

Water & Sanitation Conditions At Lake Wilcox Said Critical

The water in Lake Wilcox is only fit for bathing, and should not be taken internally unless boiled. The water contains a large amount of nitrate and boiling only increases this content, thus it is not fit for infants' formulae. This was part of the statement made by Dr. R. King of the York County Health Unit, speaking before Whitchurch Township Council on Thursday night of last week.

As regards the wells, he said that most of them were shallow and were polluted from the sanitation or lack of it, in the area. He said this was not an area that was alone with this condition.

He recommended to council that they arrange to drill at least two deep wells for the community.

Dr. King's report was brought forward at a meeting of council attended by a large delegation of ratepayers from Lake Wilcox.

Mr. L. Hanson, chief speaker for the group, presented council with a petition containing signatures of some 300 residents. He said that he had another sheet containing another hundred names which was not handed in. In his opening remarks he said that the residents were quite upset in view of Dr. King's report which was not good.

He said that the owners were most anxious that council take some action to supply the area with water fit to drink and arrange for some form of sanitation that would prevent all the soil from outside privies being washed into the lake. A large number of persons had moved into the area, he said, and there were now 587 dwellings and 2293 persons. Many had built better homes on larger lots but the smaller ones remained and these in many cases had fallen into the

hands of non-resident landlords who charged high rents and provided little service.

Mr. Hanson said that the ratepayers' association had no desire to put any person out of a home but he stated as a place that was inferior became vacant, council was asked to have the building inspector declare it "unfit for habitation." He said the health unit had co-operated and 16 homes had already been condemned.

Col. S. C. Snively supported Mr. Hanson in his statements about the non-existence of proper sanitation.

Douglas Nash, another member of the deputation, said that many families of low income were paying high rents to absentee landlords. He thought these owners should be compelled to clean up the property they owned.



The fourth annual carnival of the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club to be presented at the Richmond Hill Arena April 2, 3 and 4, promises to be a gala and exciting event. An interesting number on the program features "Rover the Wonder Dog", and skaters Ian Ross and George Graham. — Photo by Lagerquist

Thornhill Village

Expect Markham People To Seek Dissolution

Councillor J. MacNeil informed Markham Township Council Monday there is a strong possibility that the Markham residents of Thornhill may follow the lead of Vaughan Township residents and request a dissolution of the police village. Mr. MacNeil reported that several Markham residents are gathering information and may approach council on the matter shortly. "The police village served its purpose 30 years ago," stated Councillor MacNeil. "The province told us 10 years ago to either become an incorporated town or revert back to the township," added the speaker. Both Deputy-reeve W. Dean and Councillor MacNeil are residents of Thornhill and former members of the village trustees.

"That is something the people will have to decide themselves," remarked Reeve W. L. Clark. Mr. Clark said the Village of Agincourt was dissolved after the formation of Metro and had experienced no hardships as a result of this action. It was reported the Vaughan Council favoured the idea of dissolution.

Thornhill Trustee P. McTaggart-Cowan waited on council to clear up any points regarding the trustees' proposed \$56,850.00 road paving program. Markham's share will amount to \$13,700.00 and Vaughan's to \$43,150.00. Mr. McTaggart-Cowan concurred with a suggestion of the township engineer that certain streets have two or three inches of pavement instead of just surface treatment. Some streets that have heavy traffic such as Elgin Street will get permanent pavement, while other less busy streets such as Colborne Street will receive surface treatment. The Department

of Highways has agreed to such a program.

Regarding a suggestion of Deputy-reeve Dean that the part of John Street lying within the police village limits be included in this year's paving program, Mr. McTaggart-Cowan stated that the Department of Highways had the road and reported it lacks a proper base. It would therefore be foolish to spend any more money on it until a new base has been laid. He estimated it would cost \$30,000.00 to rebuild and pave it properly. Due to the large sum of money involved, Mr. McTaggart-Cowan stated the trustees planned to include it in a future program. He felt if seal coat was put on the street this summer and any potholes patched at once it could last for another five years.

