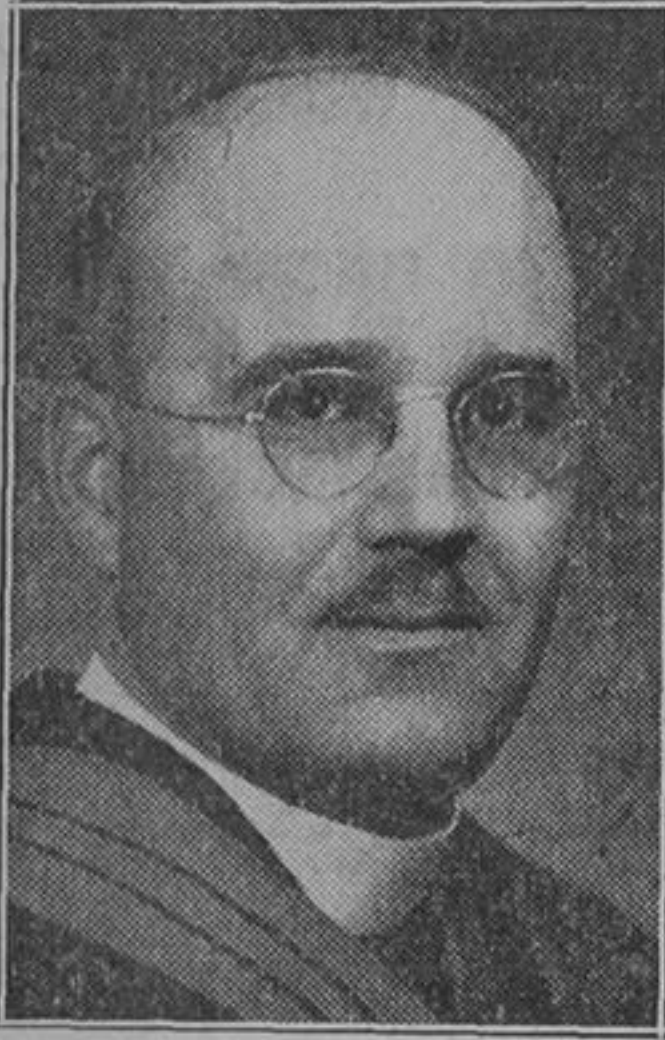


# Thornhill and District News

TELEPHONE AV. 5-2555

The Liberal is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area . . . .  
Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Donald Smellie, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-2555.

## Honour Former Resident



**DR. J. S. GLEN**  
Dr. J. Stanley Glen, a former resident of Thornhill has been elected Chairman of the North American Area Council of the World Presbyterian Alliance. The Council met in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Prominent in church affairs, Dr. Glen is Principal of Knox College, University of Toronto.

## Joint Meeting

# Ratepayers To Vote Library Debentures

## Trustees Approve Of McMahon Park Site

At the conclusion of a tense special meeting of the Thornhill Trustees last Wednesday, at which all members of the Thornhill Library Board were present, a motion by Trustee Patrick McTaggart-Cowan that "the locating of a public library in McMahon Park be approved, provided that the exact location is to be decided jointly by the Trustees and the Library Board, and that the debenture issue be put to a vote of the ratepayers of the Police Village of Thornhill," was passed unanimously.

Two factors affected the decision; the practical consideration in view of the present difficulty in passing debentures, when it was judged that a debenture issue of \$15,000 for a building in the park would have much better chance of approval by the Municipal Board than one of \$26,000 for a building plus land and a well elsewhere, and that the people of the village should have the opportunity of expressing their opinion of the proposed building on a park site through a vote on the debenture issue. Members of the Library Board present were Mrs. Ralph Edwards, chairman; Mrs. Allan Sumner, secretary; Miss Jane McLaren, librarian; Mr. R. H. Neil, Mrs. David Caruthers, Mrs. James Timmins, Allan Sumner, chairman of the Trustees, is also trustee member of the Library Board.

**Must Find New Quarters**  
The meeting resolved the dilemma of the Library Board which had drawn up plans for a new library building to be located in the park following favorable discussions with last year's trustees. At that time the village solicitor advised that it would be within the rights of the trustees to have a library built in the park. However, as Trustee McTaggart-Cowan pointed out, no decision had been reached by the Board. The library must vacate its rented premises on Centre Street in the near future, as its lease will be up in October of this year and the house has recently been sold.

