

# Richmond Hill Had Three Hotels . . . In 1890

William Savage, 85, who now lives on Centre St. East, is one of the oldest living residents of Richmond Hill, having lived here all his life. His father lived here before him as well.

The other day Mr. Savage got to talking about the Village of Richmond Hill as it used to be when he was a boy, around 1890. At that time, the population was no more than six or seven hundred hardy souls.

"The Liberal" asked Mr. Savage if he would mentally walk up and down Yonge Street as he had many times as a lad of ten, and describe the stores he used to see. This is the result.

Starting at the south end on the west side of the street, there were two shoe stores. First there was the Kenesley Shoe Shop and then the McConaghy Shoe Shop (now Yerex Electric). Next, on the present school site was the old school. A combination public and high school, it burned down one cold winter's night when all the fire hoses froze solid. Immediately north of the school was another newspaper called the York Herald, under Joe Keefer. Then came the old Post Office with Mr. Feely as postmaster. At the corner of Arnold Street was a hotel run by John Palmer. At the back of the hotel was a barber shop run by Mose Ransom, father of Stan Ransom, well known local barber. In front of the barber shop was George McDonald's Harness shop.

Back on Yonge Street, there was Oscar Brown's Grocery Store, another door was the Glass Butcher Shop (still there). Where Wright's Pharmacy is today stood the Falconbridge home. The two houses at the back of Simpson's Dry Goods were one of the last private banks in Canada, run by James Lawrence. Immediately north of the bank was John Brown's Grocery. There came Mr. Savage's father, P. G. Savage, who operated a combination grocery, post office and furniture store. The store has now been made over into an apartment.

Where the woolen shop now stands was William Harrison, the harness maker and Richmond Hill's second reeve. On the property now used for the municipal buildings were two stores: Grant's F. apple extracts and a repair shop.

The only other store on the west side of the street was Mr. Wright the undertaker (on the same property as they presently have). Mr. Wright also operated a carriage painting business. Crossing over Yonge Street, Mr. Savage began mentally to come south again. The first store was Limber's Bake shop. Next door was Harry Hopper the butcher. Then came I. J. Crosby with a general store and John Coulter the tailor.

In the building now used by Paris Electric, William Sanderson ran a drug store. On the property now occupied by Charlton's hardware, Charlie Mason ran a hardware business. In the store occupied for so long by Ted Mansbridge and his meat market, Robert Sibers had a shoe store. The property upon which now rests Morley's Groceria contained a combination grocery store and jewellery store operated by Mr. Skeele. Next door was a rather popular store (in those days): Alec Moodey's General Store, where they sold whiskey over the counter. Then came Kirby's Confectionary and Sloan's Drug Store where Mr. Clarke now has his drug store.

## Mackay Firm Deeds Test Hole To Markham

Representatives of James Mackay & Sons Ltd., contractors, met with Markham Township Council and Solicitor J. D. Lucas Monday evening regarding an adequate water supply for the new shopping centre to be located on Yonge Street directly south of Richmond Hill. The Mackay firm agreed to deed the piece of property on which a test hole, drilled by Richmond Hill, has indicated there is an adequate water supply, to the township for the sum of \$1.00. In return Markham has agreed to develop the well and supply the shopping centre with an adequate water supply.

With this new source of water Markham is expected to investigate the possibility of setting up another water area extended north from the present Water Area No. 1 which ends at No. 7 Highway. Both residents of Hillside Drive and Carrville Road East have requested council to establish a municipal water system.

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hotel operated by Mr. Brillinger. Then came "The Liberal" offices under the leadership of Tommy F. McMahon (on the present property).

Where the Richmond Theatre now stands was Powell's Hotel. Beyond these businesses, there wasn't much more to the town.

At that time, the favorite sport of the country was the game "La-crosse," and Richmond Hill had many championship teams. Mr. Savage was a member of one of those teams. When they played, farmers from miles around came to see the action.

