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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1962

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

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Big Tax Revenue Held Out As Reward

Council Approves Vote On Licences For Hotel 6 To 1

Cr. Southwell Opposed As Others Favour Plan

A vote on the sale of beer, wine and liquor in dining rooms and lounges was authorized by Richmond Hill Town Council on Monday. The decision was made on a recorded vote, with Mayor James Haggart, Reeve Floyd Perkins, Deputy Reeve Tom Broadhurst and Councillors Al White and Alec Campbell in favour and Mrs. Margaret Southwell opposed. The vote will be paid for, up to the amount of \$4,000, by interests which have declared that they will erect a fifty-room hotel on North Yonge Street.

The proposition was laid before town council by Toronto lawyer F. Vincent Regan, who said that he represented Mr. Walter Portway and others associated with him who were interested in the erection of a hotel in the municipality. This hotel would be located on approximately six acres opposite the present R. D. Little and Son property on the Stephenson land. It would have approximately 50 bedrooms with other public rooms, including a dining room, restaurant, roof garden, lounge and banquet hall. The latter would handle approximately 600 persons for meals and would have full convention facilities.

Estimated cost of the buildings and improvements would be approximately one million dollars, said Mr. Regan, who declared that Assessment Commissioner Robert Johnston had estimated the assessed value of land and buildings at approximately \$500,000, to which must be added commercial assessment of 25 per cent, or another \$125,000, making a total of \$625,000, which would produce taxes of \$36,000. Present taxation brought in by the property was \$2,500. He declared that to provide proper accommodation dining and lounge licences were necessary.

His principals, declared Mr. Regan, would pay the cost of taking the vote, although it was pointed out that if a petition signed by 25 per cent of the electors was presented to council, asking for a vote, that body would have to comply. Councillor Southwell Opposes Richmond Hill's lady councillor, only member to vote against the proposal, was critical of the offer. She asked how a hotel with only fifty rooms could accommodate conventions. Mr. (Continued on page 3)

Barbers To Increase Hair Cutting Cost 25 Cents February 1

Haircut prices in Richmond Hill are slated to increase by 25 cents on February 1. The price increase will occur in men's haircuts and brushcuts only, which will raise the fee to \$1.25 and \$1.50 respectively. The price increase was agreed to by the eight barbershops in the Hill as a result of increased operating costs. Shops entering into the agreement are the ones in the Bayview Plaza, Allencourt Plaza, Richmond Heights Centre, the Viennese Barbershop on Levedale Road, Yonge Street barbers Fred Wilson, Stan Ransom and A. Dunn. Tottenham's Barbershop on Lorne Avenue is also increasing its rates.

Chance Of Water Mains For Hillview Improves

"The water problem in this area began four years ago after Richmond Hill developed a well on Essex Avenue," W. P. Noordvyn of Hillview Avenue in Markham Township told "The Liberal" recently. He and Mrs. A. J. Kydd, representing district residents, explained the plight of the people in the area who have been affected by a serious water shortage. Some of them have been without water for years, they said.

"At that time," said Mr. Noordvyn, referring to the development of the Essex Avenue well, "the residents of the area were told by Markham Township Council that the Richmond Hill well would probably cause a drop in the level of wells in the area. Shortly after that the water level did begin to lower, with some of the neighbourhood wells even going dry for periods of time," he asserted.

Petition Presented
Home owners on the street immediately presented a petition to township council, he said. It was signed by 28 of the 39 residents and asked for water services. As a result they were promised that an estimate of the cost of mains would be prepared. An estimate of \$50,000 for materials only was given but, said the Hillview complainants, this was lowered to \$35,000 a year ago.

Residents had been told that the council would be able to install water mains as soon as the estimated cost had been acknowledged, said Mr. Noordvyn in his statement to "The Liberal". "However," he continued, "even though we replied to council saying that we were willing to pay the price quoted to us, we still have not received our water services, nor is there any indication that we will ever get them."

