

Dear Mister Editor

Dear Mr. Editor:
 Re. Markham Township School Taxes

I have just received my 1954 tax bill, and upon examining it was amazed to find the amount we are paying for school costs in School Area No. 1, 39.12 mills plus 10 mills for High School, making a total of 49.12 mills, and I understand it will be worse next year, with new buildings being planned.

What really surprised me was the revelation I found on the reverse side of the tax bill, where I found the costs of education in the rest of the Township of Markham.

The average cost for twenty-five Union School Sections and regular school sections is 12.7 mills including debenture rates in many cases. The cost in School Area No. 1 is 35.8 mills including debenture rates, or almost three times as great as the average in Markham.

Now when School Area No. 1 was formed, I understand that the purpose in forming the area was to provide better education at a lesser cost, the costs to be lowered by mass buying power and co-operative administration costs. I guess I have been disillusioned.

While I am ready to admit that

school areas in theory do offer greater opportunities for our children, actually in practice the costs seem to be three times as high. Is it worth it? Give me less elaborate school buildings and qualified well paid teachers and I will be glad to revert back to former methods of education for my children.

I have read in the papers that our school Board is planning a further new school at No. 7 Highway and Bayview for us to pay for (I presume) for the next twenty years. This seems strange to me, when, in driving along Bayview I notice both the old Thornlea School vacant and a portable beside it also vacant.

Perhaps there are other rate-payers who are also wondering if we should not revert back to our former way of electing local trustees for local schools as has been done in other parts of Ontario. If so, please contact the writer.

Sincerely,
 Reg. Crawford,
 Langstaff, Ontario.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Artificial Ice As A Recreational Aid To The High School

To The Editor:

At the High School last week, those parents of Richmond Hill and district who have sons and daughters entering high school next September were treated to a very thorough review of the problems faced by the high school board and teaching staff. Mr. Elson and the board are to be commended on the detailed organizational plans that have been made to take care of the double shift operation next term.

ARTIFICIAL ICE CONTIN (2)

NO. 2 ARTIFICIAL ICE

The one phase of the school's programme that will suffer most from the two shift operation is the extra-curricular activities. Mr. Elson's report states, "it is very doubtful if very much of an inter-school sports programme will be possible." For each shift the gymnasium may be free of classes for only 1/2 hour on two days of the week, and one hour per day for the remaining three days. Counting time needed to change, organize the activities and shower, it will be a miracle if anything at all can be accomplished in the sports line.

I wonder if serious-thinking citizens have considered what a boon to the high school the installation of artificial ice in the Arena would be this year. One shift could use the ice in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Hockey and instruction in figure skating and skating dances would provide a full and healthful recreational program.

This high school recreational emergency points up the very great need for artificial ice in Richmond Hill. The campaign is going well but it will need the financial participation by all the 2,000 homes in the district to put it over successfully.

We who are working for its success do hope that all residents will get behind the campaign in its final two weeks and push the thermometer all the way up to the top.

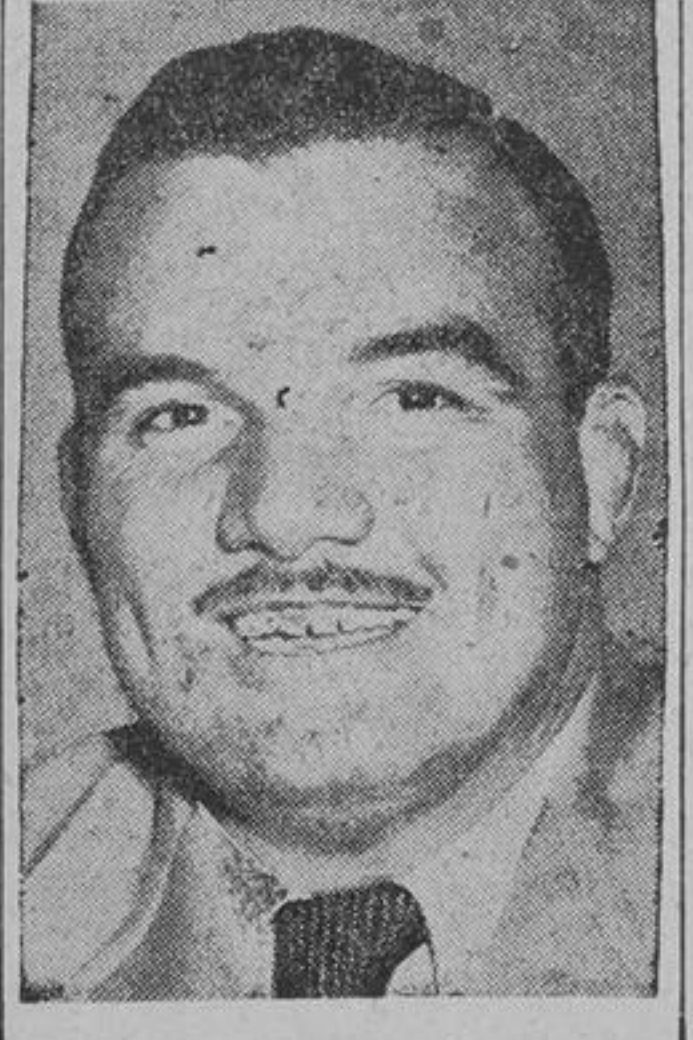
Walter A. Smith,
 Campaign Chairman
 "I'm For Ice" Campaign

