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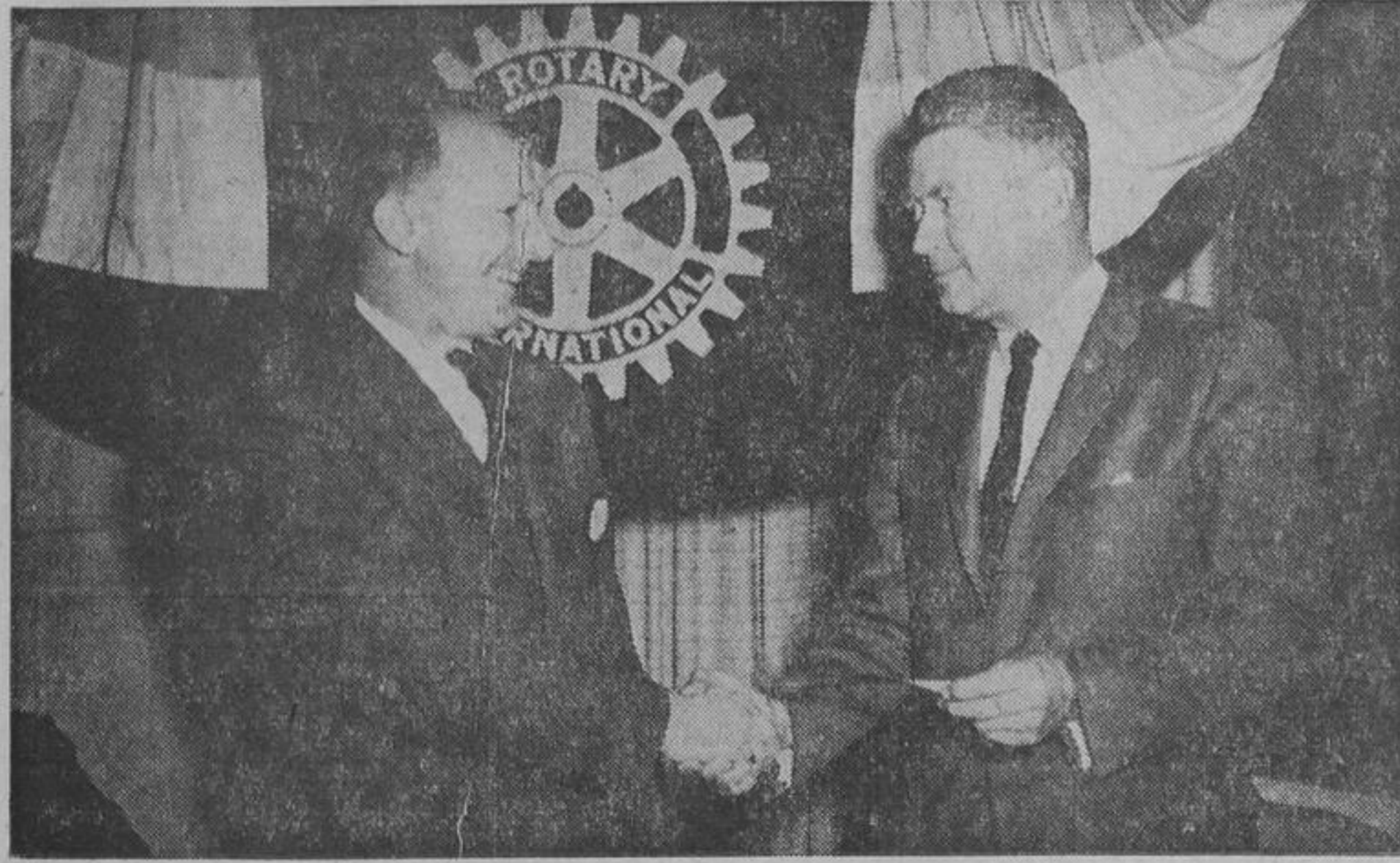
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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1961

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878 SINGLE COPY 10c

York County Hospital Commission Recommends Addition At Newmarket And New Hospital Here

Rotary Presents Cheque Retarded School



President Wentworth Dowell (right) of the Thornhill and District Association for Retarded Children, accepts a cheque for \$707.65 from President Roy Chandler of the Richmond Hill Rotary Club. The cheque represents the proceeds from the sale of Rotary Christmas trees during December.