Engineer Explains
Although he was not the township's engineer at the time, Dusan Mikelas, appointed as Markham's engineer during the past year, had an explanation for the situation. "The people who have asked for the installation of water services as a local improvement are on the north side of Hillview," he said. "There is a 33-foot road allowance on the registered plan except at one point. The land on the south side is privately owned from Yonge Street to the C.N.R. tracks, and from the tracks to Bayview it is owned by the University of Toronto as part of the Dunlap Observatory property."

There were two problems, said Engineer Mikelas. The first was "where do we get water?" There had been a long-continuing problem about this with Vaughan Township he declared, but this was possibly cleared up by the new McKay well in Markham becoming available when Richmond Hill, which owns it under an arrangement with the township, puts it in use.

Greater Cost To Owners
The other problem concerned

Federal Returning Officer



WARREN BAILIE
Federal Returning Officer
The Federal Government has announced the appointment of a prominent county Conservative as the new Federal Returning Officer for the Riding of York North. Mr. Warren Bailie of Concord succeeds Mr. George Sweeney of Richmond Hill who was appointed Returning Officer following the Conservative victory in the 1958 Federal election. Mr. Bailie is a former vice-president of the Conservative association and at present is the deputy organizer for the county. He will fly to Ottawa Sunday to confer with township officials regarding his new duties. Ontario Attorney General Kelso Roberts recently appointed Mr. Sweeney judge of the family court thus necessitating his resignation as Returning Officer.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill, was officially constituted at an impressive Christian service of dedication held last Sunday morning. Leading church and lay officials taking part in the ceremony were (left to right) Rev. Albert E. Myers, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran; Philip Limpert, financial secretary; Rev. Otto Reble, secretary for Canada of the Lutheran Mission Board; Harold Melsness, secretary; Ross Percival, treasurer; and Dr. Albert Lotz, president of the Canada Lutheran Synod.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church was officially organized last Sunday in the Walter Scott Public School as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada. The congregation has a building site on Bayview Avenue adjacent to the high school. Planning for its church edifice is expected to begin this summer. The congregation's program is directed by a nine-man council. Elected January 14, they will be installed in their offices during Sunday's 11 a.m. service.

The formal organization climaxed nearly two years of development of the Lutheran mission. Worship services were first held in April 1960 by the Rev. Richard Tubbe of Unionville. Mayor James Haggart extended the greetings of the town in person during the service. Mr. Ewart Stiver of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Unionville, also expressed greetings on behalf of his congregation. Other greetings in the form of letters from a dozen congregations were noted. Among local churches extending greetings were St. Mary's Anglican, St. Gabriel's, St. Matthew's and Richmond Hill United.

During the worship service Dr. Lotz declared the congregation officially organized as its members formed a large circle around the walls of the assembly room in the school. Following his declaration the members sang the Doxology. In his sermon Dr. Lotz reminded the congregation that they are a fellowship constituted by Christ, not merely an association of men, women and children.

Following the sermon, the Rev. Otto F. Reble, Canadian secretary for the international

Steering Committee Ready Chamber Of Commerce Will Meet In February

The founding meeting of the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce will definitely be held early in February, members of the steering committee which has been working on organization reported following a meeting last week. The date will be governed by the availability of a special speaker. Notices of the time and place of the meeting will be given through the press and over the air and, in addition, it is likely that letters will be sent to business men and women throughout the town. The steering committee, which was chosen at a general meeting of business men and women last November, covers a cross-section of the municipality's business interests. Its members were chosen so that representation was given to all parts of the community. The committee consists of F. J. Picking, chairman; Tom Mills, secretary; George Hill, downtown; Doug. Platt, Allencourt; Vern Dynes, Richmond Heights; Jack Warner, north industrial area; M. E. Williamson, Newkirk industrial area; Robert Fountain, Bayview.

The committee has produced bylaws, worked out schedules of dues and membership classifications. These will be presented to the meeting planned for February. The steering committee also named an independent nominating committee to prepare a suggested slate, which it will report to the February meeting. At their meeting last week, members of the steering committee reported considerable public interest in the formation of a local Chamber of Commerce.

