

Meters ...

Resume Of Parking Report

Richmond Hill's controversial meters were back in the spotlight last week as Planning Director Harold Deeks unveiled the long-awaited traffic report.

The report gave special treatment to the parking meters, suggesting elimination of all 30 off-street meters as well as the 20 meters on Yonge Street between Dufferin and Crosby Avenue. This would leave 60 on-street meters to fight the anti-meter trend which has been gathering steam since last June.

It was on June 17 that town council was confronted with a petition from the Yonge Street Businessmen's Association asking for the removal of parking meters on downtown Yonge Street. The petition was defeated by the margin of one vote.

General feeling is the meters cost more to keep in operation than the revenue they take in. A number of people claim they drive customers away to the fringe shopping centres and still others just don't know.

The report states 47 per cent of the Yonge Street meters are used by motorists from Markham Road to Arnold Street, 60 per cent in the busy Arnold to Centre Street area, 45 per cent from Centre to Dufferin Street, and only 20 per cent from Dufferin Street to Crosby Avenue.

The report suggests the Dufferin Street to Crosby Avenue meters are "not accomplishing their purpose and can safely be eliminated until such time as they are warranted."

"While traffic tickets obviously indicate the metered parking regulations are enforced, at least during the 15-day study period, to a point of about equal revenue as should have been collected, it is apparent from the difference between potential and actual

meter revenue that enforcement of on-street metered parking is probably other than uniform."

The study of off-street metered parking at the municipal lot on Richmond Street indicates the lot is essentially not being used.

"From discussion with the police chief," the report states, "it was learned when enforcement is carried out on the lot the parkers cease to use it. This would indicate the lot is presently not required." The report advises the meters be removed.

The report goes on to ponder at great length on means of parking up the popularity of the meters in the downtown business section.

It notes the present trend to use the parking meters along Yonge and to avoid the off-street lots which are usually half empty.

This presents the problem of long-stay parkers on Yonge - who don't seem to mind paying for meters all day - who clutter up space which could be available for the short-stay parker who wants to shop and leave soon after.

The report reasons if "curb spaces are taken by all-day parkers the meter charges could be raised to ensure adequate spaces being available to the short-term parker who has demonstrated he is prepared to pay for this privilege. It would also encourage more off-street parking."

Another method would be to shorten the time-stay at the meters. Strict enforcement of the meters would have to be maintained to stop any motorists from "feeding the meters" and staying in one spot all-day.

The report, which takes an over-all 20-year look into Richmond Hill's parking future, calls for eventual elimination of parking on Yonge Street.

The controversial subjects of parking meters in Richmond Hill's downtown business area and the lack of public use of available free off-street parking comprise two of the main themes of the long-awaited traffic report released last week by the local planning board. A more detailed study of these two subjects is presented in the two following stories which will be the subjects of much discussion in the weeks to come.

BUTTONVILLE NEWS

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Neighborhood Notes

First of all, my humble apology to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Jones. If you read last week's column you must have wondered at the derogatory sounding remark about their grocereria, which everyone knows is a very fine store, and the Jones themselves more than obliging.

When Buttonville news said, quote, There are three antique dealers but no grocery or drug stores, unless you count Dick Jones' Grocereria which is a mile south of the village, unquote, we were thinking simply of those in the village without transportation through the day - it is a long way to walk for a pound of butter or a quart of milk. We should have considered the many times Mr. Jones has plowed through snowdrifts to make deliveries to house-bound people, and found a more graceful way to make the point. And there was another statement which should be corrected. It is true that local gals must travel several miles for a beauty treatment, but Unionville hairdressers are less than four miles away.

Mrs. Barbour of the Doncaster Ladies' club is interested in hearing from those who wish to play this fall. The first game will be about the middle of October, and there will be five weeks of play. This year proceeds will aid retarded children. Call Mrs. Barbour - AV. 5-5203.

Keith and Beverley Carson of Richmond Hill, who were married last month in Brown's Corners United Church, entertained Beverley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Burr, on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary which they celebrated Saturday, September 21.

The party was a surprise for Mr. and Mrs. Burr, and included 15 family members. Among those present were Mrs. John Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rowntree, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Grainger and Janice, Mr. Cline Burr, Mr. Murray Carson, Mr. N. Burr and Miss Sandra Burr.

Mr. and Mrs. Burr were married at Knox Presbyterian Church, Agincourt, and Rev. A. Crawford Jamieson officiated.

There are babies in the news this week - three sets of twins. On Saturday, September 21, Caroline and Monica Gerber, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Gerber, celebrated their first birthday at a party for relatives.

On Sunday, September 22, Mary Jane and Laura Ann Henry, daughters of Bill and Ann Henry and nieces of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Reid were christened at Armour Heights United Church. Following the service there was a small family party.

