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## Decline Affects All Taxpayers, Mayor Haggart Says

# Down-town Redevelopment Imperative, Council Told

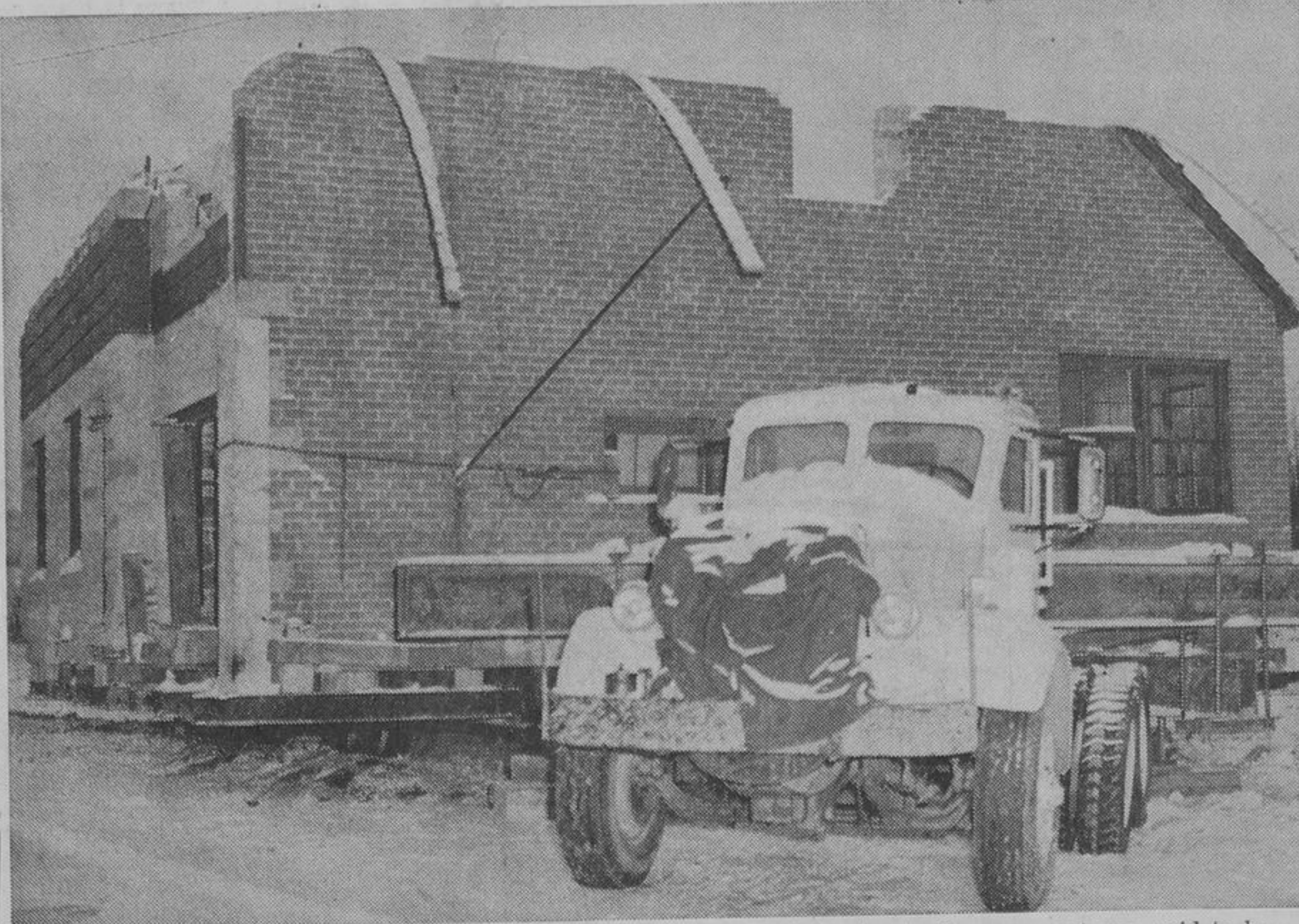
## Council Raises Pay Of Mayor Favour Pay For School Trustees

Richmond Hill Town Council, at one moment somewhat critical of the handling of a vandalism case by the public school board, turned around a few minutes later and declared that trustees should be paid for their services.

They recommended that a resolution should be sent to the Ontario Mayors and Reeves Association backing the payment of trustees, who at the present moment receive little or no remuneration.

