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VOLUME LXXXI NUMBER 53

RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1960

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878 SINGLE COPY 10c

## Province Should Pay Richmond Hill Reeve Backs Toronto Mayor's Stand On Rising Costs Of Education

Reeve W. J. Haggart gave Richmond Hill council Monday night a brief report of the recent convention of Mayors and Reeves in Cornwall which he attended. He said some seventy-two resolutions dealing with many phases of municipal administration were presented and considered. He would give council a more detailed report at a later date.

Referring to the rising costs of education subject of so much criticism Reeve Haggart said he supported the resolution carried by the convention asking the province to assume all costs and relieve real estate of this burden. "I agree with Mayor Phillips of Toronto," he said, "that education which now accounts for the greater part of our tax bill should not be a charge on real estate taxes."

Reeve Haggart said he agreed with the Toronto Mayor that such matters as welfare, administration of justice and education should be taken care of by the province, while the municipalities look after the municipal services. He said he didn't think it fair that a widow living on the old age pension should have her home taxed for education costs.

"I agree with letters of protest we have received that we have no moral right to assess real estate for education costs, but we have no alternative," said Reeve Haggart. He said the regular increment of teachers' salaries will mean a tax boost of

three mills per year in Richmond Hill.

Councillor Whillans favored easing the load on real estate but said he would not like to see the municipality lose its autonomy in control of education.

Councillor Broadhurst — "I'll gladly forfeit a lot of autonomy



REEVE W. J. HAGGART  
Province should pay full cost of education.

to save 60 per cent of my tax bill.

Councillor Mrs. Margaret Southwell, a former school trustee, said she was sure no one would be happier than school trustees if some new source of revenue could be found. "Remember school trustees are taxpayers too," she said.

Reeve Haggart said the autonomy argument was brought up at the convention but he considered it just a red herring to save embarrassment of the great white father in Queen's Park. He pointed out that those who criticize council over soaring taxes should remember municipal council controls only 25 per cent of the tax dollar.

Councillor Mrs. Southwell said council members had to take responsibility for opening up residential developments which made new schools necessary.

Councillor Bradstock — Council can't hold back development.

Councillor Mrs. Southwell — Council changes industrial areas to residential development.

Councillor Bradstock — Let's forget the mistakes of the past.

Councillor Broadhurst observed the responsibility after all rests with the people. They should elect capable, responsible people to council.

## 100 Year Old Landmark Replaced By New Block

An old Richmond Hill landmark, at 31-35 Yonge Street North, is to be replaced by a modern brick-and-steel store and office building with 180 foot frontage. Principal Investments, Limited of Toronto will build on the site where one week ago today Skepic Wrecking Company of Brantford began to raze the old Powell Furniture Store.

Mrs. M. L. McConaghy, 93, of 26 Centre Street West, who was born and raised in Richmond Hill, told "The Libera" the building was erected some 100 years ago by Mr. Benjamin Barnard. "He ran a dry goods and harness store there for a number of years," said Mrs. McConaghy. "Eventually the building was sold to Mr. Alex Moodie. That was about 1870." Alex Moodie ran a grocery and liquor store. For many years after Mr. Moodie retired this was the site of drug stores operated by the late G. H. Glenn and in more recent years Mr. Scotchman.

In 1955 the white wooden structure was sold by the Moodie estate to Mr. Irving Papoff, who

operated the Powell Furniture and Appliance Company now located further north at 82 Yonge. The building also housed the Hugh Wight Pharmacy for a short time.

In 1953 the building and land was assessed at \$3,275.00. By 1957 the Richmond Hill boom and resultant increase in land values shot the total assessment to \$20,365.00.

It is understood that the Moodie estate sold the property for \$30,000 and that the resale brought \$50,000.

Mrs. McConaghy, recalling the old days, said: "When I was a wee girl I used to play with the Barnard children. There was a big trap door in the floor of the store and the story was that beneath the trapdoor a ladder led to a huge barrel of sugar. One day some children risked all and crept down the ladder. Sure enough, there was the barrel filled with a luscious white substance. The children scooped up handfuls of it and crammed it into their mouths — and found that the sugar was salt!"

