3 District High Schools

Ready For Fall Term By Opening Date, Sept. 2

"Getting ready for the Fall Term" was the theme of the York Central District High School Board when it met last Monday night. Trustee John Howes, chairman of the building committee and Trustee R. Endean both reported to the board that the 10-room addition at Richmond Hill High as well as the new Woodbridge High School will be ready for use in time for the fall term which commences September 2nd.

The August meeting of the board, with the exception of Separate School representative, Trustee R. Tierney, who was on vacation, finalized last minute expense items; made arrangements to have the outside of all the school windows washed between August 25 and the first day of school; and granted permission to Principal Morrison to purchase text books for Woodbridge High, as well as directing Business Administrator Ashworth to purchase all cleaning supplies and various odds and ends, up to the amount set aside in the budget earlier this year.

Sometimes the observer at a school board meeting feels he is sitting in on a "business" meeting — at other times one thinks of householders, on a large size income trying to keep within a budget. And so it was Monday night when the 11-man board present discussed the installation of drapes at the new Woodbridge school. After much discussion regarding comparative costs for blinds, which do not stand up to wear and tear of school life, viz bamboo curtains and drapes, Business Administrator D. J. Ashworth got a chuckle from all present when he said, "A seven-foot blind, such as we would need on some windows, could roll children up inside them, they have such heavy springs."

Trustee Wesley Middleton, apparently concerned with an impending $5,000.00 bill for drapes asked Chairman Harry Sayers, Couldn't a school be designed so that these heavy drapes would not be necessary?" To which Chairman Sayers replied that the fact that there are windows on both sides of schools makes some covering necessary to keep out the strong rays of the sun.

Drapes for the classrooms at Woodbridge High School will cost approximately $1,500.00; the balance of the $5,000.00 allotment which the board finally okayed for drapes, includes the heavy auditorium curtains.

It was remarked that the drapes installed in Richmond Hill High School eight years ago are still in good repair.

Piano For Woodbridge

Trustee J. Howes requested $300.00 for the purchase of an upright used piano for Woodbridge School.

The new principal of Woodbridge High School, Lloyd Morrison, attended the board meeting and reported that Mrs. Robinson, the school secretary, was using her home as a temporary office, until the new school office is opened.

Richmond Hill Track

There will be no cinder track installed at Richmond Hill High School this year. Instead, the board has decided, on the advice of Trustee R. Endean, to have the playing field "plowed, disced, graded, fertilized and seeded before winter sets in." The field will be out of use until the fall of 1959, and the board instructed the property committee to approach Richmond Hill Town Council with a request for use of the town park until the high school grounds were "completely levelled and the new grass has had a chance to take hold."

Trustee Endean was authorized to approach the owner of a 66' wide piece of property abutting on the present playing field, with a request that it be sold to the board. Said Trustee Endean, "Gentlemen, I have opposed this purchase for two years — but I must admit tonight that I have now changed my mind, and I am now in favor of doing so. Since over a million dollars of public money is invested in Richmond Hill High School I feel we should have a proper track for the playing field." The board claims that this piece of land, if acquired, will straighten out the two ends of the track, which at present is 25 feet narrower than regulations call for.

The board was split three ways on this decision and Chairman Sayers called for a recorded vote. Those for the motion, which they carried by their votes, were, Trustees John Honsberger, L. Wainwright, E. Axelson and R. Endean. Against were Vice-Chairman Marshall McMurchy, and Trustees S. Rumble and W. Middleton. Abstaining from voting were Trustees Howes, M. Kinnee and R. Wood.

Principal A. S. Elson noted that Richmond Hill could play their football games at Thornhill while their own field is being fixed.

Expense Accounts

The board tabled a firm policy regarding expense accounts for teachers at Monday night's meeting with a motion passed almost unanimously — the exception was Trustee Honsberger — that teachers must apply to the board before attending meetings which entail expense, and if the board approves their prospective expenditures they will be informed of the board's decision at that time.

Trustee To Marry

Just before the meeting adjourned Chairman Sayers announced that Trustee Morley Kinnee would be absent from the September meeting, "owing to his forthcoming marriage". The board was unanimous in congratulating Trustee Kinnee and his future bride.

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North York Bus Line Report

A report from the T.T.C. presented to Richmond Hill Town Council Monday night showed an operating profit on the North Yonge Bus line of $28,946.12 for the second quarter of the year. Richmond Hill with a 23 per cent interest in the bus line received a cheque for $6,657.60 as its share.