The presentation was made at the regular weekly meeting of the local club. The Retarded Association operates the Thornhaven School located on Centre Street East.

- Photo by Lagerquist

Fight Against Blight—

Redevelopment Committee Begins Study Of Problem

First meeting of the recently formed committee to study possibilities of the redevelopment of downtown Yonge Street took place last week with Mayor James Haggart being named to the chairmanship. Col. F. J. Picking, president of the Yonge Street Business and Professional Association, was named vice-chairman, with John MacDiarmid, representing the town planning board on the committee, being chosen as secretary. Other members of the committee are Councillor Margaret Southwell, representing town council; Donald Plaxton, representing the town parking authority; Joseph Parisi, representing the Yonge Street Business Association. Also present at the meeting was Secretary J. Brown of the town planning board.

To Counteract "Blight"

Formation of the committee was suggested to town council a short time ago by the Yonge Street Business and Professional Association. Pointing out that the older sections of many communities had suffered deterioration which had to be overcome at tremendous cost eventually, the association recommended organization of a committee which could study the local problem.

The situation, said the Yonge Street business people in their submission to town council, was one which affected all taxpayers as retrogression of high-tax-paying areas meant a decline in municipal revenues from the section affected. Council, agreeing unanimously, left it to Mayor Haggart to name the committee, which commenced operations this week.

Study First Objective

The committee had a great deal of scope in its operations, said the Mayor. "You cannot isolate any corner of the community," he declared as he pointed out the importance of keeping the downtown area alive and active. To be able to say what had to be done would entail, first of all, a tremendous amount of study. The experience of the many other communities which had experienced similar problems should be reviewed.

The Province of Ontario had a special department devoted to assisting municipalities, in connection with redevelopment problems, it was learned, and it was agreed that the committee's first move would be to secure information from the source at an early date.

Program To Be Carried Out In Stages—Present Shortage Hospital Beds Serious And Alarming—Four Millions In Hospital Insurance Premiums Annually Now Spent Outside The County—

A Hospital program for York County to meet the existing critical shortage of accommodation was recommended to County Council by the York County Hospital Commission this week. It is recommended that a building program be commenced at once and carried out in stages to make a substantial addition to the existing York County Hospital at Newmarket and build a new Hospital at Richmond Hill.

The report was presented to County Council by John W. Rye, Commission Chairman and recommends a program to cost \$4,350,000. It is proposed that the County's share be raised by twenty year debentures with the first payments coming due in 1964. The impact on the local tax rate will not exceed 2.1 mills in any municipality and in Richmond Hill would be 1.23 mills.

The Commission was complimented on presenting a very thorough report and the recommendations will have the careful consideration of County Council members.

The York County Hospital Commission members are: John W. Rye, East Gwillimbury Twp., an ex-warden of the County, Chairman; Mrs. Elton Armstrong, Armitage; Norn Garriock, Reeve of Woodbridge; William Sellers, Reeve of Sutton; W. A. Spears, President the York County Hospital Association; D. H. Storms, Richmond Hill, President The York Central Hospital Association; Dr. William McClintock, representing the York County Medical Society.

The report submitted to County Council Wednesday was as follows:

From: The York County Hospital Commission
To: The Council of the Corporation of the County of York,
February 7, 1961.

The Council and its Members -
Sirs:

The Commission has the honour to report and make recommendations for the providing of hospital accommodation and services for the County of York in Stage I as follows:

The shortage of hospital accommodation within the County has become so serious as to warrant immediate drastic action.

As a first step County Council at a meeting April 28th, 1960, requested the two County Hospital Associations to prepare a report jointly on the County hospital situation.

On May 31st, 1960, at a meeting of County Council, the report was submitted entitled: "The Need and Recommendations for Additional Hospital Facilities within the County of York." (To be referred to herein after as the "Joint Report".)

The Joint Report was carefully prepared and approved by the Trustees of the two hospital associations, the Boards of which are composed of representative citizens of the County and certain Members of County Council as ex-officio members of the Boards.

The Report was backed by a survey and report of the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, by an outstanding firm of hospital consultants, Agnew, Peckham & Associates, and financing statistics prepared by McDonald, Currie & Co., Chartered Accountants, the County Auditors.

