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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1961

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Richmond Hill

Ratio Debenture Debt To Assessment Now 18.2% - Can't Go Over 20%

Richmond Hill is reaching the point where the ratio of debenture debt to assessment will be at the maximum figure the municipality can safely carry. At present the ratio is 18.2%. Mayor James Haggart has set the maximum figure at 20%. This was one item in a vast array of statistics covering the financial position of the town discussed at a joint meeting of all public bodies held Wednesday evening of last week. Representatives of the school boards (public and high), library, parking authority, and industrial commission were present. The meeting, held at the call of the mayor, discussed the debenture debt of the municipality in relation to the future budget and capital requirements of the various public bodies serving the community.

Last summer council at the request of the Ontario Municipal Board prepared a five year forecast as to the capital requirements of the town and the various bodies whose capital costs are a charge against the municipality.

Spirit of Co-operation

In his opening remarks Mayor Haggart called for a spirit of co-operation and understanding between council and the various other boards that raise their operating funds through the annual town budget and capital expenditures through the issuance of debentures. In a comprehensive breakdown of the debt structure Mayor Haggart stated the net debenture debt of the municipality as of December 31, 1960 was \$4,786,636.89. In addition to this figure the municipality is faced with over a half million dollars of unsold debentures. \$551,400.00 to be exact. This total figure means the town has an overall debenture debt of \$5,338,036.89. The per capita debt is \$331.60.

Trouble Selling Debentures

Mayor Haggart blamed the general depression in the bond market as the reason the town is experiencing difficulty in selling these debentures. They were placed on the market in October. The over half million dollars in unsold debentures includes: Crosby sewer \$270,000.00, addition to the MacKillop Public School - \$150,000.00, Markham Road paving - \$70,000.00, hydro - \$50,000.00, and Newkirk Road storm sewers - \$11,000.00.

Acting on a promise made during the December election campaign Mayor Haggart made the most startling proposal of the evening when he suggested that the total amount of debentures to be issued in 1961 and succeeding years be pegged at the amount of debenture debt to be retired during the year plus any increase in assessment. Debenture retirement in 1961 is estimated at \$157,179.04. There was slightly more than one million dollars of new assessment in 1960. Included

in this figure was \$700,000.00 for the Richmond Heights Shopping Centre. Debenture debt retirement for the succeeding years is as follows: 1962 - \$161,840.52; 1963 - \$172,019.15; 1964 - \$180. (Continued on page 11)

Mayor Names Yonge Committee

At Monday night's Town Council meeting Mayor W. James Haggart announced that members of the Yonge Street Re-development Committee will include in addition to himself, Councillor Mrs. Southwell, Col. F. J. Picking, Joseph Parisi, Planning Board member John MacDiarmid and a representative of the Parking Authority yet to be named.

Council recently agreed to the appointment of the committee to make a study of Yonge Street redevelopment.

Vaughan Will Study Official Plan Further

Vaughan Township Council went along with Councillor M. F. Windatt last Monday when he suggested that Vaughan's Official Plan and Zoning By-law be studied further before being accepted as binding documents. His suggestion followed the planning and building committee's recommendation that the plan and zoning by-law adopted in 1960 be supported. This recommendation in turn was the result of two meetings between the committee and the township's planning board, the last of which was held January 23.

The official plan is designed to lay out the township's future development in relation to residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural areas, with the view that there will be physical as well as assessment-source and taxation harmony in the township. The zoning by-law approves the present commercial set-up.

Mr. Windatt said: "I fear that our joint meetings did not have the time to go into detail properly and feel that the matter should be shelved." "What about the time factor?" Councillor Ruth McConkey put in. "It's my view that a bit of care now will save us a lot of time in future," said Windatt, pointing out (and finding corroboration in Clerk-Treasurer McDonald) that unless fundamentals were ironed out and a united front taken by council that the Ontario Municipal Board could throw a big-size monkey wrench into the whole plan and zoning by-law.