When this year's trustees took office the picture changed. All three expressed themselves in favor of a new library building, but Trustee Frank Tucker went on record as being definitely against locating it in the park, on the principle that park land should be preserved as such. He did not wish to see a building of any nature "in a wide-open area". Mr. Tucker favored buying another site, even at an additional cost of \$10,000. Trustee McTaggart-Cowan's position was apparently undecided, wavering from an original tentative approval of the proposal early last month, to doubt about the advisability of the park location. As he stated, he was trying to make up his mind. He was not positive what the people of the village felt about the proposed location.

**"Stirred Up Criticism"**  
Chairman Allan Sumner, who also served on last year's Board, by all indications heartily approved the park site as the ideal location for the new library.

At one point he accused the trustees of having "stirred up criticism" and claimed a hold-up in the plans of the Library Board would be the responsibility of the trustees. He insisted that the question to build or not to build in the park must be settled immediately.

After reviewing the history of the trustees' action on the matter, he then asked both Trustee McTaggart-Cowan and Trustee Tucker both in turn to take the chair. Both requests were refused.

**Financial Setup**  
The financial pros and cons were brought to a head by Trustee McTaggart-Cowan. A government grant of 65% for maintenance purposes is allowed on debenture payments for building and land for libraries. A building at \$14,000 on free land would mean an annual cost to the Village of \$327.00, taking into consideration the allowable grant on an evaluation of the land at \$5,000. Annual cost to the Village of the same building plus land purchased for \$10,000, was quoted at an amount of \$1,117.55. The library now pays \$780.00 per year in rent. Trustee Tucker pointed out that the figures quoted for the building were the minimum, making no allowance for extras or architect's fees. Also if land were bought elsewhere, a well would be required, whereas the Library Board had included in its plans the cost of repair to an existing well in the park and of piping water from it to the building.

Mr. Timmins put forth the crucial question, "Can we have a library elsewhere?" He said the people of Thornhill would have to pay a total of \$26,000 if a lot had to be bought. He stated that it was his understanding that the Municipal Board would not approve so large a sum for the purpose, whereas a debenture issue of \$15,000 had every likelihood of approval.

Chairman Sumner explained the steps such a debenture issue must take. It must be drawn up by Vaughan Township (if the location is on the west side of Yonge St.), which could approve it and present it to Markham Township for its necessary approval. Or it could be put by Vaughan Township to a vote of the Thornhill ratepayers. Thus approved, the Municipal Board must then approve the issue. Trustee McTaggart-Cowan pointed out that these steps would take probably four and a half months before tenders could be let. Hence the Library Board could not have a new building in any case by October, and probably not until next March.

He suggested that the quickest way to get a building would be to make it a community project, which would avoid red-tape delays, and he offered to put such a proposal to the Lions Club in his private capacity as a member of the Library Board agreed. However, the Library Board demurred, the feeling being, as Mrs. Sumner said "that the Trustees and the citizens of Thornhill had a moral responsibility to keep the library going and why should it rely on charity, even with no strings-attached?"

**Make Temporary Arrangements**  
At this point the Library Board began to see, at Mr. McTaggart-Cowan's insistence, that it must make some interim arrangement if the library were to remain open after the expiration of the present lease. The Trustees retired for a short discussion among themselves, and on their return, Mr. Tucker happily and dramatically announced their unanimous motion.

The meeting concluded on a note of great amicability. Mrs. Edwards graciously spoke for the Library Board, saying she specially wished to thank the Trustees for their co-operation.

## Dalziel Park Historian

# Mrs. R. H. Neil Visits Jordan Attends Museum Conference

Visiting with Mrs. R. H. Neil in her lovely Thornhill log home last week, "The Liberal" learned that many new plans are afoot for the re-opening early this summer of the Dalziel Pioneer Museum near Edgeley. Mrs. Neil, who is the historical consultant to the Metropolitan Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority, has recently returned from the Museum Conference at Jordan, Ontario, and has acquired many new ideas for the local project. Attending the conference were professors and curators from New York, Detroit, Buffalo, Winnipeg, Halifax and many from Ontario and Quebec. The gathering heard a series of lectures by outstanding authorities on the various aspects of local museums and many important and useful ideas were exchanged.

One of the most significant impressions Mrs. Neil brought home was the feeling that a local museum and particularly a pioneer museum should put down its roots in the community. It must have a close tie with the area in which it is located and portray accurately the life of the community. The Dalziel project certainly has captured this important aspect, largely through Mrs. Neil's capable organization. It not only is located in the heart of the area of early settlement but the building housing the collection is an actual relic in itself. In addition, the majority of the exhibits consists of pieces used in this area by the first settlers.

