

Old Building Future Courthouse?

York County Council Approves A New \$1,000,000 Home For Aged

Architect To Present Plans At June Session

A new chapter in the history of York County began last Friday evening, when county council approved a recommendation "that a new 150 bed Home for the Aged be constructed, not to exceed a cost of \$1,000,000, and that the committee be authorized to engage an architect to draft plans as recommended by the committee." Two members opposed the recommendation which was moved by Reeve W. Clark of Markham and seconded by Reeve F. Armstrong of Woodbridge.

The two members opposing were Deputy-reeve S. Walker of East Gwillimbury, who told "The Liberal", "I realize the aged have to have proper care, but I am opposed to raising half a million dollars from the people of York County." Deputy-reeve E. J. Norris of Georgina said, "I am opposed because the recommendation did not say they would not pull down the old building."

On January 21st of this year, county council requested the Warden to appoint a welfare committee comprised of Messrs. Wm. Sellers, chairman, Clarence Davis, Walter Rate, F. D. Armstrong, J. H. Anderson, J. V. Fry, W. L. Clark, Wm. Hodgson, Warden, J. L. Smith, secretary and A. J. Rettle, engineer.

Less than one month later, on February 17, and following a great deal of indignant publicity regarding conditions at the York Manor Home — concerning chiefly with below normal temperatures, and fire-safety hazards existing there — county council by resolution recognized the need for a new home and authorized the welfare committee to investigate and report at the June session of council.

Last Friday night, May 1st, an emergent meeting was called in order that council might approve the committee's recommendations, so that the architect's plans could

be brought before county council in June. The committee has visited two of the most modern homes for the aged, the first at Bonchere Manor, Renfrew and the second at Linwood Haven, St. Catharines.

In its recommendation report, the committee stated, "We are of the opinion that the new home site should be on the grounds at York Manor, north of the present building. It may be necessary to purchase about one-half an acre of land at the rear of the Irving property to complete a suitable site." Committee member Fred Armstrong rose to comment, "I don't agree with this — you are only putting the Home for the Aged behind another house — it will be well down in the orchard."

Reeve Armstrong's remark then sparked a rather warm, but fairly one-sided debate. Earlier in the proceedings he had stated, "Regarding the 'refrigerator' or

the 'deep freeze': anticipating that we may have to revert to the old building for more aged people — and for the future protection of the aged of the County of York — I would like to see it bulldozed to the ground so it cannot be used. I would like to see the aged boarded out, the building demolished and the new building built on that same site." This brought a protest from many members who said it was "a fine old building," "well constructed" and "too good to tear down."

Warden William Hodgson reacted to the point of stating, "I foresee that building could be used as a court house for York County in the future — I am against tearing the present building down." Reeve Clark rose to say he concurred with the Warden.

Deputy-reeve Stanley J. Tinker of Richmond Hill: "I agree wholeheartedly with the Warden and Reeve Clark." He then added, "In reading this report by the committee it is evident there is nothing mentioned about farms in connection with the two Homes visited. I wondered if some member of the committee would tell us if they found it necessary to operate a farm in conjunction with old people's homes?"

Chairman Sellers said that at Renfrew the Home was built on a lot which was donated and he didn't see a farm there. Several members said the operation of a farm was good for morale.

The question then arose again about the site of the new building and Reeve Armstrong said he was opposed to "putting it behind an old house," it should be built, he said, right on the present site and to do that the present residents should be boarded out, the old building included in the new building or the place would have to be vacated and torn down.

Reeve Clark: "We as a county council cannot decide where the building should be put. It is a job for the architect and the engineer to decide."

Reeve John Luck of Newmarket remarked on the 110 to 120 acres that comprised the York County Home property and said, "With the amount of land we've got there there should be sufficient land to build a home. I thoroughly agree with the Warden and Mr. Clark — leave it to the architect to decide where the building should be."

A standing vote was then taken and the recommendation was approved, with the two members opposing.

Reeve John Perry, seconded by Deputy-reeve P. Mingay moved: "As soon as tentative approval is received from the Municipal Board, Irving Bolgen be appointed architect for the new Home for the Aged."

It is anticipated that the architect's plans will be ready for the June session of council.

N. Y. Adopts Plan Reduce Site Dollars

In a move to lower land prices for school sites, the North York Board of Education adopted a Property Committee resolution which sets the framework for future site acquisitions, despite the protest of former Chairman Ronald Hastings.

The Property Committee's recommendations, which Mr. Hastings does not approve are: "The Board of Education for the Township of North York is prepared to pay to a subdivider a price per acre for a school site which shall be based on the actual cost of the land per acre paid by the subdivider, plus a nominal profit of 10 per cent. The Board is not prepared to pay any costs to the subdivider for such items as legal fees, overhead, carrying charges or a proportion of the cost for the installation of municipal services in the subdivision."

