

1873 - 75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR - 1948

Community Church Service Will Mark Richmond Hill's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

EVERYONE INVITED TO JOIN IN SERVICE TO BE HELD
IN RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY
EVENING

Richmond Hill will celebrate its seventy-fifth birthday with a community church service in the United Church Sunday evening, October 24, at 7.30 o'clock. The Village was incorporated by County By-law, June 9th, 1872, and the first election held in January 1873. Seats on the municipal council were eagerly sought and there were four candidates for reeve and ten for the four seats on Council. Ninety-seven votes were cast and Abraham Law was elected as the first Reeve. Percy C. Hill is the thirteenth reeve to serve the municipality and only thirteen reeves in seventy-five years is something of a record and accounted for by the long terms of some of the incumbents. Russell Lynett is the third municipal clerk, succeeding the late A. J. Hume and the late Mathew Teffy the first clerk.

The anniversary service next Sunday evening will be presided over by Rev. C. B. Brethen, and members of the local clergy will assist. The guest preacher will be Rev. H. S. Warren, B.A., of Aurora, a son of W. S. Warren, a member of the first Richmond Hill council.

It is fitting that this important milestone in our local history should be marked and all local citizens and former residents are cordially invited to attend. Community birthday observances always are interesting and inspiring. It is all to the good that every so often we turn back the pages and glimpse at the history of the days gone by. As we leaf over the pages of history we cannot but be inspired by the industry and perseverance of the pioneers. Looking backward we will take new pride in the progress which has been made and go forward with new inspiration and new determination to accomplish even greater progress in the days that are ahead.

Seventy-five years is a long time in the life of a community. Many changes take place in the passing of three quarters of a century. The general appearance of Richmond Hill and the personnel of its citizens has extensive change with the passing of the years. Many of the old faces are gone. In some cases their families are still here but in many instances entire families have disappeared from the district. Names once so familiar hereabouts are unknown except in memory here to-day. Speaking at the 60th anniversary celebration of the village back in 1933, ex-reeve Thomas H. Trench, a native son of the village said that there were

then only twenty-three citizens in the village who were here as far back as he could remember. Only eight of his schoolmates were living in Richmond Hill in 1933 he said. That number is likely lessened by now.

A great deal has happened to change the appearance of the village and the lives of its citizens in seventy-five years. Just five years after the incorporation of the village, The Liberal was established as the home paper and published weekly since that date it has recorded from week to week the history of the community and those who have been its citizens throughout the years. Turning back the pages of our files we see that life back in the seventies was vastly different from to-day.

The march of time brought to the village electric lights to replace the oil street lamps cared for by the village lamp-lighter, and an improved Yonge Street has seen the long lines of horse-drawn vehicles give way to long lines of motor cars. Important events in history were the coming of the Metropolitan Radials to replace the stage coach, the building of the C.N.R. line, the waterworks system, the erection of the new schools and the arena. All have been important events in the life of the community.

When Richmond Hill was incorporated there were eight hotels doing business in the mile and a quarter between Markham Road and Elgin Mills.

This community was first known as Miles Hill, later Mount Pleasant, and then in 1819 the name was changed to Richmond Hill. As stated previously Abraham Law as the first Reeve, and the members of the first council were William Warren, Jacob Brillinger, David Hopkins and William Powell. The first council met in rooms over a driving shed where the Bank of Commerce now stands. The municipality paid \$8.00 per year rent for the quarters and this sum included heat and lighting.

Tax levies in those days were not heavy and the rate in the early years ranged about five or six mills. An expenditure of \$1100 for erection of the old Grammar School boosted the taxes for a few years to 19 mills. An early auditor's report showed the village assets as \$251 in cash, 2 kegs of nails, and \$1.00 worth of lumber. The fee for the two auditors who officiated the first year was 25 cents each.