A finance committee report, presented by Deputy Reeve Tom Broadhurst, chairman, recommended a number of pay changes. Salary of the mayor, now \$2,500, was raised to \$4,250. The increase, the chairman said, was agreed on in the absence of the mayor and was concurred in by every member of town council. He said following the meeting that the increase would bring the mayor's salary into line with that paid to heads of neighbouring municipalities. At the present time the reeve of Vaughan Township is paid \$4,000. In addition he receives remuneration as a member of county council which, in ordin-

## They're Ditching Houses In Vaughan Now



It's no uncommon thing to see a car in a ditch, but to see a house there is quite another thing, especially when it's accompanied by a tractor-trailer outfit. But on Bathurst Street, a mile south of the Vaughan Road, it's been possible to see just that in recent days. House and unit are seen above.

The ditched house was being moved from its original location on Bombay Road in Toronto, investigation disclosed. Destination was Dufferin Street in King Township. The moving contractors, Densgrove Construction of Toronto, had a permit approving movement of the caravan over Vaughan Township roads. This was good for one night only, and expired while the move was under way. The house and tractor, left on the road, were moved to the side at the request of township officials. The holdup at the point where

house and tractor-trailer now rest was said to be due to the failure of the Toronto and York Roads Commission to issue a permit for travel on Vaughan Road, although it had been applied for two weeks before the move was actually started.

Howard Hunter, head of the moving company, said that he expected the permit to be issued on Monday, but on Tuesday of this week the house was still at the side of the road, as pictured, where it had already been for a week.

The house, as the picture reveals, is a substantial affair of bricks, cement blocks and stone. The roof was removed before its journey started, on account of height. A considerable amount of damage to brick and stone seemed to have occurred, but the owner shrugged it off as negligible. (Photo by Lagerquist.)

## Councillor White Calls For Most Urgent Action

"The redevelopment of the down-town area should become one of our most urgent needs," declared Councillor Alan White at this week's Richmond Hill Town Council meeting. He pointed to the number of businesses which have closed their doors in recent days as evidence of serious deterioration and declared that "if higher density in this area is one of the answers, I will be all for it."

He maintained that the redevelopment committee should "really start to function" and that the town's planning director should be a member of that committee.

He was equally disturbed about the down-town situation, said Mayor Haggart, and the financial situation which was resulting. The area was the most heavily assessed in town, he pointed out, and the loss of tax revenue would be felt by taxpayers in all parts of the town. He pointed out that tax rebates were applicable when premises were vacant for a certain length of time and said that tax rebates last year amounted to \$25,000. This forces the mill rate up for other taxpayers, he asserted.

Density Increase Discussed  
The new planning director attended redevelopment committee meetings, said Mayor Haggart. He had experienced problems, with a great deal to do, having been involved with the town's zoning by-law for a large portion of his time since taking on his duties. He agreed with Councillor White that down-town density must be increased. The planning director was preparing a twenty-year plan for the town's development, and this would take into consideration the plight of the down-town area, said the mayor. Past development had been "overzealous and underplanned," he said.

He believed that the new Chamber of Commerce, presently in its organizational stages, would be a great help. Referring to a joint meeting next week at which council and the planning board will discuss the problem, Mayor Haggart said that "we have to attack." The planning director must be given the tools, he declared.

"This is not the responsibility of council alone," declared Deputy-reeve Tom Broadhurst. The merchants themselves had been somewhat laggard, he asserted. "We shall have to get behind the new Chamber of Commerce and see what it can do," he said. "They don't expect miracles, they expect co-operation," said Councillor Al. White, as council deferred further discussion until it meets with the planning board next week.

## Building Permit Numbers Are Low Matching Season

The picture of construction activities in Richmond Hill in January, disclosed by the monthly figures of Building Inspector Jack Hollowell, looked bleak until compared with Januaries in previous years. Then they dropped into the slot so normal for Canada—a slowdown caused by climatic conditions.

Only four permits were issued during the month—one residence, one garage, one sign and one commercial. All permits were small, total being only \$15,395.

The picture was a trifle better than in January, 1961, when three permits totalling \$14,373 were issued. The January before that, 1960, saw only four permits issued also. They however, were sizeable, covering new construction at the Richmond Heights Shopping Centre and amounting to \$200,000.

Forecast is that the situation will improve in February, when the commercial building adding to assessment through at least one large permit.

## Doctors, Patients, Families, Considered

# Co-operation Of County Hospitals To Lead To Savings, Chairman Says

There is absolutely no dividing line of any kind separating the two hospitals, physical or mental or financial, chairman of the two local hospital commissions in York County told "The Liberal" this week. As a matter of fact, as developments in the present hospital at Newmarket and the one now being planned in the southern part of the county continued, it was likely that an even closer liaison would be effected, said Chairman W. A. Spear of the Newmarket Commission and Chairman Douglas Storms of the York Central Hospital Commission.