The committee also states it is the opinion of the Board that the provision of a school building is an essential service as is the provision of sewers, water, roads, etc., and that the cost of providing the services to a school should be absorbed by the subdivider as a charge against the lots sold for housing.

The committee stated the trend toward rezoning for greater population density imposes responsibility on the board to acquire larger sites, while at the same time providing a financial advantage to the developer.

According to Frank E. Watson, several boards in the province are operating in this manner.

110th Annual Fair At Richmond Hill

Plans are under way to welcome a record crowd at Richmond Hill's 110th annual Spring Fair which will be held Saturday, May 23rd. The program will feature a horse show with classes for light and heavy horses, and a large number of saddle and hurdle events. Some of Ontario's finest horses are already entered.

The midway will be bigger and better than ever, and there will be scores of rides and games, and the usual novelty and refreshment booths.

A big square dance contest is attracting province-wide interest and many entries are expected.

Closing the big fair day program will be a monster dance in the arena Saturday night.

WOODBRIDGE: As far back as 1877, the facilities of a public library have been available to the residents of Woodbridge. Children and teenagers make good use of the present library but Librarian Frederica Howel says not enough adults are readers.

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A Joint Committee —

(Continued from page 1)
regular meeting of town council which was attended by all members except Councillor Bradstock who is out of town on a business trip.

Kennel License
Reeve Perkins expressed concern that a motion passed at the last meeting fixing a kennel license fee at \$25 a year might lead to trouble. He said dog kennels could be quite a nuisance in the community. The Mayor pointed out the kennel was established in the Rumble area taken into the town by recent annexation. Every application for a kennel license would be carefully investigated. "We had one some years ago and there was plenty of trouble," said Reeve Perkins.

Building Code
Council refused to amend the local building code to specify that modular blocks are acceptable for use in construction of buildings. The request was made by Mr. Brook representing Maple Block & Tile. Modular blocks are smaller and cheaper than the regular block now required by specifications but are in general use in the U.S.A. and many parts of Ontario. Mr. Brook said the Metropolitan area was the only section of Canada not using the modular type. The local building inspector recently approved the use of the modular type in the new shopping centre at Markham Road and Bayview, in accordance with discretionary power given him in the code. Council members felt that since the existing code gave the building inspector this power no change is necessary.

H.S. Parking
Deputy-reeve Tinker wondered if something could be done to relieve congested parking on Wright Street at the High School. He said parking is allowed on the north side of the street. Reeve Perkins suggested the ditch should be filled and culvert installed. Mayor Tomlin commented on congestion when school is dismissed. "I don't know whether it is because they are so engrossed in their studies, or because they are in love," he said, "but when school is dismissed students in great throngs walk down the road quite oblivious to traffic hazards. You almost have to push them from the road with the bumper of your car," said the Mayor who suggested the Principal be asked to remind students they should use the sidewalk.

Going To Convention
Council authorized the Police Chief to attend Police Chiefs' convention in Regina in September with an expense account of \$200.

Markham Road
A communication from Harold Mathews was critical of council action in entering into an agreement with Toronto and York Roads Commission for improvement of Markham Road. The writer expressed regret that recreation and parks program would suffer. Councillor Haggart said that he considered the improvement of Markham Road as an important access artery for people

in the east section of town was more important than construction of a Casa Loma for winter skating.

Insurance
A letter from the Recreation Commission recommended consideration for some kind of blanket insurance policy to cover all activities of the organization. The letter was referred to Savage Insurance.

Drivers' Licence
Deputy-reeve Tinker said he wondered why people in this, the largest town in the County had to go out of town for a driver's licence. He had taken the problem to the Transport Department and learned plans are under way to do away with local examiners and have examinations at central points. Within two years a depot at Downsview will serve the area as far north as Barrie.

Worried about her husband's unusual habit of constantly snapping his fingers, Mrs. Jones finally persuaded him to consult a specialist.

"How do you explain this compulsion," the psychiatrist said. "It's to keep the tigers away."

"Good Lord, man, there isn't a tiger loose within 2,000 miles of here."

"See," said the patient beaming. "darned effective, isn't it?"

Mrs. Jones was right. . . hubby needs a specialist. Speaking of specialists that's just what today's spotting experts have to be to keep up with the continuous stream of new synthetic fabrics coming on the market. Our 'spotters' are amongst the finest.

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DEVON RINDLESS SIDE Bacon	1 lb. pkg. 53c
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MAPLE LEAF (loose) Weiners	lb. 39c

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