

Verdict Reached In Close Vote 5-4-3-2-

# Town Council Releases Its Industrial Commissioner

By a recorded vote of four to three, Richmond Hill Town Council Tuesday evening dismissed its Industrial Commissioner, Robert Langford, and approved sweeping changes in its industrial department. Although Mr. Langford's dismissal will be effective immediately the town will pay his salary up until October 1st. His dismissal pay will include his two weeks' annual vacation.

The end for Mr. Langford, who has been a controversial figure since his differences with the former industrial commission, came during a tense meeting when Mayor William Neal called for a recorded vote and Clerk Russell Lynett polled each member of council. In the ensuing vote, Mayor Neal, Deputy-reeve Stanley Tinker and Councillors Walter Scudds and Alec Campbell all voted for the commissioner's dismissal. Opposing it were Reeve Floyd

Perkins and Councillors Al White and Tom Murphy.

Council considered and finally adopted a report prepared by Councillors Campbell and Scudds, which recommended the setting up of an industrial committee of council composed of the mayor and two members of council yet to be named. This committee will have the power to appoint an advisory industrial committee composed of private citizens interested in the industrial expansion of the town.

Richmond Hill has not had an industrial commission since last February when four of the five members of the commission headed by Chairman John Graham resigned in protest against what they charged was Mr. Langford's refusal to co-operate with them. Following these resignations council appointed Councillors Scudds and Campbell as a committee of two to investi-

gate the whole matter of the office of industrial commissioner.

Although the committee report came in for some discussion, by far the main debate centred around Mr. Langford's dismissal. Both Reeve Perkins and Councillor White strenuously opposed the move while Councillor Murphy, although he had little to say during the debate, voted with the other two in opposing the dismissal.

In suggesting that Mr. Langford be retained at least until the end of the year, Reeve Perkins remarked: "I know he has committed some big blunders and he is no friend of mine, but we shouldn't drop him right now." "Mr. Langford has just brought in a new industry and has another on tap. We can't afford to drop him," stated Councillor White. "That's what he is being paid for," retorted Councillor Campbell. "We are two months premature,"

added Mr. White.

The committee in its report recommended Mr. Langford's release because of the shortage of town-owned industrial land and the time and study involved in acquiring any additional land through annexation. The 24 acres of industrial land owned by the town in the Newkirk Road area is now all sold, leaving 70 to 80 acres held by private interests still available. Under these circumstances, Councillor Scudds felt council could not justify paying out \$12,000 a year to maintain the industrial commissioner and his office.

Both Reeve Perkins and Councillor White felt the other members of the town staff are too busy to assume any of Mr. Langford's present duties. "Our clerk is a busy man and so is our deputy-clerk and works commissioner," stated Reeve Perkins. "They have no time to assume any other additional

duties," added the reeve. Mr. White felt the dismissal of Mr. Langford would place too great a burden on the other members of the town staff.

"I certainly take issue with any statement that our staff is too busy to take on any other additional duties for the good of this municipality," replied Deputy-reeve Tinker. Mr. Tinker said under the present set-up the works commissioner, for example, was being called upon to answer a great number of questions concerning technical and engineering matters associated with potential industries.

As to inquiries from industries considering settling in Richmond Hill, Councillor Campbell said the majority of these inquiries come through the Metro Toronto Industrial Commission and that this was especially true in the case of American firms wishing to set-

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ROBERT LANGFORD  
Industrial Commissioner

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## Aurora Pool Gives Example



### A POOL LIKE AURORA'S FOR RICHMOND HILL?

"Does Richmond Hill need a swimming pool?" "Should it be an outdoor pool or indoor?" "What is the best way to finance it?" "How can monies be found for the pool?" Armed with these questions and any other that might come to mind as the interview proceeded, a representative of "The Liberal" went to see how neighbors to the north obtained their pool.

We went to visit the former chairman of the pool campaign in Aurora, Harry Seston.

There is no wonder, in our opinion, the drive for the pool succeeded when one talks to Mr. Seston. He is a human dynamo and no drive could fail. He gathered three other men of equal drive around him to design the appeal.

"The cost of the pool is the first thing to consider, after the citizens have been briefed about its value," Mr. Seston said.

He said the values of an outside pool compared to an indoor one was debatable.

"We settled for an outside one, because we felt that this type of pool would at least get the children the swimming they needed and wanted; at the same time giving them plenty of sunshine," he went on.

The Aurora pool is of Olympic specifications and has alongside it a small wading pool for the younger fry (and their mothers).

"Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the pledge plan when it comes to helping to finance the plan. If it is decided to raise the funds. We took a lot of pledges and less than 10 per cent of these were not honored," Mr. Seston said.

He expressed doubt, however, that the public subscription plan was the better one, pointing out the town's pool had been financed, not as a town's project but by a certain number of citizens refusing to admit defeat.

