

Annual Bd. Report

New Richmond Hill Library Reports Great Progress '59

In presenting the annual report of the Richmond Hill Public Library Board, Chairman W. Gordon MacLaren notes that, "From the two small, dark rooms in the Municipal building, to the new functional building on Wright Street is the greatest change we have experienced during the year. With a very slow start in 1958, and a further delay of almost three months in 1959, the Library was officially opened by Mr. Angus Mowat, Director of Provincial Library Service on June 20, 1959".

Acclaimed at the time of its opening as, "one of Richmond Hill's most beautiful civic buildings," and adjudged by many visiting bibliarians as one of the finest in the Province, the modern yellow brick building is designed on the open plan and has an atmosphere of spaciousness and light throughout. It is amply supplied with reading rooms, workrooms and a children's library and separate story room, as well as featuring a fine auditorium.

The Library auditorium was named for Chairman MacLaren, Council's representative on the Library Board, in recognition of his great civic spirit and interest in better library service for the Town.

Voicing the gratitude of the Richmond Hill Public Library Board, Mr. MacLaren reported "We are grateful to the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill for its interest and financial support in providing better Library facilities for the citizens of this town.... and we would like to express our appreciation to the various departments of the municipal administration for their assistance during our clerking program, especially the Clerk's office, the Works Department and the Hydro Department."

He continued, "We would like to thank the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society for their work in planting the front flower bed" - and remembering the night of "Operation Book Move" he said, "We are thankful also for the York Summit Boy Scouts and Cubs who moved our 10,000 volume collection from the shelves of the old library, to the shelves in the new library in less than two hours."

Mr. MacLaren referred to library personnel and said Chief Librarian Mr. Fred Israel took over his duties with the board on March 1st of last year. In June, his wife, Mrs. Kathleen Israel joined the staff as Boys' and Girls' Librarian, and has since that time been responsible for all services to the children of the Town. Other members of the staff are Mrs. Naida Berry, senior clerk; Mrs. Maureen Stephenson, senior clerk and secretary; Mrs. Margaret Bergin, junior clerk and Mrs. Irene Thatcher, also a junior clerk.

When the new Library was opened in June additional hours were added to the schedule and are now as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 1-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wednesdays. And although the library itself is not open during the morning hours, nor on Wednesday, telephone reference service is available and an in-

creasing use has been made of this service, both by adults as well as by the children. Questions on a wide variety of subjects are answered each day, either over the telephone or for those who come to the library.

Inadequate Reference Section
Regarding the book collection in the reference section, Mr. MacLaren said it is generally inadequate and efforts will be made this year to improve it. However, for those who request books that are not included in the present collection, the Library tries to borrow these on inter-library loan from either the Toronto Public Libraries or the University of Toronto Library.

The present book stock of the Library is approximately 15,000 volumes. According to Canadian Library Association standards, towns with the population of Richmond Hill should have two and one half books per person, or 37,500 volumes. Mr. MacLaren said "We are very short of this goal, and the result means that we are lacking many standard items that should be included in our Library. This condition imposes serious limitations on our service."

Circulation of books increased by a wide mark in 1959 and an increase of over 65% was recorded for that year, the chairman reports.

Mr. MacLaren said, "It is due to the large increase in those using the library, the increased hours and the extra services to the children."

Increased Children's Service
In the Library itself the children's room is "fitted" just for them, with books arranged in a flexible age grouping, and a corner of the children's room supplied with small-sized furniture and sloping picture-book tables. In the Story Room a weekly story hour is held and puppet shows will be held there two from time to time.

But the Library goes even further than its yellow-brick confines, and following a survey on the east side of Richmond Hill last year Mr. Israel contacted the principals of the Public and Separate schools and as a result has set up a lending library in each

school. Fifty-five boxes containing 20 books each are rotated from school to school monthly. One school is bringing seven classes to the Library building monthly. Thornhaven School is also supplied with books. The benefits of supplementary reading for the children of Richmond Hill have become increasingly obvious to both teachers and parents.

Membership Recorded
There are 2,664 children registered members of the Library, but as a result of the lending out of books all the school children of Richmond Hill have access to Library books.