The thirteen who have served the village as Reeve during its seventy-

Local Photos Wanted For Theatre Mural

Work on the new Richmond Theatre, in Richmond Hill is progressing rapidly these days and the tentative opening date has been set for early December. A decorative feature of the attractive building will be a photo mural in the central foyer depicting the history of the district, and the co-operation of the people is invited in making this mural as complete and interesting as possible.

It is hoped to include in the mural photos of historic events, old landmarks, new developments, sports highlights, in fact any photo which depicts life in the district past or present.

Citizens are invited to loan snapshots, or photos of any size or vintage. All will be carefully cared for and returned undamaged after prints have been made from them.

The mural will include a photo of the old Liberal office building torn down to make way for the new modern theatre, and it should include photos of Yonge Street at various stages of history, the old toll gate at Langstaff, the first school at Thornhill, early churches at Maple or King, the crowd welcoming His Majesty King George and Queen Elizabeth, gatherings connected with first or second great war, the various post offices throughout the district, and scores of others we might mention. There are hundreds of such old and interesting pictures in homes hereabouts and they should make an interesting collection.

Our readers are invited to dig down into old albums and drawers and lend these interesting photos. We repeat the assurance that good care will be taken to return all in good condition, and as the time is short we trust the response will be not too long delayed. Photos or snaps may be sent to Ned Hill, manager of the theatre, or left at The Liberal Office, Richmond Hill.

Five years history were: Abraham Law, William Harrison, William Trench, Dr. James Langstaff, John Brown, William Pugsley, Peter G. Savage, Isaac Crosby, T. H. Trench, Jacob Lunau, J. A. Greene, William Neal, and the present reeve, P. C. Hill.

Richmond Hill is located on Yonge Street one of the oldest roads in Ontario. It was originally an Indian trail to Lake Simcoe and in 1794 it was made a bush road by order of Governor Simcoe. It was on this road that Balser Munshaw made his way with his canvas top wagon and finally settled a little above Elgin Mills. A few families followed Munshaw and formed a scattered community and an early official census in 1801 gave the population of the community known as Yonge Street as 57, composed of 13 men, 9 women and 35 children.

A man by the name of Heigh Shaw soon afterwards started the first boom hereabouts when he secured from the government 200 acres of land at the enormous price of 10 cents per acre. This parcel extended from what is now Morley's store to Markham Road. Possessing the real estate bug he sub-divided the land, sold lots and made the first start of a village here.

In three-quarters of a century Richmond Hill has become a village with a population of 1751, an assessment of \$1,603,044, and a reputation as one of Ontario's most desirable communities. It is showing rapid growth with a fine business section, substantial homes, thriving industries, fine churches, good schools, and all the advantages of a small community and yet conveniently located within a few minutes drive of the City of Toronto.

The challenge of the 75th anniversary celebration is for citizens of today to live up to the best traditions of the past, and by good citizenship build the kind of a community which will merit pride and satisfaction on succeeding anniversaries.

Reeve Hill and members of the 1948 council extend to all present and former citizens a most cordial invitation to attend the community service next Sunday marking the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of our village.

SCOUT PAPER COLLECTION

Richmond Hill Scouts will make a paper collection in the district Saturday next. They will start their rounds at 9 a.m. and householders are asked to co-operate by having bundles of papers, magazines and rags tied and out on the veranda or in a handy place. The co-operation of the people will be appreciated.

Junior Farmers Home Plowing

The York County Junior Farmers have issued a most attractive prize list for the 29th annual Home Plowing Competition which has been so popular in the county. This contest has been largely responsible for keeping up the keen interest in this agricultural sport of match plowing in a county which year after year boasts of so many prize winners in the famous International Plowing Match.

With the opportunity of breaking the ice at home with no curious spectators the young people enjoy getting started on their own land with their own outfits. The prize this year include a four-piece silver tea service, a wrist watch, two \$25.00 bus trips, a silver tray, complete set of tractor wrenches, a silver cream and sugar set as well as many cash prizes and trophies.

