

# Thornhill and District News

TELEPHONE AV. 5-2331

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area - - - - - Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Margaret McLean, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-2331.

## THORNLEA

Correspondent:  
Mrs. B. Lepke  
Phone AV. 5-3489

### Ratepayers Meeting

Thornlea Public School was the meeting place for the 'Richvale Ratepayers meeting on January 25th. The main topic of the evening was the proposed opening of the Jail Farm to house alcoholics from the City Don Jail.

It is a pity these buildings could not have been opened as a University to educate our children rather than to give shelter to alcoholics, true we wouldn't have got the taxes from a University that we would have from a factory, but we aren't getting taxes from the jail. A University would have added greater prestige to this community and also greatly encourage our youngsters. They could see their public school and we have Thornhill High School and the new Bayview High School, how nice it would have been for these children to view I'm sure with great pride the University they were hoping and striving to attend.

Yes, it's a great pity this wasn't encouraged more. I have been wondering today how many people came to the meeting on Wednesday only to find, like myself, that due to lack of foresight the desks were not removed from the classroom and so there was no room for them. I stood in the hallway for a time but as the speakers couldn't be heard I returned home. I hope if another meeting is held, these arrangements are taken care of. This is one more instance to prove the desperate need for an auditorium at Thornlea or a hall in this area.

### Home And School News

Don't forget the date of your next Home and School Assn. it will be Wednesday, February 8th. There is to be a panel discussion with the Principal Mr. Kinzinger and his staff acting as the Panel. Please get your questions in well in advance, send them to any executive member or in a sealed envelope to Mr. Kinzinger. This should be an interesting evening.

### School News

House league hockey commenced this week, we hope to have some favourable reports for you in the near future.

## Legal

### J. N. Mulholland, Q.C.

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Consultation by  
Appointment

Phones:

Thornhill AV. 5-3315  
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## Notice To Creditors AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF Reginald Spragg Cooper, deceased.

All persons having claims against the Estate of the above named deceased, late of the Town of Richmond Hill, County of York, who died on or about the 22nd day of July, 1960, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned Executors, on or before the 16th day of February, 1961, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have notice.

DATED at Richmond Hill this 5th day of January, 1961.

Janet S. Cooper, and Harold Black, Executors, by Stuart P. Parker, Q.C., their Solicitor,  
7 Dufferin Street,  
Richmond Hill, Ont.

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# More Than Rumor, Northern Electric Co. Said Formerly Keen On Jail Farm

With a crowd of Markham Township residents present which overflowed into other classrooms and halls, members of the Richvale East Residents Association were given a go-ahead signal on Wednesday last week in their fight to have the Jail Farm at Langstaff turned to industrial uses instead of becoming what was termed a "three million dollar hotel for drunks."

Those present learned the name of the organization which was, a few months ago, interested in securing the property for industrial use. There had been some scepticism that a large industrial concern was actually involved. Ronald Forrest, director of planning for Markham Township, was given a green light by Reeve Wilfred Dean, present at the meeting, in disclosing negotiations which had taken place last year.

### Northern Electric Named

The Jail Farm was one of three sites which were of interest to the big Northern Electric Co., said Mr. Forrest. Members of Markham Township Council and of the township's staff worked night and day to put a deal across. Submissions were made to the city of Toronto, which would not take any action. The company finally located in the new town of Bramalea. The township was ready to go ahead and, if the land could have been secured, it was likely that construction would have been started in 1961. Employment would have been given to 2,000 people at the start, with the number being increased to 3,000 in later stages.

A land value of \$4,500 had been suggested. Markham Township said Mr. Forrest, would have purchased the needed acreage at this price, re-selling it to Northern Electric at the same figure. "Very, Very Short!"

Markham Township was "very, very short" of good industrial land, said Mr. Forrest, replying to criticisms from one member of the audience as to why the Jail Farm land was so badly needed. He pointed out the value of the "prestige" area on Yonge Street to industry and the highly suitable nature of the property.

Reciting the history of the Jail Farm, Mr. Forrest gave the large audience, which included Deputy-reeve Lawson Mumber-son and Councillor Charles Hooper in addition to Reeve Dean of Markham Township, a run-down on the principle of planning. Sixty applications had been made for the property when it first became known that its owner, the City of Toronto, was thinking of disposing of it, said Mr. Forrest. Other proposals for use of the land had been made, he said, including the locating there of York University, employment of the area for a large-scale housing development, the location of a park.