## Dedicate Cairn Memory Of Pioneer Stong Family

(By Mrs. R. Stuart)

The unveiling and dedication of a cairn in memory of Daniel and Elizabeth Stong and their descendants took place on Saturday, June 25, in the Townline Cemetery at the corner of Jane Street and Steeles Avenue.

Rev. Harold W. Davies of

Maple conducted the dedication service before a large representation of the Stong family and their friends and Mrs. Harold Minnelly brought a word of remembrance.

The Rev. Mr. Hornby read the Gospel, Matthew 5:1-11 and later pronounced the Benediction.

Miss Annie Stong, of Richmond Hill, who is a great grand-daughter of Daniel Stong, the first member of the Stong family to settle in Canada, unveiled the cairn and asked the Rev. Mr. Davies to dedicate it.

The inscription on the plaque reads: "To the memory of the Stong Pioneer Family. Daniel Stong was born in Pennsylvania U. S. A. in 1791, a descendant of Hans Jacob Stong (Stang) of Darmstadt, Germany, who emigrated to Buck's County, Pennsylvania, in 1709.

In 1800, Daniel Stong and his parents Sylvester Stong, 1746-1834, and Barbara Bolinger, 1769-1863, migrated to Canada.

Here on this farm, he and his wife, Elizabeth Fisher, 1798-1885, built their home in 1816. On this site he built the Stong school in 1824, and later the church known as the Townline Church.

He died in 1868, and he and his wife, with other pioneers are buried here.

Later in the day the family enjoyed a picnic supper amid the scenic beauty of the valley which was carved out of the wilderness so long ago by their illustrious pioneer forefather.

## Town Council Meeting Crosby Heights Ratepayers Protest Levy For Quarter Million Dollar Drain Plan

**Hospital Assoc.  
Plans Drive**

Trustees of York Central Hospital Association met Tuesday evening and discussed plans for a membership campaign. There is to day an alarming shortage of Hospital Beds in York County and it is proposed to enlist a large Hospital Association membership to do something about supplying the need. Medical practitioners in the district report a long waiting list of people needing hospital care.

## Was Council's Mistake Whole Town Should Pay

A delegation representing Crosby Heights Ratepayers Association attended Richmond Hill Town Council Monday night and protested the proposed direct levy of a portion of the cost of the quarter million dollar Beverley Acres drainage project. The delegation also asked for a detailed statement of the special accounts contributed by subdividers and claimed such money should be spent in the areas directly concerned.

Reeve W. J. Haggart, who presided in the absence of Mayor K. W. Tomlin, assured the delegation the brief submitted will have the careful attention of council members and that a further discussion of the subject matter will be on the agenda of a future meeting.

## Council Rejects Poll Tax

Sparked by letters of strong protest from two large industries there was discussion at Monday night's town Council meeting about rising costs and soaring tax rates. There was general agreement that real estate is bearing too great a tax load, and suggestions for relief included the proposal of a poll tax.

"We all talk about the burden on real estate so let's do something about it" said Councillor Tom Broadhurst. He said in New Brunswick there is a poll tax on all males under the age of 60 not otherwise taxed. He suggested council explore the advisability of such a tax.

"Why limit it to males" asked Councillor Bradstock.

In making a motion that the Finance Committee explore the possibility of a poll tax Councillor Broadhurst mentioned an annual levy of \$10, but suggested it might be increased to a more realistic figure of \$20 or \$25. He said it would give workers not otherwise assessed an opportunity to contribute to municipal services. "It would help to help to uncover the 'hidden population'."

Deputy-reeve Tinker seconded the motion so it could be discussed but said he did not favor it. He said if the franchise were extended to all persons over the age of 21 there might be justification for such a levy.

Reeve Haggart — No taxation without representation.

The motion to investigate the advisability of the poll tax failed to carry, but not before it inspired a lot of discussion on the subject of taxation and rising taxes.

Councillor Whillans said while he didn't favor a poll tax he favored exploring the possibility of securing new sources of revenue.

"There are other means of obtaining revenue" he said. Reeve Haggart — "There are?"

For many years Richmond Hill had an annual poll tax of \$5.00 but it was abolished in the early 1930's. Arguments at that time were that it was difficult to collect the tax.

