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# The Liberal

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"In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity"

VOLUME LXXI. NUMBER 5.

RICHMOND HILL, ONT., THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1949

HOME-PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

## The Richmond Theatre

Richmond Hill, Ontario  
Telephone Richmond Hill 500  
York County's Newest and Most Modern Playhouse  
Shows daily, Monday through Friday at 7 and 9 p.m.  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday: Matinee at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.  
Continuous Show Sat. from 5 p.m. Doors open 4:45 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY — AUG. 5 & 6

### "If You Knew Susie"

with  
Eddie Cantor and Joan Davis  
Plus  
Sports Golden Age  
with  
Jack Dempsey, Babe Ruth, Joe Louis  
and hosts of others

MONDAY & TUESDAY — AUG. 8 & 9

### "Desert Fury"

with  
Burt Lancaster, Lizbeth Scott  
Plus

### Tropical Masquerade

With Tito Guizar  
ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

WED. & THURSDAY — AUG. 10 & 11

### There Goes My Heart

with  
Frederick March, Virginia Bruce

FRIDAY & SATURDAY — AUG. 12 & 13

### "Brooklyn Orchid"

with  
Wm. Bendix, Marjorie Woodworth  
Plus

### "Trigger Man"

with  
Johnny Mack Brown

During July and August the first show every evening will commence at 7 p.m.

ALWAYS NEWS AND A CARTOON

## Henry C. Bowyer Marked Ninetieth Birthday July 26

Three married sons and their married children came from various points in the United States, some from as far away as Florida, and two married sons and two married daughters and their children came from places in Canada to attend the celebration of the ninetieth birthday of Henry C. Bowyer of Church St., Richmond Hill, which occurred on July 26th.

On July 30th, a Bowyer reunion was held at Springbank Park, London, when games, races and a ball game were features. Many presents were given to Mr. Bowyer, who made a suitable reply and gave, as his recipe for a long life: "Never be in a hurry, never worry and live a good clean life."

Mr. Bowyer has twenty-six grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren and makes his home with his son Charles on Church Street, Richmond Hill. Born in Essex, England, he came to Canada in 1910 and says that he has never regretted it.

Five of his sons served in the first Great War, Charles being a prisoner-of-war for nearly four years, and five grandsons served in the second war.

Mr. Bowyer enjoys the best of health, hoes, cuts wood and takes walks for exercise.

## New Signs Brighten Yonge St. Darkness

Although it's still a long way from New York's Broadway or Chicago's Michigan Avenue, new illuminated signs on Richmond Hill's Yonge St. provide an augury of things to come.

An electric sign at the Richmond Hill Hardware and the lighting up of the name on the Richmond Theatre give an added touch of brightness to the main street at night. Other lighted signs, it is understood, will come into being shortly when alterations to business premises are completed.

