The Liberal

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No Need For Long Delay

The Ontario Municipal Board adjourned its public hearing here last week with the suggestion that the municipal councils concerned get together on the matter and that the people directly concerned be supplied with all information about annexation plans.

In view of the action of Markham Township council in asking such adjournment and in the face of the long list of questions submitted and representations made by organizations and individuals the adjournment was fully justified. We think the Ontario Municipal Board took the only reasonable and fair action under the circumstances.

However it is to be hoped that the adjournment will not be for long and that Municipal Councils, Ratepayers Associations and individuals will take prompt action to clear the air of any uncertainties and reach an understanding and decision in this important matter.

It is important that ratepayers be fully informed, and there cannot be undue haste in a matter of such far-reaching importance. On other hand there is no justification for any protracted delay. Unneccessary delay oftentimes proves costly. Here in Richmond Hill we had a recent experience with the same Ontario Municipal Board when unnecessary delay did prove costly.

Richmond Hill's plans for the construction of a sewer system were delayed many months while the Ontario Municipal Board ordered a second vote of the ratepayers and in other ways satisfied itself that the people of the village wanted sewers. The unnecessary delay cost the ratepayers of Richmond Hill many thousands of dollars. During the time the Ontario Municipal Board was considering the matter not only did the contract price increase materially, but the money market changed and interest rates raised with the result that initial cost and carrying charges to be paid by people of this village over the next thirty years were increased by many thousands of dollars.

Strong and prompt action is needed by the municipal council to see there is no repetition of such dilly-dallying in public business.

Richmond Hill Village has made application for the annexation of some adjoining territory now within the limits of the township of Markham. It is a reasonable and logical application such as has been made by many other growing municipalities. It has been accepted as good municipal practice in Ontario to encourage such extension of boundaries where municipalities have the facilities and services to serve an expanding population.

Richmond Hill needs additional area for industrial development. There is ample evidence that opportunities for such industial development exist at the present time. How long such opportunities will remain no one can say. It is a certainty however that industrialists seeking new locations are not going to wait indefinitely for Richmond Hill or any other place to make up its mind whether or not it is going to be in a position to offer land and adequate services.

Richmond Hill's application for annexation of some new territory is of great importance to the future development of this village and surrounding district. It is of such importance that there must be as little delay as possible in reaching a conclusion in the matter.

A Step Forward In Education

The official opening of the new wing of Richmond Hill District High School was an event of outstanding community importance. It marks a definite step forward in educational progress and gives this district a secondary school which is spacious, modern and well equipped.

The new wing symbolizes the progress made in providing for our young people better educational opportunities. It is a credit to the community, to the builder and architect, and especially a credit to those who planned and supervised its construction.

In a very interesting and informative article in the souvenir program of the opening ceremonies Trustee Mrs. Gladys Hill reviewed the development of secondary education in this district. The article points out that secondary education here dates back one hundred years. The first Grammar School was established in 1851, and the first secondary school was built in 1853. It is a far cry from that modest one room structure to the modern and beautiful Richmond Hill District High School of today.

All who inspected the new Richmond Hill District High School must have been impressed by the fine appointments of the modernized building, the completeness of its equipmnt and the excellence and utility of its furnishings.

To provide the best in educational opportunity for our young people this fine new building is a necessary and very welcome improvement. More important still it has a teaching staff, the members of which are capable, well trained and sincere and enthusiastic in their calling. The cause of education cannot be served by the provision alone of fine well equipped buildings. Richmond Hill District High School is most fortunate that it is supervised by Principal Elson and a staff of teachers who are a credit to their profession and to their school.

To administer the affairs of an institution of the proportions of Richmond Hill District High School is no small responsibility. When there is added the responsibility of planning and supervision of an addition such as was opened last week it means a great expenditure of time and effort on the part of those who serve the community as High School Trustees.

Congratulations to Chairman Morley J. Kinnee and the members of the Board of High School Trustees on their outstanding service to education in this district, in giving the leadership and direction to the administration and development of the Richmond Hill District High School.

