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Finalizing Of Town's Zoning Bylaw Is Discussed - Interview Said Helpful

Mayor, Planning Director, See Municipal Minister

Metro Industrial Body Also Visited On Tuesday

A direct approach to the Premier of Ontario was promised by Mayor James Haggart when he made his inaugural address in January. "We should continue to fight for a full measure of democracy for the people we represent," he said, pointing out the necessity for a long-range plan of development for the municipality and the right to determine its own affairs.

While he has not yet seen the Premier, Mayor Haggart made a start this week by interviewing the Minister for Municipal Affairs, Hon Fred M. Cass, on Tuesday. With Mr. Cass at the interview was Lorne Cumming, Q. C., Deputy Minister for Municipal Affairs. Accompanying Mayor Haggart was Richmond Hill's Planning Director, Harold Deeks. Major "Lex" Mackenzie, M.C., North York's member of the Ontario legislature, was also present.

Principal business discussed was the passing of the town's zoning by-law, on which an Ontario Municipal Board hearing had been held some months ago. The plan has not yet been officially approved. "Delay in approval of the by-law results in virtual freezing of development," Mayor Haggart told "The Liberal".

Plans Council Caucus

Deputy Minister Cumming, had made certain suggestions which would help, said the Mayor. "I feel that it would be proper to present them to town council first," he said, stating that he intended to call a caucus of council as quickly as possible.

"This will be the first step in redevelopment — the approval of the zoning by-law — because we must have a starting point," said Mayor Haggart. He also discussed with Mr. Cass the position of Richmond Hill with relation to Bill 80 — the legislation which created Metropolitan Toronto. "Our reception was very good," said the Mayor.

Other redevelopment plans were noted this week. Planning Director Harold Deeks said that within approximately two months a highway survey will be conducted which would ascertain the town's influence on regional business. While he was not prepared to release details at the moment, Mr. Deeks said that the survey would have an important bearing on determining how and where trade came to the town. The help of residents would be sought, he said, when the survey, which is part of long-distance planning, is being undertaken.

See Industrialists Also

On Tuesday Mayor Haggart, accompanied by Councillor John MacDiarmid and Industrial Commissioner Robert Langford, also interviewed General Manager W. Wilson of the Metropolitan Toronto Industrial Commission, discussing the industrial prospects of Richmond Hill. A joint meeting of town council and the local industrial commission is likely to be held soon as a result.

Boy Scouts Camp Out At Town Hall

In recognition of National Boy Scout Week a rugged group of district Scouts and their leaders camped overnight Friday of last week on the front lawn of the Richmond Hill Town Hall.

After a night outdoors in the frigid winter air of February the boys enjoyed a hearty breakfast in the open.

(Photo by Chaplin)

The citizens of Richmond Hill district must have thought it was summer in February as they drove or walked down Yonge St.. on Friday evening February 16, or Saturday morning. Despite the fact the temperature was hovering in the low twenties and the snow was falling steadily, a group of York Summit Boy Scouts set up a camp site in front of the town hall and proceeded to sleep, eat, work and play in a manner reminiscent of a normal camp day in July.

The first group of scouts consisting of Bob Steven, 5th Richmond Hill Rover Crew; Richard Macnaughton, 1st King Rover Crew; Murray Day and Gerry Wood of the 3rd Richmond Hill Scout Troop set up camp early Friday evening. After erecting their tents, they cooked supper and put things in general order for the next day. Upon checking with the scouts the next morning they advised that the biggest hazards of camping in Richmond Hill on a winter's night were the constant sound of bus and truck air brakes and the fact that various district Scout officials kept waking them up to make sure they were alright.

Saturday morning reinforcements arrived from the 1st Maple, 2nd Richmond Hill, 3rd Richmond Hill, 5th Richmond Hill, 1st King, and 1st Beverley Acres Scout Troops. A highlight of the day was the appearance of CBLT and CFTO cameramen to take pictures for inclusion on television news, along with a photographer from "The Liberal." For the cameramen the scouts cooked up a variety of dishes ranging from bacon and eggs to pancakes. Two hardy scouts were seen consuming ice cream for dessert.

