



# The Liberal

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 J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher  
 ALVERNA SMITH, Associate Editor  
 Telephone Turner 4-1261  
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## Special Provincial Grants

The announcement last week by Premier Frost of special grants to Ontario municipalities was welcome news. It has been criticized as an election bribe, but whatever the motive, the long-overdue additional assistance for municipal administration will be welcomed by the taxpayers.

Municipal administration throughout Ontario has not been easy in recent years and the problem of ever-increasing costs has been reflected in constantly increasing tax rates. A major item has been the increase in the cost of education, and this has been particularly serious in fast-growing municipalities like Richmond Hill and other suburban towns, villages and townships.

The constantly increasing tax burden on real estate has for some years been a problem crying for solution. The Frost Government announcement of a special grant is a help, and is welcomed but it is not in any sense a solution. There should have been some assistance of this nature last year and the year before, and there should be some definite policy for next year and the years in the future.

Municipalities are limited in sources of revenue and practically all revenue must come from a levy on real property. With rapidly increasing cost of municipal services and the very substantial increase in the cost of education it has long been evident that real estate could not much longer bear the burden.

Richmond Hill treasurer has been

advised that this municipality will this year receive a special grant of \$2,482.50 for municipal purposes, \$2,924. for elementary schools and \$1,884. for secondary schools.

A total special grant for this year of \$7,290.50 will be welcomed by Richmond Hill taxpayers as it should mean a tax reduction of about two and a half mills. However it must be kept in mind that the Ontario government in passing Bill 80 creating Metropolitan Toronto and dividing the County of York added more than five extra mills to the Richmond Hill tax rate.

Richmond Hill paid more than \$25,000. in County taxes in 1954 which was more than three times the amount paid for County purposes before the division of the County by Bill 80. Proportionate tax increases were inflicted on taxpayers in all municipalities which make up the continuing County of York. The County of York has appealed to the Provincial government for relief from this undue burden and the matter many months ago was referred to the Ontario Municipal Board but no relief has been forthcoming.

The special grants announced last week make no mention of relief or consideration for Counties. The special grants announcement of last week cannot be accepted as a satisfactory answer to the particular problems of York County municipalities resulting from the creation of Metropolitan Toronto. Neither do they give any permanent solution to the province-wide problem of increasing costs of education and municipal administration.

## Markham Wants Municipal Bd. Approve Expenditure

Markham township council went on record Monday as stating that any capital expenditure out of current funds by the Richmond Hill District High School Board in excess of \$5,000 should first receive the approval of the Municipal Board. It is clearly stated in the Provincial Act covering secondary schools that any sum spent on capital expenditures in excess of \$5,000 must receive the sanction of the Municipal Board.

High School Trustee Stewart Rumble last week brought to the attention of the four municipalities which constitute the High School District the fact that the 1955 High School Budget provides for the spending of \$14,582 for capital expenditures out of current funds which he feels is contrary to the present Provincial legislation. Any amount over the \$5,000 level should be referred to the Municipal Board for approval.

In a letter tabled with Council School Board Chairman V. McMullen gave an explanation breakdown of the \$14,582 which is to be spent on such items as additional lockers, and office and athletic equipment. Mr. McMullen stated that the Department of Education hasn't objected to the proposed capital expenditure. He contended that the \$5,000 ceiling applies to each individual item and not to the budget as a whole.

**Want Restricted Area**  
 A delegation of residents from the area of the 5th concession and the Mount Joy Sideroad waited on Council to request the restoration of certain land use restrictions to their district. They want all lots restricted to two acres, with a minimum frontage of 165 feet, and a minimum depth of 235 feet. Houses will contain a minimum area of 1200 square feet. Mr. K. J. Salmon spokesman for the three man delegation stated that the present residents are anxious to keep the area from becoming "cluttered and congested."

Council was sympathetic to the request and will ask the Planning Board to give the matter careful consideration. Council has received official notification from the Department of Municipal Affairs that Markham's share of the series of unconditional grants announced this week by the Province will amount to \$7,655 for the municipality and \$11,192 for elementary school boards, making a total of \$18,857. The Province has suggested the money be used for special welfare matters.