## World Famed Forester Visits Toronto

By Mrs. L. S. Riley, Thornhill

It was my privilege on November 25th, to hear Richard St. Barbe Baker give a short address to members of the "Men of the Trees" and guests at a luncheon meeting. This veteran forester who has done more than any one person in the world to restore forest cover to the earth's surface and virtually made "the desert bloom like the rose" in Israel through tree-planting was visiting Toronto on his way home to England from Vancouver.

He spent two years at the University of Saskatchewan, and it was in a lumber camp near Prince Albert when swinging an axe as a lumber-jack that his heart was torn to see the colossal waste of noble trees, it was then he decided to qualify himself for the work of a forester. In his book, "I Planted Trees," he writes that in those days of 1913 there were no forestry schools in Canada, and students had to go to Seattle, Washington, for their forestry studies. So he decided to go to Cambridge, but scarcely arrived there before World War I broke out, and since he had joined up as a trooper he was busy during the next four years and did not resume his studies, after twice being wounded in France, until 1918. After completing his forestry training he sailed for Kenya in 1920, to commence his great work of conservation in the forests of Kenya and the Southern Provinces of Nigeria.

Baker found the African tribesmen had an instinctive love of trees, such as he had observed in the North American Indian, and it was not a difficult task to persuade the Africans to plant and care for them. One day, in the forests of the highlands of Kenya, he observed some wood chips which had a most attractive cedar-like smell which came from a sapling of juniper tree which the Kikuyu had felled to split into slabs for the walls of their huts. It seemed to Baker that here indeed was an ideal pencil wood to take the place of the Virginian pencil cedar. He sent samples back to England and before long a demand was created for this wood for pencil-making. As a forester it devolved upon him to see to it that future supplies of this valuable tree were available. And this was the "Men of the Trees" came into being for it was these African tribesmen who collected the seed of the mighty Mutarakwa, Kenya pencil tree, who were its first members. After treating the seeds in a special way to ensure germination, the tribesmen assisted in sowing and raising large quantities of these seedlings which were planted on old farms turned into nurseries before they took their final resting place in the forest. The motto of the first Men of the Trees, or Watu-wa-Miti who banded themselves together in response to an appeal to save their Kenya farms from destruction was "Two-hamwe — All as one." It is significant to note that those tribesmen who had been inspired by Baker did not take part in the Mau-Mau uprisings in Kenya many years later.

On his travels back to Great Britain on furloughs he had interested a group of tree-lovers to form the Men of the Trees Society, a fellowship which pledge themselves to plant, protect and hand on their tree heritage for posterity to enjoy. In 1929, Baker was invited to bring the High Commission, Sir John Chancellor, who felt that there was an all-important obligation to the country to re-clothe the hills with tree-growth. Allenby's army had supervised tree planting on their conquering sweep of the Holy Land but since his successful campaign tree-planting had progressed slowly. Allenby had the wisdom to realize that if the land were to be restored to its ancient fertile state, "the land of milk and honey," it must be done by reforestation. Baker called on the heads of all the orthodox religions but first enlisted the sympathy and cooperation of the Guardian of the Bahai cause, Shoghi Effendi, who was grandson of Abdul Baha who had largely been responsible for bringing Palestine under the British mandate.

A Men of the Trees Society was formed in Palestine and Shoghi Effendi was its first life-member. The High Commissioner was Patron and the numerous religious heads were Vice-Patrons. These devoted men who hated each other for the love of God were at last united in their love of trees and the need for reforestation in Palestine. The old hol-

day of the "Feast of the Trees" was restored, and ceremonial tree plantings carried out on that day, the 15th of Shebat which falls between the rainy season and the beautiful spring. Trees grow twice as fast in Israel as in America and more trees nowadays are planted by individual groups than the State Forestry Service. Trees conserve water, and mountain springs and keep the water table high, counter-erosion, purify the air and help to maintain life.

On his return from Palestine he found he was not required by the Colonial Office as governments were retrenching and money for forestry was being withdrawn. So he thought this presented a grand opportunity to set out on a trip around the world and see some of the Big Trees of the world of which at this time he was ignorant. But first he wanted to help some of his fellow-countrymen, and succeeded in awakening the interest of fifty Welsh boys to school on farms in Ontario. At Vimy Ridge, a farm just outside Guelph he had a clearing depot for these boys and visited them on his world trip.