Mr. MacLaren reports the following book activities: Adult fiction 36,031 in 1959, as compared to 13,168 in 1957. Adult non-fiction 17,338 in 1959, 5,873 in 1957. Boys and girls 36,383 in 1959 and only 13,994 in 1957.

During three months of school service last year there was a circulation of 13,342 books.

There are 889 resident adults registered as library members, and 163 non-resident adults; 1,053 boys and girls have library cards.

New books added to the Library collection in 1959 include: Adult fiction 629, adult non-fiction 611, boys and girls 1,603, a total of 2,843 new books.

Mr. MacLaren voiced the gratitude of the Board members - but it is felt the gratitude of the Town of Richmond Hill should be noted in return to those who comprised last year's board who were Mr. W. Gordon MacLaren, chairman, Mrs. P. C. Hill, Mrs. P. Townsend, Miss Katharine Ball, Dr. Gordon K. Martin, Mr. Thomas Buchan, Mrs. Robert Johnston, Mr. Lynn Evans, Mr. James Haggart (now Reeve of Richmond Hill) and Mr. Joseph Paterson.

On the 1960 board all members are the same, excepting Mr. R. D. Little replaces Mrs. Hill, Mrs. J. C. Wilson replaces Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Frank Southwell replaces Reeve Haggart and Mr. Paterson as the Mayor's delegate to the Board.

"A concentrated effort will be made during the year to improve the service at the Library in all its phases," Mr. MacLaren announces. The increased population has placed greater demands on the Library Board and the staff, as well as on the stock of books and materials.

During the year 1960 some plans for services to the east side of town for adults must be made. The requests from this area of the town are becoming more frequent and more demanding.

"We hope to extend our services to the schools in the fall if possible. This will also be necessary as there will be more classes to visit," he continued and concluded his report by advising, "We expect to be able to give reference service to the industrial and commercial firms of this town, when we have improved our collection."

Co-ordinating Committee Met

Battle Of The Boundaries Opens Municipalities Fight Annexation

Following up on Councillor Reeve James Haggart's earlier proposal to the Inter-Municipal Co-ordinating Committee that the three municipalities of Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan should get together to establish a sort of mutual defence pact, to "protect our borders against annexation," the Co-ordinating Committee was last Wednesday instructed, on a suggestion of Reeve John Perry of Vaughan Township, to concentrate immediately upon the production of a brief on the subject which could be used when the subject of North York's proposed attempt to annex the southern portions of all three municipal areas, comes up.

North York's Plans
The instruction followed the advice of Deputy Reeve Wilfred Dean, of Markham Township, who told the committee he understood North York planned to go ahead with the attempted annexation "immediately." Mayor Tomlin endorsing the request to the committee to prepare a brief, said that "We have to have a case to present when this question comes up."

Twenty Year Plan
Discussing Toronto's 20 year development plan, Reeve Perry said, "They are not doing much for us. We get no water under the plan." Wilfred Dean added that so far as Markham is concerned only a 1 1/4 mile slice of land will get water under the plan.

Reeve Haggart suggested the committee should discuss the Toronto 20-year plan fully. "It is very important," he added. Reeve Perry stated that his township's drainage and sewerage report was ready and Deputy Reeve Dean said Markham's was about ready also.

Combine Our Thinking
Chairman McGowan who ably chaired the meeting throughout asked the committee if the members did not think that in these matters "our individual thinking should be combined." Mayor Tomlin agreed.

Incentive Question
Reeve Haggart asked if the question of provision of an incentive could be further discussed.

Chairman McGowan was asked to take all these suggestions into account and to prepare an agenda for future study by the committee. On Chairman McGowan's suggestion it was agreed that copies of the agenda when prepared should be supplied to all the members of the three councils.

Before this discussion Chairman McGowan asked Mayor Tomlin to amplify recent statements on the Metro plan.

Mayor Tomlin said that his public statements had followed discussions he had had with Reeves Clark and Perry of Markham and Vaughan respectively. He said he had put their joint view that the three municipalities should combine to resist annexation from any source. He pointed out that "this is what we have discussed and agreed upon further."

Re-organize Committee
So far as the co-ordinating committee itself was concerned he had put forward a proposal which came originally from Reeve Perry. It was the Reeve's suggestion that the three municipalities' Chief Executives should sit on the Committee and that it should have some sort of executive power to act on its own recommendations. He had agreed to that because he thought it would make the committee more effective.

Would Not Be Legal
Chairman Dugald McGowan took a different view. He said that a body over and above the elected councils. He thought that the committee was intended to save the time of chief executives which it could best accomplish by carrying out the sometimes lengthy and intricate investigations of matters of the three municipalities and bringing briefs and recommendations to the Councils for final consideration and decision. Otherwise the Chief executives would have to give a lot of time and still go back to their respective councils for approval.

Council Co-operation Important
Reeve Perry hastily assured the committee that it had not been the intent of his suggestion

to set up a council of the three municipalities. He said "Why don't we then appoint non-members of councils only to the committee?" Mr. McGowan disagreed with this proposal also. He said that for the committee to have the fullest goodwill and assistance of the councils, at least one member of each council should be represented on the committee so that all three councils could be kept continuously informed.

Representation Agreed
Mayor Tomlin and Reeve Haggart and Deputy Reeve Dean and Councillor John MacNeil of Markham all agreed and it was suggested that perhaps a Councillor and a member of each Council's Planning Board would provide the ideal membership. On a motion this proposal was unanimously agreed upon and adopted. Commencing with the next meeting this representation will comprise the committee.

Air Is Cleared
Mr. McGowan said he welcomed the discussion which had cleared the air considerably and led on to a clearer understanding of the committees place and function in the scheme of things.

Reeve Is Converted
During the discussion Councillor MacNeil chided Reeve Perry that Vaughan Council's representation at previous meetings of the committee had not been good and this apparent lack of interest had operated against the best functioning of the committee. Reeve Perry replied, "I have to admit it." Toward the end of the discussion however Mr. Perry added, "I'm getting a much better picture of this thing now." He meant of the committee and it was clear he was beginning to approve the important and helpful part the committee could play in the field of inter-municipal co-operation.

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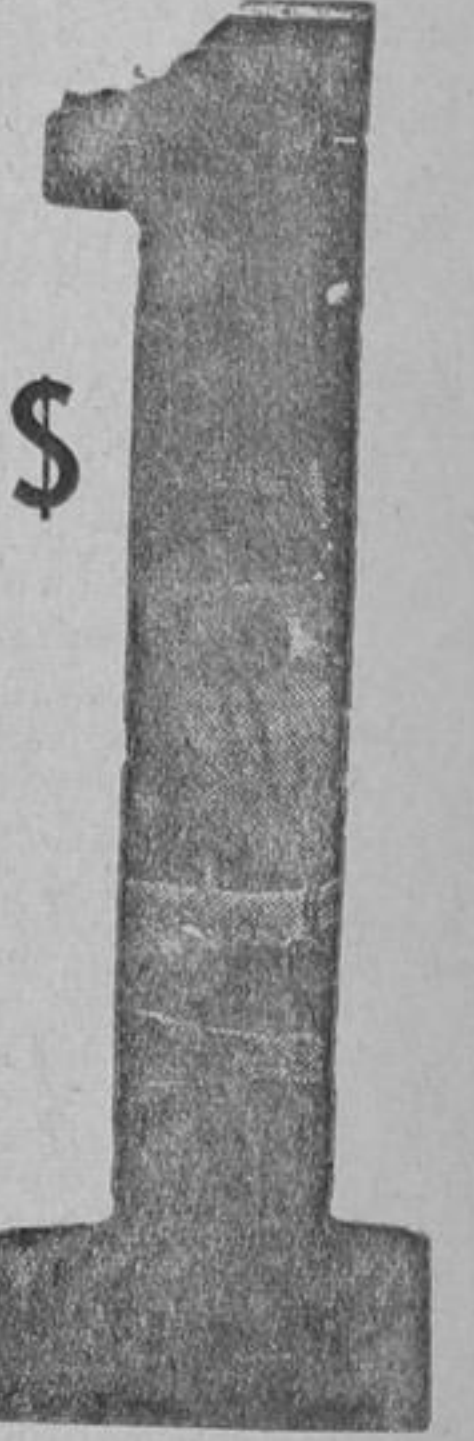
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