During the day various projects symbolizing scout activities were carried on in the area. The 1st Beverley Acres Troop built a monkey bridge (a bridge consisting of only logs and ropes) during the morning, and in the afternoon a simulated casualty first aid demonstration was given. Members of the York Summit Women's Auxiliaries added an artistic note to the proceedings in their preparation of the victims and for a short period the area looked like a clearing house for air raid victims. We are happy to report that all participants survived.

Scouts participating were Greg Shore, Albert Bishop, Jamie Fraser, Roy Bartlett, Don Ailles, Ron Macnaughton, George Loney, Dave Brooks, Dan Brooks, Dave Walker, Robin Taylor, Gord Allsoppe, Jim Roberts, Peter Byrd, Nick Chapman, Len McHardy, Eric Nickle, Chris Pappas, Peter Macnaughton, Brian Robinson, David Mowatt, Allan Burgess, Eric Stevens and Wayne Doucette. Leaders participating were Gerry Wood, Barry King, Norm Foster, Graham Gould and District Commissioner Ron Sculthorp.

To Discuss Widening Levendale Rd. - Elgin With Tp. Of Vaughan

Negotiations are still under way in connection with the widening of Yonge Street North in Richmond Hill, from Levendale Road to the Elgin Mills Road to a four lane highway, matching the street south of Levendale. The widening would be carried out in co-operation with the Ontario Department of Highways.

Works committee of the town council will arrange a meeting with Vaughan Township to discuss the project, as the road on the west side of Yonge Street in the suggested area is in that township.

May Revise Ice And Snow Removal By-law

Richmond Hill's present by-law dealing with ice and snow removal has been in effect since 1908, with its last amendment taking place in 1915. The works committee of town council is having the town's solicitor revise it to bring it into line with modern conditions. The revised by-law, after having been studied by the committee, will then be placed before town council for consideration.

Civic Night At The Lions

Mayor Haggart Urges Backing For The New Hotel & More Annexation

Members of Richmond Hill Town Council were guests of the Lions Club last week at the annual civic night. All were present with the exception of Councillor Al. White and Councillor Alec. Campbell, who is recovering from an illness. Town Clerk Russell "Curly" Lynett was also a guest. In a well-received address, Mayor James Haggart dealt with present municipal conditions and the steps which he felt would result in improvement.

The sudden surge of development hit the community like an atomic bomb, he declared. "The shock waves are still echoing about our community, and the foundation on which our municipality is built is still rocking, almost one decade later. We are only now becoming integrated as the community family that we should be, and we have never really recovered from the financial set-back that always comes from a population explosion of this sort."

"The sprawl was neither contained nor controlled ... Development came so fast that we were unable to keep up with it. Community planning got so far behind that we are experiencing considerable difficulty in getting caught up with the problems we face." said the Mayor. "The position we are in today is the direct result of lack of planning and foresight .... Every citizen must get behind us to get our community on the road to recovery."

Planning Said Vital

The Mayor declared that planning was vital as a prelude to annexation. Without it, it was difficult to secure larger industries. He detailed a number of cases where the town had not been able to provide the large acreage needed and consequently was unable to point out other advantages. Expansion, he said, was necessary to maintain the balance which would result in economical administration and controlled growth. A population of 50,000 had been forecast for 1980, Mayor Haggart pointed out. There was nothing to fear from annexation, he said, if it was carefully planned. The new professional planning director, Harold Deeks, would be of great assistance, he asserted.

Low-rental accommodation and a hospital were vitally necessary for industrial expansion, said the Mayor.

"I know that this is a controversial subject, especially at the present time," said Mayor Haggart, referring to the projected establishment of a 50-bedroom hotel on Yonge Street North. This, he said, was dependent upon the granting of facilities which would be determined by the result of a Liquor Control Act vote on April 28th. "I have no equivocation in saying that I support this move and recommend a 'Yes' vote. As mayor of the town, I have to consider only the effect this development will have on the community as a whole."

Last year, said the mayor, he signed cheques totalling over $25,000 for tax rebates on vacant buildings. "We added one mill to your tax rate to make up these funds which were lost to us for municipal purposes. The projected hotel would bring both taxation and people," he asserted.

Mayor Favours Annexation

"We will plan the future of Richmond Hill in 1962 by developing a 20-year master plan," said Mayor Haggart. "But remember this, it will work only if it is acceptable to the public. If the public fights annexation - if the public turns down the liquor plebiscite - if the public discourages the investment of private capital by constant fighting and bickering about rezoning and planning - we will not be able to make any plan work in ten years or twenty years or even fifty years. Given full co-operation though, we will lead you out of the economic wilderness and into the promised land that a happy, self-contained municipality should be."