Judging will be done next week to be completed before the banquet for the contestants and their friends to be held at Vellore on Friday evening, October 29th. Any juniors who have not received a prize list should phone at once to the Department of Agriculture, Newmarket, or to Stuart Watson, Agincourt, secretary of the York County Junior Farmers' Association.

RICHVALE

This week saw the inauguration of a policy which is hoped will solve a growing problem facing the Richvale district. Lately attention has been drawn to the lack of entertainment in the evenings for the younger set, to offset this two nights each week have been set aside. The centre of activities is the basement of the Richvale public school on Spruce Avenue and the evenings are Mondays and Wednesdays. Last Wednesday was the first evening and it was under the leadership of John Gillies who showed he was very capable in handling his charges. In addition to Mr. Gillies' program of calisthenics, group games, sketches and choral singing, there will also be a scout group organized. This group will be under Mr. C. Smith of Oak Avenue, who has had many years experience in this type of work. Next Monday, October 25th, at Richvale School will be the initial meeting of this group. Mr. Gillies and Mr. Smith who are the leaders in these activities are encouraging youth are being aided by a group of residents whose object is to secure necessary equipment, supplies and possibly refreshments so that no obstacle may hinder this so important duty a community of today owes to its younger members.

Mr. Taylor, chairman of the board of school trustees has announced that in the event of all alterations and decorating being completed in time it is the intention of the board to hold open house to the parents during the Province of Ontario's Educational week. This column will announce the exact date of this evening when a date has been decided upon.

East Vaughan Ratepayers' Community Hall
With the decision to concentrate this winter on swelling the building fund so as to waste no time next year in completing the building the various committees are swinging into action.

This Friday, October 22nd, is the official debut of the orchestra which was organized this summer. Under the appropriate name of the Richvale Revelers they will set the time for old time and modern dancing. The place will be the Richvale school - don't forget - this Friday.

The Vaucher Women Workers whose work has added considerably to the building fund in the past are planning a bingo on Thursday, October 28th, in Richvale School. Proceeds will again be turned over to the Ratepayers building committee. Everyone is invited - the more the merrier.

Wrestling

Well, well, a catastrophe has occurred, amazingly unbelievable, but last Tuesday evening the children's idol, "Red" Garner, bit the dust. Red was teamed with Ernie Houghton against Carlo Tronice and Tizer Grant - a combination that proved too effective. However Red and Ernie are out for revenge and next Tuesday, October 26th, in what may be the final wrestling exhibition of the current season, the two teams will again meet and to quote "Red" "The story will be different." Cleve Burton will again meet Mr. Mangovitch "the terrible" next Tuesday and after losing last week by reason of being disqualified Macnotich is out for blood. Tom Cooney will attempt to extend his winning streak by wrestling with a very clever Toronto boy by name of Hare.

The many acquaintances of Mrs. Bailey of Spruce Avenue will be sorry to hear she is confined to a city hospital. We wish Mrs. Bailey a speedy recovery from this latest attack of the ill-health which has caused her so much pain in the past several years.

The white of an egg will remove chewing gum from anything, including hair, without leaving a trace.

Women's Institute Regular Meeting

Visitors from Scarboro and Victoria Square were present at the October meeting of the Women's Institute held in the Masonic Hall on Thursday, October 14th.

Mrs. W. Sayers, Mrs. J. Pollard and Mrs. L. W. Zuefelt were appointed delegates to the Area Convention to be held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, November 10, 11 and 12. Mrs. G. Irwin, Past President, was added to the Executive with power to vote.

The roll call was answered by "Hints on Good Grooming" and many worthwhile ideas were put forth. The president reminded the members of the answer to the Roll Call for November. It is a suitably wrapped Christmas gift to be given to the representative of the York County Children's Aid who will address the meeting. These are given to the wards of the Children's Aid at Xmas.

