

RICHMOND HILL Agricultural Society

Extends Greetings and Best Wishes to

THE LIONS CLUB

90TH ANNUAL SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 20th, 1939

Write for Prize List Now Ready

Entries invited for Farm Improvement
Competition and Crop Competition
in Oats

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H. P. CHARLES, Pres.

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Richmond Hill, Ont.

OUR VILLAGE TREES

(By Lion Fred Hoover)

Some years ago while on a vacation, I happened to mention that I lived in Richmond Hill. At once one person spoke up saying "Oh yes, that is the place with the bumpy main street." Another one said "It is also the place with the lovely trees along the street." Our bumpy unpaved Main street is now a thing of the past and along with it went a number of the fine shade trees mentioned above. By such things do people form impressions of the community in which we live.

There are at present quite a large number of beautiful trees in the Village, and it might not be out of place to mention a few of them. The most outstanding group is perhaps those rows of spruce, leading from Yonge Street back to Mr. Angle's residence. The Lombardy Poplar by Mr. Henry Moyle's house make quite a picture. A little farther south is a very large elm in front of Mrs. Mason's home. Then there are the birch trees in front of the United Church. Mr. Ed Leno has a couple of flowering thorn trees, which when they are in bloom in the spring, are worth while seeing. Possibly the most outstanding tree in the Village is the large elm, growing by Mrs. McLean's home on Roseview Ave. The elm seems to do especially well in this district and we are fortunate to have quite a few of them in the Agricultural Park. There are also quite a number of large walnut trees growing in the Village, several by Mrs. Rumble's on Church Street, Mr. Wilfred Jones has one, there is one at the rear of the Bell Telephone building, one on the lawn of Dr. Jas. Langstaff, one on Mrs. Phipps' lawn, and a very old tree on the lawn of Mr. Allan Bales. Mr. Chas. Wiley has two large hickory trees of which he is very proud, and Mr. W. W. A. Trench has a number of fine silver maple trees. There are quite a number of locust trees in the Village and Mr. Lumb has a fine flowering crab-tree. As far as I know there are only two oaks here and they are in front of Mr. Skilliter's home. These are only a few of the beautiful trees to be found in the Village. No doubt there are many more worthy of mention.

Most of these trees are nearing maturity, and it is most desirable that new trees grow to replace these when they die. Possibly the Village or one of the Clubs or Societies have now a long term policy towards this means of keeping our Village beautiful. Private citizens can do much by planting a few desirable trees on their premises. The Village in conjunction with the Horticultural Society last year planted several hundred trees along a few of the streets and Dr. James Langstaff has established quite an arboretum at the rear of his home. His trees are small yet, but in time he will have something there to be proud of.

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DO YOU KNOW

(By Lion Wick Trench)

1. That a Public Library was organized in Richmond Hill as a Joint Stock Company in 1852 and that the first librarian was paid as his annual salary one pound ten shillings and that the whole library consisted of 367 books, and since that time we have had a library continually.

2. That the Richmond Hill Village Band was organized in 1853, and that it was much in demand for functions which took place in the surrounding districts, that each person taking out an instrument had to sign a contract either to return it in good condition or to pay its value; that Mr. A. J. Hume, our present clerk, was leader of the band for fifteen years.

3. That our village was formerly known as Mount Pleasant, and that on Yonge St., just south of the Anglican Church was a bad piece of road into which vehicles sank to the hubs in the spring and fall.

4. That Richmond Hill became an incorporated village in 1872 and that Mr. Abraham Law was our first reeve; that his residence, one of the few remaining mud brick buildings, still stands on the corner of Yonge St. and Richmond St.; that Mr. O. L. Wright and Miss G. Grant are his grandchildren.

5. That the residence occupied by Mr. W. Middleton at the north of the village was the home of Colonel Moody who was killed when he tried to pass through the rebel lines at Montgomery's Tavern in 1837. (Col. Moody had served all through the Peninsular War and the War of 1812, only to fall in the minor affair of 1837); that the rebel forces were largely gathered from the northern part of York County and marched through our village to Montgomery's Tavern where they were defeated.

6. That the ground occupied by the Presbyterian Church and manse and the cemetery were donated by Mr. James Miles, the grand uncle of Dr. R. L. Langstaff.

7. That the whole of our school population, high and public, was once housed in four separate buildings, which stood in a row from east to west, on the present public school site; that one of these, a frame building which stood second back, was once a grammar school, and that the old High School, which was destroyed by fire in 1900, cost \$2700 and was paid for out of the taxes in one year, bringing the rate up to 19 mills, which fell in the following year back to 6 mills.

8. That the village post office, a frame building, whose need of a coat of paint was hidden by a luxurious growth of Virginia Creeper, stood about half way between the present public school building, and Hotel Richmond, and that Mr. Matthew Teefy was for years our postmaster as well as our village clerk.

9. That the old Fair Grounds, comprising two acres of land, lay along Arnold St., from the western limit of the public school grounds, and that our first skating rink stood on the eastern end of it.

10. That the Anglican Church is the oldest church building in the village, that an old Presbyterian Church stood immediately behind the present Presbyterian Church, that an old Methodist Church stood on the property occupied by Braithwaite's Hardware Store, that an old frame Catholic Church stood on Mill St., a considerable distance west of Yonge St., that the present United Church, the Presbyterian Church and the steeple of the Anglican Church were erected in 1880, and that the present Catholic Church was built in 1914.

11. That there used to be two mill ponds west of the village, the one on Vaughan Rd., supplied power to a saw mill for years which later became a foundry and a cider mill, the other on Mill St., furnished power to a fanning mill factory which stood about where the pumping station now is; that a sash and door factory and saw mill stood at the western end of Richmond St.

12. That our village once contained two flourishing carriage factories, one of which stood on the front of what is Mr. T. Taylor's lawn, and was owned by Wright Bros., and was managed for years by one of our present citizens Mr. Ashford Wright; the other stood on the corner of Yonge St. and Lorne Ave., it was founded and conducted for a generation by Mr. Wm. Trench, who was succeeded by Mr. Thos. H. Trench, the present owner of the property, who converted the buildings into stores and apartments.

13. That it would be a commendable move on the part of one of our many organizations to systematically mark the places in our community which have historical interest.

In Europe they are trying to preserve the balance of power. If it is as hard as preserving the balance of money in this country, they probably won't get very far on it.

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