

The Liberal

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Congratulations Are In Order

Congratulations are due to two Richmond Hill residents who have been very much in the public eye during the last week — Messrs. Neal and Parker.

As successful candidate for the office of Reeve Mr. Neal won a victory which shows that he has the confidence of a large number of citizens — that his long years of faithful service to the community are recognized and appreciated.

Mr. Parker, in deciding to contest the seat, showed courage, initiative and a belief in the principles of dem-

ocracy. Both men fought a clean fight and Richmond Hill is no worse off because of the contest. To victor and vanquished alike congratulations are due for the way in which the campaign was conducted.

Voters, too, are to be complimented on the manner in which they turned out. With no major issues at stake, and in bitterly cold weather, they showed an interest in municipal affairs which would be a credit to many larger places.

The new reeve takes over office at a time when major changes are

facing Richmond Hill. Rarely have there been, in the life of the municipality, so many outstanding problems. He has proved himself, by his refusal to oppose the late Reeve J. A. Greene last year, a "good sport." He has shown himself to be, by his past services, a capable administrator. He has a good, progressively-minded council to work with him.

The election is over. Now is the time to get down to the job. The new reeve will carry the good wishes of the people with him as he tackles it with his council.

\$6,970 - - - What Do We Get For It?

York County Council's budget for 1951 is "bad news" for Richmond Hill taxpayers and for taxpayers, too, in other parts of the county. In one sense, however, the village itself gets one of the worst blows because it pays out a largely increased amount without getting anything, comparatively speaking, either for the increase or the original amount.

In 1950 Richmond Hill taxpayers contributed, through the county rate added to their tax bills, \$5,134.84 to York County. This year, with over a mill increase in the county rate, they will pay out \$6,970.01, a jump of \$1,836.

The amount paid by Richmond Hill to York County amounts to approximately \$3.32 for each man, woman and child in the municipality. The question may be asked quite fairly, as it has been asked before — what do we get for it?

Up to a couple of years ago some part of the money paid out was returned towards the High School. But it appears now that the only return which Richmond Hill gets is the services of county police courts. From the number of local cases tried there that would appear to be a pretty slim return for a sizeable amount of money.

It may be claimed that Richmond Hill receives some return from the use of county roads such as the Markham and Vaughan roads. If so that too is a pretty thin repayment. This newspaper has expressed itself emphatically before on the condition of those roads for which, it must be remembered, residents of Markham and Vaughan townships are also paying in part.

Boiled down, it looks as if that \$3.32 for each man, woman and child

in the Hill is a pretty poor investment. The nearly seven thousand dollars which this municipality will be taxed this year is money which would go a long way towards local improvements. Our village councillors would breathe a sigh of relief, in facing this year's heavy expenditures and the necessity of spending money on a sewerage system, if they had that amount to play with. In all fairness to them it should be emphasized that they have no control over it. It has to be taken into their calculations regardless.

It is, we believe, possible for a municipality to move towards withdrawal from the county system. Studying the figures which have been presented, analyzing the return for the amount, the question arises as to whether Richmond Hill isn't justified in taking steps in that direction.

Thornhill Business Men

Revival of the Thornhill Business Men's Association, recently accomplished, is a step very much in keeping with the times. The growing importance of Thornhill as the tide of population sweeps northward, the increase of business and opportunity which follow that flow, demand that the merchants and business men of that community exercise vision and aggressiveness in order to capitalize to the fullest possible extent on what is happening.

There is more than one angle to the subject. Fundamentally a business men's association, a board of

trade, a chamber of commerce, exists for the purpose of promoting the business and well-being of members. That is only reasonable. But on the other hand there is a lot of truth in the saying that "He who gives — gets." Designed primarily for the purpose of building business such an association, whatever its title, can do much in promoting the welfare not only of its members but also of all its citizens.

That is not to say that such a body need be an "interfering" one. There is no need for it to attempt to take over the functions of legally established bodies such as councils,

boards of trustees or other forms of local government. But, working with them, it can be a strongly constructive force for the betterment of all sections of the population.

