

The Richmond Theatre

Richmond Hill, Ontario

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Shows Daily at 7 and 9 p.m.

Saturdays and holidays, continuously from 5.30 p.m.
 Saturday: Matinee at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1.30 p.m.
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 Euchre at 8 o'clock sharp

Hillbillies Western Orchestra
 Old Time and Modern Dancing

Admission 25c

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Expenditures Explained Account Of Stewardship For Past Year Is Given By Public School Board

By Mrs. J. Langstaff, (Trustee)

By November 15 the village and township ratepayers are required to meet the final installment of their 1949 taxes. Concern is undoubtedly expressed by many at the steadily increasing cost of elementary education. To those ratepayers who like to know where these "public school dollars" are disappearing, the school board presents the following interesting facts and figures as explanation of the rise in the mill rate — a rise which has to a great extent been brought about by increasing costs in public school maintenance.

In Richmond Hill Village

In 1948 the village ratepayers paid \$12.02 per thousand dollar assessment for public school purposes; in 1949 this jumped up to \$16.81 per thousand dollar assessment. In 1948 the first payment on the twenty-year debentures for the new addition to the public school amounted to \$3.12 per thousand dollar assessment. In 1949 payment on the debentures has dropped to \$1.56 and will continue at approximately this rate, dropping a little from year to year, as the assessment increases, until the debentures are paid up in 1967. Along with this decrease in debenture costs came an increase of \$6.35 per thousand dollar assessment in public school maintenance costs.

In Vaughan Township

In 1948 the Vaughan township ratepayers living in the Richmond Hill School Section paid \$17.00 per thousand dollar assessment for school purposes. In 1949 this was increased by 4 mills to \$21.00 per thousand dollar assessment. In 1948 the initial payment on the debentures was \$5.60 per thousand dollar assessment. In 1949 this dropped to \$2.10 per thousand assessment. Public school maintenance costs rose from \$11.50 to \$19.00 per thousand dollar assessment.

In Markham Township

In 1948 the Markham Township ratepayers living in the Richmond Hill School Section paid \$9.00 per thousand dollar assessment as their share of the public school costs. In 1949 this sum was increased to \$17.40 per thousand. The debenture payments dropped from \$4.30 per thousand dollar assessment to \$1.66 per thousand in 1949. Public school maintenance costs rose from \$4.70 to \$15.74 per thousand dollar assessment.

Increased Enrolment of Pupils

Due to overcrowding in the kindergarten the school board regretfully set back the date of admission to include those children who would be five years of age by October 31, instead of December 31, as last year. The total enrolment is now 437 pupils, 49 of whom are in the kindergarten. In 1948 there were 403 children attending the school with 61 in the kindergarten. There is an average this year of 38.8 children in each of the ten grade classrooms.

New Classroom Equipment

With the steady increase in school population the board was faced with the problem of providing additional accommodation for the opening of school on September 7, 1949. It was a case either of renting again the upstairs room in the municipal hall, or of making a more permanent investment by equipping the extra basement room under the new addition, as a classroom. An estimate was secured and at a cost of \$786.81 this was done. The walls were lined with ten-test, a pine floor was put down over the concrete, the slate blackboards moved from the sewing room, suitable board and desk lighting installed, a sand table and commodious cupboards built. A large ventilating fan was placed in the rear wall. The caretakers painted the walls and woodwork green and grey. A teacher's desk and chair and forty-five students' desks (ten of these for upstairs classrooms) were purchased at a cost of \$944.35. In this room fifteen second grade and twenty third grade pupils are comfortably situated.

Chairs For The Auditorium

Since the 1948 budget did not include the cost of chairs for the auditorium, this was the final large expenditure in 1949. In January 350 sturdy metal and plywood chairs were purchased at a cost of \$1815.50. These chairs are conveniently stacked in a corner, in layers 15 deep, when the auditorium is used for games and physical exercise. Some are re-assembled for the music classes and audio-visual teaching while for public gatherings 350 may be comfortably seated.

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Auditorium In Demand

The school board is pleased to report that the auditorium, in addition to its use during school hours, is being regularly used weekly by the Girl Guides, the Brownies, a Cub pack, and dancing classes, while the Boy Scouts are taking woodworking classes in the boys' playroom. Community organizations, by contacting the secretary of the school board, Mr. James Grainger, may arrange for the use of the auditorium in the evenings, the only charge being for the additional caretaking entailed.

Drapes For Auditorium And New Classrooms

Drapes for the windows of the four new classrooms, to protect the pupils from heat and glare on sunny days, and inter-lined drapes for the auditorium, were purchased at a cost of \$898.68. The auditorium can now be darkened for the showing of educational films to the pupils. The new projector, bought in 1948, is used in this room and a film library has been started. In addition, noteworthy sound films from the Dept. of Education, the Hydro-Electric Commission, National Film Service and the Ontario Safety League are shown from time to time to the students.

