

Mail Delivery Monday

(by Doris M. Fitzgerald)

At 9 o'clock on Monday morning, November 19, an interesting little ceremony was held in front of the Thornhill Post Office on Yonge St., to mark an historic occasion — the inauguration of door-to-door mail delivery by letter carriers. After 'O Canada' had been sung to recorded music, the invocation was given by the Rev. Minton Johnston of Thornhill Baptist Church, and Mr. J. G. Fulze, district director of the postal services, who acted as chairman, spoke briefly. Reeve Albert Rutherford of Vaughan Township then cut the ribbons strung across the doorway of the post office, and released the trimly uniformed letter carriers, who began their new duties at once. The first letter delivered was handed to Reeve W. R. Dean of Markham Township, on the spot, by Postman Gordon Holmes of Thornhill, who also had a second letter for Reeve Albert Rutherford of Vaughan Township. Mr. Dean read aloud his letter from Mrs. Ellen Fairclough, the Postmaster General. It brought good wishes; outlined the benefits to be shared by every citizen of Thornhill as a result of the new service, and described Thornhill as the 183rd post office in Canada from which door-to-door mail delivery is provided.

Others attending the event were officials of the postal service; John Addison, M.P. for York North; James Walker, M.P. for York Centre; Deputy-reeve L. Mumberson and Councillor Allan Sumner of Markham Township. Thornhill Village Trustee B. P. Roberts and Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Minton Johnston, the Rev. H. R. Howden and Mrs. Howden, the Rev. H. J. Veals and Mrs. Veals, Father E. F. Crossland, Mr. Morgan Boyle, Mr. J. G. Barraclough, Mr. Don Jamieson, and Mrs. C. P. Johns who had used P.O. Box No. 1 ever since it was first installed a number of years ago.

The new Thornhill postal area is bounded on the north by 16th Avenue, Carville; on the east by Bayview Avenue, on the south by the CNR bypass, and on the west by Bathurst St. It covers a total street distance of some 51 miles and is divided into eight letter carrier routes or "walks". A recent survey shows that 2506 points of call in the fast growing residential and business districts will benefit from this eagerly awaited service. Mail will be delivered once a day, Monday through Saturday, but the postmen themselves work a five day week. For the convenience of those in outlying districts there is a postal sub-station on Yonge St. in Richvale, and another on No. 7 Highway, Langstaff, one block west of Bayview Ave. Twenty-five post boxes have been set up at strategic points, and the mail from these will be collected twice a day.

Thornhill Post Office has been renovated and equipped to handle a greatly increased volume of incoming and outgoing mail, and a larger staff, some of whom will work at night. Feeling that her job had become too onerous, Miss Ethel Wice, faithful and efficient postmistress during the past 15 years has resigned from this position but will remain as a member of the clerical staff. The new post-

master is Mr. Frank J. Forster who has been with the Canadian Postal Service for 22 years. He has a staff of five clerks and 11 letter carriers and is looking forward with pleasure to his new work. "We know there are bound to be some mixups and delays at first", he said, "due to improperly, or insufficiently addressed mail, but we hope the public will be patient. I would like to suggest," he continued, "that residents in the area write their full address on outgoing Christmas cards this year and in that way bring it to the notice of their friends. I would also like to remind the owners to remove their padlocks from group boxes no longer in use."

The sound of letters dropping through a slot in the front door is a new and welcome one in Thornhill. Nevertheless there are a few old timers who will miss "going for the mail" a ritual of country living in this area since 1829 when Squire Benjamin Thorne successfully petitioned for the establishment of a post office. Prior to that the early settlers had to post, and pick up mail in York (Toronto). Wm. Parsons, the first Thornhill postmaster was followed by Josiah Purkis, T. A. Hewitt, W. A. Bradley, J. T. B. Lindsay, J. H. Francis, Robert Clark, Clayton Scott, Ethel Wice and now Frank J. Forster.

During the past 133 years

the Thornhill post office has had several locations. Believed to have been opened in a small building beside Wm. Parsons' house on the east side of Yonge St., it was moved down the hill to the Thorne and Parsons store on the west side, then to Josiah Purkis' general store (Elgies Village Hardware), next to the small shop now occupied by John Cole, the Jeweller (where the rent was \$4.00 a month). The present post office was built by Mr. Roy Wice in 1957.

Question to be submitted to a vote of the electors of the Town of Richmond Hill:

"Are you in favour of public games and sports for gain after 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon on the Lord's day to be regulated by Municipal by-law under the authority of The Lord's Day (Ontario) Act 1960-61?"

I, Russell Lynett, Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the question to be submitted to the electors at the Municipal elections to be held on Saturday, December 8th, 1962 from 9:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.

R. Lynett, Clerk



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Mrs. Doris Nicholson of Newmarket confidently expects the objective of the County of York United Hospitals campaign to be reached. She knows from personal experience of the great need for expansion at the York County Hospital at Newmarket and a new hospital at Richmond Hill. Only 113 beds are available in the county today and the campaign hopes to provide 389.