## Richvale Girl, Richmond Hill Man Win Car, Boat At Lions Carnival

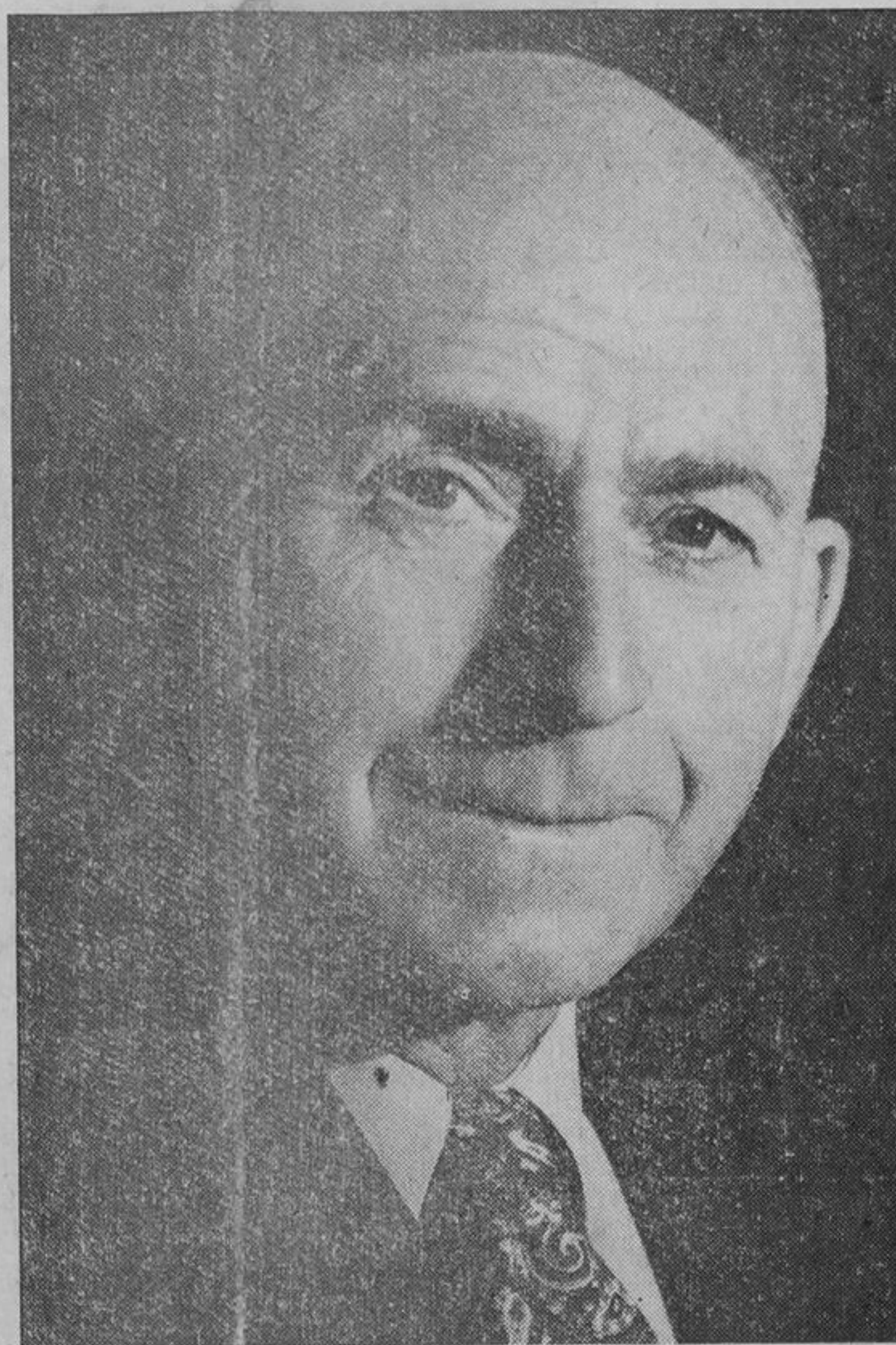
As Jack Smith, M.P., drew and announced the lucky number which would make somebody the owner of a new Ford car, at the conclusion of the Lions Club carnival on Civic Holiday, an excited shriek came from the big crowd. "I've got it — I've got it," a girl's voice yelled.

Up to the stand came pretty eighteen-year-old Helen Davis of Spruce Street, Richvale, so excited that her pleasure took away the disappointment which others — this writer included — felt because Lady Luck had passed them by.

Asked how she felt about her win Helen said "It feels WONDERFUL." Bubbling over with the thrill of her win, she even found it difficult for a minute or two to answer the quiz question correctly — "What holiday are we celebrating today?"

Employed as a stenographer at Direct Factory Sales, Ltd., Toronto, Helen, spurned offers to teach her to drive. That, it appeared, was going to be taken care of by the "boy friend" who seemed to be as delighted as Helen herself. The winning ticket was No. 6104 and was sold to

## The Picture Of The Week



Just before the turn of the century an eleven-year-old lad left school in England and went to work keeping sheep for a shilling a week. Pictured above is that same lad today — one of Richmond Hill's best-known citizens — Councillor WESLEY MIDDLETON.

In between then and now he has covered a lot of territory — worked at a lot of different jobs. But through the years he seems to have been able to have maintained a pretty happy philosophy of life. "Started with no hair and no teeth. Haven't any today. Started without a dollar. Haven't got one today. So I'm holding my own," is the way he puts it.

Coming to Canada when he was sixteen Wes., as everybody calls him, learned bricklaying. And, in spite of many changes of occupation in the intervening years, he has found himself back

(Continued on Page Two)

## Lively Session Of Council Marks Consideration Of Town Planning-Battle Over Lot Limits, Cellars

Subjects ranging all the way from Sunday golf to floor areas entered into the debate when Richmond Hill councillors held a special meeting on July 28th to discuss the long-awaited report of the Town Planning Committee.