Face Lifting of Old Classrooms

Due to the cost of materials and the scarcity of labour, no painting was done on the exterior or interior of the older part of the school, during the war years. After calling for tenders a contract to paint the six old classrooms, entrances, stairways and corridors was given to Mr. J. Wardlaw Norris of Bolton at a cost of \$1774.00. A variety of color schemes have brightened the rooms and halls so that they compare favorably with the new addition. Due to the lack of funds it was necessary to leave the much needed exterior painting and re-decorating of the basement for another year.

Increased Salary To Staff

The full-time teaching staff was given a salary increase of \$129.00 per teacher with the renewal of contracts, commencing September 7. An additional teacher was hired to take charge in the remodelled classroom. The staff now consists of eleven full-time teachers, a part time teacher who assists the principal three half-days weekly in the eighth grade, and teaches sewing to the upper five grades one day weekly, and a music supervisor. Two caretakers continue to attend to the firing and engineering duties as well as cleaning the school and doing minor repairs. The increase in salaries in 1949 over 1948, to the teaching staff and all members of the accessory staff, amounts to \$6684.00.

Looking Ahead

While much has been accomplished during the past year, the job is by no means finished. With the school population at an all time high, and every classroom in use and averaging 38 pupils, it may be necessary as early as September 1950 to find additional accommodation. A committee of board members has been appointed to investigate possible sites for a new public school unit. Realizing that property is rising in price, and that few pieces of land of sufficient size are available, it would seem advisable to secure land at this time to hold until the increasing population, and therefore increased assessment, warrants the building of a new unit.

As mentioned above, it was not possible to stretch the budget to cover the remainder of the interior and exterior painting. Nor was it possible to do some much needed grading of the school grounds and laying of asphalt at the entrances and on the playgrounds. A new fence on the southern boundary of the school property is required in 1950. Next year's budget should cover the cost of re-lighting the older classrooms to fulfill the requirements of the Dept. of Education.

The inspector's report continues to recommend the establishment of an opportunity class for the exceptional children. Inquiries are constantly made as to when manual training will be included in the curriculum for the boys. All these items of unfinished business will receive the earnest consideration of your board in 1950.

Again Consider Elmwood Water Supply Problem

"It's up to us to give Elmwood water if we can get it for them," said Councillor Robert Rae at a meeting of Markham Township council when, spear-headed by Reeve Vern Griffin, councillors discussed the possibility of getting a water supply into that subdivision on Richmond Hill's southern borders at the earliest possible moment.

Upshot of the discussion was a decision to have the township engineer examine the situation as soon as possible, and to have him bring in a report of cost and other factors.

Following that, councillors intimated, they would give speedy consideration to having water installed under a Local Improvement Plan.

Under such a plan the council would advertise its intention to install the system. Unless a sizeable number of property owners objected the sanction of the Ontario Municipal Board to the expenditure would be sought and, if obtained, financing arranged and the work carried out. Repayment would be made by property owners through their taxes over a period of years.

Markham Twp. Councillors Ponder Growth

Roads, water, industry and many other angles of township planning were discussed by members of Markham Township council at a meeting when Gordon Culham of Toronto, the municipality's town planning consultant, considered part of the township's master plan with them.

Evidently reconciled to the fact that development along urban lines was coming so rapidly that little could be done about it except plan as fast as possible for the future, councillors covered a wide range of subjects and of territory in their endeavour to find a proper solution of benefit to all classes, both rural and urban.

"We must either spend money now or spend much more later," said Councillor Bob Rae. "It is important to get industry in where we have population," stated Deputy Reeve Win. Timbers. "That is not the only answer," Consultant Culham advised the council.

Good water supply, he said, was of the utmost importance to the district's controlled growth. Street planning came in for considerable discussion, Reeve Vern Griffin urging the laying out of a co-ordinated plan which would obviate crooked and "dead end" streets, resulting in heavy future expenditures. "It might be a smart thing for us to change all our plans," he said in the course of the general discussion, "pushing all urban development outwards from a central point, Unionville, where water is freely available."

The council was advised that industries had been looking over available sites in the area, with mention being made of one concern considering a \$150,000 installation in the district south of Richmond Hill.

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HYDRO INTERRUPTION NOVEMBER 23rd 1949 Village of Richmond Hill

In order to carry out essential work on Yonge Street power to village consumers will be interrupted from 1 to 3 p.m., Daylight Saving Time, on Wednesday, November 23.

The following district will be affected
**THE AREAS EAST AND WEST OF YONGE ST.
 NORTH OF LORNE AND ARNOLD AVENUE**
 Thanks for your co-operation.

RICHMOND HILL HYDRO ELECTRIC SYSTEM

IMPORTANT NOTICE to

Thornhill Telephone Subscribers

On and After Tuesday, November 22nd,
 all enquiries concerning your telephone
 service should be directed to:

Mr. H. Harley, Druggist,
 Yonge Street, Thornhill
 (Telephone — 130)

Mr. Harley has been authorized to accept payment of accounts and to transact all other business formerly handled at our Thornhill Business Office.

This change has been made in order to provide space in our exchange building for additional equipment.

S. R. VanDUSEN, Manager

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