Operation results for the second quarter were almost the same as for the first three months of the year, and the operating profit on the line for the first six months was $57,876.07.

Revenue passengers for the six month period totalled $2,705,930.

More Accidents July, Markham

Police Chief C. Wideman of Markham Township reports that his department handled more serious accidents in July than they had for sometime. Township law enforcement officers investigated 26 accidents during the month. There were also 13 cases of theft, seven of which resulted in arrests.

In all Markham Police handled 554 calls during July. Dogs running at large still continue to plague residents with 29 such complaints being registered with police.

A further breakdown of the main statistics is as follows, 35 requests for house checks, three cases of burglary, two liquor seizures, two missing persons, two domestic complaints, two stolen cars recovered, one malicious damage, and one impaired driving.

The two cruisers travelled a total of 9,809 miles during July and operating costs amounted to $217.29.

Whitchurch Asks $5 Fox Bounty For All Ontario

At a meeting of Whitchurch Township Council last week a resolution was drafted to be presented to York County Council asking the provincial government to pay a $5 bounty to anyone killing a fox anywhere in Ontario.

Council members expressed concern over the numbers of rabid foxes. Some cattle have died and household pets have been bitten by rabid foxes in Whitchurch. Most serious loss was reported at the farm of George Sproxton, near Newmarket, where four cows worth $1,000 died within three days after being bitten.

Deputy reeve George Richardson suggested that all dogs and cats in the township should be vaccinated against rabies. A clinic should be set up to handle the vaccinations, he said.

Clean Up Details Vaughan Council

Vaughan Township Council met in a short session Wednesday morning following inspection of a proposed gravel pit, north of Maple Sideroad on Dufferin St. As the town consulting engineer, Keith Hopper, could not be present no final decision was reached as to township approval in regard to the pit, pending engineering advice.

Several matters that have received previous discussion were finalized. Details involved in the paving of Thornridge Drive, Thornhill, on a local improvement basis have been ironed out and council gave its approval to starting the work.

The Ontario Hydro is to be instructed to proceed with the installation of five street lights at Nashville.

The next meeting of the council will be at the call of the chairman, Reeve John Perry.

Public Meeting

Answer Questions On Don Mills Widening

Victoria Square Community Hall was filled Tuesday evening of this week, for a meeting called by the Markham Township Federation of Agriculture, so that Don Mills Road property owners affected by the widening of the Don Mills Road might meet with the York County Engineer A. J. Rettie and representatives of the real estate firm of Chambers and Meredith who are handling the land settlement for Toronto and Yorks Roads Commission. It was made clear that residents are trying to be reasonable about this upheaval; that they are bewildered by the lack of value placed on their frontages by the evaluators, and that only ten owners, up to Tuesday evening of this week, had signed an agreement, where possibly 75 or 80 are involved.

According to Mr. McMillan of Chambers and Meredith, reparation for frontage lost to owners is made on the following basis:

Between John St. and N. 7 Highway

Raw farm land - at the rate of $2,000 per acre.

Small holdings - 15c per sq. foot.

Trees - $5.00; bushes - $10.00 to $12.00.

From Highway No. 7 to Buttonville

Raw farm land at $1,500 per acre.

No small holdings in this area.

From Sixteenth Ave. to Victoria Square

Raw farm land - $1,000 per acre.

Small holdings 10c per sq. ft.

Based on these figures the small householder with a 100 foot frontage south of No. 7 Highway would receive $150.00 for a 10-foot strip — at Victoria Square the amount would be $50.00 less. There was no mention of depreciation to property and as far as can be ascertained none has been allowed so far. It is understood that the law allows approximately 10% of the value of the property for depreciation depending on the destruction involved (more if necessary). Mr. MacMillan made it clear that his firm would decide on the property values. If there is damage to property or if the owner objects to settlement he may consult his solicitor and another real estate firm, present his case to the arbitration board and if still not satisfied must appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. S. Watson, president of the Markham Township Federation of Agriculture conducted the meeting and County Engineer Mr. Rettie and Mr. MacMillan answered the questions.

According to Mr. Rettie the present widening of the road includes 12 feet of pavement and 13 feet for shoulders. He denied that Don Mills Road would be made into a three lane highway, but later stated that the approach to No. 7 Highway may be wider than two lanes. Mr. Rettie brought laughter from the crowd when he said, "We don't think Don Mills is a high speed highway, it should be for local traffic!" Those present agreed it would be fine that way if only the motorists could be persuaded to see it that way and use another route. But it is obvious from the lines of week-end traffic that they are not prepared to do so yet.