The statement was made by the two chairmen to clear up an apparent misunderstanding in connection with medical services. The two hospitals serve the whole county, they asserted, because finances had been provided by York County Council. Doctors would be able to send patients to both or to either of the hospitals. Patients would be accepted by either hospital from any point also. Thus, they said, the comfort and convenience of medical men, patients and families would be considered.

Specialization Might Aid  
There was a possibility, they said, that through specialization saving might be effected. For instance, because of the location and rapid transportation between the two available, a specialized service, used infrequently, might be installed in only one of the hospitals. The other hospital, in turn, would carry another specialized service, with

## Elgin Mills Plan Ready

# Water System Provision Is Now Up To Residents

It is now up to property owners in the Elgin Mills area as to whether water is piped into their homes, it became evident this week as Vaughan Township Council heard a report from the waterworks committee, headed by Councillor Mrs. McConkey.

All property owners in the more densely populated part of Elgin Mills will receive a letter telling them the score. Preliminary engineering work has been done, the cost has been ascertained as approximately \$70,000 and, if property owners agree to assume financial responsibility, there would not appear to be any reason why a water system should not be installed this year. Approximately 111 properties would be needed to make the plan economically sound, said Mrs. McConkey. There are 135 properties in the designated district.

Water will be purchased from Richmond Hill, the town now being in a position to sell water due to the development of its No. 5 well.

Area To Be Covered  
Five streets will be in the water area, Oxford Street from Yonge to Valley west of Regent Street; Regent Street from Oxford Street to Elgin Sideroad; Elgin Sideroad from Yonge to Regent Street; Yonge Street from Oxford Street to Elgin Sideroad; Iredale Road from south limit of Lot 74 to Oxford Street. The western part of the area is not being included as of liquor in a new hotel project for the town. Town council gave three readings to the necessary by-law this week, with Councillor Mrs. Southwell dissenting. The mayor was fulfilling a speaking engagement when the vote was taken and Councillor Alec Campbell was absent and said to be confined to bed with pneumonia.

The vote will be on the questions (1) Are you in favour of the sale of liquor under a dining lounge licence for consumption with meals on licensed premises? (2) Are you in favour of the sale of liquor under a lounge licence for consumption on licensed premises? Sixty percent of the total vote cast must be in the affirmative before approval will be given by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

The by-law was passed without a discussion. Reeve Floyd Perkins, in the chair, asked if any member of council wished to speak. Only reply was that of Councillor Alan White, who said "we appreciate what this means and what it will mean to Richmond Hill." He

up again after years of dissatisfaction, after residents of the area made forcible complaints to Vaughan Township Council and "The Liberal". Vaughan owners.

## Little Comment Made

# Licence Vote April 28th Councillors Pass By-law

Richmond Hill voters will go to the polls on Saturday, April 28th, to answer yes or no to two questions covering the sale of liquor in a new hotel project for the town. Town council gave three readings to the necessary by-law this week, with Councillor Mrs. Southwell dissenting. The mayor was fulfilling a speaking engagement when the vote was taken and Councillor Alec Campbell was absent and said to be confined to bed with pneumonia.

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The decision to pass the by-law was reached after many serious complaints regarding indiscriminate shooting were received by council from a delegation from the Vaughan Township Federation of Agriculture recently.

Five hunters, including John Carter of Maple, who has appeared on behalf of hunters since the first readings were given to the by-law, appeared during the next two or three weeks. The by-law has already been given two of the three readings required to make it law.

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## Editorial Operation Emergency

The chickens have come home to roost! Councils of some years ago gloated over the fact that Richmond Hill was "Canada's fastest growing town". How that growth was being achieved, whether it was solid or a "Jack and the beanstalk" type didn't seem to matter. Magic was in the slogan—warnings about imbalance were the croakings of pessimists.

Today's council is facing the "morning after". It's a hangover which is seeing the Hill's most heavily assessed area—the old down-town district—deteriorating rapidly. Councillors, at their meeting this week, were told in blunt terms what the problems were. And, unfortunately, they are problems which affect all taxpayers. For if highly assessed areas like down-town cannot provide their share of the money which it takes to run the municipality, other taxpayers must pick up the tab. The loss of business is not that of a store-owner alone—it must be shared in part by every property owner. It costs as much to run a sewage disposal plant for a thousand people as it does for a thousand and fifty. If the fifty disappear the thousand must make good their former contribution.