Mrs. A. J. McLatchy was the guest speaker. She had brought with her a dress form and several garments. First she gave some hints on making over. To freshen up a coat that is too short, cut it off at finger-tip length. Make a purse and a small hat from the part cut off and one will be in style as a three-quarter length coat is a must for your wardrobe now. She also gave hints on rectifying bad fitting garments and also on suitable materials and styles. She told us that on proper pressing depended the finished appearance of the garment and told us the way to press so that clothes would have the right appearance when finished. Mrs. McLatchy thinks that every woman should learn to sew. Plainest things are the hardest to make, so if learning start on something a little bit fussy. Lines are the only things that make for style and they must be exactly right. In fitting see that everything is in line. Do not have skirts too full or long on the street.

Mrs. McLatchy donated a length of dress material for a draw. This was won by Mrs. A. Cruickshank.

June Harding favoured those present with a piano solo and Joan Bourne sang very delightfully - "Bless This House" and "The Last Rose of Summer."

Mrs. O. L. Wright reporting from the Library Board said that she thought we could count on the downstairs room in the Municipal Building being the permanent Library for the village for a long time. She outlined the alterations being made which will make the Library room an asset to the village. It was then decided by vote of the members present to advise the Library Board that the money the Women's Institute have in the Library fund is available to help in creating a Library of which we can be proud.

The members then visited with their guests over a cup of tea and a dainty lunch served by the hostesses, Mrs. F. Davis, Mrs. J. Dewsbury and Mr. J. Grainger.

York County Plowmen Win Many Prizes At Provincial

At the International Plowing Match held at Lindsay last week the York County plowmen were out in full force with thirty-two plowing on Wednesday, including one girl, and thirty-one on Thursday. On Wednesday they won six firsts and thirteen other prizes in the nine classes and on Thursday six firsts and nine other prizes in the nine classes and on Thursday six firsts and nine other prizes in the ten classes including the two best plowed lands in the Junior farmers inter-county competition. On Friday Bob Timbers of Stouffville stood second in the overseas tractor class and won a trip to Great Britain next winter. York had three of the first five in that class. In the inter-county tractor class York lost out to North Simcoe by a fraction of a point, there being only one point between the first three counties.

York plowmen who won first prizes were: Norman Tyndall, Richmond Hill; Eugene Timbers, Milliken; Ernest Evans, Maple; Harry Pugh, Stouffville; Bruce Timbers, Stouff-

ville; Bill Clark, Gormley; Duncan Watson, Woodbridge; Howard Timbers, Aurora; Bob Timbers, Stouffville; Mervin Harper, Stouffville. Other contestants most of whom won prizes were: Nelson Rayner, Ringwood; Wilfred Ferguson, Stouffville; Norman Robson, Maple; Ellis Britton, Agincourt; Morley Timbers, Milliken; James Clark, Gormley; Norman Jarvis, Markham; Harley Timbers, Unionville; Carl Timbers, Aurora; Anthony Featherstone, Milliken; Kathleen Dreeman, Queensville; Allen Wells, Stouffville; L. C. Kennedy, Agincourt; Jack Warriner, Markham; Geo. Timbers, Stouffville; D. Ratcliffe, Stouffville; Don Keffer, Maple; H. J. Couperthwaite, Agincourt; Floyd Forsythe, Stouffville; John Stephens, Richmond Hill; Lorne Timbers, Milliken; Archie Cadden, King; Floyd Steckley, Stouffville.

The inter-county walking plow team was Eugene Timbers, Milliken and Duncan Watson, Woodbridge while the inter-county tractor team was Grant Wells and George Timbers of Stouffville.

WEDDINGS

GILPIN-BUTLER

Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Saturday last. Amidst a setting of dahlias and chrysanthemums, Miss Kathleen Winnifred Butler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Butler of Richmond Hill became the bride of John George Gilpin, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Gilpin of Long Branch, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. W. S. Hirtle.

Coming down the aisle on the arm of her father, the bride wore a princess gown of white satin with sweetheart neckline and seed pearls with matching headdress and full length tulle veil.