K. G. Smith who was spokesman for the delegation said he was not pressing for an immediate decision but urged council members to review the whole situation and give the people of the area a fair deal. He made it clear that the Association has obtained legal advice and plans a fight to the finish battle against the local improvement plan.

Reeve Haggart explained that council's decision to levy a part of the cost of the drainage project on the area was exactly the same treatment given people in all sections of the town. He said council policy is that all storm drainage be installed as local improvement.

Mr. Smith expressed concern over the absence of Mayor Tomlin. He said the last time the delegation came to discuss the matter the Mayor was absent. Reeve Haggart said "the Mayor is enjoying a well-earned holiday" and added it had been arranged a long time ago.

The Beverley Acres drainage project which has been held up for many months is planned to correct flooding conditions in the north east section of the municipality. Originally outlined more than two years ago there have been many discussions regarding the plan of payment. It has been suggested the entire cost of the project should be a direct levy on the area served. Some have contended it should be a levy over the whole town. Last year council adopted a storm sewer policy which levies about half the cost on the area served and half on the whole town. It was stated at that time this policy

would apply to the Beverley Acres drain plan.

Monday night Mr. Smith speaking for Crosby Heights Ratepayers Association contended it is most unfair to make a special levy on people in that area. It was a mistake of council," said Mr. Smith "and people of all the town should pay for it."

Mr. Smith took strong exception to the manner in which the special subdividers' account had been handled. He said his association had no objection to the \$112,000, originally spent on the town hall, nor to the expenditure on the Library, but there is strong exception to some \$23,000 now for alterations and the suggestion of air conditioning.

Mr. Smith contended that the quarter million dollar Beverley Acres drainage project is necessary due to the mistakes of previous councils and while anyone is apt to make a mistake, all people of the town should share in the cost. He contended it is most unfair that a portion should be a direct levy on the area. "Let's face it," he said, "it was an oversight on the part of council as the drainage should have been taken care of by the subdividers."

Mr. Smith asked for an early publication of an itemized statement of the number 1, 2 and 3 accounts. He said people wanted all details about where the money came from and where it was spent.

Councillor Tom Broadhurst supported the demand regarding the subdividers' accounts. "There was a half million dollars collected and very little went back directed" (Continued on page 15)

## Senior Citizens Enjoy Picnic

By Horace Calverley

The Senior Citizens of Richmond Hill held their tour and picnic, June 22. Two busloads with 64 persons aboard left the Municipal Building at 9:30 a.m. followed No. 11 Highway North briefly calling at Barrie then via No. 27 Highway to Midland through their wonderful Park then on to have noon meal at the Martyrs Shrine three miles further. Leaving the Shrine at 2 p.m. they called briefly at the restored Fort near the Wye river then through Midland to the dock to see the fine display of launches ready for the summer. Then on to the Museum at Penetang. This building, built of cut stone was built for the officers quarters during the conflict of 1812-1814 to keep the Americans from overrunning our country. There are many items of interest there including old man of war sloops on display. On our return we halted at Magazine Island and the Town dock. Then via 27 and 93 highways to Barrie for supper at Barrie's East End Park. Ideal weather prevailed all day, from Barrie via No. 11 Highway back at 7 o'clock everyone enjoying the outing and no casualties.

## Industries Protest Raise Richmond Hill's Tax Levy Ratcliffs And H. J. Mills Write Council

Richmond Hill's increased, tax rate brought protests to the Town Council meeting Monday night. Two letters of complaint came from industrial concerns and large employers of labour, and one from a private citizen.

Ratcliffs (Canada) Ltd. established here in 1952 point out the increasing tax rate is no encouragement to further expansion and higher taxes make it difficult for the firm to remain competi-

tive in their field of business.

In a letter read at council meeting Monday, Ratcliffs said: Dear Sirs:

Your demands for taxes for the year 1960 are to hand and we note with deep concern that they are in excess of last year's payment by the amount of \$3,107.00 representing an increase of some 15 per cent.

We wish to protest very strongly against this increase as we feel that as far as we are concerned it is absolutely unwarranted, the direct services rendered to us by the municipality being of a minor nature.