Mr. Seston said he felt the municipality should make it a municipal project.

In Aurora, the pool plan was first launched when a town-wide committee, drawn by Mr. Seston and his original committee invited industry, service clubs and "anyone else interested in the scheme to help."

The committee faced a shortage of \$15,000 when the pool was completed and a drive to "fill the pool" soon cleared this shortage.

Situated on the west side of town, the Aurora pool is a hive of action. It cost \$45,000 to construct, as it stands today and so far has not cost the taxpayer a cent to operate. In fact last year there was slight profit.

"So much for the first stages of the swimming pool, its cost and how it was finally put into operation."

"Now what have the advantages been... last year Aurora placed 26th in a trans-Canada competition in safe swimming. There are 450 scholars enrolled in the town's "safe swimming classes", he said.

In the words of Mr. Seston "If that pool has been the means of saving one life from drowning by the safe swimming lessons, the cost has been worthwhile. Add to this the enjoyment and recreation old and young alike have received during its three years of operation."

Mr. Seston said his committee planned their pool so that it would cost each home a mere \$10 yearly for three years to finance.



AND WADING POOL, TOO

### Planning Head Away Postpone Meeting

Town council's proposed joint meeting with its planning board failed to materialize Tuesday evening. Mayor William Neal reported that he had been unable to contact Planning Board Chairman Cecil Williams who is away on holidays. The meeting will be held in the future as soon as it can be arranged.

Councillor Al White, who has expressed a keen interest in such a meeting, is especially concerned about what the planning board is doing about parking and redevelopment in the important Yonge Street area.

### Lot Divisions Need Planning Board Approval

Explanation of a bylaw notice sent out to about 5,000 Richmond Hill homes late last week was explained by Town Clerk Russell Lynett.

Mr. Lynett said the notice was to inform homeowners they can't sell parcels of their property without first notifying planning board and receiving its approval.

The bylaw, 1110, passed June 3 provides for part lot control in the Town of Richmond Hill. It reads (ambiguously for the laymen) "It is hereby provided that subsection 3 of section 26 of chapter 296 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1960, as amended shall apply to land in the Town of Richmond Hill that is within a plan of subdivision registered before or after the passing of this bylaw."

Prior to the bylaw, parcels of land could be sold without consulting the board. Mr. Lynett said the privilege hasn't been abused too widely but the bylaw will halt any future abuse.

Mayor William Neal apparently received dozens of phone calls asking him to decipher the notice.

### Chip Truck Only Paid Pedlars' Fee

In the contentious matter of the outside fish and chip snack truck selling on Yonge Street Councillor Thomas Murphy reported to council Tuesday that the local police had only made him take out a pedlars license instead of a refreshment truck license. The fee for a pedlars license is only \$30 compared to \$125 for a refreshment truck. "He is only selling one basic line and that is why he was just charged for a pedlars license," stated Mr. Murphy. "He's selling several different food lines and that is why some of our merchants are objecting", retorted Mayor Neal. Councillor Al White wanted to know if the police had inspected his truck to ascertain just what he was selling before issuing a license. Mr. Murphy said Police Chief Robbins will investigate the matter further and if warranted the truck owner will have to pay the additional license fee.

### Prelude To Council Action Tuesday

## Industrial Commission Resigned In February

Open warfare first exploded between Richmond Hill's Industrial Commissioner Robert Langford and four of five appointed members of the Commission last February when town council refused to ask for Mr. Langford's resignation. Commission members tried to dismiss Mr. Langford when he refused to divulge what he considered confidential information about the work he was doing to attract industry to the town. They cited his apparent "lack of confidence" in them.

Stepping down were Chairman John Graham and commission members A. S. Mahaffy, Kenneth Tomlin and William Angus. All four attacked Mr. Langford and council, particularly Councillor Alex Campbell, who sits on the commission.

Mr. Campbell, who seconded the commission resolution asking for Mr. Langford's firing, came in for criticism when he acted on the resolution at the council's closed meeting.

Resigning commission member Mr. Angus reprimanded Mr. Campbell for changing his mind without informing the commission.

This brought an apology from the latter who admitted "I should have let you know. It's really a quite mixed situation."

"I'll say it is," Mr. Angus retorted at the time. "Alex, you astounded me. If the people of Richmond Hill understand you, I can't see why."

Explaining council's decision, Mr. Campbell admitted that policy set by the commission should really have been ratified by council. Council, he said, had decided that confidential information brought to Mr. Langford should not be "passed on" to the commission chairman.

Commission Chairman Graham also levelled criticism at council saying "in six weeks council with four new members has apparently decided they have more expert knowledge of our situation than we have. And during our term we have met virtually every two weeks."

Mr. Graham was also unhappy about council's decision to have Mr. Campbell and Councillor Walter Scudds study industrial commissions in other towns. He termed the procedure "Appalling."