The merchants of Yonge Street, among others, are paying the price of uncontrolled expansion. It isn't that their trade has fallen off as much as it is that their expenses—taxes being a leader among them—have soared astronomically. It has been suggested that so, in part, are responsible for their own plight. That may well be—but only in part.

To suggest that the redevelopment committee could have done more is begging the issue. Deliberately rendered subservient to planning board, it has had little chance. It did press for some action and, as a result, the Potvin survey was made. The present director of planning has had little opportunity to shape a pattern or a policy yet.

It is not easy to write strictures such as these. They may be misunderstood. There will be some who will say that the town will be "smirched" through unfavourable publicity. But the unfavourable publicity already exists—in the bare store fronts and "for rent" signs which are seen by tens of thousands of passers-by.

The facts must be faced. And perhaps bringing them into the open—as town council did this week—may force a cure faster than a policy of pretending that an emergency doesn't exist.

The situation is far from hopeless. Other centres large and small, have faced and conquered it. It calls for the co-operation of all citizens. Above everything else, it calls for bold, imaginative, tireless and determined leadership on the part of elected and appointed officials.

## Bayview Avenue Draws Broadhurst Fire

# Deputy Reeve Gets "Rude Shock" In Learning About County Roads

Richmond Hill's newest member of York County has received "rude shocks", Deputy-reeve Tom Broadhurst told members of Richmond Hill Town Council this week as he reported on the situation with regard to Bayview Avenue which he found out in his short time on county council. Bayview Avenue, half of which lies in Markham Township and half in Richmond Hill, has been the source of bitter complaints in recent months. Its condition is rapidly becoming worse.

The road was accepted by the special roads committee of York County Council as one of those which would be taken over by the county in 1961. The bomb spent by county without any apparent return to municipalities Toronto and York Roads Commission, in an unexpected and blunt announcement, told county councillors that neither it or any other of the other roads recommended would be taken over without arrangements being made ahead of funds provided. County councillors, non-plussed and at the end of their rope, could do nothing. The situation brought repercussions at Richmond Hill's nomination meeting, when former Reeve Tom Taylor challenged lack of action by the town's representatives on county council.

"Politician's Device"  
The function of the special roads advisory committee was purely to recommend to county council roads which should be taken over, said Deputy-reeve Broadhurst. If the county took them over they were at once transferred to the Toronto and York Roads Commission in what was a "politician's device," he said. He asserted that Bayview would not be taken over this year either. All that was proposed was work on Bathurst from the Langstaff Road to the Vaughan Road. "They're not going to do anything for Bayview," he declared as he told the town council of his experiences as a member of the county committee. "You can kiss goodbye to one cent being spent on Bayview this year."

## Merchants Elect Tom Mills Again



Indicating confidence in the way in which their affairs had been managed during the past year, members of the Richmond Heights Merchants Association returned their officers and executive members to office again, in a slate which showed little change.

Tom Mills, manager of the S. S. Kresge store, was again chosen president. Vice-president is Jack Watts. This year's treasurer is Vern Dynes, former vice-president.

## Vandalism Case Discussed

# Council Said Satisfied With Conduct Of Police

A letter will be sent from Richmond Hill Town Council to the Public School Board saying that the recent complaint of the board with regard to the action of local police in connection with alleged vandalism at a public school by juveniles had been investigated by the police committee, and that it appeared the police had handled the situation adequately.

The committee report said that the police chief had given detailed statements regarding his department's conduct of the case. On January 4th, he said, he had been advised by the Juvenile and Family Court that there would be no need for him to appear at a court sitting on January 5th. The report said that as an official of the school board had laid the charge it would be necessary for that person to appear.

Councillor Alan White, chairman of the police committee, said that the board's representative had declared that cost to

## Hospital Auxiliary Organization Grows

The provisional executive and area representatives of the projected auxiliary for the hospital planned for Richmond Hill, to serve the southern part of York County, has met to make plans for the membership organization meeting to be held in the Richmond Hill United Church auditorium on Thursday, March 1, at 8 p.m.

Special thanks were expressed to all those who contributed to the great success of the January 30 Founders meeting held in the Lions Hall, Richmond Hill.

## Shooting By-law Adoption Likely In Vaughan Soon

Vaughan Township Council, at its regular meeting Monday, indicated that the proposed ban on shooting within the township would probably become effective during the next two or three weeks. The by-law has already been given two of the three readings required to make it law.

The decision to pass the by-law was reached after many serious complaints regarding indiscriminate shooting were received by council from a delegation from the Vaughan Township Federation of Agriculture recently.

## Christmas Trees Are Costly

A Toronto resident was fined \$100 and costs when convicted in Magistrate's Court at Newmarket recently of stealing two Christmas trees from York County forest property.