In commenting on the grants marked "the Province gives us an additional \$18,857 with one hand and then takes it away with the other. In spite of these so called grants our tax rate is growing year by year."

operating on Morgan Avenue in Doncaster without a license. A request for consideration from a group of businessmen who are contemplating erecting a service station, motel and restaurant on a 4 1/2 acre plot at the corner of No. 7 Highway and the 9th concession has been referred to the Planning Board. It is estimated that if approved it will cost approximately \$100,000. The members have concurred in a request by the residents of Secomcoe Street in Doncaster to change the name of the street to Sprucewood Drive.

**AURORA:** Town council has drawn up a subdivision agreement to govern residential expansion.

## Half A Language

The following is the prize winning speech given by John Thomson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Thomson, Vaughan Rd., who was awarded the Perkins trophy for prepared speeches, grade 7-8, at the Richmond Hill Public School Oratorical contest last week.

"A few weeks ago someone visited our house who could not speak English. I had no idea what he was talking about, so I sat while he made noises. But I wasn't the only one who sat. Although the other people in the room had been through Canadian schools they could not understand him either.

The trouble was that none of us knew more than HALF the Canadian language. Our visitor or knew the French half, and we knew the English half.

This seems too bad because there are SEVERAL MILLION Canadians living only a few hundred miles from Richmond Hill who also speak the French half, and whom I'd like to understand. A language can't be too hard to learn, I've picked ONE up already, without any lessons, and I was only two or three when I did it. But, they say, that is when learning a language is easiest. If that is true why do the Canadian schools wait till I am 14 or 15 and have got a lot of other things to worry about? It is easy enough to find out how well this 14-year-old plan has worked, when you go home, ask your Dad to tell you what he did today — in French!

Of course I know I have already learned many interesting things in school that will be useful to me all my life — but so far I have not heard more than a word or so of the other half of my language. For instance, I know that Marco Polo discovered the overland route to China, also the Sepals are the dried up things on the bottom of Daffodils, — but if a Canadian boy from Three Rivers visited our house this summer he and I would only be able to talk to each other with our fingers or our fists. My spelling isn't too bad. I can spell Philosophy. (I can spell it but I don't know WHAT it means). Embroidery or Rheumatism and I now know that a grasshopper makes noise by rubbing his legs together, also that Mars is a planet which has a little air, but not enough to breathe. But I'm sorry to say, that in about half of the restaurants in Canada (which are in Quebec), I wouldn't know how to ask for a glass of water or a piece of bread.

Incidentally, if I ever got lost in the Gobi Desert I'd know that there is a large patch of grass-land in the center — but if I ever get lost in Montreal, well, I just hope I could find someone who didn't think that learning ENGLISH was a waste of time. If I could say I THANK YOU in French, I'd do it right now, but instead I shall just have to tell you that a Grasshopper moves his jaws this-way and not that-way."

## Fund Raising For Retarded Children

Thornhill and District Association for Retarded children are having a fund raising campaign throughout the area, and anyone wishing to help this worthy work should send donations to treasurer Mrs. R. Bickerstaff, 215 Oak Ave., Richvale, donations made out to the association. Income tax allows deductions for this association and receipts will be mailed promptly. The group is also holding a Spring Bazaar at Trinity Church, Thornhill on Saturday April 30th, 2.30 p.m. Many attractive items will be on sale and tea served. Those with nimble fingers who would like to give hand-made items, contact your correspondent, as all help will be greatly appreciated. Those who are Spring cleaning are asked to save all useful items, for the Rummage Sale to be held early in May. New members will be welcomed and fee is \$1.00 per year.

## Life Guards Wanted

Thornhill Recreation Committee is seeking swimming instructors, life guards, court attendants and maintenance staff for Thornhill Swimming Pool. Anyone who is experienced or interested in gaining experience should send in applications to Mrs. S. S. Warren, Secretary, Thornhill Area Recreation Committee by April 11. The Committee and the Management are hoping for an early response to their needs.