Another resigning commission member, Mr. Mahaffy, took a swipe at what he described "the political implications of this whole situation. I don't like it."

He accused Mr. Langford of interfering in last December's municipal campaign.

"Letters were sent out to every resident just before the election telling how many industries Mr. Langford had attracted," Mr. Mahaffy charged. "Those letters came from the commissioner's office without our approval."

"The major platform of one mayoralty candidate

was how much industry had been attracted during his term of office," Mr. Mahaffy concluded.

Ex-Mayor Ken Tomlin, who admitted he had resigned because he had moved out of town, stressed he had picked the occasion to quit "on a matter of principle."

"Our basic reason for asking Mr. Langford to resign was our lack of confidence in the way his office is operated," Mr. Tomlin explained. He said the office was poorly handled and poorly managed.

In a prepared statement to "The Liberal" Mr. Graham said the commission during the "past six months has been extremely concerned with being bypassed on information that would assist it in trying to determine whether or not these enquiries were being handled in the best interests of the town."

He cited the "precarious" financial standing of Richmond Hill stating its only hope lay in the "attraction of industrial assessment which will not increase school and other municipal costs which an increase in assessment always entails."

Mr. Graham mentioned that "two well known national industries had by-passed Richmond Hill after their preliminary enquiry." He felt more could "have been done to attract them to Richmond Hill."

Mr. Graham did add a word of praise for Mr. Langford's contributions in the past saying he has been an asset to the

town in the attraction of industry.

Councillor Campbell at one point questioned the value of a commission or commissioners in 1963. He noted that total empty industrial acreage in the town was only 90 acres, with one block of over 10 acres.

"The first role of the industrial commissioner is as a salesman," he said. "What has Mr. Langford to sell?"

Richmond Hill Industrial Commission was formed in 1956. In 1958 Mr. Langford was hired as industrial commissioner at a salary of \$6,000 a year. Richmond Hill's industrial assessment accounts for only five per cent of the town's total, one of the lowest ratios in the province.



My Summer Safety Contest

No. 2 is on Page 8

### Contest Underway August 19

## Money Does Grow On Trees - Here's Proof

One hundred dollars could buy a lot of bubble gum for one lucky district youngster in a forthcoming Richmond Heights Centre contest.

The annual Back-to-school "Lucky Buck" Contest, sponsored by Centre merchants as an annual September fun game, offers as first prize 100 \$1.00 bills from a money tree with second prize, \$2 a week allowance for a whole year for a total of \$104; third prize of \$2 a week for 26 weeks and fourth prize of \$2 a week for 13 weeks.

The "Lucky Bucks" will be available August 19. The rules say you must fill out a "Lucky Buck" coupon available at any association store in the centre and deposit it in the container provided by each merchant. The contest runs from August 29 to September 14.

The contest is simple. No riddles, no questions to answer. Just fill out name, address, school, grade and phone number and leave in "Lucky Buck" box. Besides the money tree and weekly allowances, there is an additional 40 merchandise prizes to be drawn for.

Anyone can enter the contest; make sure mother and dad put your name on a "Lucky Buck" coupon next time they're shopping at the centre. Last year's winners were Jimmy Hoare, 82 Hunt Ave., Sheppard, 225 Lucas St. andobby Clement, 246 Harrygan Crescent.



## Richmond Hill Town Council Briefs

A suggestion by Reeve Floyd Perkins that town council consider granting itself free parking privileges received a cold reception at Tuesday's meeting of council. In presenting the suggestion Reeve Perkins said such a plan is in operation in Brampton where council members have stickers on their cars entitling them to park in any part of the town free from the risk of police ticket. "No, than' you", quipped Deputy-reeve Tinker. "I'd rather live dangerously". Local police had tagged Mr. Tinker's car on the first day he had returned from his holidays.

Councillor Walter Scudde reported the parks board wishes to know when council plans to tear down the old pumphouse on Mill Street across from the town pond. Works Committee Chairman Perkins replied that it won't be torn down this year. Councillor Scudds reported the board has 20 benches ready for

use in the town's parks.

Council members paid high tribute to the local bowling team of Councillor Al White, Clerk Russell Lynett, James Grainger and Ed. Lane who captured the Ontario Lawn Bowling championship in play at Belleville last Saturday. Reeve Perkins and Deputy-reeve Tinker were appointed as a committee of two to consider some special town recognition for the winning team.

Transportation Chairman Scudds will investigate a complaint by Councillor Tom Murphy that the North Yonge buses are sometimes slow in leaving the Eglinton Subway on schedule. Mr. Murphy said he had received a complaint that a bus scheduled for 5.35 had not actually left until 5.50.

Deputy-reeve Tinker reported on a meeting of the Ontario Water Resources Commission he attended last week at which the