Advices Caution "We should go easy until we get all the facts," asserted Hugh Brennan, chairman of Markham Township Planning Board. He recommended that the actual number of acres actually needed if the property was used as an annex to the Don Jail should be ascertained. "If giving up twenty acres for this purpose helps we should consider it," he declared, as he endorsed the use of the land at the corner of Yonge Street and No. 7 Highway for industry. "Find out what we are trying to fight," he advised, as he commented on the township's development and referred to what he called its "archaic" liquor laws. "We are not moving

with the times," he asserted. Leading the fight against use of the Jail Farm as an annex to the Don Jail, President Fred Gerard of the Richvale East Residents Association repeated assertions that the buildings would be used as a "drying-out" institution for alcoholics. He pointed out that the land had already

been zoned for industrial uses. The proposal which was being made by Metro, he said, was that the province would buy the land from the City of Toronto for three million dollars, reselling it to Metro for one and a half million. Use of the old Jail Farm for industrial development would, he asserted, bring heavy tax returns to the municipality. "We can't hope for taxes to go down," he said, "but this would help to keep them from going higher."

Reeve Wilfred Dean said his council would, as decided at the last meeting, seek discussions with Mayor Nathan Phillips and the Toronto Board of Control. They would also see Metro Chairman Fred Gardiner if necessary. He pointed out that there had not yet been time for results following the council meeting held only a few days previously. The City of Toronto had been asked to send a representative to the meeting held at Thornlea School but no one was present.

Mr. Poulter, chairman of the Beautification Committee has assured me that the Horticultural Society is planning an extensive planting program in the spring. There will be more trees and shrubs especially the types that will provide food and shelter for the birds.

The Oakbank Community Pond is a recreational centre in winter. The Village transforms it into a large skating rink with areas marked off for hockey and for free skating. They have supplied lights for night skating and a loud speaker for music. Mr. Stothers kindly supplies music from his hi-fi set to this loud speaker. On weekends, the pond is filled with skaters. Little children learn to get the feel of their shiny new blades there. Fathers and mothers take out their seldom used skates and take a turn with the youngsters. Teenagers whizz by with the dashing and daring of seasoned veterans. The hockey arenas are occupied with boys madly scrambling for pucks.

During the winter evenings, this pond has been the scene of several enjoyable skating parties.

All year long, this Community Pond is serving a useful purpose. In spring, summer and fall, it is a mecca for nature lovers, bird watchers, teachers who wish to teach their pupils about the pond wild life, and high school students who go there to capture insects and bugs for their collections. And in the winter, it becomes a skating playground, a source of fun, health and energy for whoever takes advantage of it.

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## Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

I remember the Thornhill pond before the onrush of suburban development in that area. The pond was an oasis for wild life then as it is now. Bounded on one side by west No. 7 Highway, and surrounded on the other three sides by empty fields, the pond was part of a rural setting. In its summer waters, the muskrats built their houses, and hundreds of frogs made a nightly serenade to us and the high heavens. In the early spring I have observed the whistling swan alight on the pond's surface, sometimes singly and sometimes in pairs, to rest for an hour or two. I have noticed the ducks that seem to regard it as their natural home. In the wintertime, some of the local boys shoveled the snow off a corner of the pond to make a makeshift rink. It was very discouraging work for them but they made the best of it even after the snowstorms destroyed their handiwork. Fortunately, the desire to skate was very strong so they shoveled off the snow again and again.

Then along came the lovely new homes to fill up the once empty fields. There was a danger that someday the pond would be filled in with earth. A number of alarmed citizens who lived in the vicinity of the pond got together in 1955 and bought the pond. One of the objects was to conserve the water for fire protection and the other was to save the wild life sanctuary and create a beauty spot. In the same year, the Metropolitan and Region Conservation Authority took it under its protection and it became known as the Oakbank Community Pond. The Thornhill Horticultural Society have begun their work of beautifying the borders of the pond. The trees and shrubs they have planted attract many varieties of birds. Mrs. Stothers who lives in a lovely home on the northwest corner of the pond has identified many of them. She has spoken to me of the cranes, the blue and green heron, grosbeaks, hundreds of redwing blackbirds, humming birds and scarlet tangers. Last summer she counted fifty ducks that nested and sailed about the pond. This winter, she has noted that the bluejay and the cardinal visit their feeding station.

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### Baptist Church News

The W.A. of Thornhill Baptist Church held their first meeting of the new year at the home of Mrs. A. MacLeod, Thornhill, on Tuesday evening, January 24th at 8 p.m. President Mrs. W. McGowan opened the meeting with prayer, followed by the reading of the minutes of the December meeting by Mrs. A. Kent.