His journeyings carried him to the Big Trees of the West Coast and he has described these and the story of Douglas after whom the Canadian fir was named in his first book "Among the Trees" and "The Redwoods." Early in his career he had forsaken shooting with guns to that of the camera and was able to take with him for the rest of his journey many fine slides of the world's oldest trees, Sequoia sempervirens — the living — and thus create public support of his idea that these oldest living trees on earth should be saved for posterity. "The Save the Redwoods League" had already been formed and Baker set himself the task of letting the wider world know about their need for salvation.

His arrival in New Zealand came at a time when the Forestry Department through shortage of funds, but Baker's protests at such procedure bore fruit and forestry bonds were issued to the public with the slogan "Plant Trees and Grow Money." Over \$4,000,000 worth of forestry bonds were sold and twenty thousand acres planted per year. He found the same situation in the Canberra School of Forestry in 1931, but succeeded in persuading a treasury official to keep the school open. After a warm welcome by tree-lovers in Sydney and Melbourne, he was able to form a branch of the "Men of the Trees" in Australia. And so on to Ceylon, India and home to England where he lost no time in raising funds for the preservation of the Californian Coast Redwoods. His work was supported by an enthusiastic Society at Crescent City, and eventually in 1939 the Del Norte County Redwood Forest was added to the State Parks System. It will be here on the 14th day of the ninth month of nineteen fifty-nine that representatives of all the "Men of the Trees" societies will be meeting in the Grove of Understanding, which but for the aid of the "Men of the Trees" would have fallen to the axe.

The Canadian branch of "Men of the Trees" was founded by the late F. E. Robson in 1935, after visiting England where, having seen an exhibition of Baker's photographs of trees in the forests of the world, he was able to bring this collection to Toronto to interest tree-lovers of that city. By means of lectures, tree plantings and tree "bees" in the schools, an awareness of trees for their beauty and usefulness to mankind is stimulated.

All wealth comes from the earth and the Men of the Trees fellowship believe that without fair play to the earth we cannot exist physically, without fair play to our neighbour we cannot exist socially or internationally, and without fair play to our better selves there is no individuality or constructive leadership. "With twelve per cent of the world's population on the North American continent consuming half of the raw materials of the world, are we playing fair?" asked Mr. Baker. The desert areas of the world are increasing, the Sahara is the rate of 20 miles per year. One of Baker's latest books, "Sahara Challenge," he tells of his 9,000 miles safari to take a survey of the desert and where the botanist on the trip observed a plant which obtained water from inspiration, and there was enough water by the root of the plant to grow a tree. Thus opening up a way to plant the desert and restore the valuable top soil.

The parent organization in Great Britain is collaborating with representatives of fifty-four countries for a World Forestry Organization to fight the encroachment of desert conditions upon already inadequate food resources.

"He that planteth a tree as a servant of God, He provideth a kindness for many generations." And faces that he hath not seen shall bless him." Many are those who will bless Richard St. Barbe Baker for his vision and action.

# Mr. & Mrs. Percy Hanks Enjoy Golden Wedding

Many relatives and friends called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Hanks, 95 Grandview Ave., Willowdale, on Tuesday, January 6, 1959, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary.

They were married in Andover, England 50 years ago when Mr. Hanks was serving in the Imperial Army. Wounded at the battle of Mons, Mr. Hanks was returned as a Lieutenant, and came to Canada with his wife in 1918. Mr. Hanks is now 75 and his wife Ethel is nearly 70. They

both enjoy good health and pride themselves on their beautiful garden and many bird houses, the work of their own hands.

Their three married daughters, all living in Toronto, who assisted in receiving the many guests at this week's At Home are: Mrs. Ethel Bawden, Mrs. Gladys Hunt and Mrs. Elsie Thomson.

"The Liberal" joins the community in extending many good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Hanks on this happy occasion.

# Vaughan Police Charge Three Men With Theft

The Vaughan Township Police have been kept busy since January 1 investigating a series of near felonies.