Her maid of honor, the bride's sister, Miss Winnifred Butler, and the bridesmaid, Mrs. Nora Keffer, wore broad satin gowns in green and mauve with cascade bouquets.

The bride's youngest sister, was arrayed in pink satin brocade, with matching headdress and carried a bouquet of pom-pom mums, yellow and bronze.

The bride's cousin, Miss Margaret Monk, sang "O Perfect Love" just before the entrance of the bridal party, and during the signing of the register sang very beautifully "God Gave Me You."

Following the ceremony a reception was held in the Church Sunday School Room, catered to by the Women's Association of the Presbyterian Church. The bride's mother received in a steel grey dress with black accessories and a corsage of bronze mums.

The groom's mother received in a blue crepe dress with brown accessories.

For going away the bride wore grey wool with navy accessories and gardenia corsage. The happy couple are spending their honeymoon in Northern Ontario.

WHITTAKER-ANDERSON

Ferns, chrysanthemums and gladioli formed the setting in Elia United church for the wedding on Saturday evening, October 9th, of Joyce Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Anderson to Edward Bell Whittaker, son of Mrs. Whittaker and the late Richard Whittaker, "Downsview." Rev. G. W. Lynd conducted the ceremony and Mrs. Gordon Anderson played young wedding music. Mrs. Clara Brinnell of Hamilton, aunt of the bride sang the "Lord's Prayer" and "I'll Walk Beside You." The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore white satin, made

with fitted bodice, sweet-heart neckline and long sleeves, with full skirt and overskirt of embroidered organza. Her full length veil was held in place with a coronet of orange blossoms and she carried a cascade of red roses and white mums. She was attended by her sister, Dorothy Anderson, as maid of honor, gowned in dusty rose taffeta, carrying a cascade of yellow mums, and Thelma Davies of Weston as bridesmaid in similar gown of aqua taffeta. She carried a cascade of pink mums. Both wore matching hats and mittens. Ann Buchanan, niece of the groom, was flower girl in powder blue moire taffeta and pink carnations forming a bandeau in her hair. She carried a basket of rose petals. Walking beside the flower girl was John Anderson, small brother of the bride. The groom was attended by his brother, John Whittaker and ushers were Douglas Anderson and Kit-chener Whittaker.

For the reception at Maple Villa, the bride's mother received wearing Victorian Grey crepe dress, with corsage of pink carnations, assisted by groom's mother in navy crepe and wearing corsage of pink carnations and blue cornflowers.

For a motor trip to New York and other points, the bride chose a suit of Victorian red gabardine with black.

LIBRARY NOTES

The regular meeting of the Richmond Hill Library Board on Tuesday, October 19th, was a most cheerful occasion. Mrs. O. L. Wright reported that the Women's Institute had voted to donate to the reconstruction of the Library the entire sum that they had raised years ago for such a purpose. The amount is at least \$1730.00, a magnificent start for the work on the new room, which is expected to cost about \$3500.00. The Board is most encouraged by the generosity of the Institute which should be an inspiration to other organizations and individuals in the Village.

DEATH

HARBON, May L. - At Briar Bush Hospital, Stouffville, Saturday, October 16, 1948, May L. Tripp, widow of Frederick Harbron, formerly of Kinsale, dear mother of Mabel of Richmond Hill. Service was held at Wright and Taylor's Funeral Home Sunday evening, further service in Salem church Monday, interment adjoining cemetery.

PROCLAMATION

SUNDAY NEXT, OCTOBER 24th, 1948

We Commemorate

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
Of the Incorporation of The Village of
Richmond Hill

I invite all our citizens to observe the day
as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God,
by attending our several churches in the
morning and a community service con-
ducted by the local clergy in the United
Church at 7.30 p.m.

GOD SAVE THE KING

P. C. HILL, Reeve

The new orange-coloured boxes
which have recently been adopted for
SALADA TEA BAGS
mark the return in tea-bag form to our
FINEST ORANGE PEKOE QUALITY
at no increase in the list price.

SALADA TEA COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED