

# King City, Oak Ridges Lake Wilcox

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest regarding people and events in the Oak Ridges-Lake Wilcox and King City districts. Our news correspondent in King City is Mrs. William J. Houston, telephone King 205M; and in Oak Ridges-Lake Wilcox, Mrs. Ruth McFadden, Elm Grove Avenue, phone PR. 3-5567.

## Seek Twp. Council Co-operation

# Trustees Ask Study Future Municipal Status King City Demands Many In Growing District

The following letter outlining the views and suggestions of King City Trustees was read at the regular meeting of King Twp. Council Monday afternoon.

Dear Sirs:

Unusual situations generally require unusual and highly constructive treatment. If they are not to degenerate into chaotic situations, we feel that most of our elected and appointed officials are now aware, as King City Trustees and a number of ratepayers have known, that King City has long since outgrown the conventional pattern of police village administration. This has resulted in a number of situations which could be termed ridiculous if it were not for the serious frustrations caused to the Trustees and the ratepayers.

The cause is obvious. King City is larger than two-thirds of the incorporated villages of Ontario and has more urban services than most of them.

It is larger than most of the metropolitan areas. Its ratepayers are looking for continually increased urban services.

It has become a highly urban village which operates all the urban services and utilities. It is trying to do this under statutes applying to police villages which were never intended to serve these purposes.

It is successfully operating for a secretary-manager or any successors can continue to absorb this scale of managerial and routine work and cost or that the ratepayers would expect them to do so.

On a short-term basis this problem we have been discussing can be solved locally. As you have probably noticed, we are advertising for a secretary-manager for the village. By having him absorb the duties and salaries of some present spare-time help, as well as the extra duties now carried by the Trustees, it should be possible to engage such an official to deal with the present scale of work with very little effect on tax rates, if any.

But we would not be honest with the ratepayers if we sug-

gested that this would provide a long-term correction of the situation. It is true, as in other cases of police villages, that it has been more economical up until now to operate King City as a police village than if it were a hamlet in the township; even though its ratepayers have been paying rates toward some township services not particularly applicable to urban dwellers and toward others which have required to be duplicated locally in order to provide the necessary local services. There have been three main reasons for this economy. One has been the absorption of duties by the Trustees in recent years, as already mentioned; another has been the high volume of concentrated assessment for taxes on a short mileage of roads; and the third has been the pay-as-you-go policy used by the village in recent years.

However, despite this economy of operation and the expedients adopted for local village administration, including the hiring of a secretary-manager, the relationship of King City as a police village with the township cannot be maintained, for a number of reasons including the following:

a. The expansion of staff and services in the police village is continually departing from usual police village administration.

b. As more services are required of staff, the cost of local staff will increase, even though at small effect on tax rates.

c. The charge on village ratepayers for township administrative costs has already increased sharply while the services are more than ever being provided locally at their own expense.

d. More and more the village ratepayers are looking to local situations to deal with local situations which the township has accepted the responsibility and which the ratepayers obviously feel should be dealt with on a basis of local knowledge and urban experience.

e. The village under its present status is powerless to gain an increase in industrial assessment.

f. There is every indication that urban expansion will continue inside and outside the village but with the police village providing some urban services to outside development and not having the power for technical and legal reasons to provide other services, even though the logical source for them.

g. There are fields in which the village's interests are related to other agencies and bodies and in which those interests have suffered by the lack of direct dealings.

h. The supply of experienced trustees is dwindling as more and more of them drop out in dissatisfaction with the police village form of administration.

i. The statutory powers of a police village are continually proving more and more inadequate for this large urban village and the government appears reluctant to change them.

j. The village operates numerous municipal services in fields in which the township does not operate and, in essence, the needs of a large and highly urbanized village cannot be met through a township administration established to serve the needs of its rural ratepayers.

This brings us to the crux of this letter. From our municipal experience, we are of opinion one of two things should be done without delay. Either this village should be incorporated along with an appropriate added area or its administration should be absorbed by a highly urbanized form of King Township administration.

Based on our knowledge and experience we think it would be found that the move should be toward separate incorporation and we do not doubt that this would be the wish of an increasingly

### Should King Incorporate?

King Township Council meeting Monday agreed to look into King City Village Trustees' request to consider whether the Police Village should incorporate or revert to hamlet status.

Large majority of the village ratepayers. But we are aware that there are some people who feel the village should retain its present status and there are some in the township administration who have publicly stated that they plan an urbanized township administration and the absorption of the police village.

It may be very questionable whether the rural ratepayers will welcome the sharp increase made this year in the township administrative mill rate or the further administrative taxes involved in a highly urbanized administration for this township. They may not support the consequent change required in the official plan for the township which now calls for a rural township administration, but they may not support those officials who propose this change of pace for the township or they may not be prepared for the election and the appointment of officials having the urban experience to administer the operation.