Fortunately business men of Thornhill are well aware of those facts. They have proved in the past that they have vision and initiative. There is little doubt that they will continue to exercise them. Their new association is one which deserves to succeed. In its efforts to do a constructive job it will have the good wishes and good will of the whole district.

Highland Park Ratepayers

The large attendance which featured the meeting of members of the Highland Park Ratepayers' Association, this week, in spite of very bad weather, gave an emphatic demonstration of the fact that the newer residents who have chosen to make Markham Township their home are taking a keen interest in local government.

Highland Park, one of the latest of the district's subdivisions, differs in several ways from other property developments which are increasing local population rapidly. Its size alone places it apart. It has little in

the way of "old residents." Practically all of those who live therein have, up to recent days, been city dwellers. Few of them have, as in other developments, built their own homes. In other words, its population represents a large group of people who have, almost overnight, transferred to a part of the country where the form of local government varies considerably from that to which they have been accustomed.

But the important thing is that, in the few months in which their association has been established, they

have shown a keen awareness of local conditions, have evinced a considerable desire to improve those conditions for themselves and their neighbours, and to fit into the scheme of things in the part of the country they now call home.

It is almost needless to say that they are welcome citizens. They can contribute much — and undoubtedly will — to the development not only of their own area but the whole district. The interest which they have shown to date in municipal government is a very heartening and welcome asset to this community.

Should Polling Hours Be Changed?

There could be more than a shade of reason in the contention recently advanced by a number of Richmond Hill residents that the time has come for a change in the voting hours at municipal elections.

For many voters now working in the city the present hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. create somewhat of a difficulty in going to the polls. It is impossible for them to vote before they go to work if they are due there at nine. Leaving their place of business at five o'clock, doomed to the slow-downs of rush hour traffic, they sometimes find it a problem to get home and to the polls in time. The situation for those who work to six is that much worse. There is always the risk that weather condi-

tions can cause a bad tie-up — an ever-present possibility in early December.

Voting hours of, say, from noon to 8 or 9 would give everybody an opportunity. Those on shift work — and there are a number in the village, would get a fair chance of exercising their franchise. Those on the more or less standard nine to five day would have no excuse for not voting.

It would not seem that those voters who normally go out in the morning would be unduly inconvenienced. Their proportion is not large. In the recent election for reeve, for instance, those who voted before 12:30 noon totalled 164 out of a grand aggregate of 771 who went to the

polls. In any event the main thing is that ALL voters should have an opportunity to state their choice.

As has been said so many times, Canada boasts of the fact that all its qualified citizens have a chance to share of the government of their country. It would not seem completely consistent to make that proud boast and then to negate it by failing to give them the opportunity of so doing.

There is nothing novel in the hours suggested. Some neighbouring municipalities follow them. Richmond Hill has always had an outstanding record for voting. It would seem reasonable that with changing conditions every effort should be made to ensure that its citizens are enabled to maintain that record.

Experts Meet to Aid Blind Readers



Seven international experts, of whom five were blind, recently met at Paris under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to plan the adoption of a single world script (Braille) for the blind. In this group are Professor Nickola Bassili (left) of the School for Blind, Cairo, and Sir Clutha MacKenzie of UNESCO.

The Gardener's Column

(By Al Rice)

Tuberous Begonias

One of the most appealing factors of tuberous begonias is that they will grow in partial shade in your garden where it is hard to get most plants to grow, let alone bloom. Begonias give a profusion of color and bloom from spring until fall. They may be started in the next two weeks in flats using a mixture of equal parts of soil, peat-moss and sand. Leave in these boxes or flats until second leaf has formed then they may be transplanted to four inch pots until ready for garden. This will give well started strong sturdy plants.

Answers to questions sent in by readers:

Question: What will I do with young Jerusalem Cherry plants I have started?

Answer: After frost danger is past plant in your garden for the summer. As these are a Christmas plant they will flower and set fruit in late summer. Remove from garden and pot using ordinary garden loam, take indoors and you will see fruit grow and color.

Question: Should my Gloxinias be started now?

Answer: As these are bulbs they should be started now using a sandy loam mixture. Place in a bright window. After leaves have formed it is better to water from the bottom as strong sunlight shining on water dropped on leaves scalds and leaves white

spots. Gloxinias should come in to bloom in May.