Mr. Windatt said several discrepancies existed. "A long look at the official plan in relation to the Metro plan fails to show

that we have set aside land for conservation purposes. This is a grave omission. We also find that under the present plan and zoning by-law nothing is to prevent the airport west of Maple being turned into industrial sites, though that is not our plan." He said further that in some instances the Metro plan designates land industrial which the Vaughan plan has designated agricultural.

In conclusion he pointed out that there had been no public meetings for the plan or zoning by-law and thought that the municipal board might very well have some embarrassing questions in this regard.

Deputy-revee Jesse Bryson, who had initially voted for acceptance of the two items, said: "I cannot help but conclude that some members of council are not thoroughly familiar with these matters. Matter of fact, I'm a little mixed up myself. The zoning by-law certainly is important, and I now believe that importance well merits a second look."

The three-point planning and building committee report was then adopted but with the official plan and zoning by-law items deleted. The third recommendation, hence the only one carried Monday, reads: "It is recommended that the council include in its agreement with persons creating new building lots the provision that such persons dedicate road widenings of up to 17 feet according to the 'planned' width of roads as contained in the Zoning By-law."

James Grainger To Be Full Time Insurance Agent

James Grainger, popular mailman for Richmond Hill RR No. 1 announced this week that he has resigned his postal contract in order to devote full time to his insurance business. The resignation was effective last Tuesday and the new contractor for the mail route is Ross Ryman.

Jim Grainger has been a representative here for Imperial Life since 1948 and for the past nine years has been an agent for State Farm Insurance. "My insurance business has been steadily growing and so that I may devote full time to it I am giving up the mail contract," said Mr. Grainger to The Liberal expressing his thanks to the people of Richmond Hill RR No. 1 for their co-operation and good-will during the past nine years.

Mr. Grainger was a popular mailman with an enviable reputation for punctual and obliging service. His many friends on the route join with The Liberal in wishing him continued success in the insurance business.

Community Mourns Sudden Passing Of Gordon Maclaren



LATE W. GORDON MACLAREN

A very impressive funeral service was held in St. Mary's Anglican Church on Monday afternoon for the late W. Gordon Maclaren who died suddenly on Saturday morning. The church was crowded to overflowing by his many business associates and friends from all walks of life who came to pay their last tribute to him. The simple Anglican service was conducted by the Rev. J. F. O'Neil, assisted by the former Rector, the Rev. A. A. Chote and the Rev. F. C. Jackson. The choir was in attendance to sing the two hymns - "Blest are the Pure in Heart" and "Let Saints On Earth In Concert Sing."

In his address the Rector compared Mr. Maclaren to Barnabas who, in the Book of the Acts, was described as "a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of Faith." He paid tribute to the remarkable stewardship of Mr. Maclaren in the life of the community and the Church. As Chairman of the local library board, he was instrumental in the building of the present library, the auditorium of which has been named in his honor. For the past seven years, Mr. Maclaren has been the chairman of the building fund of St. Mary's Anglican Church and it is large due to his dedicated efforts that the fund has been reduced almost to the point of completion. He was to be appointed Rector's Warden at the annual Vestry meeting on Monday night. The Rector also referred to his abounding charity in his relationship to others which endeared him to young and old alike. St. Mary's had in him one of her most devoted and faithful sons.

The service ended with the singing of the Nunc Dimittis as the choir led the Cortege out of the Church to the Richmond Hill Cemetery where the Committal Service took place.

Vaughan January Relief Bill \$4,100

The welfare picture in Vaughan Township grows steadily more grim. Vaughan Township Council, at its January 30 meeting, while authorizing payment of welfare measures in the amount of \$4,100.00, covering the past month, held out little hope that the situation would improve in the immediate future. In December, 1960, the township paid out \$3,700.00 and February is expected to result in even more welfare demands in February and March.

Reeve A. H. Rutherford, obviously concerned, asked the clerk-treasurer what the situation was like a year ago. Mr. McDonald replied: "There are no true comparable figures. Last year our winter works program provided many persons with employment and this eased the demands on the public treasury. This year many persons who were employed during some of the bad months are being helped."