But that question is for township officials to face and not for us. Our concern is which way King City should go. And meantime the village is spending time, money and effort on studies and on reports from experts. The township has already spent money in opposing the last application for King City incorporation and is now spending money on an ambitious engineering report upon the King City area and holding private meetings on the subject. In other words, a firm of competition is going on, and all relating to the future circumstances of one particular group of ratepayers.

We have thought over this matter very carefully. It would neither be good for King City or the township if the King City area ran into financial trouble in the future, whether as a separate village or as an urban operation of the township. Nor would it be good for King City as a neighbour if township urban operations on its outskirts were to get into financial trouble.

We feel that, because of our more extensive experience in urban municipal matters, some constructive suggestions should be made by us. We therefore suggest the following program for consideration of the future of King City:

a. That it be accepted that its status either incorporate or revert to hamlet.

b. That King Township administration and King City administration pool all studies and reports now made or pending and jointly study and discuss the same.

c. That joint discussions be held as though necessary with any or all of the officials and consultants already engaged, to clarify any necessary points.

d. That joint discussions be then arranged with the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Planning and Development, Ontario Water Resources Commission and such other governmental bodies or agencies that have information and experience available for the asking.

e. That an attempt then be made, with the assistance of such outside experts thought necessary and with such reference to the ratepayers which is necessary and desirable, to bring about a joint recommendation to the Municipal Board or other authority for the change of status for King City and vicinity which is best for its ratepayers.

In other words, the 1958 Trustees sponsored an application for King City incorporation. They were of opinion that this was the right move to make and represented the wishes of the great majority of the ratepayers. Apparently the Municipal Board wants to know about certain details that were not required by the earlier years when most of the Ontario villages were incorporated. We feel it is in the interests of the ratepayers that these further details be gone into, not competitively, but jointly. Let the best course then be taken for the future of the King City area in the light of all the enquiries and all the information available.

Whether you consider this suggested program is worth consideration or otherwise please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,  
G. H. CRUCKSHANK,  
Secretary to  
King City Trustees.

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## Oak Ridges, Lake Wilcox Socials

The Legion Ladies' Auxiliary will hold their general monthly meeting on Monday, June 8, at 8 p.m. in the hall. Several of the ladies will go to Willowdale on June 10 to attend the annual Zone Auxiliary Rally.

St. Paul's Church will hold their annual picnic on Thursday, June 11, at Ayr's Park, Lake Wilcox. There will be races and games for all, also pony rides for the children.

On Sunday, June 7, at St. Paul's

Church, a special service will be held for the work. Dr. Margaret Arkinstall of York County Hospital will preach. Following the service a picnic lunch and congregational meeting will be held. Everyone in the district is welcome to attend.

Members of St. Mark's W.A. are busy completing plans for their strawberry supper and garden party which will be held on Saturday, June 20. Convenors will be Mrs. S. Cole, Mrs. F. Neild, Mrs. B. Moore, Mrs. W. Wilkinson, Mrs. R. Sayers and Mrs. D. Nash.

Willis Hunking was the guest speaker at a meeting held in Lake Wilcox People's Church last Saturday. Mr. Hunking is a missionary on furlough from Africa. He has completed a tour of United States and Canada for the Youth for Christ organization. He will return to Africa this summer. The Nigh Sisters sang several selections during the evening. A ball game was held before the meeting.

Two successful sales were reported at Kingcrafts general meeting last week.

Mrs. A. E. Jarvis, convenor of the art group, said 13 of the 19 members had exhibited at the April sale, when 13 canvases valued at \$270 were sold. Twenty-five per cent commission is retained by Kingcrafts.

The late Mr. Wallas is survived by his wife and other sons, Bert, Joseph and Sydney Wallas.

## King City Notes

**At Annual Meeting**  
Among those attending the annual meeting of Centre York District, Women's Institutes, at Temperanceville last week were King City members, President Miss Lily Anderson, Mrs. Howard Neill, Mrs. Archie Campbell, Mrs. Vic Doner, Mrs. Arnold Peter, Mrs. Laura Rolling and Mrs. Austin Rumble.

**Bereavement**  
Sympathy of the community goes to Mr. Edmund Wallas, in the loss of his father, Mr. Joseph Wallas of Vine Avenue, Toronto. The funeral service was Monday, with interment in Prospect Cemetery.

**Band Concert**  
An unusual treat for residents of the village and district will be the Sunday Band Concert by Silver-tone Legion Band, to be held in King Memorial Park on June 14, starting at two p.m.

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