Question: Will Dahlia tubers cut from main stems now sprout before planting?

Answer: Yes. The tubers may be removed now and packed in a box of sand or peat moss. This will encourage them to sprout. To get a good early start these may be put into pots around the end of March and watered occasionally until time to put out.

Question: How to treat Gladiolus bulbs for thrip?

Answer: After cleaning bulbs dust with either Derris Dust or D.D.T. powder. This may be procured at your hardware store. Store in a cool place until planting time. Just before planting mix a solution of Corrosive Sulimate (procureable at your druggists) 1 oz. to 5 gals. of water, using wooden container only. The simplest way to handle would be to place bulbs in cloth bag or sack and leave to soak for four hours. If bulbs are not cleaned down it is necessary to leave 1 to 2 hours longer.

If you have a gardening or plant problem and would like expert advice write to "The Gardener's Column, The Liberal, Richmond Hill." The reply will be published in this column, which is written by Al Rice, Rice's Flower Shop, Richmond Hill.

"Way Back When"

Excerpts from the files of The Liberal
 Home paper of the Richmond Hill district since 1878

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 12, 1891
 "For the first time Richmond Hill is divided into three polling sub-divisions for the coming Dominion election. The divisions are as follows: 1st, all that part of the municipality east of Yonge Street; 2nd, all that part west of Yonge Street and south of Richmond Street."

"At the regular monthly meeting of Richmond Hill Fire Brigade the auditor's report showed the total receipts to be \$538.01, expenditures \$307.55, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$230.46."

FIFTY YEARS AGO

July 4, 1901
 "Negotiations for the entrance into the city of the Metropolitan and other suburban railways were begun yesterday."

"The following are the newly elected officers of King Plowmen's Association: president, S. Jamieson; vice-president, P. McMurchy; secretary J. T. Sargeon, treasurer, G. Lawson."

FORTY YEARS AGO

February 9, 1911
 "Almost everything these days seems to have an upward tendency. The Whitney government a few days ago raised the members' yearly indemnity from \$1,000 to \$1,400, and a few days later York County Council raised the councillors' pay from \$3. to \$5. per day."

"The following team will represent Richmond Hill High School at Aurora next Thursday: Earl Blanchard, Stanley McCon-

aghy, Norman Francis, Carl Sargeon, Willie Naughton, Douglas Larkin, Carl Hill."

THIRTY YEARS AGO

February 17, 1921
 "Mr. Grant of Hotel Richmond is erecting a garage and ice house at the rear of the lot."

"There was a good attendance at the pancake social, at Maple, on Shrove Tuesday and \$22 was cleared."

TWENTY YEARS AGO

February 18, 1931
 "The first Richmond Hill Troop of Boy Scouts will hold a sale of homemade baking and candy in Mr. T. W. Allison's vacant store on Yonge Street, on Saturday afternoon."

"Mr. K. Blanchard attended the Durant Motor Class held at Leaside last week. A banquet was held at the Prince George Hotel on Friday evening."

TEN YEARS AGO

February 13, 1941
 "A local bonspiel was enjoyed by members last Saturday, eight rinks taking part. Skip J. Morton won first prize, skip Roy Wice was high for two wins and skip A. A. Eden high for one win."

"Richmond Hill tax rate took a considerable drop when council met this week and fixed the tax rate for this year at forty-five mills, three mills lower than last year. Reeve Tom T. Trench spent several hours on the estimates and pencils were well sharpened in figuring the requirements of the various departments."

OTTAWA LETTER

by
Jack Smith, M.P.
 North York

The 1951 Session of the Canadian Parliament opened last week with traditional ceremony, and with the thermometer registering several degrees below zero in a typically cold Canadian winter day.

The session commences amid a rather tense atmosphere, reflecting the general anxiety which prevails throughout our land and the world as a result of the existing unsettled international situation.

The speech from the throne which is read at the opening of Parliament plans for the session.

The speech this session left no doubt that the big problem before Parliament is defence of Canada and the free world. Canada is going to spend greatly increased amounts on the strengthening of our armed forces, and plans to send substantial material aid to other countries willing to join in the defence of the free world against communism.