Buttonville Bridge

When asked if Buttonville homes would be disturbed, the answer was "No." According to the engineer the pavement will be extended and culverts put in. This he feels will help to counterbalance the present bottleneck.

Regarding the bridge at Buttonville the question was asked, "Will it be widened?" The answer was that for the present the large handrails will be made narrow and a six-foot sidewalk will be made on each side. This will cause the bridge to appear wider than it now does. As the bridge is at present 30' wide, 16' narrower than the proposed highway width, it is possible that eventually there may be a new route.

Q. — Will there be access to property throughout construction of the road?

A. — We will try our best to keep traffic moving.

Q. — How long will road work take

A. — Completion is called for by December 15, but weather may cause delay."

Q. — How close will a house be left to the road?

A. — Couldn't answer—individual cases different. Mr. McMillan stated a house within 20' of the right of way was all right. Pursuing this question as regards a barn, the answer was that a barn was not subject to the ruling.

Q. — What about a well that is disturbed.

A. — Mr. MacMillan intimated that Chamber and Meredith would ask the house-holder to have a well dug and they would settle with the contractor.

Q. — "What if there is no water in the new well."

To this query Mr. MacMillan showed hesitation, Mr. Rettie however stated they would have to get water, and Mr. MacMillan agreed.

Q. — Is special fencing allowed for.

A. — Yes, in cases where it has already been used.

Q. — Should the owner be approached before trees are cut down?

A. — An attempt is made to contact the owner first. At this protests were heard throught the audience by owners who had not been approached first.

Q. — What is the compensation for loss of trees to the property?

A. — When trees are on property their value is placed on the difference between (real estate) value before and after taking.

Q. — What compensation for a windbreak? No answer.

Q. — What value is placed on fruit trees? No clear cut answer.

At this point it was noted by one gentleman present that in at least one case on No. 48 highway which is under similar construction, trees had been moved.—Mr. MacMillan made a note of this.

Mr. Rettie stated that in one area where roadside trees had been cut down, farmers protested so an offer was made to plant new ones. This the farmers would not hear of.

When Mr. Rettie was asked where the new plantings were to be made, he admitted that they would be inside the farmers fence-lines, and that was possibly why they objected.

School Trustees

School trustes from SS No. 6 stated they had not yet been contacted about any change to be made, and as the school year will commence in a very short time they would appreciate information as to what would happen to school property. Mr. MacMillan agreed to meet them immediately. Regarding fences the construction man present was asked whether wire should be wrapped around anchor posts or were staples used?

The constuction man said they used wooden anchor posts and that wire was wrapped around them usually, with staples to iron support posts.

There was a storm of protest at this from farmers who had found wire being stapled to anchor posts. One owner commented that they might last two years The construction man stated they found their fences satisfactory.

At the outset of the meeting it was made clear by chairman Watson that this was not a protest meeting, but simply one for gaining information. No one concerned in the road widening was contacted until after the first of July and there is naturally much confusion among residents.

Except in rare cases, individual problems were not broached.

Former Member Markham Council Dies In 77th Year

After moving to Toronto only a few months ago Mr. Albert Reesor passed away on Monday, Aug. 4th, at his home 212 Chisholm Ave., in his 77th year.

He was born in Scarboro Township, the son of the late Tillman Reesor. At an early age he moved to Markham Township with his family and settled on the eighth concession, at the corner now known as the Tillman Reesor Sideroad. After his marriage to Clara Brownsberger they farmed for some thirty-five years half mile east on this same sideoad After retirement about thirteen years ago Mr. and Mrs. Reesor moved to the eighth concession one mile and a quarter north of Markham Village. They resided here until recently when they took up residence in Toronto.

Mr. Reesor was a member of the Markham Township Council for many years serving as Deputy reeve and as councillor. He was also weed inspector for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife, Clara Brownsberger, and two daughters, Nellie and Edith both of Toronto; also one sister, Mrs. Ida Hoover of Dickson's Hill.

The funeral was held last Thursday at the Wideman Mennonite Church, with interment in the adjoining, cemetery.

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MARKHAM : Councillor Heisey told Markham Village Council recently that the Water Resources Commission had received eight tenders for the new water main and that work would start soon on the project.

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Help Wanted

Applications will be received by the undersigned for the position of Constable for the Town of Richmond Hill not later than Monday, August 18, 1958.

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