During the business session the treasurers report was read and approved. Mrs. A. Kent read a letter from the groups foster child in Korea, thanking the ladies for their cards, letters and Christmas gifts. Mrs. Johnston reported on how much the patients enjoyed the weekly visit. The need for choir gowns for the junior choir was brought up by the president and after some discussion, it was moved, seconded, and approved by all present.

The president welcomed several new members, and expressed pleasure that Mrs. Ellam was able to present, following her recent operation. The president also mentioned the Women's World Day of Prayer to be held at Thornhill United Church on Friday, February 17th at 2.30 p.m. It was also announced that the next meeting of the Anna

Buck Circle would be held at the home of Mrs. C. Wilson, 16 Thornhighlights Rd., Thornhill, on February 1st at 8 p.m. Miss Carol Good will be the speaker at this meeting, giving an illustrated talk on her visit to South America. The ladies of the W.A. were invited to attend both meetings.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. A. MacLeod, leader of the centre group, who called on Mrs. W. Smook to conduct the devotional period. Mrs. Smook's theme was "Thoughts For The New Year" and proved thought-provoking and inspiring. Mrs. MacLeod then introduced the speaker, Dr. M. C. Johnston, the pastor of Thornhill Baptist Church. He spoke on the question "Our Church & Its Future." Mrs. P. Wilcox graciously thanked Dr. Johnston for giving the group something to ponder as they commenced their 10th year. Mrs. MacLeod closed the meeting with prayer, after which delicious refreshments were served by the centre group. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. C. Lawson, Mill St., Richmond Hill, on Tuesday evening, February 21st, with the north group in charge.

### Badminton Club

The Thornhill Badminton Club has been having a very full season, approximately 50 members. The club is now filled to capacity, but next year, if there are any more applications for membership, they will have two nights instead of one as at present.

### Annual Meeting

## Thornhill United Reports Membership Of 751

A hundred members of the congregation of Thornhill United Church attended the annual meeting on Tuesday, January 24th in an opening worship service was conducted by Rev. Howard Veals and reports were heard from all the organizations of the church, from the Minister, the Session, Missionary and Maintenance Committee, the Board of Stewards, Trustees, Woman's Association, Woman's Missionary Society, Welfare Council, Christian Education Committee, Sunday School, Cubs and Scouts, C.G.I., Explorers, Hi-C's, Young Peoples Union, Men's Club, Bible Fellowship and Couples Club. It was apparent that the Church had had a very busy and prosperous year.

There had been 42 Baptisms, 11 marriages and 13 funerals, with 88 new members joining the church. The total membership now stands at 751. The Sunday School has 435 pupils and teachers. The total value of the Church property is \$308,955.00 with total liabilities of \$125,549.00. During the year, a total of \$64,812.00 was raised.

A congregational news letter was started and is now being mailed to everyone in the congregation. The Church Sanctuary and vestibule were greatly improved by gifts from the W.A. Evening services were begun and attendance has been most gratifying. The Christian Education programs have been increased in number and membership. The Couples Club and Bible Fellow-

ship were started for adults. A Children's Mission and Daily Vacation Bible School were held in co-operation with the other churches in the community. These events brought a total of 650 children to the church. The congregation was fortunate in procuring the services of a second minister and a student missionary was sponsored for the summer months in a Prairie mission field. A Yugoslavian family was adopted and brought to the community and a host of community welfare projects were carried out by the various organizations of the church.

New officers for the coming year were elected, as follows: Elders: Mr. Donald Burnett, Mr. Del Facey, Mr. Alan Foster, Mr. Thomas Harrington, Mr. Kenneth Jennings, Mr. J. Wm. Lambert, Mr. Samuel MacKay, Mr. Hugh Millar, Mr. Harris Redmond, Mr. Herbert Rogers, Mr. J. R. Vandenburg and Mr. R. H. Whatley. Re-elected to the Board of Elders were: Mr. N. L. Morton, Dr. E. N. Muser, and Mr. J. A. McMaster.

## Thompson Auction Marks End Of An Era

By Margaret I. McLean  
In spite of the intense cold which had fingers and toes tingling, several hundred people attended an auction sale in Thornhill on Saturday, January 21st, which was, in effect, a last farewell to not only a long-time resident of the Village, but almost a way of life.