A night check on that day turned up with a quantity of gasoline additives near the B.A. Station of Rich-Hill Motors. The same night, a wheelbarrow was found outside of Western Tire in Richvale.

At 8:45 a.m. on January 3, the body of a fox was found. It had been in a fight with a porcupine and had lost. It was removed by Dr. Darlington of the Health and Animals Branch for a rabies check.

A prowler on Thornbank Road was investigated on January 4, and a report of a car in a ditch on the Kirby Side Road was looked into. Two children inside the car were complaining of the cold. It was learned their father was down the road helping another motorist stuck in the snow.

The pump house at Loblaws was reported to have been entered, but the store manager was aware of the situation.

However, on December 31, a routine check of a car turned up some startling evidence. When the car, bearing license number 591-753 was stopped, stolen articles were found wrapped in a green chenille bedspread. The articles, 35 all told, had come from the home of Carl B. Warder at 123 Arnold Avenue.

Three men were arrested and charged with breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods and possession of burglar tools. On a remand for one week are Larry H. McCallum, 32, Alec Marshall, 44, and Jack Kelly, 35, all of Lake Wilcox.

Vaughan Township Police joined Sgt. Harrison, Constable St. John and Constable Forester of the Vander O.P.P. in a search of the accused homes, and turned up with another quantity of stolen merchandise.

There were only two minor accidents within the township

# 319,554 Visitors To MTRCA Areas Black Creek Channel Improvement

A total of 319,554 persons visited the conservation areas administered by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority during the past year, it was announced by Dr. G. Ross Lord, Eng., authority chairman.

Theatres visited include the Boyd near Woodbridge; Albion Hills near Bolton; Heart Lake near Brampton, and Greenwood near Pickering.

Among other items revealed by Dr. Lord in a year-end report concerning work carried out by the authority are:

The MTRCA now owns a total of 2,354 acres of conservation lands in and around Metro Toronto. These are located at Heart Lake, Glen Haffy, Albion Hills, Cold Creek, Boyd, Dalziel and Edgeley, Oakbank Community Pond, Uxbridge, Glen Major, Greenwood and Claremont.

A total of 31 houses have been purchased plus three other prop-

erty in the Lower Highland Creek flood plain area at a cost of \$200,000. This area has a perennial history of flooding every spring and the Authority plans to turn the land into a conservation area and greenbelt.

Construction has started on the channel improvement to the Black Creek from Scarlett Road to the Humber River and it is expected to be completed early in May.

Stream recording gauges at Summerville and Woodbridge have been completed and are now in operation.

The Pioneer Village at Edgeley in North York Township is under construction. The village, when completed, will serve as a link with the past and will become Ontario's first authentic pioneer community. It will consist of about 20 buildings and is being developed into a typical crossroads community.

# Flag Champion Guest Speaker Local Kinsmen

Mr. J. A. Picard, president of Toronto Association 107 of the Native Sons of Canada will be the guest speaker at tonight's (Thursday) meeting of the Richmond Hill Kinsmen Club, to be held at the Theatre Grill.

An outspoken advocate of a distinctive Canadian flag Mr. Picard will discuss the coming Royal Visit and the need for a strong Canadian Nationalism.

The Native Sons have launched a campaign for a distinctive Canadian flag and acceptance of O Canada as Canada's national anthem.

# Fire Damage To Unionville Plant

Fire caused an estimated \$5,000 damage to the J. B. & D. plant on Number 7 highway west of Unionville Monday night. Cause of the blaze is believed to be an over-heated furnace. Markham and Unionville brigades answered the alarm but were hampered in fire fighting by lack of water.

# Re-elect N. Todd Planning Board '59 Chairman

At the inaugural meeting of the Richmond Hill Planning Board held Tuesday evening, Mr. Norman Todd, well known local solicitor was re-elected chairman for the coming year. Serving with Mr. Todd will be Vice-chairman Ross Scrimger, Secretary-treasurer J. M. Brown. The other members of the board are Mr. Tom Buchan and Councillor R. P. Ross.

# House Building Dome Permits Winter Work

On the street behind the Supermarket at the Richmond Heights Plaza, workmen have been constructing a wooden structure over a large hole, and people have been wondering just what it is.