Whilst we appreciate the fact that as our premises are situated within the Town we must assume a certain amount of responsibility for services other than those used by us directly we feel that this increase is far from reasonable.

We are under continued pressure to remain competitive in our field of business and the present increase in taxes is certainly no encouragement for further expansion.

Under these circumstances we would ask you to very carefully reconsider your costs and ascertain whether it would be possible for some reduction to be made.

Yours respectfully,  
Ratcliffs (Canada) Limited

## New Master Masonic Lodge



JOHN A. MUNROE  
32 Markham Road, Richmond Hill, who Friday, June 24, was installed as Worshipful Master of Richmond Masonic Lodge, Richmond is one of the older Masonic Lodges in Ontario and has a history dating back more than a century. Installing Master was Harry W. R. Sayers, a Past Master of Richmond Lodge.

Other officers of Richmond Lodge duly invested in office were as follows: immediate past master W. Bro. Norman A. Todd; senior warden Bro. Gordon A. Gardner; junior warden Bro. Stanley F. Tinker; chaplain V. W. Bro. A. A. Eden; treasurer W. Bro. Peter G. Savage; secretary W. Bro. H. W. R. Sayers; senior deacon Bro. K. R. Taylor; junior deacon Bro. D. L. Moore; director of ceremonies W. Bro. J. L. Hollowell; inner guard Bro. K. W. Robbins; senior steward Bro. E. D. Manol; junior steward Bro. W. F. Leishman; assistant secretary Bro. R. A. Jordan; Tyler Bro. James Anderson; organist Bro. H. Ince.

Photo by Laserquint

## Coming Events

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT — 9:00 p.m. 12:00 Dancing to Max Cameron's Orchestra, at Canadian Legion Hall, Carryville Road, Richvale. Sponsored by Richmond Hill Branch 375 Canadian Legion. 75c per person. t636

DAILY — Dufferin Fairways Golf Range and Miniature Golf Course, Dufferin St. No. 7 Highway, AV. 5-0032. Open 10 a.m. till 11 p.m. every day. Best golf practice facilities in the Toronto area. Grass and Platform tees. Putting Green. All grass flat fairways. Pitching, Chipping greens. Sand trap. Brilliant night lighting. Clubs supplied free. Golf Lessons \$2.50. Pro Sandy Morton.

18 Hole Miniature Golf Course has felt fairways — like well kept turf. New interesting holes. Fun for the family party, club group, children's birthday parties, or just come out yourself. 35c a game, clubs and balls supplied.

Entries now accepted for the Toronto and District Miniature Golf Championship. Tournaments in the Men's, Ladies', Boys and Girls' junior and senior classes. \$25.00 in valuable prizes. No entry fee required. t651

JULY 1 — Friday. King City Lions Club Field Day in King Memorial Park starting 1:30. Races, games, lucky draw every hour. Ladies and Men's Softball. Entering teams requested to contact John Dew by June 29. Admission 25c, children under 12 free.

Evening dancing to Jack Hayes and His Harvesters. Admission 75c. Lions Annual Draws at 11:30 p.m. c2w52

(Continued on Classified Page)

## Wandering Calf Returned To Barn

A month-old calf found staked out on Road 16, between Concessions 6 and 7, last Monday morning, caused some little concern when it was reported to Markham Township Police by a passing motorist; for it was thought to have been tied there and abandoned. However, after a check-out by the boys in blue it was found that the calf had been tied outside the barn of a local farmer; had broken loose — and some thoughtful motorist had tied it to the fence by its halter to keep it out of mischief.

## No Decision Yet Town Hall Plans

In answer to a question by Councillor J. W. Bradstock at Monday night's town council meeting regarding the proposed alterations to the Municipal Hall, Deputy-reeve Tinker on behalf of the Finance Committee said there has been no definite decision.

Mr. Tinker said the proposal was considered, minus the air conditioning suggestion, but as there was not a full meeting of the committee a definite decision was postponed.

Councillor Bradstock said the air conditioning was just suggested for consideration and the estimate was very rough price. He thought there should be a decision soon on the alterations plan as the contractor is ready to go ahead.