The sale was held at 7451 Yonge Street, just south of the Farmer's Market and the home for close to 50 years of the late Mrs. J. Arthur Thompson. Mrs. Thompson, born Edna MacGregor, came to Thornhill in 1905 to teach at the Village school, and married Mr. Thompson shortly after. She was well-known and well-liked in the Village where she was active in church work until just recently, and took an active part in the horticultural society.

That hers was a fast-disappearing way of life was indicated not only by the frail china, crocheted doilies and knitted chair cushions, but by the rustle of coats which kept time in the kitchen up to the day of her death, and the roccoco mirror with the ornate wrought-iron frame, which sold, incidentally, for \$27.00.

Even more indicative of the change not only in our way of living, but of thinking, were the titles of the books included in the sale. These were the subject of much interest (caused mainly, I suspect, by your reporter poking among them and making notes of the titles). Prominent among them was a much-decorated copy of "Mrs. Beeton's Everyday Cookery and Housekeeping Book," with a gorgeous folded illustration in the front, in colour, of a formal table set for twelve persons. That the book did not concern itself solely with such frigidities, however, was indicated by such recipes as "Blancmange," followed by "Blancmange, Cheap" and "Blancmange, Invalid."

Titles of classics of the last century were prominent. "Adam Bede," Hawthorne's "Twice Told Tales," Scott's "The Black Dwarf" and what was probably the most interesting of the books was a booklet of moral verse, "Wife in Name Only" by Charlotte Braeme. From not only a different time, but from quite a different world, were the bound copies of "The Sunday at Home" for 1880 and

## Thornhill Notes

Last month, approximately 60 members and friends were invited to the home of Vince and Vicky DeMarco on Doncrest Road and enjoyed a gay party.

**Third Thornhill Cub and Scouts**  
On the afternoon of January 19th, the 3rd Thornhill Cub and Scouts Mothers' Auxiliary met at the home of Mrs. Routhwaite on Eglinton Street. Following the business meeting the members enjoyed a sewing session when they worked on the Scout scarves.

A group of 3rd Thornhill Cub Scouts, about eight in number, have a busy time ahead as they are participants in the district scouts "Gang" Show. Rehearsals are every Saturday morning until the opening night, April 6th. The show runs for three consecutive evenings at Thornhill High School and promises to be well worth the \$1.00 admission.

The Scouts were pleased with the results of their Christmas tree sale which netted them nearly \$100.00. The Owl Patrol led in sales and was presented with a kitchen tool set. The proceeds from the Christmas tree sale will aid in the purchase of camping equipment.

### Holy Trinity Anglican Church News

The W. A. of Holy Trinity held an all-day work meeting on Thursday, January 26th, starting at 10 a.m. The ladies were busy sewing quilts, cassocks for the choir and knitting afghan squares. After enjoying their lunch from 12 to 1 p.m., the afternoon meeting opened at 1.30. The Bible reading was taken by Mrs. G. Davy. The President Mrs. Roger Priestman led in prayer and the minutes of the last meeting were read. Two members gave a reading on the group's study book "Towards the Centre" by Mary D. Rendell. Mrs. G. Wishart gave a report on the Dorcas Department and the President closed the meeting with the benediction. Hobbies for the afternoon were Mrs. Everett and Mrs. G. Davy.

In connection with the above meeting, the ladies of the W. A. would appreciate contributions of any odds and ends of coloured wool which could be knitted into afghans. These are sent to the Anglican Women's Training College for the students' bedrooms and also sent in bales to Missions in the West. Knitted articles are desperately needed for children - sweaters, toques, mitts, socks and scarves, of all sizes. If anyone who cannot come out to meetings would like to do some knitting, wool would be supplied. Please contact Mrs. G. Wishart, AV. 5-1861.

The Parish Guild is sponsoring a Valentine Card Party and invites all ladies and gentlemen of the parish on Tuesday evening, February 14th at 8:15 p.m. There will be bridge, progressive culture, etc. and admission is 75c per person. For tickets contact Mrs. Audrey Davis at AV. 5-3309. Mrs. Eira Trant, AV. 5-1013 or any group leader.

Sunday, February 5th, will be celebrated in Holy Trinity as Sexagesima Sunday, the sixtieth day before Easter. The theme of this Sunday is always that of Social Service and the guest preacher at 11 a.m. Service will be the Rev. J. A. Watton, rector of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto.

### United Church News

The topic discussed at the Sunday evening service at Thornhill United Church on Sunday, January 22nd was "What is a Missionary and What Does He Do." The service was under the direction of the assistant minister, Rev. H. Veals. For many years a missionary in China, Mr. Veals was able to speak from personal experience on the challenge of modern missions.