When the organizational meeting of the hospital auxiliary for the York Central Hospital, scheduled to be held on Vaughan Road in Richmond Hill this year, is held, the guest speaker will be a lady with a great deal of experience - Mrs. C. W. Sheridan of Ottawa. She is president of the Women's Hospital Auxiliaries Association of Ontario, which has a membership of 70,422 in 191 auxiliaries representing 172 hospitals throughout the province. The local meeting will be held in the Lions' Hall on the evening of January 30th and is open to all men and women of the area who are interested in the hospital.

Mrs. Sheridan, a native of Washington in Central Ontario, has lived in Ottawa since her marriage to Dr. C. W. Sheridan, D.D.S. They have two children, both married. A graduate of Victoria College, University of Toronto, in Honour Modern Languages and History, she was president of the Women's University Club of Ottawa for two years and served for six years on the national executive of the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Editorial

Co-ordination Is Vital To Entire County

The five southern municipalities of the County of York—Richmond Hill, the Townships of Vaughan and Markham and the Villages of Woodbridge and Markham—are, to use an old phrase, between the devil and the deep blue sea, with the balance of the county to the north and Metro to the south. Which is devil and which is sea is a matter for individual decision. Whichever it is, the fact remains that these municipalities are in an unenviable position. It is becoming obvious that only by determined action on their part can a satisfactory solution be achieved.

A meeting held at Maple recently, with the bulk of members of the five municipal councils present, was an important one. It is reported on in this issue of "The Liberal". Under discussion was the question of the co-ordination of certain municipal activities which, through co-operation, can be carried out more efficiently and economically by joint action than they can by any individual corporation. But the problem runs far deeper than any question of operation, important as that is.

Fear of being "gobbled up" by Metro is, unquestionably, a live one insofar as the five municipalities are concerned. To say that the prospect is abhorrent, both to councils and the great majority of citizens, is almost an understatement. Fear of becoming "faceless", of losing local identity, of losing control of local affairs, of becoming only another segment of a vast metropolitan population, of greatly increased metro taxation, is increasing—and with reason. In their planning, for instance, these municipalities are already under the thumb of Metro and, as has been pointed out on numerous occasions, haven't even the privilege of representation on the body which controls their planning destiny—the Metro Planning Board.

On the other side of these municipalities is the balance of the County of York. It was emphasized at the Maple meeting that the problems of the five southern municipalities differ greatly from those of the other nine. There again, municipalities are afraid of increasing costs and the loss of local autonomy if too much power is placed in county hands, especially because of the vast difference in problems already referred to. They foresee greatly enhanced loads on local taxpayers if projects due to be examined at the county level come into being.

From the county point of view also the situation must be regarded as a serious one. If the southern municipalities are swallowed up by Metro the load on the remainder of the county, left to carry on by itself, would be appalling. The remaining small county would find its nine municipalities with a disproportionate cost of administration, with facilities already established for a much greater population almost impossible to carry on. It would appear very strongly that the overall interests of the entire county would be best served by endorsing the idea of co-ordination for the southern five municipalities, at the same time holding existing county services at their present level. Special problems of the south would be best looked after in this way, through co-ordination, and the balance of the county would not suffer. The problems are urgent ones. They must be acted on. They will not disappear by simply being ignored.

COMING EVENTS
"Coming Events" the community directory of interesting dates to remember on Page Three.

Wait Seven Years - No Settlement

Seven years was altogether too long a time to wait for a decision, even with a body as careful as the Ontario Municipal Board, Reeve Joseph Daley of North Gwillimbury told members of York County Council last week, reviving the controversial "undue financial burden" clause of Bill 80, which incorporated Metro in 1953. At that time it was recognized after the severance of the municipalities which became part of Metro, would suffer considerable loss as a result. It was impossible to establish the actual amount at the time and it was understood that an adjustment would be made at a later date, with Metro Toronto making an adjustment in the continuing county's favour. This has never been done. York County Council asked the Ontario Municipal Board in 1955 to make an award. A hearing was conducted but no decision handed down. County solicitor J. D. Lucas said that there was no indication as to when a decision will be made. Deputy Minister Lorne Cumming of the department of municipal affairs, formerly chairman of OMB, is still in charge of the case.

"Undue Burden" Decision Delay Criticized At Council Meeting



MRS. C. W. SHERIDAN