Mr. McTaggart-Cowan assured the members that the residents of Markham will pay only for their own share of the work. It is planned to handle the work under the terms of the Local Improvement Act.

\$32,000.00 Surplus
Clerk-Treasurer H. Crisp informed council that preliminary reports indicate the township finished 1958 with a \$32,000.00 surplus. A complete statement will be available by March 31. "The auditors are very pleased with our financial position," stated Reeve Clark. Both the fire and roads departments overspent their budgets in 1958. Mr. MacNeil said the province permits a municipality to budget for a surplus equal to the amount of any outstanding taxes.

Reporting on a meeting held last week with the police committees of the Townships of Markham, Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill regarding the perennial problem of dogs running at large Councillor L. Mumberson stated they may organize a central dog pound to serve the three municipalities. A representative of the humane society who was present at the meeting stated the society would not assume the onerous task of acting as dog catcher. It was estimated a central pound would cost approximately \$10,000.00.

The water committee was requested to bring in a report on what people outside the water area should pay for water. The case concerns people on John Street where the main passes their property. Indications are they have to pay double the rate prevailing within the water area.

Ratepayers in the first concession will receive a 3.5 mill reduction in their taxes this year, thanks to Markham's share of the profits from the operation of the North Yonge Bus Line. Markham received \$12,782.52 from the T.T.C. in 1958. The bus agreement is such that the residents of the first concession either share in any surplus or make up any deficit resulting from the operation of the line.

Council has authorized the hiring of Mr. Douglas Flood, 13, as a junior clerk for the assessing office. He will begin at a salary of \$40.00 a week. He is a resident of the Arnelgh Subdivision.

THE DISTRICT'S MARKET PLACE LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS FOR QUICK RESULTS PHONE TU. 4-1105

Town Works Department

(Continued from Page 1)

Councillor Paterson said he was not being critical but he would like an outline of what is being done in the Elmwood-Harding area where conditions are particularly bad due to work done last fall. He asked if the sewer contractor had any responsibility. It was stated the contractor is still required to do some work but if asked to do it now it would just be wasted. It was suggested a special effort will be made to keep north and south roadways open.

Council has words of praise for the work done by the County on Markham Road.

"I believe in giving credit where due," said Mayor Tomlin. "They did a job after Markham road" after it was forcibly drawn to their attention by this council."

Reeve Perkins — "They did a good job on Markham Road."

Councillor Ross said he appreciated the Works Department is doing its best to meet the difficult conditions, but he still thought ratepayers had the right to complain.

Councillor Haggart, Police Chairman, said householders who are forced to park cars on road all night will not be given parking tags.

Mayor Tomlin recalled that people in other parts of town experienced inconvenience when sewers were installed. "I well remember," he said, "cars being bogged down on Richmond Street."

Deputy-reeve Tinker expressed concern for the large expense of the remedial measures. Our pumping charges are running to a substantial sum each day, he said.

Councillor Bradstock asked for a detailed account for emergency measures during the flooding in the Beverley Acres area. A report will be prepared by the Works Commissioner.

The discussion closed with a council appeal for patience and consideration on the part of the ratepayers during this very difficult spring period. There are many suburban areas much worse than Richmond Hill, said the Mayor. "I can stand it all except those who say nothing has been done," said Deputy-reeve Tinker.

It was made clear that the works department would always be standing by for call in case of real emergency when it is necessary for ambulance or fire department to get through.

Dog Complaints
"Our complaint is not against dogs, but against dog owners who show no concern for town regulations or the rights and property of others," said Councillor W. J. Haggart in asking council's views on a co-operative dog pound and dog catcher to serve Richmond Hill and neighbouring municipalities.

"I am agreeable to a mutual pound, but I think we need a full time dog catcher," said Councillor Paterson.

Reeve Perkins questioned the need for a full time dog catcher. In a year at the rate of 3 a day he'd catch all the dogs in town, he said.

All members expressed concern that action be taken to clean up the dog situation. They agreed the by-law is being ignored by too many people. Councillor Paterson said the dog catcher drove right by six loose dogs on Paliser Crescent and did nothing about them.