On Sunday, February 12th, the 158th anniversary of Thornhill United Church, the guest preacher at the 11 a.m. service will be the Rev. E. L. Loner, Secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada. At the evening service, the same day, the colour motion picture, "John Wesley" will be shown.

Rev. H. R. MacDonald is in Hartland, N. B. this week, preaching at a mission there. Hartland is not far from Woodstock, N. B. Presbyterian and Missionary News. Rev. Donald V. Wade, Interim Moderator was the preacher at the 11 a.m. Service at Thornhill Presbyterian Church, on Sunday January 22nd. The topic of his sermon was "Jesus Deals with Human Need." Guest organist at the service was Mr. Dennis Thompson of Barrie and Toronto.

For the past three years the Presbyterian Church has been carrying on a Deaconess Campaign, to raise funds for a badly needed new building for a Deaconess and Missionary Training School. Many congregations have already reached their objectives. The Session of Thornhill Presbyterian Church feels that many organizations and individuals will want to contribute to this cause and a small committee has been appointed to take charge of this important matter. The committee is composed of Mr. W. Hazel, Mr. J. Maser and Mr. K. Vandermyer.

The Fortnightners have invited Mrs. E. H. Johnson, wife of Dr. E. H. Johnson, Secretary for Overseas Missions of the Presbyterian Church to speak at their next meeting on Monday, February 6th. The Johnsons have just completed a trip to Nigeria and Mrs. Johnson will give an illustrated lecture. A cordial invitation is given to all ladies of the congregation, and to the W.M.S. afternoon group to attend this meeting. The time is 3 p.m. the place, the Church Hall, Monday, February 6th.

Odds and Ends  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Stanley Robinson of No. 7 Highway are flying to Jamaica on February 7th. Mr. Robinson will return in about three weeks, when Mrs. Robinson will go on to Florida to stay with friends there until the middle of April. All just in time to miss what looks to be the worst weather of the winter.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Rice, 44 Thorne-

bank Rd. on Saturday evening, January 28th were Dr. A. D. A. Mason and Mrs. C. Ramsey, Mr. Vicky DeMarco on Doncrest Road and enjoyed a gay party.

It got you possibly arrange it, get yourself invited to the home of the George W. Strattons, John Street, of an evening, Mrs. Stratton just completed a term of teaching a course on Foods and Hostess Hints at Northview Heights Collegiate. She taught her class such things as flower arranging, table setting and the preparation of such delectables as Baked Alaska - very easy to do says Mrs. Stratton - even if you don't know how! The hors d'oeuvres were right out of this world (as I know, having sampled them at the last meeting of the A.R.C.) and such delicious morsels as olives wrapped in pastry, tiny saffrons in pastry, pastry olives stuffed with pate de foie gras, oast sardines on toast and chicken livers a la Francis, were each a separate dream. The teaching but is a new adventure for Mrs. Stratton. A graduate dietician, she spent two years in this capacity at Sunnybrook Hospital, but had to give it up last spring as too burdensome.

Mr. Dalton Harvey with daughter Catherine and Son Pat returned last week from a pleasant holiday at Nassau.

Hope those Friday the 13th reporter cards weren't too unsettling at your house. If you were inclined to flip at any low math marks, let's hear you solve this problem, which was one given to some Grade 10 students to solve last fall: One bright Saturday morning, John pedaled off to visit his one and only. He was able to pump out a vigorous 17.5 miles per hour. Upon his arrival he found he had left his wallet. The young thing's father allowed him to use his souped-up limousine. The return trip was made at 35 m.p.h. John found that he cut off exactly one hour in travelling time. What was the total distance covered? Presumably the gay verbiage is to make the problem more palatable, but frankly it doesn't make it any easier than the ones which taxed my feeble brain. To these many years ago. Now if you can't solve this problem, in all fairness you should hie yourself off to the sweet young thing, male or female, in your home and say "I'm sorry, I take it all back. If you can't get the answer, call me. I have the right answer - but don't ask me how it is arrived at."

The community extends congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Arthur Shaw who celebrated her 85th birthday on January 27th at the home of Mrs. G. Darling, Thornhill. Born in England Mr. and Mrs. Shaw settled in Langstaff in 1934 where Mrs. Shaw lived until the death of her husband three years ago.

And how about helping out your poor hard-working correspondent by giving her the low-down on your neighbourhood's doings. Who's going where. Anybody engaged? How about show-bys? Any new arrivals? Everybody would like to hear about them all, so give me a call at AV. 5-2331.

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