This undoubtedly will mean increased taxation but just what form these increased taxes will take will not be known until the budget is brought down some weeks hence.

Three major items of concern and discussion are sure to be (1) the troubled international situation, (2) the enlargement of our defence forces including large additions to the army, navy and air force, and (3) the rising cost of living, threatened inflation, and the controversial question of controls.

Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs who has played such an important role in the deliberations of the United Nations has given a complete summary of the world situation as he views it, and there is general satisfaction here among all parties that Canada's position throughout the deliberations have been sound and fair.

While war is a distinct possibility, the consensus in informed circles is that it is by no means inevitable. There is ground for reasonable hope that the great increase in the military strength of the free nations may be sufficient to discourage those who might again plunge the world into all-out war.

Our armed forces will be increased in number and our production of modern equipment stepped up to proportions unknown in Canada's peacetime history. Enlistment in all branches of the service has been progressing at a very satisfactory rate and in keeping with plans for defence at home and abroad.

The government is not likely to institute a system of over-all controls under existing conditions and whether or not it does so at some future time will depend on the trend of world affairs. How-

ever, the government will ask Parliament for some stand-by authority to take immediate action if emergency conditions should warrant it. The government is hopeful the upward spiral in living costs may be checked in other ways and that better results may be obtained through these means and voluntary efforts of the people than by the adoption of an extensive and expensive system of over-all controls.

"Price Controls should be applied immediately to protect the living standards of our families. Rent Controls should be maintained. I urge you to give your full support to this legislation."

Cards bearing this message are being received by the hundreds by Members of Parliament, and the post-card lobby sponsored by Labor organizations promises to reach very considerable proportions.

These post-card lobbies are not particularly popular here at Ottawa as many think — they savor of high pressure methods, but frankly I have no objection to them. I always welcome expressions of opinions from the electors, and while these printed cards are not as informative or as influential as written letters, never-the-less they do give an indication of public opinion.

I try to answer all correspondence but if I overlook any of these many cards, I hope the senders will overlook the omission.

Prospects are that this session will continue well into the coming midsummer, and there is no doubt it will be one of great importance in our national life.

Once again I wish to remind the people of North York that I welcome enquiries and communications any time I can be of service to them.

I sometimes receive a letter which says "I voted for you at the last election so am writing to ask etc., etc." We appreciate the confidence and support of those who voted for us, but would point out that whether or not you voted for us or against us should not be the deciding factor in whether or not you write us a letter. An M.P. is elected to represent all the people of the riding and any time I can be of service in matters pertaining to affairs of the constituency or in any matter of federal jurisdiction, I esteem it a privilege and duty to do so. Don't hesitate to write me any time I can be of service to you, and I do appreciate getting letters expressing views on public questions. The address is J. E. Smith, M.P., Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario — and no stamp is required during the session. Don't forget the initials "J. E." as there are now four Smiths in the House including two Jacks.

"Know Your Neighbour"

If there were any question about the patriotism of the subject of this week's "Know Your Neighbour" feature — which there isn't — it could soon be answered by a study of the service which his family has rendered.

For STAN RULE of Oak Ridges, whose picture appears on the front page of this issue, has a family connection which surely must create a record insofar as military service is concerned.

He spent four and a half years in the army himself in the last war, becoming a Staff Sergeant. Six of his brothers saw service in both wars. One of them won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, another the British Empire Medal, a third one the Military Medal.

On top of that he had three sons, four sons-in-law, two daughters and twenty-seven nephews in the armed forces in the last war. Almost looks as if the Rule family, if needed, could form a young army all by itself.

Stan was fourteen years old when he came to Canada with his family. Born in Lancashire, England, he completed his education there and, when he reached Canada, went right to work. His first venture was in the painting and decorating business, which he followed until he moved to Oak Ridges fourteen years ago. Then he went into the buying and selling of property.

After his army service he went back into the property business and finally built the service station and lunchroom on the south lake road which he sold last year. His latest venture is in the glass business, in which he is in partnership with his nephew, Gordon Howland of Langstaff, who has had twenty-five years experience in it. The two have built a new store just north of the Oak Ridges Public School to house what is the first business of its kind in the immediate district.