Observers point out that it is quite possible that there are many Vaughan persons still getting along on unemployment insurance but when this source of income dries up in the next few months the township treasury tap will have to be given another twist to let out a bigger flow of the where-withal.

Town Council Meeting

Council And Planning Board Joint Meeting Will Discuss Development Plan For Future Mayor Suggests Golden Mile For New Industry

At the suggestion of Mayor W. James Haggart, Richmond Hill Town Council Monday night decided to ask Planning Board for a report on possible future plans for Richmond Hill development. The Mayor said he hoped such plans might include a northern Golden Mile for industrial sites.

In introducing the subject Mayor Haggart said he thought council should give Planning Board some direction as to what it is expected to do in the coming year. He said that in the past from time to time council has referred various matters to Planning Board, but he thought the time was here when we should have an over-all plan of the contemplated future development. "If we are to attain our goal of a balanced assessment," said Mayor Haggart, "we must plan for the future and know where we are going. I think Planning Board can give us help and leadership in planning our industrial future."

Council Pays Solemn Tribute

Richmond Hill Town Council in regular session Monday night paid solemn and sincere tribute to the late W. Gordon Maclaren whose sudden passing saddened the community this week.

Mayor W. J. Haggart paid tribute to the outstanding public service rendered Richmond Hill by Mr. Maclaren. "Our fine new Library building will be a lasting memorial to one who gave devoted and conscientious service to this community," said the Mayor.

"On behalf of Town Council and all the citizens of Richmond Hill I extend to Mrs. Maclaren sincere sympathy in the loss of a dear husband," said Mayor Haggart, and all members stood in silent tribute to the late Library Board chairman who gave of himself so freely in the public service.

"Coming Events," the community directory of interesting dates to remember in coming weeks, appears on page three of this issue.

Fair Day May 20

At the annual meeting of Richmond Hill Agricultural Society held Saturday last encouraging reports were received and plans made for holding the annual Spring Fair on Saturday May 20th.

Milton Savage, Jr. for many years an able and hard-working member of the Society was unanimously elected as President. He succeeds Norman Tyndall who completed a two year term as head of the organization. Charles Henshaw of King was elected 1st vice-president and Ernest Redelmeier of Vaughan Township was chosen 2nd vice-president. William Neal Jr. is secretary of the Board.

There was a good attendance at Saturday's meeting and many suggestions were considered for the Fair program. One suggestion being considered is a streamlining of the Horse Show program to eliminate many of the heavy horse and halter classes and retain only saddle, jumping and harness events which are more attractive to the public.

Richmond Hill Fair is one of the oldest in Ontario, and this year's exhibition will be the 112th staged by the local society. Through the years the Fair has a splendid record for good weather, but these last two years ran into real tough luck and was rained out both in 1959 and 1960.

Council members agreed wholeheartedly with the proposal and unanimously decided to hold a joint meeting with the Planning Board at an early date.

Deputy-revee John W. Bradstock said the matter of an aerial map of the whole area suggested by Planning Board some time ago should be reconsidered. "It's important" he said "that we know where we are going."

Mayor Haggart said he was sure the Planning Board would welcome the opportunity of meeting with council to consider the future needs of Richmond Hill.

Approve Legislation
Mayor Haggart told council that along with Clerk Lynett he attended a meeting of the Ontario Legislature Private Bills Committee regarding Richmond Hill's private bill to approve the agreement with the TTC for the operation of the North Yonge Bus service. He said the Bill has received committee approval and now awaits sanction of the Legislature.

Parks Board
Deputy-revee John W. Bradstock reported that a by law has been prepared to implement the vote taken at the municipal elections favoring appointment of a Parks Board in Richmond Hill. He said the Board could have either five or seven members. He favoured a seven member Board, which would include two members of council.

