

Thornhill District News

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Miss Edna Jaques will be the featured artist on a well arranged program sponsored by the Young Ladies Guild of Thornhill United Church, to be held in the Sunday school hall on Tuesday evening, March 29th, at 8 p.m. Other artists will include Miss Phyllis Waterson, a group of Mrs. Echlin's pupils including June and Ruth Harding and Elaine Burke; also instrumentalists from North Toronto. Miss Marshall, teacher in Thornhill Public school will present a group which she is training for the Woodbridge Music Festival. Admission will be 25c and proceeds will be used by the Guild in connection with their work.

Thornhill Women's Institute held their April meeting in the Sunday school hall of the United Church here last Thursday afternoon. "Agriculture" was the theme of the meeting, and convener, Mrs. George Reynolds prepared an intensely interesting report on this subject. Further parcels are being packed and sent to Britain for Easter, and plans for the annual bazaar to be held the first Saturday in December were formulated. When Spring cleaning, will you please keep this in mind? Good used clothing and other articles will be most acceptable. Thornhill Women's Institute are having a Family Party night at which they will entertain all members of their families and members of the Lions' Club and their families. The party will be held on April 20th in Lawrence Memorial Hall, and all ladies and girls attending are asked to bring a box lunch for two, with two cups. An interesting program is being prepared.

Mrs. Robert Doane (formerly Loraine Sinclair) spent a month recently visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Sinclair, Yonge St. and with her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doane. Loraine flew home from Winnipeg with her baby daughter, Beverley Louise, but returned by train. Needless to say, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair who saw their beautiful little granddaughter for the first time, are very proud of her.

The W.A. and W.S. of Thornhill Presbyterian Church held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. T. Steele, Morgan Ave. Thursday afternoon, March 10. Mrs. Chas. Harper, the president, presided, and Miss Hazel Welsh took the devotional exercises. In addition to the regular members present, one new member, Mrs. Cole of Bayview Ave., and guests Mrs. J. W. Hansen, Mrs. E. Galley, Mrs. M. Wildman and Mrs. Steele's sister, Miss Jackson, Toronto, were welcomed. An old fashioned spelling bee was won by Mrs. Hansen. Two readings by Mrs. Mizen and a delightful lunch contributed to a happy meeting.

The Married Couples Group held a very interesting evening last Tuesday. Mr. P. Bone, past president of the Ontario Horticultural Society, gave an address on gardening and held a question and answer period. Plants and flowers were given as prizes for the quiz, also on gardening, which followed. He concluded with showing of moving pictures of the F. T. James gardens.

Thornhill Public School teachers attended the Vaughan Teachers' Federation meeting at Woodbridge on Tuesday afternoon of this week, and while there had an opportunity to look over the new school.

Mrs. A. Martindale, Virginia Jones and Margaret Jennings, representing the Thornhill branch of the Canadian Girls in Training, attended the Central Ontario C.G.I.T. concert held in Toronto on Saturday, March 19. New ideas for projects, games and songs were absorbed, and much enjoyment derived from taking part in the discussion groups. The highlight of the affair was the banquet in Simpson's Arcadian Court.

Stewardson-Ellacott
 Trinity Anglican Church, decorated with ferns and baskets of pink and white snapdragons, was the setting for a late afternoon wedding on Saturday, March 19, when Marion Joan Ellacott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ellacott of Yonge St., Thornhill, became the bride of William Sutterby Stewardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stewardson of Langstaff, Rev. S. A. R. Wood officiating. The honeymoon. Organist was Mr. W. R. Howard and soloist was a young man of Toronto. Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a crown of blush satin with an Elizabethan collar, tight bodice, featuring the new plunging neckline and full skirt with train. Her veil fell from a tiara of seed pearls and rhinestones, and she carried an all white bouquet of carnations, stephanotis and sweet peas.