During 1952 Canada supplied more than four-fifths of the world's exports of newsprint.

Some 127 of every 100,000 Canadians enter mental institutions every year.

One out of four Canadians is employed today in manufacturing.

Whipper Billy Watson Comes To Town June 26



BILLY WATSON

The Whipper, attired in cowboy get up will lead the Richmond Hill Lions Western Roundup parade and in his own personal way officially open this year's Lions Carnival at the Richmond Hill Fair Grounds, a week from this Saturday.

The Carnival Committee is now faced with locating a horse suitable and in proportion for this mighty man of muscle to ride.

Escorted by attractive cow girls Toronto's hero of wrestling fame will lead off the parade from the north end of town at 1 p.m., closely followed by a chuck wagon serving up flap jacks, the John Thompson stage coach which years ago ran between Richmond Hill and Toronto, a hay load of local pulchritude and many other colourful and interesting parade entries.

Of commanding interest in the parade will be a large representation from the Western Horse Riders Association. These equestrian experts are coming in large numbers from as far as St. Catharines to demonstrate their skill and compete in a full afternoon of Western Horse contests.

Life sized photographs of a cowgirl on a rearing horse being filmed this weekend at either end of town will symbolize this unique horsemanship event and draw attention to the Richmond Hill Lions Western Roundup, June 25 and 26.

Metro Mayor, Fred Gardiner

(Continued from page 1)

275 Miles Of Roads

A total of 275 miles of roadway have been designated as metropolitan roads, and the Council pays the total cost of their operation. The roads so picked have a greater than local significance. The need for expressways is made apparent when one realizes that there are 350,000 motor cars registered in the metropolitan area, and on top of this number another 100,000 automobiles go in and out of the area every day. Today there are more motor vehicles per capita registered in the metropolitan area than anywhere else on the North American continent with the exception of Detroit and Los Angeles.

New homes throughout the suburban area are now being built by the thousands. In Scarborough Township alone there is at present in excess of 3,000 homes under construction.

Greater Planning Authority

The new Metropolitan Council has planning authority far beyond that exercised by the old Toronto and York Planning Board. The speaker contended that during the five years it was in existence the Toronto and York Planning Board made no progress as it lacked the power to expropriate or raise funds. The Metro Planning Board assists the local planning board and also designates all parks and green belts.

Education

The complete financing of all primary and secondary school education in the 13 municipalities comprising the metropolitan area is now under one central authority. At the time it came into existence the Metro Council assumed all the outstanding school debenture issues of the member municipalities. They pay the local school boards a maintenance grant of \$150.00 per public school pupil, \$250.00 per secondary school pupil and \$300.00 per Vocational pupil. The Metropolitan School Board correlates the activities of the 13 local boards, and also chooses the sites of any new schools.

1954 Budget

This year Metro's budget will amount to \$35,000,000.00 or 14.7 mills on a total assessment of two and one half billion dollars. Instead of having to bill each individual taxpayer, the Metro Council presents its budget to the 13 member municipalities.

Grants

In the matter of grants, Metro receives an unconditional grant of \$5,000,000.00 annually from the Provincial Government. The Province also paid the \$300,000.00 of the Metropolitan Council. The Province also pays 50% of all road costs.

Composition Council

The Council is composed of 25 members, 12 from the city of Toronto and 12 from the suburbs. The city representatives include the Mayor, the two top controllers, and the top alderman from each ward. The suburbs are represented by their Mayors or Reeves, whatever the case may be. The suburbs include four towns and eight townships.

The total population of Toronto is 700,000 and of the suburbs 500,000.

Chairman

The present chairman, Mr. Gardiner, was appointed by the Provincial Government, and when his term expires in 1955 the Council will then have the right to appoint its own chairman.