Whitchurch Inaugural Meeting

Members of Whitchurch Township council, returned by acclamation last December were sworn in by Clerk Jack Crawford at their first meeting in 1952 recently. In attendance were Reeve Ivan McLaughlin, Deputy-Reeve Fred Timbers, councillors R. C. Baycroft, P. S. Legge and E. L. McCarron. Rev. Norman Rowan, Baptist minister in the Stouffville circuit invoked Divine blessing on their work and congratulated council on having the confidence of the people of the township, in that they were all returned to office another year.

Mr. Jack Blyth, president of Oak Ridges Lions Club and Mr. Stan Rule, head of the welfare committee of the same club, waited on council to request more help from them with the welfare problems in the township. The Lions Club feels that too much of the welfare work is being left to their organization, and they are not able to carry out their full programme of activities with the boys and girls, because too much time and funds have to be given to welfare.

Council replied that provincial regulations prohibit them giving relief while the head of the family is employable. A certificate of inability to work must be given before the relief officer. Constable Mulholland, can recommend families for relief. Lion Jack Blyth told of a family who asked for help from their organization last week, who on investigation by the Lions Club, were considered good citizens worthy of help. Fuel and food were supplied immediately by the Lions Club to this family. The Township was several days considering the matter.

"This problem is becoming acute," said Clerk John Crawford. Toronto and suburbs are unloading people with large families on the townships. Landlords refuse to rent them houses in the city, and they take anything that is available in the townships, and while the municipality they come from pays cost of relief, if necessary, for a year, it does not pay for sickness or hospitalization. Whitchurch township relief officer sent three truck loads of furniture and the people that owned them back to their own municipalities recently. Every councillor expressed regret at this action and stated they are anxious to find some help in solving this problem. Relief for December amounted to $756.23.

Mr. H. V. Atkinson, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Stouffville, waited on council, also congratulating them on their return by acclamation, going on to discuss township finances. "More attention should be given to collecting back taxes," he said. "Bank carryover gets larger every year, mainly on account of too much leniency in collecting taxes". Some $60,000 in taxes still remains unpaid, some since 1949. This condition prevails because clerk John Crawford and his staff do not have enough help in the office. More help will be secured and the matter of tax collection receive more attention, it was stated. Tax sale will be held if necessary.

A letter from the Lions Club of Stouffville, signed by Walter Pipher, secretary, stated that they will pay $500 toward the expenses of a boy in the district who needs medical attention. Council will arrange for hospitalization and parents have stated they will re-imburse council and the Lions Club.

Road bills passed were $3,004.14. The clerk was instructed to advertise for tenders for caretaking of the township offices. Committees formed for the coming year were: Finance, F. Timbers, Ivan McLaughlin, R. C. Baycroft; Roads, P. S. Legge, Fred Timbers, R. C. Baycroft; property and police, I. McLaughlin, P. S. Legge, E. L. McCarron; By-laws and Permits, R. C. Baycroft, E. L. McCarron, F. Timbers; Health and Welfare, McCarron, E. L., Ivan McLaughlin, P. S. Legge.

Vaughan Tp. Appoints Committee Heads-'52

At their regular meeting last week the Vaughan Township Council made several important appointments for the coming year. The following Council members were appointed as Chairman of the Township committees. Roads, Marshall McMurchy. Police and Fire, Albert Rutherford. Planning and Building, William J. Agar. Assessment, John W. Perry. Finance & Welfare, James H. Robson.

Mr. W. J. Agar was appointed a member of the Township Planning Board. Reeve McMurchy is an ex-officio member of this same board. The meeting also saw the appointment of E. W. Anstey to the planning board for a 3 year period.

The members also considered the desirability of establishing pensions for Municipal employees insofar as they are reflected in grants and subsidies paid by the Province of Ontario. The Clerk was instructed to request various insurance agents to submit a brief as to the establishment of a pension plan by the respective insurance campanies.