Going into committee of the whole, with Councillor Ken Tomlin in the chair, members battled through a long, hot session, with tempers at times reaching the breaking point.

With three or four councillors often holding forth at one time and cries of "Listen, I've got the floor," contrasting with the usual equanimity of a Richmond Hill council meeting the village fathers battled hard on practically every point submitted by the committee.

Council appeared to divide into two schools of thought, with Councillor Wes. Middleton battling for the rights of the "common man," and against too rigid restrictions and other councillors admitting those rights but asserting their determination to protect the investments of present property owners.

Only a part of the committee's report was considered, the balance being laid over to a future meeting. Practically every suggestion made by the planning committee 'got the axe' to some degree or other before it was approved.

Little opposition developed to the first recommendation which was that road allowances in all new subdivisions must be 66 feet wide, but a hot debate marked the proposal that all new building lots must have a minimum width of fifty feet.

### Fight Over Lot Widths

"The wealth of a community is not measured only in terms of dollars and cents. There are other things to consider, and health is prominent among them," said Councillor Tomlin, when discussing a building by-law amendment to this effect. He was replying to an effort made by Councillor Middleton to permit 25 foot building lots. "The past is beyond control," he added, "but we can certainly do something about the future." Council finally agreed to the fifty foot lots, with a minimum depth of one hundred and fifty feet.

### Another Contentious Subject Was

The proposal to ban the erection of any permanent building from being closer to the lot line than five feet stirred up more controversy. A compromise setting the limit at four feet was finally agreed on. It was agreed also that in new subdivisions all dwellings must be erected thirty feet back of the street line instead of twenty feet, as called for by present regulations. No detached garage with living quarters in or over it will be permitted.

### Richmond Hill Branch Canadian Legion, Has Been Re-Organized

Twenty-six new members were inducted into the Richmond Hill branch of the Canadian Legion when a reorganization meeting was held in the Public School at Richvale.

Present as guests were Ontario Provincial President Ted Evans of Toronto, Provincial Secretary Pat Biggs of the same city and District Commander Glover of Orangeville. They outlined the aims of the organization and the many services it renders to ex-service men and to Canada.

The following officers were elected: I. J. Williams, president; W. J. Adams, Sr., 1st vice-president; Steve Arbin, 2nd vice-president; Doug Horton, secretary-treasurer; A. E. Jarvis, sergeant-at-arms.

Members of the executive are J. Adams, Bruce Wark and Gord. Smith.

A general meeting will be held once each month, with an executive meeting every week. Dates of meeting will be announced later.

Conclusion of Thornhill in the proposed three-way school section. It was pointed out that geographically there was a marked gap between Thornhill and the other sections caused by the territory occupied by golf courses.

Following a general discussion and due to the lack of representation from Markham township ratepayers, it was decided to adjourn the meeting until August 8th.

that of the square foot area of ground floor space which was to be regarded as a minimum. Six hundred square feet was recommended by the planning committee, but after a hot debate with Councillor Wes. Middleton standing up for "the man who could only start off in a small way" councillors, with perspiration pouring down most faces, agreed on a four hundred and eighty foot minimum.

Introducing the next section Chairman Tomlin said that his committee was against the plan followed in quite a number of places, where a cash deposit covering guarantee of completion was required. To give everybody with limited means an opportunity, he said, it had been decided to recommend that no bond be required but that the permit should be issued on the understanding that building would be completed within two years. If not, he said, the owner should be required to submit an explanation and, if it was established that reasonable work was being done and conditions were satisfactory, the permit should be extended by the planning board and council.

### Battle Over "Cellar-Dwellers"

Here one of the main battles of the evening developed, with Councillor Middleton defending the right of a man to live in a cellar if he wanted to, and Reeve P. C. Hill and Councillor Tomlin asserting their determination to protect the community against the coming into being of a community of "cellar-dwellers" destructive to the investments of established home-owners.

"99% of the people of this community will live up to regulations," asserted Councillor Tomlin. "We are elected to protect those people from the 1% who will not."

"There's a church on Bayview which has a tar paper roof," said Councillor Middleton, "and people worship there," in fighting for the right of a man to live in a tar roofed cellar while developing his property.

The argument developed and finally embraced a discussion of Sunday sports, raids on illegal activities, numbering of houses and numerous other subjects. Typical of the character of the discussion were statements such as "You people are in another class," and "Have a little thought for the man who is struggling," coupled with charges of inconsistency.