The construction firm of (Paul) Skinner and (Dave) Merrick, the company that donated the Christmas tree to the Municipal building, are using information supplied by the National Research Council to construct a plastic bubble, beneath which they will build a house.

The frame is built of light wood and covers the basement excavation of a new house. Sheets of plastic are then tacked to the frame, and the workmen begin

construction of the house inside the bubble.

The purpose of the bubble is to keep out the weather and thus permit the construction of homes during the winter.

Costing in the neighbourhood of \$1,000, the bubble is dismantled after the house is built and reinstalled over the next excavation. In this manner, the cost is broken down to around \$100 per house. The time and money saved more than compensate the builders for the cost.


On this particular street, seven homes in the \$16,000 class are being built.

Says Paul Skinner, "We are helping ourselves by getting these houses built quickly, and at the same time we are making our own small contribution to the winter works program of the country. Without this bubble design, these men would be unemployed this winter."

"Clarambard", the Curtin Club's entry in the Central Ontario Drama Festival, will be presented at Hart House tonight. The final adjudications will take place on Saturday after the Harlequin's production of "Mrs. M. Thing."

MARKHAM — The Bank of Nova Scotia will purchase \$29,540.51 of an \$80,000.00 hydro debenture issue for \$29,691.17. The bonds are for 10 years with interest of 5 1/2 %.

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# Winter Fishing Popular Sport On Lake Simcoe

Ice fishing is a very popular winter sport, and Lake Simcoe is the mecca during winter months for many enthusiasts.

According to officials of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Simcoe is probably the heaviest-fished lake in the province during the winter months. Main catch: whitefish, herring, lake trout.

And, despite the fact Lake Simcoe has been fished, winter and summer, for at least two hundred years, the big lake 40 miles north of Toronto seems to take all the fishing possible and still produce practically every variety of fish to be found in Ontario.

There was a time, not so long ago, that winter residents of the area were permitted to use spears. Despite their protests, the government of the day finally prohibited spearing and today the winter fishing is confined to the hook-and-line method which is productive enough for anyone. Certainly, the fisherman who gets into a whitefish school has his hands full in no time.

Which brings about a story told by a veteran resident of the area who claimed that the whitefish schools were kept in place by voracious lake trout who, with almost human ingenuity, maintained a constant patrol around the school and nipped it hither and thither at their will. So far as is known, there has been no "official" confirmation of the theory.

To the true ice fisherman, there is no greater sanctuary than the strain and worry of the workaday world than the little ice hut, heated by a tiny wood or oil burner, the floor of which is the translucent water of Lake Simcoe. In the little hut (and some of them have electric and even television!) the fisherman in some cases concentrates entirely in getting his minnow-baited hook at the proper depth to intercept the hungry whitefish, herring or lake trout. In other cases, however, the fisherman is quite content to do nothing at all.

Economically, ice-fishing means a great deal to the residents of the area, who build huts and rent them, set up guides, supply meals, fishing tackle and baits for the thousands who head Simcoe-wards at week-end or through the week. At one time last year, officials of the Department reported there were more than 3,500 huts on the lake — and with each hut containing two or even four people, that means an average of perhaps \$30,000 being spent every weekend by residents of nearby cities such as Toronto, Hamilton, Barrie, Orillia and, in recent years, many even from United States points such as Buffalo and Detroit.

Fishermen are warned that it is still against the law to use "snaggers", wire gadgets on which are mounted a number of unbaited hooks over which unwary fish may cross. When they do so, the illegal fisherman jerks sharply on the line and, in most cases, injures more fish than he will ever catch by the illegal means.

As usual, conservation officers of the Department will patrol the lake constantly to see that the regulations are carried out.

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	Reg. \$34.50 for	<b>\$24.95</b>
Men's Wool Suburban Coats, quilted lined, latest styles, up to 46	Reg. \$14.95	<b>\$9.95</b>
Boys' Wool Suburban Coats, asst'd styles, quilted lined, 8-18 yrs.	Reg. \$12.95	<b>\$8.95</b>
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