Three Contenders For Player Award

Mr. Jack Hollowell, president of Richmond Hill Bantam Hockey League announced this week that so far three players, Brian Mills, Jimmy Pollard and Paul Baker are leading contenders for the most valuable player award for the 1951-52 season. The cup is awarded at the end of league play to the player judged to be most valuable to his team. As the season is still young it is likely there will be other contenders for the honors before the players hang up their skates for another year.

Regular Meeting Vaughan Council

Last week saw the holding of the first regular meeting of the 1952 Vaughan Township Council. The township's new Reeve Mr. Marshall McMurchy was in the chair and all the Council members were present.

Mr. George Troyer, the owner of property on concession 8, appeared before the council and asked to have his property annexed to Woodbridge. The council signified their willingness to consider the matter and suggested a meeting with the Woodbridge council at an early date.

Nelson Kerr presented to the Council a list of culverts that would be required for highway purposes during 1952, costing approximately $2,000.00. Council directed the Road Superintendent to order the same. Consideration was also given to the installation of culverts for new entrances to private properties. Approval was granted to the Road Superintendent to acquire sufficient culvert pipe that will provide for the installation of 10 culvert entrances to be charged back to the owner of the lot.

Mr. H. G. Robertson appeared before the Council and requested the Council to grant additional remuneration for services as assessor. Council agreed to consider the request at a later meeting when other salaries are being reviewed.

Mr. Wilfred Dean, Thornhill Police Village Trustee discussed with the Council the replacing of the existing street lights in Thornhill by more adequate street lights. Council approved of the Township Clerk meeting with the Township Clerk of Markham, the Superintendent for the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and Mr. Dean to discuss the implementation of the new street lights.

Mr. Stan Symonds, the County Assessor, together with Edward Kyle and H. G. Robertson appeared before the Council and discussed with the Council the re-assessment of the Township, the implications of the re-assessment and the necessary facilities for the re-assessment. Council agreed to consider such suggestions at a later meeting.

School Tradition Eulogized By Miss Izzard In Reply To Toast To Local High School

(Note: At the official banquet preceding the opening of the new wing of Richmond Hill District High School last week the toast to "The School" was responded to by Miss Edna Izzard, member of the teaching staff.

In response to many requests that we publish that reply we are pleased to reproduce below the text of Miss Izzard's impressive address. Miss Izzard chose to include in her speech the names of some of the outstanding graduates of the school whom she has known, and since it was impossible to mention all of them she would like it made known that the pupils mentioned are but a representative group. Editor)

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, Members of the Board, Ladies and Gentlemen:

To say that I hold it a great honour to answer this toast is, indeed, an understatement, as you will realize when you recall that this school and this community have claimed almost all my years of teaching. And there are other deeper claims, for this school has its own peculiar tradition. I am sure that it is not just a fantasy of mine that the boys and girls who have left this school have carried with them into their adult lives something of the spirit that is expressed in the school motto, "Sapere aude — Dare to be wise!"

Among those who greatly dared are the ones whose names are written on our Memorial Tablet, one of whom, even in his comparatively short life, ranked among Canada's most distinguished sons, Major Miles Langstaff. In the memorial volume published after his death at Vimy Ridge, the tributes to his brilliance of mind are only surpassed by the tributes to his nobility of spirit. Courage and wisdom were both his.

If Miles Langstaff may speak for the generations of the First World War era, whom shall I invoke to speak for the generation to which I was so closely related? I shall have to choose at random — happy-hearted Donald Graham; witty, gentlemanly Fred Carter. Mr. Chairman, as memory summons those seventeen boys before me, I feel there is a kinship of spirit that embraces them all. And further, I like to think that the words of Simonides are true of them, "In sacred sleep they rest, say not of brave men that they die," and that in communion of spirit with them are the members of the student body, past and present.