Population Of 2,000,000

In a prophecy as to the future growth of the Metropolitan Area, Mr. Gardiner estimated that within 10 to 15 years the population will have reached the 2,000,000 mark. He felt the industrial potentiality of the area is bound to expand when one realizes that 70% of all the industry that came to Ontario last year settled in the Toronto area.

The guest speaker was introduced by Association President W. Chapman and the vote of thanks was moved by Mr. G. Arnold. The members of Markham Township Council present included Reeve A. LeMasurier and Councillors A. Little, and Mrs. K. James.

Power Break Interrupts Judging Of Iris Show

Richmond Hill Horticultural Society held its Iris Show at the Lions Hall on June 12. Bob Keith, judge of the show, laboured under considerable difficulty, due to the power failure; but was able to complete the judging with the aid of flashlights and a Coleman lamp. Exhibits were left on display until next day so that the public might see them by daylight. One of the features was a large display, not for competition, from the Redmeier gardens. Prize winners were as follows:

Prize-winners

One spike iris, tall bearded, any colour: Mrs. D. Boyd, R. D. Little, Mrs. Acreman. Three spikes iris tall bearded, blue: Mrs. Acreman, Mrs. F. Barker, J. Boyer.

Two spikes iris, tall bearded, white: no first, Mrs. Harte, Mrs. Acreman.

Four spikes iris, tall bearded, two varieties, mixed colours: R. D. Little, Mrs. McMillen, Mrs. Boyd. Six spikes iris, tall bearded any variety or colour: Mrs. Harte, D. Boyd, Mrs. F. Barker.

Three spikes aquilegia, long spurred: Dr. H. H. MacKay, Mrs. MacKay, Dr. McKay. Twelve poppies, Iceland, mixed colours, no first, H. H. MacKay. One spike Russell lupins: Mrs. Boyd, Dr. MacKay. Six spikes lupins, mixed colours: Mrs. Boyd, Dr. MacKay. Six blooms pyrethrum, mixed colours: Mrs. Boyd, Dr. MacKay. One specimen of any flower not listed: J. Boyer, Dr. MacKay.

Decorative Arrangements

Arrangement featuring two colours of iris in a low bowl or vase, front view only: Mrs. Harte, Mrs. F. Barker, Mrs. MacKay.

Arrangement of Oriental poppies with their own foliage, suitable for a living room, Mrs. B. L. Anderson, Mrs. Boyd.

Display basket of iris, variety to count, J. Boyer, Mrs. G. Barker, Mrs. Acreman.

Arrangement of any flowers in any container suitable for a man's den (open to men members only): D. Boyd, Dr. MacKay, R. D. Little.

Arrangement of white flowers suitable for a bridal shower: Mrs.

B. L. Anderson, Mrs. G. Barker, Mrs. Harte.

Arrangement of any spring flowers suitable for a luncheon table: Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Boyd.

A modernistic arrangement using a spray of a flowering shrub, and one other flower with its own foliage: Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. G. Barker, Mrs. Anderson.

For New 1954 Members

Three iris: Mrs. Van den Hoek, Mrs. R. J. Miller, Helen Davis.

A decorative arrangement of flowers suitable for a luncheon table: Mrs. Holland, Mr. Holland.

Juniors

A collection of flowers arranged in a six quart basket (water container not to show): Elizabeth Barker, Charlie Barker, Linda Harte.

Y. T. Lambert prize, best iris in show: Mrs. Boyd.

Mrs. D. M. Bost prize, best poppy: R. D. Little.

The Allan Bales prize, open to men only was won by D. Boyd.

Markham & Vaughan to Confer On Water

An important meeting to consider the problem of an adequate municipal water system for the ...

Markham and Vaughan townships will be held Thursday (today) at the county offices in Newmarket.

Municipal officials from the two townships concerned will sit down together and attempt to find a satisfactory solution to their mutual problem.

Markham will be represented by Reeve A. LeMasurier, its Plumbing and Sanitation Committee members, Councillors Mrs. K. James and A. Little, Engineer J. Howard, and Solicitor J. Lucas. Vaughan will be represented by Reeve M. McMurry, Deputy-Reeve A. Rutherford, and Clerk J. McDonald.

Indications are the agenda will include the consideration of possibility affecting a ... water system centering on Bond Lake.

Court Hearing Re Expropriation Principals Speak On School Progress To Area School Bd.

The Principals and Assistant Principals were present at the recent meeting of the Township School Area Board No. 1, Markham and Vaughan, and each had chosen a topic on which to speak in order that the Board might have a full report on the work being done in the schools.