Interested in local affairs, Stan was originator of the Oak Ridges-Lake Wilcox Ratepayers Association and was on the executive. He is also a director of the Oak Ridges Lions Club and chairman of its welfare committee. He ran once for Whitchurch Township Council and was the Ratepayers' Association nominee this year — having to decline to run when he moved over into King Township.

Quite a family man, Stan and his wife, the former Annie Peck of England, have had nine boys and four girls.

The picture of Mr. Rule, like others in the "Know Your Neighbour" series, was taken by Edmund Soame, The Studio, 1720 Avenue Road.

"Dear Mister Editor"

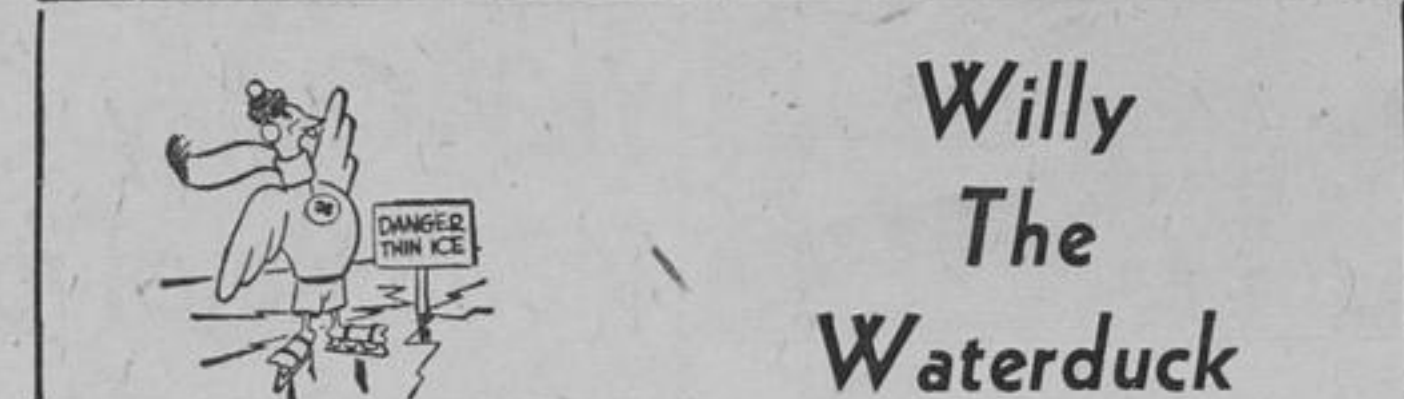
Dear Mr. Editor:
 I would like through your columns to say a word regarding a letter given to Markham Township Council dated February 5, 1951, and signed by Frank Brumwell, secretary, Markham Federation of Agriculture. The letter gives figures regarding assessments and in two different places it refers to "assessments as given

by your assessor."
 I would like to make it known that I did not at any time give any figures to the Federation of Agriculture.
 Section 211A (1) of the Assessment Act reads as follows: —
 "Any Assessment Commissioner or Assessor or other person in the employ of a municipality who in the course of his duties ac-

quires or has access to any information furnished by any Person pursuant to sections 16-17, which relates in any way to determination of value of any real property or the amount of Assessment thereof or to the determination of the amount of any business assessment and who wilfully discloses or permits to be disclosed any such information not required to be entered on the Assessment

roll to any other persons not likewise entitled in the course of his duties to acquire or have access to the information, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$200.00, or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both."

J. A. Fleming
 Assessment Commissioner
 Markham Township.



Willy The Waterduck

Snow has covered the hills and valleys for the past few weeks and the ski enthusiasts are having themselves a time. Skiing can be fun . . . but it can be dangerous too. The first rule for safe skiing is . . . Don't attempt hills beyond your ability. This causes more accidents than any other single factor. Don't ski alone . . . but if you must, do

so only on an open, well-populated slope where others can help you if you should be injured. Like all other sports it is wise to learn the proper method of skiing, before you head for the trails. A few lessons from a qualified instructor may save many a painful spill.

Next week we'll tell you about ski equipment.