Of some of these I should like to speak, or rather, to let a brief mention of their achievements speak for me and sustain me in my contention that this school has a great tradition and our students an enviable heritage. Again I choose at random: Bill Stewart, son of our former principal, M.A., M.D., appointed to a professorship in the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Alberta, while still in his mid-twenties; Joe Mills, Ph. D., Professor of Geology in Washington State University; Harris Hord, who with the Cunningham boys, worked his way through college in the grim depression years, now a biologist of note, doing research in Honduras; Marian Little, to speak for our girls and for the immediate generation, who last year was awarded the Governor-General's gold medal for the highest standing in English in the University of Toronto; and Farley — the January number of the Atlantic Monthly has a very striking cover, a young man watching the trek of caribou — Farley Mowat, not yet thirty, soldier, Arctic explorer and successful author; Michiko Anpi, the Japanese-Canadian, who came to us in the dark days of 1943, and upon graduating from Toronto in Law, took the post-graduate degree, LL. B., and is now with the Japanese legation in Ottawa. She was an inspiration to all of us. A Buddhist, she made us aware that an inner sanctuary of peace gives a radiance to the whole personality.

I should like now to pay tribute, (that is, of the staff and student body) to the retiring member of the Board and a R.H.H.S. Old Boy, Dr. Walter Mason. For his devotion to this school we have cause to be deeply grateful.

And finally there is Mr. Stanford. Of his interest in all the school's activities, of his ingenuity in devising stage sets, and of the influence of his genuinely Christian character, I could only speak in superlatives.

Mr. Chairman, these men and women have, I beieve, a sense of the wholeness of life, which I like to think is characteristic of this school. As you know, we in this province have no generally accepted philosophy of education, as we have no generally accepted philosophy of life, unless it be that of Dollarica which Stage 52 satirized so exquisitely in "Willie the Squouse". In truth it is over three hundred years that John Donne cried,

'Tis all in pieces, all coherence gone
All just supply and all relation,

lamenting the lost harmony of the medieval world, sustained so long by the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Since John Donne's day the process of disintegration has gone on apace. To achieve an integrated personality is only for those who dare to leave the beaten path of specious platitudes.

What a task then faces the School! Sapere aude - Dare to be wise. Surely the daring must be very wise and the very daring to face such a task realizing its import. I find that I must turn to the philosophy of Plato and seek to discern behind the actual being of the boy or girl the divine idea—the man or woman that might be; and I must hope that the student may catch behind his efforts some glimmer of perfection and relate whatever he is learning to a meaningful whole. With all the odds against us we must seek to achieve a synthesis. The school must, I believe, bear witness to the oneness of life.

Mr. Chairman, the members of the Board have given us a very beautiful school. I know that our sincerest appreciaion will be in the dedication of ourselves and it to our high calling. Beginning a new century in such auspicious circumstances, this school with an old and worthy tradition will, let us affirm, send from its halls yet others who have caught the vision of the real behind the apparent and who will, in their own communities, in this Canada, in our great Commonwealth, and in the world, attempt to build the City of God.

"Dear Mister Editor"

Keeping Record Straight On Annexation

15 Church St. S. Richmond Hill

Dear Sir:

I have just finished reading the issue of The Liberal with the several accounts of the various meetings regarding the proposed annexation.

If I endeavour to clear up a few points in these reports it is not intended as a criticism of a fine reporting job. I think we can all appreciate the difficulty of presenting all the facts and circumstances concerned.

However, I would like to point out that the meeting on Friday, January 4, was not a meeting of Elmwood-Harding Park Ratepayers' Association. Rather it was an open meeting for the public and was sponsored as such by the Association.

Therefore, the motion asking Markham Township Council to secure an injunction against the January 9 hearing of the Ontario Municipal Board was an expression of opinion of the people at that meeting and cannot be taken as the official stand of the Association The vote was, as you reported, 71 to 13 in favor of the motion with approximately 65 people refraining from voting.