Debtors Tenders
Council accepted the recommendation of the Finance Committee that debenture issues be advertised and sold by tender on the open market rather than through a fiscal agent as in the past year. The opinion was expressed that this might be a favorable time to sell the debentures and it was agreed on motion of Councillors Whillans and Broadhurst to call for tenders as soon as possible.

Expenses Thanks
Council unanimously decided that a letter of thanks be sent to Norman A. Todd expressing appreciation for his many years of service as a member of the Planning Board. "I know he has worked hard for the town," said Reeve Perkins.

(Continued on page 15)

Zoning Meeting To Night

Mayor W. J. Haggart has urged a large attendance of ratepayers at the public meeting to be held to night, Thursday, February 2nd at 8 p.m. when there will be a full and open discussion of the town's new amended zoning by-law. "This is important legislation" said the Mayor "and we hope the people will show their interest by attending the meeting and giving council members the benefit of their views."

Mayor Haggart said copies of the new by law are now available at the clerk's office, and will be distributed to all attending the public meeting Thursday night.

The amended by law has been under study and consideration by the Planning Board for many months, and was submitted to council late in 1960.

One of the most contentious clauses requires a 70 ft. set-back for buildings in certain sections of Yonge Street, and will be opposed by several property owners at the public meeting. Another clause likely to inspire considerable discussion is the one providing for high rise apartments in at least one section of town.

A new Commercial C4 zone has been established for the east side of North Yonge Street. This area now zoned as industrial, already has considerable commercial development, and the new by law would allow further commercial building.

Clauses defining family and single dwellings may prove the subject of considerable discussion. Council members have expressed the hope that the new by law will eliminate dual occupancy of single family dwellings.

Rector And Officials Of Emmanuel Anglican Church



Rev. F. C. Jackson, Rector of Emmanuel Anglican Church, Richvale, is seen above with a group of his lay officials during the annual vestry meeting.

The annual meeting was held Friday evening of last week at Wrixon Hall.

Front row (left to right) Mrs. James Howard, Choir Leader; Mrs. F. C. Jackson, wife of the Rector;

Rev. Jackson; Mrs. Lionel Bosworth, Hostess Chairman and Mr. Ronald Neun, General Chairman.

Back row (left to right) William Rhodes, Stewardship Officer; Robert Webster, Resources Chairman; William Draper, Publicity Chairman; Les Walters, Rector's Warden; Ted Moran, Proposals Chairman; and Lionel Bosworth, Co-Chairman. — Photo by Lagerquist

Editorial

Our Hospital Needs

A major problem facing the 1961 York County Council is the shortage of Hospital accommodation and the urgent need for a definite policy to correct the existing unsatisfactory situation.

Last year's council came to grips with this pressing problem of human need and after receiving a joint report from existing Boards appointed the York County Hospital Commission.

The Commission has been active in recent months and soon will present a report to County Council. Citizens of the County await this report with interest and concern and we hope it will result in prompt and decisive action by Council. A great need exists for Hospital beds and we are satisfied the great majority of the ratepayers are anxious to have County representatives face up to the challenge of correcting a situation which has too long been allowed to exist in this great and populous County.

The existing facilities for Hospital care in York County are grossly inadequate. At present the one Hospital in York County cares for only 38 per cent of those hospitalized in the County. An addition to the existing Hospital in Newmarket is urgently needed and a new Hospital must be built in the Richmond Hill area. Approximately one third of the cost of construction will be paid by federal and provincial grants and the two-thirds must be raised in the County. Once capital costs are taken care of the cost of administration is paid by the Ontario Hospital Commission. This means that once adequate accommodation is available the hundreds of thousands now spent outside the County would be spent largely within the County of York.

Our elected representatives now face the responsibility of providing the people with urgently needed Hospital accommodation. We are confident the York County Hospital Commission has given the Hospital needs of the County most careful consideration and study. We await with interest their report to County Council which we trust will have quick and decisive action by County Councillors.

York County has long been regarded as one of the most progressive Counties in Ontario, and yet today it has perhaps the worst record of any County in providing Hospital services. We look for an early correction of this unsatisfactory situation.