Reeve Haggart said there might be a finance committee recommendation by a week from next Monday.

## Taxes Up \$72.23

H. W. Rosenthal who lives at 98 Elmwood Ave., says he finds the steady increase in taxation alarming. In his letter to council he said:

Dear Sir:

Please find cheque for \$127.00 now due herewith.

The rapid rise in local taxation being again up this year \$72.23. I turned up my records and find that this rising scale is ALARMING.

(Continued on Page 12)

## Vandals Destroy 1500 Windows In Richmond Hill

In the past 18 months, vandals have smashed some 1,500 windows and committed other damage to the 225-unit Elgin Mills Park Subdivision in Richmond Hill. According to Mr. Fred Skopit and Mr. Silver, members of Skopit Associates, Toronto, principals, the subdivision has had 20 windows broken every week since construction started in that area a year and one half ago.

On June 20, a total of 12 windows were smashed, and on Tuesday another 29 panes were broken in the Deomatic Metal Products structure south of Elgin Mills at Ohio Road. "It's really a dreadful situation," Mr. Skopit told "The Libera." "Aside from the perturbing elements of the vandalism itself, the neurotic adventures in smash-and-run is quite costly." He pointed out that the cost of replacing the glass and the repair work involved has already run into several thousand dollars.

Mr. M. Silver said: "It's a frustrating situation. We aren't blaming the Richmond Hill Police Force. The officers have done everything possible under the circumstances and we realize that they just don't have the manpower or cruisers to keep an around-the-clock lookout of the area." Both men point out that the consistent pattern of destruction by one or more persons could very well harbour in it explosive, even more serious possibilities. From a psychological point of view, it is pointed out that vandalism invariably reflects insecurity, a desire to attract attention to misdeeds which provide compensation for lack of understanding, timidity or vanity.

Meanwhile, the destructive acts continue.

## Sully, Rabinowitch, Worrell Public School Bd. Against Ward Vote

A majority of the Richmond Hill Public School Board has refused to approve the question, "Are You In Favour of a Ward System of Electing Public School Trustees?" being included on the ballot for the proposed ward system sponsored by town council. The vote will be held in September. Trustee Mrs. Virginia Sully, seconded by Trustee Mrs. Irene Worrell, made the motion of refusal, Trustee Joseph Rabinowitch voting with them. Trustee Harold Sanderson and Trustee Cecil Williams voted against the motion.

A previous motion of Trustee Sanderson and Williams to the effect that decision be deferred, as the board had not had time to discuss the matter fully was defeated. Their motion also proposed sending a copy of the superintendent's report which outlines the amended Public Schools Act regarding election of trustees under the whole town system to the members of town council to read. Trustees Sully, Worrell and Rabinowitch voted 'no'. Chairman L. D. Clement commented, "It's sensible to use this opportunity to know what our people want."

Trustee Mrs. Worrell expressed the opinion a ward system might become a political system. "We want school trustees elected from the whole town," Trustee Rabinowitch added. "Three or four members of the board might live in one section of town but this shouldn't rule them out."

"The difficulty of the ward system is that ability and interest might not be distributed evenly," said Chairman L. D. Clement.

"There might be more interest if there was a ward system," interjected Trustee Williams. "With a ward system each school would know they will be represented."

"I haven't found anyone in favour of it," said Trustee Mrs. Sully. She pointed out the board was now trying to have a "flexible standardization in all the schools."

Trustee Rabinowitch did not feel the "town was large enough to consider a ward system."

**May Look Undemocratic**

Trustee Mrs. Sully added, "It may look undemocratic but it is up to the board to decide. The people know the board does the best it can even if it looks undemocratic." The vote was then taken and passed that the board did not desire the question of the ward system for the election of public school trustees to be placed on a referendum if the town council decided to hold such a vote in regard to electing council members.

It was pointed out during the meeting that according to the amended Public Schools Act, 78 (b) where such a resolution for a change is not approved by the council before the 1st day of July, the board may require the council to submit the resolution to the electors at the next municipal election, 78(3). At the election following the passing of the resolution by the board and council or following a favourable vote of the electors on the question, a new board shall be elected to take office on the 1st day of January of the following year.