And did you know (better late than never) that Mr. and Mrs. Milford Stots' twin daughters came second in their class at the C.N.E. Baby Show? Congratulations to Milford and Esther, and to grandparents

The downtown shopping district of Richmond Hill is faced with a two-headed dragon in the form of off-street parking.

Future plans call for creation of more off-street parking while present plans point to getting downtown motorists to use spaces now available.

The recently released parking report notes the post office lot with 51 free off-street spaces available averages only six cars a day.

The Principal Investments property at Yonge and Lorne with a free informal off-street parking capacity of 38 spaces averages about two-thirds full daily.

In the same area, the report says, 65 percent of the 18 metered on-street parking places are occupied daily.

Suggested remedies for the problem range from upping meter rates in critical areas to encourage long-term parkers to use off-street lots, permit off-lot parking within short walking distance of a commercial use, and to recommend council give consideration to encouraging employee off-street parking.

The report states construction of access lanes to the lots would make parking more readily available behind stores on Yonge Street as well as allow for provision of off-street loading facilities.

It also recommends town council establish a definite authority for the parking program.

The report goes on to say that "in order to exist the central business district merchants must increasingly meet the aggressive competition of the rapidly expanding suburban district outlets."

"He sees his investment as dependent on free curb parking but frequently resists curb parking regulations. Yet few are willing to pay for the expense of off-street spaces for their employees and patrons."

The report acknowledges in some cases land values

make it virtually impossible for the average individual merchant to develop off-street parking for his business.

"However, generally commercial property owners have changed their attitudes as they appreciate the success of their business and the value of their property depends upon greater accessibility for more customers than curb parking can provide."

"On this simple fact he is impelled to shoulder at least a part of the costs of customer parking. Or he may only be convinced his primary need is to be certain a supply of parking space exists convenient to his store."

The report put its finger on poor parking and traffic conditions as important factors in uncontrolled urban decentralization.

"At the time of the spring survey, 9.1 percent of the retail gross floor area and 35 percent of the commercial office gross floor area in the central business district of Richmond Hill was vacant."

Switching to future needs of off-street parking the report states future traffic increase will call for additional and more supervised off-street lots.

With the eventual elimination of all parking on Yonge Street, the unsuitability of most side streets for parking, the plan suggests "all future parking needs of the downtown area will be met entirely by off-street parking spaces."

"Lots that exist will have to be redesigned to allow a comprehensive layout relative to servicing areas. It must also be taken into account that through development of existing vacant properties now used for parking, plus elimination of on-street parking, about one third of present off-street spaces will have to be replaced during the two-year period."

The report goes on to deal generally with the varieties of off-street facilities and comparative costs.



MR. AND MRS. DAVID COX

August Wedding In Catholic Church

The wedding of Mary Louise Vancouver, grandmother of the bride, Mr. James Cox of Hesp-out-of-town guests and relatives and Mr. James Hollis of Peter Mason at Our Lady, Roman Queen of the World, Catholic Church on Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, on Saturday, August 17. The beautiful new church was decorated with white and pink gladioli.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a floor length gown of white French silk organza over taffeta. Her fingertip length veil fell from a crown of mohair braid and simulated pearls and iridescent crystals. She carried a nosegay of pink roses and white carnations and her rosary - a gift from the groom.

Miss Betty McKilroy, maid of honor, wore a blue street length sheath dress of silk organza over taffeta with lace overskirt and matching head-dress and shoes.

Miss Betty Anne Lamont, sister of the bride, and Miss Barbara Cox, sister of the groom, wore pink street length silk organza sheath dresses over taffeta with lace overskirts with matching headresses and shoes.

The bride's attendants carried pink and white carnation nosegays.

The best man was Dan Cox of Barrie, brother of the groom. Ushers were Frank McIlroy of Peterborough, Jim McIlroy of Huntsville and Jim Stahlbaum of Hespeler.

Receiving later at the Yangtze Pagoda, Mrs. Lamont wore a silk shantung turquoise suit with matching shoes and white accessories. Mrs. Watson, mother of the groom wore a dark silk figured dress with matching accessories.

Senior guests at the wedding were Mrs. P. Kennedy of

Sluggers and Rum-runners have 9, Wellwishers and Petticoats 5, Gones and No-names 2, Silver dollar winners for September 18, Michael McQueen and Doug Brooks were goal scorers for the local school, while Richard Thompson scored for Woodland.

16th Avenue Home and School Club will hold its first meeting of the year on September 30 at 8 p.m., in a "Teachers and Parents Night" when the teachers will be introduced to the parents.

Bowling News
East Richvale Bowling League is still looking for more bowlers for Tuesday nights at 9 p.m. Interested persons may phone John Hills at AV. 5-3870 for information. Jevstons and Hillbilles with 12 points are leading the league.