The speaker was introduced by Reeve Floyd Perkins, a Lion member, and thanked by Doug Boynton. He also answered a number of questions with regard to civic administration.

Water Decision At Elgin Mills Awaits Answers

Exactly half of the 152 residents of Elgin Mills who received letters from Vaughan Township telling them of the plan by which they could have water piped to their homes had agreed to the plan by Tuesday morning, with 76 having signified approval.

As reported previously, the township has made plans by which water would be bought from Richmond Hill, with the cost of the installation of mains, calculated to be approximately $70,000, being shared by those in the densely populated part of Elgin Mills where installation would be practicable. It has been calculated that the consent of approximately 111 property owners would be required to make installation economically feasible.

No further action can be taken until additional replies are received from Elgin Mills residents.

NEWMARKET: Town council, by a recorded vote of five to three, has deferred third reading of a by-law to establish a parking authority. Those opposing felt that more consideration should be given to the project before it was finalized.

Tenders Opened For Expansion Of Town Office

Wien Construction Company of 536 Lynett Crescent, Richmond Hill, was low bidder when Richmond Hill Town Council opened tenders for the proposed extension of the municipal building this week. The extension includes construction of a second floor on the newer part of the building to the south; revamping of the interior to create additional space needed for the growing town staff and also altering of the interior to provide accommodation for the magistrate and his staff.

Council, some weeks ago, decided that the work was necessary and concluded that the present, with winter works grants being available from senior government levels, was a good time to do it.

Five tenders were received. Lowest was that of the Wien company at $61,400, with others being for $66,185; $67,560; $72,-000; $68,990.

$25,000 of the amount will come from an account set up from the fees paid in by subdividers in the past. Seventy-five per cent of labour costs will be subsidized under the winter works program, reducing the actual amount to be paid by the town to a comparatively small amount.

The tender will be examined by the town's works commissioner before being confirmed.

Rabies Believed Spreading

Fox Mauls Markham Pigs & Dogs On Journey From Farm To Farm

Attacks by a fox, believed to be rabid, have confirmed the belief that rabies is increasing in Markham Township. The animal was first seen on the Williams farm on the third concession of Markham, north of 19th Avenue. There it attacked and bit three dogs. It then went south to the Ronaldson farm in the same area. Going into a barn there, it jumped into a pig-pen, attacking a sow and her young. Scared off by the hired man, who got a gun and fired at it, missing it, the animal again went south to the Wilson farm where it attacked a dog.

The dog ran to the back door of the house but the inmates were afraid to admit it, as the fox was so close. The fox then mauled the dog.

Markham police were telephoned and Constable Barry McWhirter finally located the fox on the Bell farm, shooting it there. Tests are being made and, says Canine Control Officer James Ryan, if these prove positive, the dogs and pigs which were attacked will probably have to be destroyed.

Four sheep were smothered in the snow at approximately the same time in the same area. While there has been no known connection between the sheep deaths and the fox, Ryan says that something evidently scared them, causing them to run into the deep snow where they smothered. Small paw marks, which could have been those of a fox, were found in the vicinity of the sheep.

During the episode when the fox which attacked dogs and pigs roamed from farm to farm, assistance was given by neighbours telephoning others saying which direction the fox was taking. Mr. Ryan suggests that in such cases, where it is possible, such a telephone warning would be a helpful procedure.

COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events," the community directory of interesting dates to remember on page Three.

Local People Get Preference

New Hospital Will Offer Many Job Opportunities

Last week's "Liberal" reported that 150 nurses, in various grades, would be required to staff the new hospital projected for the southern end of York County and likely to be built on Vaughan Road in Richmond Hill. Those nurses, vitally necessary as they are, form only a part of the considerable number of people required to run the hospital. Take, for instance, the hospital's feeding arrangements. In that department will be a dietitian, three food supervisors, a chef, two cooks and twenty assorted helpers such as serving maids, washers, porters and related jobs.

The housekeeper will require about twenty people, male and female, on her staff. Three medical record librarians, three medical stenographers, a pharmacist and three physiotherapists will find employment at the start of the hospital - numbers which will have to be increased as the hospital grows.