Robert Everist, Principal of the Langstaff School, stated that the Principals and Assistants hold two meetings per month, one afternoon meeting from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and one evening meeting from 4 to 10 p.m. At these meetings the Principals discuss their problems, mutually interview prospective teachers and discuss their placement, make plans for ordering general supplies. The Maintenance and Music Supervisors present their recommendations to this meeting, and the Principals debate the issue to arrive at a solution.

Sports Report

Peter Kurita, who will transfer to Henderson Avenue School as Assistant Principal in September, gave a report on the sports activities in the Area. The organized sports consist of baseball, hockey and field day. In September, the Sports Committee hopes to compile a brochure listing a suggested physical education program to be carried on in the schools, thereby standardizing these activities throughout the Area.

Teachers' Meeting

A report on teachers' meetings was given by Ralph Brown, Principal of Richvale School. The guest speaker at one of the meetings was Mrs. K. Elliott, a teacher at Thornhill School, who gave an interesting and informative talk on Arts and Crafts, and at another meeting Mr. D. MacTavish, the Area Psychologist, enlarged on the topic of the mental health program and learning ability of the pupils. Mr. Brown felt that it was gratifying to have been able to choose two such interesting speakers from the Area Staff. An Audio-visual Aids Committee has been formed to correlate the purchase of film-strips, and to further the work in this field. Meetings have also been held on the level system.

Take Extra Courses

Mr. R. Colvin, who has been appointed as the Assistant Principal of Thornhill School, stated that during the past year a great many of the Area teachers have been working toward increasing their qualifications. Four teachers are taking University courses, two are working on upper school subjects, and six intend to take Departmental Summer Courses during July and August. Eleven teachers attend workshops, and all the teachers from grades one to three have been working on curricula in connection with unit promotion. One teacher at present is attending the Conservatory of Music.

Principals Choose New Staff

The Assistant-Principal-to-be at Charles Howitt School, John Armstrong, informed the Board that, in line with the Board's present policy of allowing the Principals to choose the new teachers for their schools, they have interviewed 20 applicants, and out of this group, eight have been chosen to begin work in September.

Reports On Level System

The Principal of Powell Road School, Mr. Gordon Learn, gave a report on the level system which has been introduced.

Establish Oral Tests

Mr. Martindale, the Principal of Henderson Ave. School, informed the Board that Oral Reading tests have been established to determine the standing of the children in this subject.

Detailed Reports Required

A detailed list of the reports required by the Inspector's office, and compiled by the Principals and Teachers, was given by John Martin, Principal of Thornhill School. These reports, together with pupil and parent conferences, telephone conversations, and teacher conferences are time-consuming, and certainly justify the time allowed by the Board for the Principals to attend to their administration work and visits to the classrooms during regular school hours.

Value of Classroom Visits

Mr. MacTavish, Area Psychologist and Principal of Charles Howitt School, pointed out the importance of classroom visits by the Principals of the schools. Since the Principal now has a certain amount of free time for this special work, he can spot problems existing in the classrooms, and try to overcome them in various ways.

On this part of the program, each Principal felt it was a great advantage to be around the school when it was in session, and not have a class to be responsible for. With the possible appointment of inexperienced teachers in the future, much of the time allowed will be spent in helping them to adjust to the classroom atmosphere, and in getting off to a good start in their chosen profession.

Commends Principals' Efforts

Chairman Richan, on behalf of the Board, expressed the sincere and keen interest of the members in the work the Principals are doing. The Board has a high degree of confidence in their work, and is gratified to note they are working closely together for the betterment of educational standards in the Area. "If the work continues on this basis, and I have no doubt it will, there is no question that all the time and hours the Board spends at meetings is more than repaid by your progress, and again on behalf of the Board, we wish you all continued success in your work", stated the Chairman.

Renting Equipment

Mr. Downing, the Maintenance Supervisor, informed the Board that he had had an enquiry as to whether the school chairs could be rented for use outside the schools, and the Board set a policy that no school equipment may be taken out of the buildings for use elsewhere.

Paint School

In order to bring the appearance of the old building at Langstaff up to the standard of the new addition, Mr. Downing asked whether the Maintenance Staff could paint the brick during the summer holidays, and the Board agreed to this.

Court Hearing

The Board was informed that the Court hearing which will settle the price to be paid for the Henderson Ave. property which the Board expropriated will be held Wednesday of this week.

RESULTS MAPLE DISTRICT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Concord	P	W	L	T	Pts
Maple	5	4	1	0	8
R. H.	5	4	1	0	8
Downsview	6	2	3	0	4
Vellore	6	2	4	0	4

At the June 10 game, Concord vs Downsview, Concord won 16 runs to 8. There was one home run by K. Poole.

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