Councillor Haggart will meet again soon with representatives of Markham and Vaughan in an effort to come to some agreement for a mutual pound and some arrangement for a dog catcher to enforce local by-laws.

Mayor Tomlin said the police department continues to get many complaints of dogs running at large.

Courtesy
Councillor Haggart said he had three complaints of the phone manners of town employees. A lady phoned to ask when the large pile of dirt on the green belt would be removed and was told it made a good slide for the kids. Two other complaints concerned calls to the Police Department and had been referred to the Chief. "When taxpayers phone our town offices they are entitled to polite replies," said Councillor Haggart.

Mayor Tomlin said any such complaints should be referred at once to the clerk.

Engineers
Councillor Haggart complained that Proctor and Redfern, town consulting engineers, are working for sub-dividers.

"They are not retained as consulting engineers. They just do work for us," said Councillor Bradstock pointing out no re-

tainer fee is paid. He saw no objection to them taking work for sub-dividers as long as they did not do the inspection work.

Council passed a motion by Councillor Haggart and Reeve Perkins that Proctor and Redfern be not engaged to inspect any work in a sub-division where they work for the sub-divider.

Councillor W. J. Haggart contended that flooding in some six homes on Demaine Crescent was some town responsibility as some of the water came from municipally owned property. He said the basements in question were filled with water. On motion of Reeve Perkins and Councillor Haggart Works Commissioner Whalen will bring in a report on what can be done to remedy the situation.

Fire Chief Alfred Stong was authorized to have the local Fire Brigade represented at the regional fire school to be held in Aurora April 29th to April 30th.

Council laid over for further consideration the request of County Civil Defence Chairman John Perry that a local co-ordinator be appointed. There's a change in regulations pending, said Deputy-reeve Tinker, let's withhold action until they are clarified. Chairman Perry said that to date only 4 municipalities in the County have heeded his request for appointment of a local co-ordinator.

Approval was expressed by members for the proposed construction of a 22 unit apartment building on Benson Ave. One bedroom suites will rent for \$68.00 per month, and 2 bedroom suites for \$75.50. "We are in agreement as long as the building conforms to our by-laws," said Councillor Haggart. Mayor Tomlin said there is a keen local demand for rental accommodation.

Board of Education
A communication from the heads of local Home and School associations asked council for some directive on the proposal to form a Board of Education for Richmond Hill to take the place of public school trustees and the York Central High School Board in school administration in the town. The letter pointed out that a recent meeting discussed the proposal and that among the advantages an elected Board of Education would be more democratic than the present appointed High School administrative body.

It was stated the proposal also would facilitate the adoption of the tri-level system and tend to a more co-ordinated and improved curriculum.

Councillor Ross, a former public school board chairman, said the discussion of the proposal had proven very interesting. There were, however, quite a few problems and the financial impact of the change would need careful study.

Councillor Haggart said the financial aspects of the proposal should have thorough investigation, but he had no objection to such investigation being carried out. He moved that the town auditor and solicitor be asked for a detailed report on the Board of Education proposal. The motion was seconded by Councillor Ross and carried unanimously.

Proctor & Redfern reported that work in the new sub-division at Elgin sideroad was so prolonged the amount of money available from the sub-divider's agreement would not be adequate to continue full time inspection. Council members agreed full time inspection is necessary even if the town has to bear the expense. It was suggested Works Commissioner Whalen engage inspectors as it would be less expensive than if supplied by engineers. Inspection costs under the engineers would cost an estimated \$50 per day. The work may continue until next fall, the Mayor said.

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TO CITIZENS OF RICHMOND HILL

Due to the unusual weather conditions some streets in the town are in impassable shape and have had to be temporarily closed.

All necessary repairs will be made as quickly as possible and practical.

In the meantime a stand-by staff of the Works Department is on duty to cope with any emergency, and in such cases residents are asked to contact the Police Department, TU. 4-2121.

The co-operation and indulgence of all citizens is invited during this period of temporary inconvenience, in anticipation of which we thank you.

TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

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