RICHVALE NEWS

CORRESPONDENT
Mrs. Anne Hewitt, 78 16th Ave.
TU. 4-7643

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Aurora Council Meets D.H.O. On Yonge Take-Over

Aurora wants to take over the provincial Yonge Street highway through its town. Planned soon is a meeting between Aurora Council and representatives of the Ontario Highways Department to consider a take-over. At present, the town claims control of the highway only as far south as Dunning Avenue within its town limits.

Critical issue is the entrance to the Aurora Shopping Centre from Yonge Street, plan for which has been rejected by the highways department. If Aurora controlled the road, council could decide where an entrance might go.

The problem is, however, that the town is on the west side of Yonge Street to the C.N.R. overpass but on the east side, the area is in Whitchurch Township.

Church service at Brown's Corners Church will be withdrawn so that the congregation may attend anniversary services at Headford Church at 11 a.m.

Mrs. George Kelly was among those assisting Mrs. Stan Defoe last Sunday afternoon when Mr. and Mrs. Defoe entertained for Mr. and Mrs. Donald Plaxton.

Happy Timers Meet
Mr. Richard Tribbling entertained when the Happy Timers of Brown's Corners United Church Women met Tuesday of last week. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Howard Brunwell and Mrs. Clifford Cox.

Mrs. John Brunwell, unit leader, chaired the meeting, and following a devotional service conducted by the hostesses, the group heard Miss Elisabeth Barker speak of her recent tour of Great Britain, and saw many pictures of farm life there, as well as general interest scenes. During business Mrs. Douglas Tribbling was named secretary to replace Mrs. Helen Cormack who moved from this community recently.

Brown's Corners U.C.W.
Brown's Corners United Church Women held their September meeting at the church parlours earlier this month, and the president, Mrs. Harold Steffler, opened the meeting with an invocation.

A devotional service was conducted by Mrs. Ross Hord and Mrs. James Rodick, and Mrs. George Hooper sang, accompanied by Mrs. S. J. English at the piano. Mrs. John Wilkins and Mrs. Steffler showed a filmstrip on India, preceded by information on the country, and afterward there was a questionnaire on the topic.

Mrs. English contributed an interesting item on stewardship.

During business, Mrs. N. Reid reported a bank balance of \$780.49 in hand. It was agreed that \$500.00 of this amount should be forwarded to the building fund committee.

Mrs. William Rodick announced four U.C.W. Workshops to be held at Newmarket, October 8, Whitevale, October 10, Unionville, October 15 (each afternoon and evening) and at St. Matthews, Richmond Hill, October 17, morning and afternoon.

The Brown's Corners U.C.W. Thankoffering will be held in October, and Mrs. Douglas Hood, allocations secretary, was given permission to forward one half of the 1963 allocation to Presbytery.

Dates To Remember
October 29 - the smorgasbord at Brown's Corners United Church was discussed, and it was agreed that the finance committee will take charge of the sale of tickets again this year.

The meeting was closed with prayers and refreshments were served by Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. Reid, and Mrs. James Rodick.

Hill Mock Parliament Debates Pension Issues

Distinguished socialist and Toronto lawyer David Lewis last Wednesday joined the battery of 12 men debating the question of pensions before the Richmond Hill Parliament.

An audience of about 50 packed into Richmond Hill Magistrate's Court to hear the debate on the resolution: "We approve the Ontario Conservative Government's pension plan."

Speaker of the House, preceded by a sergeant-at-arms bearing a rented mace, was bearded and black-gowned Frank Barrett, Legion president.

The Prime Minister's role was taken by Toronto lawyer James Cincel and Leader of the Opposition was John Addison, York North Member of Parliament.

Forming the opposition were Mr. Addison, Mr. Lewis, Donald Plaxton, Robert McVey, Thomas Broadhurst and Gerald Huntley. For the government, Mr. Sincel, Geoffrey Hill, David Norwood, Arthur Smoke, Ricki Beck and John Phillips. Mr. Phillips as president and Mr. Hill as past president are members of Canada's oldest debating society, the Allin Club of Toronto.

There was no recorded vote at the conclusion of the two-hour debate marked by some heckling, much laughter and partisanship.

Following are some of the points made by debaters:

Sincel: The plan introduced into the election campaign by the federal government doesn't exist, has had little or no technical work done on it and gives little enlightenment to the public.

Addison: The Canada Pension Plan is designed to cover everyone in every province. There are no restrictions on the size of the firm or length of employment. There would be havoc and disillusionment if each province had its own plan.

Hill: The Canada Plan is in the form of "I pay as you go and someone else pays as you go." It is like an illegal chain letter. The U.S. says it has \$22 billion in its social security fund; if this had been invested it would be \$343 billion.

Plaxton: The provincial plan has been strongly lobbied by insurance companies opposed to the pay-as-you-go system. I am strongly confident the working people will be happy to contribute to the Canada plan.

Smoke: It appears the opposition has deserted the waterlogged vessel of socialism.

Lewis: This plan is the adolescent hogwash that is a prelude to the political empathy on

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