## Curtain Club Play

(Continued from page 1)  
 hand in hysterical joy. At this point he realizes that his last chance of escape has been foiled by his own plot to convince his wife that she is going mad. Muriel Bathurst played the part of the saucy house-maid, Nancy, who despises her pale ailing mistress and who slights her on any pretext. Margaret Burgin took the role of Elizabeth, the housekeeper, who urges her mistress to see Inspector Rough on his first visit and who assists in hiding the inspector in the house. The parts of the two English "Bobbies" were played by Harold Matthews and Warwick Butt.

Although working in the confinement of a small stage, the cast moved about freely and the two scenes of violence were effectively done in the small space. With the opening of the curtain the audience applauded the beautiful set by Anne Featherstonhaugh and Warwick Butt. The Manningham upstairs sitting-room was an excellent replica of the mid-Victorian style with a profusion of pattern and bibelots. Both the Gaslight and Rebecca sets have been of a high calibre, and with the generous response of local citizens, authentic furniture and properties have taken the place of the usual theatrical sham pieces.

The building of the set was under the direction of stage manager, Denison Featherstonhaugh. An attractive note was added to the evening with usherettes dressed in gowns of the gaslight era. Although the plot in the first act was a little obscure, the acting carried the audience interest through the crescendo of the approaching zero hour and barring great difference in types of play, the whole Gaslight production matched the club's great premiere of Rebecca.

It is of interest that local theatre enthusiasts look forward to the first fall production which is expected to be a popular comedy.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

School Bd. Chairman Reports Dear Mr. Editor: The Public School Board has had a busy month, preparing to take possession of the Mac-Killop School and completing plans for the building of our third school on Markham Road. There has been a delay in receiving the approval of the Township Councils and we have expressed our impatience to our Richmond Hill Council, as these delays seem to be so unnecessary, and any action we could take to hasten these proceedings has received our constant attention.

The by-law has now been given two readings and is in the hands of the Municipal Board, and we await their decision. In order to save time we have signed a contract with our architect, approved the rough drawings, and the plans and specifications are now in process of completion. We have assurance from our architect that the plans will receive priority so that tenders may be invited at the earliest possible moment.

The matter of the choice of Principals and of their assistants is almost completed and will be made public as soon as this most important item has been settled to our satisfaction. We are informed that we can start moving desks and classroom equipment into the Mac-Killop School on March 31 and that we can have our classes moved in on April 9, which will be an important occasion for the staggered classes and for those who have suffered inconvenience in unsuitable quarters, also the change will be welcomed by teachers, pupils and parents.

On moving day one last difficulty presents itself, namely, lack of sidewalks, and possible mud. However this can be solved by making use of wooden paths till the weather permits the pouring of concrete. The estimates for the Public School Budget have been presented to our Council after the most careful consideration and we can assure the taxpayers that their school taxes will be wisely spent.

This letter is the first of a series, monthly, written at the request of the Home & School Association, so most parents and ratepayers in the School Section can be informed of the Board's activities, plans for the future and of progress being made.

James Pollard, Chairman, Richmond Hill Public School

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Sealed tenders plainly marked as to contents will be received by the undersigned until 12 o'clock noon E.S.T. on Thursday, April 7, 1955 for the supply and distribution of Dust Layer on Township Roads. Tenders must be made on standard form which can be obtained at the office of the undersigned. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.  
 J. A. Howard, B. A. Sc., P. Eng.,  
 Engineer and Road Superintendent,  
 Township of Markham,  
 R. R. 2 Gormley, Ont.

**TOWNSHIP OF MARKHAM**  
 Tenders For  
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Sealed tenders plainly marked as to contents will be received by the undersigned until 12 o'clock noon E.S.T. on Thursday, April 7, 1955, for the supplying, hauling and spreading of Crushed Gravel, Pit Run Gravel and Earth Fill. Tenders must be made on standard form which can be obtained at the office of the undersigned. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.  
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