Four shift engineers and four maintenance personnel will be needed. An accountant and a purchasing agent will be people holding important jobs and approximately a dozen clerical workers will be employed.

Stability In Jobs

Employment in the hospital will have the big advantage of being stable, affected very little by seasonal or other conditions which sometimes play havoc with people in industrial jobs.

Every effort will be made to employ local workers if they have the necessary qualifications, hospital authorities have already declared. However, it could happen that jobs requiring specialized training cannot be filled by untrained local people. But, those authorities pointed out, the community would still win because persons with stable positions and assured incomes would be imported to help swell the community's employed personnel.

No Flu Epidemic For York County

"At the present time there is no indication of an abnormal situation in York County," said Dr. Robert M. King, Medical Officer of Health for York County, when questioned by "The Liberal" as to influenza outbreaks within the county.

A recent edition of a Toronto daily carried an article concerning serious flu outbreaks in northern Ontario towns. Although it was said that the outbreak had not reached epidemic proportions, school attendance was reported down 25 per cent in some areas. More than one-third of the Sault district population had been hit by the flu and public and high schools in many areas had closed.

Dr. King, referring to the situation in York County, said that there had been a slight increase during the past few weeks but this was normal for the season. Although the number of cases reported in the county is normal, there are two areas where the number of flu cases is higher than the average for the county, said Dr. King. These "pockets" were Sutton and parts of Newmarket.

Richmond Hill School Superintendent's office confirmed what Dr. King had said. There is no abnormal absenteeism reported from any of the schools in the town, said officials.

These Are The Men Who Run The Legion

Officers of the Richmond Hill branch of the Royal Canadian Legion for the current year are pictured above. In the front row, from the left, are Robert Karsh, president; Frank Barrott, vice-president; George Wood, past president; Fred Sanders, zone commander. Members of the executive committee are seen in the back row. They are Jack Reid, Sid Sparks, Frank Titshall, Stan. Woods, Norman Venton. These men help to direct the many activities of the Legion, and one of which they are very proud is that connected with education. It has presented awards totalling $250 to students in the area.

(Photo by Lagerquist)

Pritchard Company Gets First Government Order

Ottawa Hospital Equipment Order Is Won

By F. J. Picking

An order for seven major pieces of equipment valued at approximately $55,000 has been received by the Pritchard X-Ray Manufacturing Company Ltd., 112 Industrial Road, Richmond Hill, from the Department of Defence Production, Ottawa. The equipment is for the new Tri-Service Hospital in the capital — a 350-bed establishment which will house men from the Navy, Army and Air Force. The Pritchard company is also completing installation of a unit in York County Hospital, Newmarket, and has also recently finished an installation at St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto.

Installation of part of a unit is also being made at Sunnybrook, the veterans' hospital in Toronto. On top of that a sale of a unit has been made in Lima, Peru, and, as well, orders amounting to approximately a quarter of a million dollars are already "in the bag" or pending, George E. Ross, sales manager of the company, told "The Liberal" this week.

An immediate effect has been to increase the local manufacturing staff. Fourteen men are employed at the present time. Two or three more will be added in the near future. Others will be taken on as manufacturing swings into high gear. The company's present space is already crowded and, obviously, adjustments will have to be made.

Flow Is Changed

In its issue of August 10th, "The Liberal" headlined a picture story "Richmond Hill Industry May Reverse Flow Of Equipment Coming From U.S." That has happened. Award of the Ottawa contract climaxes an eight-month battle. The Defence Department, in its call for tenders, specified a type of equipment made in the United States, from which equipment used in Canada has come in the past. Joseph Pritchard, head of the company, found himself battling doctors who advised the department that only foreign equipment was capable of doing the job they wanted. He enlisted the help of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Teams of doctors, at approximately the time that "The Liberal" article was written in August, examined the Pritchard type of equipment and found it completely satisfactory.

Result — the order which, for the first time, has seen Canadian-built X-Ray equipment provided for a Canadian government institution.

Enquiries Coming In

In recent months the Richmond Hill company has had exhibits in Ghana, Nigeria and Peru. It will have another exhibit in Ghana in the fall. The federal Department of Trade and Commerce has given outstanding help in promoting foreign trade, company officials declared.