Mrs. J. Laskey was matron of honor, crowned in blue taffeta in the new bustle effect, and headdress of seed pearls and rhinestones. Her fan shaped bouquet was of sweet peas, roses and forget-me-nots. Bridesmaids were two sisters of the bride, Leona and Margaret Ellacott, and June Carter, cousin of the bride, was junior bridesmaid. They were gowned

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Women's Institute

The topic for the March meeting of the Women's Institute was Historical Research and was under the leadership of Mrs. C. E. Little, Historical Research convener of the Richmond Hill Branch.

In presenting her subject, Mrs. Little said: "The Women's Institute motto is Home and Country. We should hold to the past and keep things of value for the future. When Lady Tweedsmuir was in Canada she suggested that the Women's Institute have an Institute Historical Research called the "Tweedsmuir Research." She herself would contribute the "Foreword" for this.

Richmond Hill History goes a long way back because of its proximity to Lake Ontario. Travel was done mainly by the waterways in those days. The United States was well settled by then. Fur traders and some missionaries had pushed their way through the wilderness. Dr. Edgerton Ryerson wrote to his brother that he had a school consisting of from 30 to 40 Indian children.

In the year 1792 Governor Simcoe was made Governor of Upper Canada. Mrs. Simcoe, his wife, was quite a person and from her diary and records that she kept, we are able to discover what our early pioneers of Upper Canada were like. Mrs. Simcoe was also an artist and left some interesting sketches.

Around 1796 there were some 293 people in Markham township. The townships had already been surveyed and some of them named. There were North York, Whitchurch, Gwillimbury, named after a William Gwillim, whose daughter was married to a Thomas Vaughan. Yonge St. had been surveyed and named after Sir George Yonge, secretary of war in the Imperial Cabinet and a close friend of Governor Simcoe's.

In 1869 a local library was begun, under the Mechanics Institute Society. They had \$100 to buy books. There was a reading room and the two local papers, The Liberal and the York Herald placed copies there. Land sold for \$16.00 to \$20.00 an acre in 1835. Taverns were at every corner, cattle strayed in the streets. A church supper and entertainment would cost 25c in those days. Women wore long skirts, did their own spinning and used candles for light. They had no particular interests except in church work and a very occasional visit to a neighbor. Land was given through the Government to veterans of the War of 1812.

Richmond Hill was originally called Miles Hill, being named after Mr. Miles who owned 2000 acres hereabouts. Then it was called Mt. Pleasant, and finally when they were building the first Presbyterian Church, the Duke of Richmond, who was on tour of the north with Governor Simcoe, stopped to watch the builders as they worked. The people were much impressed with him and named the village Richmond Hill. Another story goes that it was named after the town or city of Richmond in Surrey, England. In 1851, Matthew Teefy was postmaster. Richmond Hill had a grist mill and a steam saw mill. There were 17 dams and mills between here and Thornhill, and the Don and Humber Rivers were wide enough for transportation and salmon was speared in the rivers and creeks.

In 1872 the village was incorporated with a population of 691. The council consisted of Abram Law, Reeve; Wm. Warren, Jack Brillinger, Wm. Powell, David Hopkins and Matthew Teefy was village clerk and treasurer. By 1874 the population had grown to 867 and the first Richmond Hill station was opened at what is now Maple.

In 1880, the Methodist church, now the United Church was built and Mr. Wm. Atkinson Sr. climbed the spire and put in place the ornamental top. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1881 from bricks from the lot at brickyard at the corner of Richmond and Trench Streets. Mr. Jenkins ministered to the people on his rare visits as he was a circuit rider and had the district from Markham to Lake Simcoe.

The school was also established in 1881. There were 80 pupils and two teachers, Miss Emma Spray and Miss Cruickshanks. In 1846 the Palmer house stood where Wm. Neal lives now and Patterson Place, now Don Head Farms, manufactured farm implements. The Montreal Daily Star could be subscribed for at \$1.00 a year, and a newspaper advertisement for Switzer's Store advertised men's shirts for \$1.00 and men's serge suits for \$13.00.

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