

Town, Two Townships, Two Villages, May Ally Some Actions

Southern Municipalities At Crossroads, Says Brief

Co-ordination Accepted As Defensive Principle

Co-ordination of municipal activities, where economy and efficiency could be effected, were agreed to in principle by members of councils for York County's southern municipalities at a meeting held in the Vaughan Township council chamber at Maple last week. Represented at the meeting by elected municipal heads, with a strong representation of other council members, plus municipal clerks, were the town of Richmond Hill, the townships of Vaughan and Markham, and the villages of Markham and Woodbridge.

A co-ordinating committee, Township, in principle and will study the matter of co-ordination still further. Each council will prepare a brief embodying its views on co-ordination, sending copies to every one of the other four councils, to permit interchange of thoughts. This is to be done by February 15th. Municipal heads will then consider all proposals and will then arrange for a further meeting taken to start revival of the movement, with the villages of Markham and Woodbridge, which had problems similar to the other three, being included in the "new deal". Municipalities present at the Maple meeting agreed to adoption of a report prepared by Vaughan

prepared by Vaughan Township, on which the meeting's discussion was based. It pointed out that there were several patterns which could develop:

- The area might be partially annexed to Metropolitan Toronto.
- It might be entirely annexed by Metropolitan Toronto.
- There could be complete delegation of authority to the County of York.
- There might be unification as a group to withstand any outside pressure.

It listed several courses which the southern municipalities could follow and recommended:

- Pledging of support to the present County of York for municipal services now provided at the county level.
- Resistance to further extension of municipal services at the county level of government to include the five southern municipalities.
- Immediate movement to unify some local municipal services by agreement of the five municipalities.
- Establishment of a representative committee with adequate consultants to study a policy for further unification with possible legislation at a future date to support the unification.
- Provision for the continuance of the study to expand the unification of services from time to time as the

need arises.

Organization Outlined

To provide participation of all selected members of councils of the five municipalities the brief recommended:

- An area council to consist of all elected members of all councils of the five participating municipalities.
- The duties of the chairman of the area council to be performed by the mayor of Richmond Hill.
- A constitution or legislation committee to consist of the five representatives.
- The appointment of committees on garbage disposal, police, licensing by-laws, welfare and assessment.

Each municipality would have one representative on each committee and a deputy-reeve of a municipality would serve as a chairman of each committee, with a municipal clerk from each municipality serving as the secretary of a committee.

County Position Discussed

There was no intention to scuttle the present county set-up, it was emphasized several times during the meeting. "There is no desire to jeopardize the future of the county. We must work on problems that affect us," said Reeve Floyd Perkins of Richmond Hill, a York County Commissioner. Reeve Albert Rutherford of Vaughan, also a county commissioner, stressed the responsibility of elected municipal offi-

cers to those who had put them in office. "We have to stay close to the people," he asserted. "They elected us. We are responsible to them." He said that there was talk of administering welfare at the county level but questioned what would happen if immediate help had to be given on a Friday night.

Woodbridge urged speed in dealing with co-ordinating of services. "Let's decide on how long we are going to deal with principles," he urged. "We have to get down to facts." He pointed out that some of the projects likely to be discussed at the county level would inevitably increase costs. "Think hard about your deadlines," he urged. "Our problem isn't with the money we control but with the money we don't control."

"It's not our desire to start a war in Newmarket, but to make peace among ourselves," said Mayor James Haggart of Richmond Hill, who was chairman of the meeting at the request of Reeve Rutherford. "This meeting unites all of us in the southern part of York County exclusively for the first time," said Mayor Haggart.

The brief which was submitted to the municipal representatives was the result of long study by members of Vaughan and Markham. He gave Township Clerk James M. McDonald credit for its actual compilation.