**Keep Up Interest**  
Keeping the public coming back was a major interest at the conference. A museum must not be a thing which attracts people only once, it must continue to interest them. Mrs. Neil has a number of projects planned for the new season with this in mind. New exhibits and additions to present ones should cause new interest in the Dalziel project. She explained that the current trend is towards exhibits which suggest the activities of the people not just an artistic arrangement of "things". The museum curator, however, must avoid insulting the intelligence of the person who knows something about antiques and at the same time must have arrangements which appeal to the average person who visits the museum out of curiosity or to be amused." noted Mrs. Neil. She added that for the latter person, the museum should be interesting and at the same time subtly educational.

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## Council Representatives

# Discuss Future Plans For Doncaster Water

At a meeting of Doncaster Ratepayers held last week in Henderson Ave. School, Deputy-Reeve Donald Deacon and Ward I Councillor Mrs. Kathleen James of Markham Township Council revealed the unhappy facts about water in Doncaster. Last year's Council entered into an agreement with North York under which the whole of Doncaster was to be supplied with 250,000 gallons of water a day by North York as soon as water mains could be laid. The township engineers drew up plans for water mains and tenders were called, the lowest of which was \$79,000.00. However, the Municipal Board last fall did not approve the plan on the grounds that Markham was unable to show how it would pay for the mains.

**Part Doncaster Omitted**  
Mrs. James explained that it now appears that the actual agreement with North York leaves out the north-west section of Doncaster, and a small area in the east central section; that much of the land covered by the agreement is vacant farm land east of Highland Park. No new buildings may be serviced within the consent of North York in each case; and the 250,000 gallons includes 80,000 gallons now used daily in Highland Park. Areas specified for service in the agreement are lots 26 and 27 and lands registered as Nos. 2426 and 2368. Land registered as No. 3667 was left out. This is the north-west area where the United Church and Separate School are located, and includes the north side of Clark Ave. Last year's Council understood that the whole area from the north side of Glen Cameron to the north side of Clark was included in the agreement, but when this was explained to North York recently, North York agreed only to supply the school and the church but would not consider any more homes.

The engineer's plans for mains include the area omitted in the agreement. Mrs. James wondered, "How are you going to put a township main on a road that isn't even a township road because the streets are part of an unregistered plan and were never dedicated?" An example of this situation is Lillian St.

**Offers Little Hope**  
Deputy-Reeve Deacon, though pessimistic about getting an amended agreement from North York because its water supply is still not adequate for its own needs, was hopeful that if the Municipal Board would pass the plans for the whole Water Area, North York could be induced to supply water temporarily to the areas of Doncaster not covered in the agreement. He claimed last year's Water Committee should have spent more time checking the details. "He absolved the engineers of any blame, saying they only worked under the instructions of Council."

**Total Cost \$410,000**  
Mr. Deacon talked of plans for

water in the Water Area as a whole. The project will cost \$410,000, and the problem is now financial. Debt in Markham-Twp. has risen to \$175 per capita from \$5.00 in 1950. But the Ontario Water Resources Commission is expected to help solve the problem. Upon the passage of a revised act through the Legislature in the near future the Water Resources Commission will be able to finance the building and operation of municipal water systems at a better interest rate than the current 6%. This Government Commission will work with municipal engineers who will design the system, and it will sell its services to the municipality at cost for an annual sum to cover the charge for debt and interest, plus a reserve fund and an operation charge. After 30 years at the most it will turn the system back to the municipality. Markham has been going ahead with the plan to put its well near Don Mills Road on John St. into operation on this basis, with an expected capacity of 500,000 gallons daily, and is in the process of drawing up an agreement with the Water Resources Commission.

Mr. Deacon felt that "when North York has ample water, the agreement with it must be amended. Mrs. James did not feel that the agreement with North York should be cut off. Mrs. James said she felt that raising debentures through the Municipal Improvement Corporation would be slower than by direct sale by the township, but apparently a majority of the water committee had decided to go ahead with the Municipal Improvement Corporation for the Doncaster water debentures."

**Numerous Questions**  
The meeting was well attended by ratepayers who asked numerous questions. One man remarked "The people of Doncaster are at your mercy. Many think it unfair that a new church and a new school can be supplied with water when long-time residents are still hauling water in by car. Despite delays, necessary or unnecessary, they seemed resigned to the fact they would not get water as soon as they thought."

**Socials**  
Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Windsor and Mr. and Mrs. R. Chapman are holidaying in Florida.

Mrs. Arthur Morton, Lynn and Colin leave Thursday to take up residence in Calgary, where Mr. Morton has been transferred by his business firm.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Matheson and Ian are spending a few weeks in Bermuda.