The Joint Report was discussed at length at the May and subsequent meetings of County Council. It was decided to table the Report to allow time for further investigation and recommendations for the implementing of the report. The machinery for this was set up as follows:

A special meeting of County Council October 4th, 1960, authorized the establishment of "The York County Hospital Commission" (to be referred to herein after as "The Commission"). The duties of this Commission briefly are to investigate, plan, recommend as to capital requirements and the raising of same; to co-ordinate all hospital facilities, services and organizations and to advise County and Municipal Councils on all matters relating to the foregoing with the object of providing uniform and efficient hospital services for all persons within the County of York.

Since its formation the Commission has investigated, enquired into and studied the County hospital situation. Many meetings have been held, special reports have been received from the County Medical Society and the two hospital associations. The Commission has confirmed the fact that the lack of hospital beds and hospital services within the County is an extremely serious and alarming matter now and will become more and more desperate as time goes on unless immediate action is taken.

Any plan for the solution of the problem must be established on the principle of balancing the urgency and need with the ability to raise funds for the necessary capital investment. This suggests a realistic development by stages to arrive at the main objective.

The Commission considered and brings to your attention some of the factors which have a great bearing on seeking a solution of the problem:

(1) There is a desperate urgency for immediate action to provide the people of York County with hospitals and hospital services. The County has now 113 hospital beds for over 100,000 people, 1.1 beds per thousand, the bare minimum requirement is 5.5 beds per thousand. The only hospital in the County, The York County Hospital, Newmarket, with 113 beds, operates under emergency conditions, strained beyond the limit of its capacity, is forced to turn away all but the most serious and extremely urgent cases. Due to overcrowding, a very high percentage of utilization and the short stay of patients, the result of extreme requirements for beds, the very capable and willing staff cannot render the technical service and attention to patients that their unfortunate condition of sickness and disease demands.

(2) The shortage of hospital accommodation in Metro Toronto, and the Municipalities bordering York County is becoming more and more acute.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

Council Agrees With Project

Mayor To Discuss Annexing Of Proposed Golf Club Site With Vaughan Twp. Soon

Construction of a golf course at the northern end of Richmond Hill would be a decided asset to the municipality, it was pointed out by a report from the planning board to town council, discussed at the latter's meeting this week. Council agreed in principle but thought that the subject should be discussed, in a spirit of good neighborliness, with Vaughan Township, where part of the land is located. Mayor Haggart was authorized to proceed with such a discussion.

An investment of \$330,000 would be entailed, developer John Griffin told members of the town council, including buildings and land. These would be serviced by well water and septic tank, at no expense to the town. Serious consideration should be given to this phase of the operation, said the planning board's report, so that danger of contamination to stream and pond waters would be avoided. It was pointed out by Mr. Griffin that as the club house would stand in the middle of a large open acreage the danger was slight.

Demand Said Great

The Toronto Board of Trade had 312 firms wanting locations for the holding of their golf tournaments, Mr. Griffin told council. If part of this business could be attracted to the Hill, he said, it would rub off on stores, gas stations and other mercantile establishments, he declared. In order to help the winter work program fifteen men had already been employed. Assessment leading to increased tax revenue for the town would also be a favorable factor, if the land could be annexed from the Township of Vaughan.

The developer should be required to complete an agreement with the town that the golf course, if constructed, would not be redeveloped for a considerable period and its character changed, the planning board recommended to town council. That was hardly likely. Mr. Griffin told council, considering the large amount which would be expended in development.

Say Engineers "Whistle Happy" At Local Crossings

Engineers on trains passing through Richmond Hill had become "whistle-happy," Mayor James Haggart told members of Richmond Hill Town Council this week. Many complaints had been received, he said. They were blocking crossings too long as well, declared Councillor Tom Broadhurst, saying that on one occasion recently the Crosby Avenue crossing had been blocked for 18 minutes. Agreeing that there was possible danger in delaying fire trucks and ambulances, Council members decided to take the matter up with the C.N.R.

"Corporate Piracy," Says Speaker

Overflow Audience Criticizes Highrise Apartments, Setback

The first hour of the public meeting called on Thursday evening of last week to discuss the amended zoning by-law proposed for Richmond Hill was quiet, even a little monotonous and boring, as the recital of the official language of the suggested by-law droned on and on. Then somebody mentioned high-rise apartments and seventy-foot setbacks and, from that point until the end of the meeting, a steady barrage of comment - often critical - was heard. Whether or not the meeting was deliberately packed with "ants" or not, the fact remained that those who were there were definitely against proposals made by the planning board. At times remarks from the audience bordered on the personal, with not-too-thinly disguised suggestions that the planning consultant and members of the board had much to learn about conditions in the Hill.