Hockey Referee May Enter Fray For Council Seat

Developments at Monday night's council meeting in Vaughan Township indicate a tough election race December 8.

Indications are that School Trustee Mrs. Mona Robertson of Jefferson, and NHL Referee Dalton McArthur of Maple, will seek council seats.

Mr. McArthur, who attended council as an observer refused to make any announcement about his political ambitions. When a reporter asked Mr. McArthur "Is there a possibility you'll stand for election", he replied "You never know, do you?"

Mrs. Robertson claims she has not made up her mind, and will not make up her mind until Monday night. She says she would have to drop two part-time newspaper jobs if she runs for council.

She told "The Liberal" she will definitely not seek another term on the school board.

According to informed sources, several other unidentified individuals are holding off announcement of their candidacy for both council and school board until nomination night.

Okay Debenture Issue For Roselawn School

Vaughan Township Council Monday night approved a request from the public school board for the issuing of debentures in the amount of \$225,000 for building the new Roselawn Public School in Richvale.

A previous debenture bylaw for the school was for \$200,000 only.

Council also authorized the borrowing of \$75,000 through debentures to buy property on Yonge Street for the new Langstaff High School, which is to be built by York Central District High School Board.

Council authorized land appraiser J. A. MacMillan of Chambers and Meredith, to negotiate for the purchase of land for the extension of Trench Street from Richmond Hill southerly to Maple Sideroad. The extension would provide access for the York Central Hospital. Mr. MacMillan was authorized to obtain an option on the land.

A bylaw providing for the borrowing of \$77,300 for a municipal water system in the Elgin Mills area was given first and second reading by council. The water system will serve 114 of the 148 residents in the area bounded by Elgin Road, Yonge Street, Oxford Street and Regent Street.

Included in the system will be mains and a metering chamber. Water is to be sold to the township by Richmond Hill Consumers will pay for the system through local improvements.

Duncan, Hopper and Associates, the township's consulting engineers, were authorized to gather information for the proposed paving of Bathurst Street between the Maple Sideroad and Elgin Mills Sideroad.

According to Chairman Wilfred Keffer of the roads committee, actual work on the road improvements would not begin until the county began making improvements to the part of Bathurst Street between Langstaff and Maple Sideroads.

The county revealed plans for improving Bathurst during the November session of council.

Report Increase In Circulation

Circulation of books at Richmond Hill Public Library for the first 10 months of 1962 has reached a figure almost equal to the total for 1961, according to a report released at the November meeting of the Library Board.

Total for 1961 was 217,554 compared to 217,096 for the first 10 months of 1962. According to Board Member Dr. G. K. Martin, this represents an increase of 15 per cent for the period.

Figures for October 1962 were 26,837, compared with 22,496 for the same month in 1961.

October registration was up from 270 to 323, the report revealed.


Twenty-five per cent of the 157 new adult members and 31 per cent of the 166 new children members are non-residents.

York Real Estate Bd. Rolly Manners Heads

Rolly Manners of the W. R. Case, real estate firm in Aurora was elected president of the York County and District Real Estate Board at their annual meeting for election of officers in the Summit View Restaurant, November 14. He succeeds Wilf. White of the H. Keith Ltd. office in Thornhill.

Mr. Manners will be assisted during the next year by the following officers: Vice-president, Jerry Meharg of the T. Shea Co. in Markham; directors, Max Stiles of M. Stiles office in Newmarket, Larry Neill from the Neill & Neill office in Richmond Hill, Fred Cook from the F. Cook office in Markham, Roy Stewart from the J. A. Willoughby office in Mt. Albert; past president, Wilf. White of the H. Keith Ltd. office in Thornhill.

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Collision Sends 3 To Hospital

Three York Township residents are in serious condition in Branson Hospital, after a two-car collision at Steeles Avenue and Dufferin Street Sunday.

J. G. Brandon, 32; his wife, Sonia, 36, and Mrs. Enah Hauber, all of Winnett Ave., York Township, were involved in the accident.

Daniel, 5, and Denise, 4, the Brandon's two children, were also injured, but were released from hospital later that night. All five were passengers in a small model car driven by Mr. Brandon.

Police say the Brandon car, eastbound on Steeles, collided with a southbound car on Dufferin, driven by Sidney Seligman, 45, of Strathearn Blvd., Toronto. Neither Seligman nor his four passengers were injured.

The Brandons and Mrs. Hauber suffered serious head injuries and multiple cuts and bruises.

Damage Hits \$500

An accident Saturday afternoon on Bayview Avenue resulted in about \$500 damage.

Police say a car driven by Frances Stanway of May Avenue, Richmond Hill, turned into the path of a car driven by Phillip Elliott of Sutton, while trying to make a left turn off Bayview into Bayview Plaza.

Neither driver was injured and no charges have been laid, police said.

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