**Presbyterian Church News**  
Rev. Calvin Chambers preached at Melrose Park Presbyterian Church on Sunday in honour of their 19th anniversary. Rev. John Marshall supplied at the Presbyterian Church in Thornhill.

The Young Life held a St. Patrick's Day Square Dance Saturday night at Thornhill Public school with music supplied by the D. Marting Refreshments were later served under the direction of Mr. Norm. Terry.

**Young Adults**  
The Young Adults met Sunday afternoon for Fellowship and Tea at the home of Miss Hazel Welsh. The worship service was led by Mrs. G. Culey. The film "Martin Luther" was shown and was followed by discussion. Tea was served by the hostess.

**Fortnighters**  
The Fortnighters held their meeting Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Hugh Anderson, Kirk Drive with 22 members present. Mrs. N. Martin, the vice-president took charge of the meeting. The Scriptures were read by Mrs. Donald Wade, followed with a commentary by Mrs. G. Patterson. Mrs. John Arnot then introduced Rev. C. Chambers who gave a very enlightening talk on the "Christian Life and Service."

Mrs. Hugh Anderson presented a lovely gift to Mrs. Donald Wade who with her husband and daughters is leaving for Formosa in April. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Wm. Kidd and Mrs. R. Cameron.

**Baptist Church News**  
The monthly meeting of the Women's Mission Circle was held March 5, at the church with Miss Stevens, the President, in the chair. Following a short business period, Mrs. Calvert led in the devotions which were taken from the Gospel of Mark. Her theme "He Leadeth Me" was taken from the book "From Pastures Green."

An illustrated talk on Port Work in Canada was presented by Miss Stevens. Pray for these workers who are doing so much for New Canadians entering Canada. The meeting closed with prayer by the President.

**W.A.**  
The monthly meeting of the Women's Auxiliary was held on March 12 at the church with Mrs. Elliott, the president, in charge. Devotions were conducted by Mrs. Willocks followed by a short talk by Mrs. Dowdell who visited the group from the Toronto Association. A short business period followed re discussion on the remodelling of the kitchen. The treasurer reported that materials have been pur-

## Thornhill Notes

chased and work under the leadership of Mr. Cliff Wilson is progressing. The ladies hope to open the new kitchen for inspection some time within the next month at which time there will be a social evening held for the congregation. The ladies spent the balance of the evening making cancer dressings for our local Cancer society, and hope to have more such meetings to help in this worthwhile work. The next W.A. meeting will be held April 9 at the home of Mrs. Walter Smook, Riverside Drive.

**Music Committee**  
The music committee reports progress with the newly formed church choir. Members have been meeting regularly for practice on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. The choir took part in last Sunday's service with Mrs. Robin singing a solo. Interested people are asked to please attend practice. It is hoped that more young people will attend.

**United Church News**  
The Afternoon Auxiliary of the W.M.S. met March 12 in the Sunday School hall. Mrs. I. Ford, the president, was in the chair. Mrs. George Russell, Christian citizenship secretary, gave a very interesting talk on our responsibilities as a Christian citizen. Mrs. Ralph Whalley led in a round table discussion, using as her topic "Formosa and Hong Kong" taken from the study book. The guest speaker was Mrs. MacHattie who is a vice-president on the 1957 executive for Toronto Centre Presbyterian. Mrs. MacHattie led the devotional period and spoke on "The Will of God". A short business period followed. The collection received from the World Day of Prayer was reported as \$24.35. A motion was made to invite the ladies of all the local Thornhill churches and also from Willowdale, Lansing and Newtonbrook United Churches to attend the Easter Thankoffering service. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Don Davidson and Mrs. Roly Curtin.

**The Guild**  
The Guild held their March meeting Thursday evening of last week in the Sunday school hall in the form of a Pot Luck supper with decorations in the St. Patrick's theme. Each lady brought a food donation and the hostesses were Miss L. Francis, Mrs. H. Craig, Mrs. M. Weavers and Mrs. A. Parker. The devotional period was conducted by Mrs. Hal Dempster. The guest speaker of the evening was Miss Helen Carscallan of the Planning and Arranging department of programs for women of the CBC. Miss Carscallan spoke of the struggle there had been in the past years for women to obtain time on radio and television networks, and of the work entailed in getting material for their programs. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

**Men's Club**  
The Men's Club are planning a trip through the Ford Plant on Tuesday, March 26, instead of their usual supper meeting. The men are planning to meet at the church at 6.30 p.m. All welcome.

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