and energy in the service of the Village in years gone by, to write a few lines with the object of correcting some of the erroneous impressions that perhaps have been engendered by some of the statements in your correspondent's letter, and I write the more confidently because, having been a resident of Richmond Hill for nearly fifty years, during the last twenty two of which, in my official capacity, I have been in close touch with the various activities of Municipal affairs, I know where of I speak. Looking backward through these years I remember the names of Abraham Law, William Harrison, John Brown, Dr. James Langstaff, P. G. Savage, Isaac Crosley, William Trench, Benjamin Redditt, William Powell, William Warren, M. Teffy, and others who have long since passed away; in later years William H. Pugsley, J. H. Sanderson, William Furey, David Hill, J. A. Monkman, G. S. Sims, E. Barker, T. H. Trench, William Innes, Geo. A. McDonald and many others whom I recall but the mention of whom might encroach too much on the space you are kind enough to allow me. These are honored names in the history of Richmond Hill and are the names of men who, in my judgment, do not deserve the epithets so freely bestowed on them by your correspondent.

May I refer briefly to some of the more outstanding works of improvement that have marked the passing of the years since Richmond Hill was incorporated as a Village and which were begun and carried through to completion by the men who from time to time, filled the various municipal offices.

Our first High School was built in 1873 and was paid for the same year, certainly an evidence of efficiency and energy on the part of the Council of that year. Thirty years ago this building was burned and the Building now used as a Public School annex was erected. Thirty five years ago the Village had very little sidewalk and that built of plank, then came asphalt, and commencing some fourteen years ago, cement walks, with which most of our streets are now equipped, were built.

Forty years ago we had no park and no skating rink, the grounds for the Park were secured and the old rink built by the Council of that day, then followed the Curling rink and grand stand in the building of which the Council had the assistance of the Agricultural Society. The old rink served its day and was succeeded by the present commodious and up to date structure which is excelled by no similar building in the County with the possible exception of a few in the larger towns. In 1913 our beautiful Public School building was begun, the completed building being one that would be a credit to many a greater community than our own. About the same time an increasing demand for better street lighting, which up to then was supplied by some twenty-five coal oil lamps, resulted in the building of our electric light system, which, of course has increased largely since its inception. The original plan was simply to provide for street lighting and a canvas made with a view to building a sufficiently adequate system to provide for residence lighting and power as well as street lighting resulted in only twenty-five persons being found who were willing to install electric light in their homes. The Council of that year however, had sufficient vision and faith in the future to build a plant of double the capacity of that originally proposed. Their action was amply justified for the electric system has paid its way from the beginning, taking care of maintenance, extensions and debenture charges entirely out of revenue. The waterworks property was bought some ten years ago with an eye to future possibilities for a water system which six years ago, was installed. I am aware that conditions relating to domestic service are not at present satisfactory but steps are being taken to remedy existing defects and in the meantime the system guarantees a fire protection which we never before possessed, and in addition the Council of three years ago purchased a fire apparatus which has proved itself a most valuable asset in the matter of fire fighting. The waterworks property also afforded a means of providing a system of garbage collection, a minor improvement, no doubt, but one which is a convenience much appreciated by our citizens. Then four years ago our splendid new High School was built, a structure in architecture and equipment second to none, this taking the place of our old High School, payment for which is completed this year. It was owing entirely to the wisdom and clear sightedness of the Council of 1905 that ground was bought and the present C.N.R. station built, also the grain elevator operated by Mr. I. D. Ramer. Time would fail me to recite all the works that have been carried on and comple-

ted by those in charge of Municipal affairs during the past years but those I have mentioned are a few of the things done by the men whom your correspondent dubbed "inefficient, ignorant and imbecile." If these works, Mr. Editor, are monuments as "Progress" says of their "inefficiency incompetence and imbecility" it may be that our citizens will hope that their future Councillors may possess a large share of these qualities.

I wish further, to correct some inaccuracies in your correspondent's letter regarding our Village Finances. In that letter the statement is made that last year the total receipts from all sources was \$45,299 and the total expenditure \$54,321 thus showing \$9,024 expenditure in excess of receipts. By the way it seems like pretty good financing to be able to spend \$9024 more than we received. But if "Progress" had considered that printed reports are possibly not always accurate and had taken the trouble to examine the Auditor's report for 1926 (which report is always available for inspection at the Clerk's office) he would have discovered that the total receipts from all sources for that year was \$92868 and that the total expenditure on all accounts was \$87814 leaving a credit balance of cash on hand and in Bank in the various funds of \$5554.

Again your correspondent's letter states that the waterworks showed a loss of \$6220.30. This statement is entirely in accurate and is calculated, perhaps designedly so, to create a wrong impression in the minds of your readers. The facts are that the debenture charges on capital account amount to \$6027.51 which is an annual charge and must be met independently of profit or loss operation. The operating costs last year amounted to \$3354.40 which added to above makes a total of \$9381.91. The total revenue from operating the waterworks was \$3988.87 which deducted from \$9381.91 leaves a balance of \$5403.04 thus showing that the waterworks, instead of being a loss, had actually assisted in the annual payment on capital account to the extent of \$624.17 I could write at very much greater length but I feel, Mr. Editor, that I have trespassed on your space, and good nature, long enough and will close with a suggestion that your correspondent will in future make sure of "Facts" and will also have sufficient courage in his convictions to sign his name to his epistle.

I am with thanks for space  
Yours truly  
A. J. HUME

**Reeve Lunau Appeals for Generous Patronage of T. T. C. Radials**

December 20, 1927

Editor Liberal  
Sir:—  
At the final meeting of the 1927 council held on December 15 a vote of appreciation was unanimously tendered to the T. T. C. for their splendid co-operation with the Council during the year and for their generous treatment of our municipality.

During the past months the Council has had occasion to transact considerable business with the Commission and I can speak for every member of the council in saying that at all times we found them business like and at the same time very reasonable and ready and anxious to grant any reasonable requests which they thought to be in the best interests of Richmond Hill. It is needless for me to point out here that but for the splendid spirit of co-operation manifested by the T. T. C. the fine appearance of Yonge Street as it stands to-day would have been impossible.

I am firmly convinced that the T. T. C. are doing all in their power to give the very best possible service to the people of Richmond Hill and the whole North Yonge Street district, and as they have been so estimable in their treatment of Richmond Hill, I wish to take this opportunity through your valuable paper of asking, and in fact urging that the citizens be as generous as possible in their patronage of the T. T. C. The Commission has so practically demonstrated that they are willing to co-operate with this community that I feel sure the citizens of Richmond Hill are sufficiently appreciative to give in return as much business as possible to the radials. Incidentally I might mention that a package freight service has been instituted which is a type of service previously impossible and which I think will be useful to many merchants here. I would suggest an enquiry regarding particulars of this service at the radial station where the agent will give full particulars. Thanking you for the space, I am

Yours very truly  
J. LUNAU, Reeve

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