Metro Problem

A significant section of the brief declared that "it is conceivable that we may ultimately become part of Metropolitan Toronto. The date of such an occurrence could depend primarily on our future 'house-keeping'. We can live peacefully as neighbours for many years or willfully jeopardize our position, individually or collectively, and soon be absorbed in Metropolitan Toronto. To include vast acres of farm land and community-minded villages and towns in the Metro area at this time would benefit no one. While our integration into Metro may be gradual, our characteristics are still too different to blend peacefully with the existing Metropolitan Toronto government."

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The County Angle

Another significant section of the brief deals with the relationship of the five southern municipalities with the county.

It emphasizes that "permissive legislation has been enacted to extend the authority of the county council to numerous services and the apparent trend in York County would indicate that piece by piece, local council responsibilities will gradually be shifted to a committee of county council and the local authorities will provide the funds with negligible control of its operation. . . . To centralize control in Newmarket would not be advantageous to the five southern municipalities because problems of municipalities in the metro planning area differ from the other municipalities in York County. Administrative offices are too far removed from the mass of the people to be served and authority and control of the services would be delegated to a committee not entirely responsible to the local elector. Lack of continuity in the membership of the committee or controlling authority would also be a handicap."

LANGSTAFF and THORNLEA NEWS
Correspondent
Mrs. B. Lepkey
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Birthday greetings to Evelyn Roy who celebrates her 8th birthday on January 19th.

Mr. M. Holt is progressing satisfactorily. He is suffering from low blood pressure.

The February meeting of Mark-Vaun W.I. will be held at the home of Mrs. Hardie, Proctor Avenue, February 1. Roll call is "make and bring your favourite food". Lunch is in charge of Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Sim. Members are asked to bring a donation to the Cancer Cupboard.

March of Dimes

Once again the army of marching mothers will be in operation during the week of January 29. Give as generously as you can to this worthwhile cause.

HIGHLAND PARK NEWS
CORRESPONDENT: Mrs. H. Harris, 39 Woodward Avenue
Telephone AV. 5-1889

The newly organized United Church Women of Thornhill United Church are holding their first executive meeting January 23rd. There was a good attendance at last Tuesday's general meeting and this area is well represented on the list of new officers.

Henderson Avenue Home and School meeting is January 22nd. This is father's night and sports are the subject.

School hockey is well under way with the best ice ever reported at Henderson Avenue School. The first game was held Thursday at Woodland School. Ron Simpson scored two goals and Bill Harris and Rod Snider one each for Henderson, while John Gillies scored Woodland's lone mark.

The regular monthly meeting of the Thornhill and District Horticultural Society was held January 16th at Thornhill School. Mr. Peters, who was to have addressed the meeting on "evergreens," was unable to attend. We were asked to try to interest our younger generation in gardening and the worthwhile things of beauty in this world of ours. The emphasis this year to be on our juniors. Mr. E. Kohler entertained with slides of the hospital grounds, Edwards Gardens, and his trip to Switzerland.

Empty Houses Decline

Frank Barrott of Maple Real Estate reports that during the last year, the number of vacant houses in the Hill has decreased by one-third. In January, 1961, there were approximately 300 vacant residences in Richmond Hill; this year the number has dropped to approximately 100.

Two of the families who have contributed to the decrease in vacant houses are those of Charles Jackson and Mr. H. H. Arause. The Jacksons have moved from Windsor and are taking up residence at 296 Essex Avenue. Mr. Jackson is a representative of International Playing Card Co. Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. Arause and family are moving into 505 Lynett Crescent from Chalk River, Ontario. Mr. Arause is employed with the Department of Lands and Forests at Maple.

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Crestwood Rd. News
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Brownie News

4th Thornhill Brownies held their first enrollment for this year. There were four twentees who became brownies by receiving their ties and pins on Wednesday, January 17, Bernice St. John, Debbie Beckett, Louise Barrett, Betty Dvshart. Games were played, leaders in charge, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Barrett. Tea and toast was served to Mrs. St. John and Mrs. Beckett by Joan Peters and Lydia Buchanan.

Birthday Congratulations
To Patricia Jarvis who celebrated her fifth.

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