The meeting was well-attended. Picking the Council chamber to the walls, the audience overflowed into the halls.

Setback "Nice Dream"

The proposed 70-foot setback for properties in a section of Yonge Street North was a "nice dream," rector Jask Seaton told the gathering in an address which brought hearty applause at its conclusion. It violated all principles of ownership, he declared. The Sorbara property, standing practically vacant opposite the Municipal Building for months, was an example of the lack of wisdom in the plan, it was declared. "You cannot see the place," said Mr. Seaton. Traffic was too fast.

"What is a man going to have left to build on?" he asked, referring to the fact that the new zoning regulations called for a seventy foot setback in the front and twenty-five feet in the rear. "Take that from a hundred and sixty foot lot and what is there left to do anything with?"

Mortgage Companies Against

"It isn't the business of council or the planning board to tell a man whether he can build or not," asserted the speaker. Mortgage companies, he declared, were not in favour of the setback. They would not loan the same amount of money. It was "corporate piracy," he said.

The Seaton theme was repeated time after time. Former town officials took a leading part in the attack. One-time Reeve Tom Taylor declared that Planning Consultant Farrow was not acquainted with the land where the setback was proposed. Why was the 25-foot setback at the rear of the property required, he asked. To provide a service lane, said the consultant. "Well, you had better go and look at the land," said Mr. Taylor amid laughter. "The lots are not even all the same depth." More laughter arose when former Reeve P. C. Hill also said that access could not be secured through other property. William Neal, former reeve

and Richmond Hill's first mayor, also could see little in favour of the proposed amendments. Various members of the audience joined in the criticism.

Under Study Long Time

Acting as chairman of the meeting, Mayor Jim Haggart took a non-committal stand, saying that the proposed by-law had been under study for more than a year. The purpose of the meeting, he declared, was to give residents an opportunity to advance their views and to let council know what they thought of it. The by-law, said the mayor, had been given first reading only. Citizens interested were invited to submit briefs on the proposal. Second reading would be given at town council meeting on February 16th at which time a decision, for or against, would be given.

The proposed setback was defended by the Planning Board's

consultant, M. Farrow and its chairman, Ross Scrimger. It was an effort to avoid the problems which had arisen in older sections due to lack of parking space, said Mr. Farrow. He detailed the lay-out which would be followed to provide parking, vehicular and pedestrian movement. Chairman Scrimger likewise spoke strongly in favour of the proposal.

Applaud Councillor

Councillor Al. White drew applause also when he asked the planning board consultant if he was going to make property owners in the south end of the town, where restrictions would apply in certain parts similar to those proposed for the north, use a great deal of high-priced land to provide an excessive amount of entrance space.

"Mr. Whillans, you're going to have to give a second look at this," said Mr. Seaton in a further attack on the plan. He declared that developers of property would provide parking "on a good solid basis, not what you are suggesting, which is four and a half times what the City of Toronto insists on." "If you don't come up with good planning and sensible requirements you won't have anybody buying anything in Richmond Hill," he added. "My criticism is that this by-law is too stringent," said Deputy-reeve John Bradstock as he spoke briefly.

Harryan Resident Speaks

High-rise apartments came in for criticism from D. W. Brayshaw of 243 Harryan Crescent, one of a considerable group from that area. He and others questioned.

(Continued On Page 15)

Suggest Old Post Office Site—

To Ask Employment Service To Establish A Local Office

With a suggestion that the old Post Office building at Yonge and Centre Streets would make a good location, members of Richmond Hill town council, at their meeting on Monday, decided to seek establishment of an office of the National Employment Service in the Hill.

It is seventeen miles to the nearest employment office, said Mayor Haggart in introducing the subject. Establishment of a local office would be of value to both employers and workers. Other council members agreed. While Councillor Howard Whillans declared that "there are far too many people drawing un-

employment insurance now" he voted for the motion to seek location of an office locally. That wasn't the point, replied Mayor Haggart. Service should be provided anyway.

One local firm, Ratcliffs, had told him a year ago that they would be glad to see a local employment office, said Reeve Floyd Perkins. It would provide better supervision, said Councillor Tom Broadhurst.

With Reeve Perkins moving and Councillor Al. White seconding it, a resolution to take immediate action was unanimously adopted by council.

FEB. 11th JAYCEE RADIO AUCTION See Page Fourteen