Mr. R. Shorten, who is our Association president, did not move this motion in his executive capacity but rather as a private individual.

The letters to the Richmond Hill Council, the Markham Township Council and the Ontario Municipal Board simply reported that at "a public meeting" the motion asking for delay was passed. It is, as mentioned previously, incorrect to interpret that motion as an expression of the Association's stand in the matter.

In fact, our Association has kept an open mind on the matter and has attempted to act as a fact-finding body. It was felt that we should present the facts for and against annexation to our members and other interested parties and leave it up to them to reach a personal decision. With such a large area and a considerable number of property owners, some non-resident, it would be almost impossible for any Association to represent them all satisfactorily in such a matter.

As to whether the area south of Markham Road has ever asked for annexation, may I clear the air as follows:

Last June, at a meeting of the Association (then the Elmwood Park (West Section) Ratepayers Association), after presenting some facts on the subject of annexation, I moved a motion asking Richmond Hill and Markham Township Councils to examine the possibility of such annexation with a view to possible economy in the proposed sewage system. It was hoped that one or more pumping stations might be eliminated if the situation was examined with a view to relocating the disposal plant. I was criticised at that time for the suggestion but it did appear then and still does that some economy might have been achieved. However, the fact remains that the question of possible annexation was closely related with the sewage system. Letters on file will show that this was apparent in the actual motion.

Subsequently, due to rumors circulating that annexation was being considered by the councils concerned, our Association did write further letters enquiring what progress, if any, was being made. The replies were somewhat indefinite but apparently confirmed that something was being done.

If I remember correctly, as the file copies in our Association secretary's files will bear me out, the Richmond Hill reply to the motion of last June was that any changes in the sewage system were out of the question since plans had progressed too far but that the annexation question would be considered.

Markham Township's reply was to the effect that they would not oppose the west section of Elmwood Park being annexed if the residents so desired. Remember at that time our Association covered that part of the subdivision only.

I hope this letter will justify its length by clearing up some apparent confusion.

Yours very truly,
Harry W. R. Sayers

Dear Mr. Editor:

As Convenor of Historical Research for the Women's Institute of Richmond Hill in the last two years I have done much delving into past history of the village. The following information may be of interest to your readers.

The first steps toward securing incorporation were taken in 1853 but since the village did not have the required 1000 inhabitants, no further action was taken then. In 1857, a large gathering of villagers, presided over by Amos Wright M.P., and with Mathew Teefy as secretary decided on motion of G. P. Dixon Esq. and seconded by Col. Bridgeford, that, "whereas the inhabitants of Richmond Hill are contributing annually to the townships without receiving adequate benefit and, conceiving that the village would be the better for incorporation, be it resolved that the necessary steps be taken, etc." The committee appointed to take the necessary steps was Messrs. Dixon, Wright, Law, Warren and Teefy. Again they failed because they advocated having the northern boundary above Elgin Mills, taking in more territory than the act allowed.

In June 1872, a petition signed almost unanimously by all ratepayers was presented to the County Council by Mr. Erastus Jackson of Newmarket and granted without question, allowing incorporation as a village. For Provincial and Federal affairs the village was placed in the riding of West York.

In a copy of The Liberal, April 7, 1910, in the report of the Village Council meeting, there appears this item: Moved by Councillor Sanderson, seconded by Councillor Trench that the necessary steps be taken to annex certain parts of the Township of Markham to the Village of Richmond Hill. I have not followed this up but it would be interesting to know the outcome of that motion.

Yours truly,
S. Elinor (Mrs. L. W.) Zuefelt

NOTICE

A public hearing under the Milk Control Act will be held in Room 4505, East Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto on Thursday, January 24, 1952, at 2 p.m. This public hearing is for the purpose of providing all interested parties an opportunity of making representations to the Milk Control Board of Ontario before this Board prescribes the maximum prices at which milk may be sold in the market of Aurora and Richmond Hill.

A. P. Clark, Secretary
Milk Control Board of Ont.

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