In between councillors decided on a five foot limit from the street line for new buildings on Yonge Street and finally agreed to the suggestion of Councillor Mabley that the meeting adjourn in order to give councillors an opportunity to think the proposition over.

## Telephone Calls In Richmond Hill 1,800 Daily In 1947 - Now 4,880 Dial Service Anticipated In 1951

Dial telephone service for Richmond Hill is an integral part of the expansion plan being carried out by The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, according to S. Ross VanDusen, the company's manager for this area, when interviewed recently by the Liberal. Because of the continued shortages of dial equipment, coupled with a heavy demand for this type of equipment throughout the country, plans for converting the telephone system here to dial operation are tentatively set for 1951, but in the meantime no effort will be spared to provide the best possible service with the present type of equipment for all who order it.

The company's programme of expansion and improvement calls for the eventual conversion of magneto exchanges in its territory to common battery and dial operation. When this is completed, the long familiar hand-crank will be a matter of history. The order of conversion of magneto exchanges will, of course, be governed by the size of each exchange, industrial development, as compared to rural development, and other factors.

Increase of population in the district covered by the Richmond Hill exchange has created a major problem, according to Mr. VanDusen. He instanced building permits issued in one area — Vaughan Township — which amounted to 110 in the first six months of 1949, totalling \$627,250 as compared with 108, totalling \$554,400 in the same period last year. Comparable situations existed throughout the whole district, he said.

Telephone growth has also been increasing rapidly to supply the service which new applicants desire, Mr. VanDusen said. "In order to meet the demand for service following the wartime period of general shortages, \$68,000 was spent in 1947 and 1948 to provide new street wiring, and cables — aerial and underground — in the Richmond Hill exchange territory.

During 1949 the company's budgeted expenditure will be \$35,000, of which \$16,000 has been spent to date. All this plant is being constructed, and placed in service to provide telephones for the fast-growing Richmond Hill territory and its new citizens, with the objective of providing the best possible service with the present type of equipment until the cutover to dial service.

(Continued on Page Three)

## Police Seize Liquor, Beer, In Richmond Hill Raid

The Polish National Society will have to answer charges in York County Police Court on August 8th as a result of a raid staged on July 23rd.

Two hundred bottles of beer and seven quarts of liquor were seized when police raided a picnic being staged by the society at Richmond Hill.

Leading the raid was Constable

Edward Kidd of Richmond Hill, who has laid charges against the club, which has its headquarters at 1087 Queen Street West, Toronto, of having liquor for sale and of having liquor in an illegal place.

Besides Constable Kidd officers taking part in the raid were: Detective William Martindale and Constables Frank Sweeney and Ralph Fear of Markham and P. C. Frank Moore of Richmond Hill.

## James Robb, Maple Enters 95th Year

Mr. James Robb of Maple celebrated his 94th birthday at his home on Sunday, July 31, with his family and grandchildren present. He received cards of birthday wishes and gifts

and a lovely bouquet of roses. The evening was spent in singing and piano selections. Mr. Robb also entertained by playing selections on his concertina. After a dainty luncheon with birthday cake being served they sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow". Mr. Robb is the father of Mrs. Leslie Baker, Richmond Hill.

## Thornhill Trustees Oppose School Area Inclusion At Meeting Of Ratepayers

Endeavouring to clarify the situation with regard to the inclusion of Thornhill Union School Section in a school area recently approved by Vaughan Township Council, ratepayers of the section met at Thornhill school on July 29th.

Attendance was disappointing, with only about two dozen being present, very few of them being from the Markham side of the section.

R. Overbury, chairman of trustees for the school section, explained the situation with regard to the setting up of a school area to replace the school sections now existing. Marshall McMurchy, deputy-reeve of Vaughan township, gave the reasons for his council approving the set-up of the proposed area. He emphasized the situation regarding the construction of new schools, pointing

out that under the school section plan a council was forced to issue debentures when officially called upon to do so, whereas under the school area plan a council could, if it desired, call for a ratepayers' vote.

Chairman Overbury stated that his board of trustees was against the inclusion of Thornhill in a school area. It had been formerly reported that the Vaughan township council had received letters indicating that Langstaff, Richvale and Thornhill were all in favour of the establishment of a school area but it was later indicated that a communication from Thornhill to the Vaughan council was signed by independent persons and did not represent the official opinion of the Thornhill trustees.

Several ratepayers expressed themselves as being opposed to the in-